

# SYMPY: SYMBOLIC COMPUTING IN PYTHON

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## 1. Introduction.

## 2. Architecture.

**2.1. Basic Usage.** Being built on Python, SymPy requires that all variable names be defined before they can be used. The statement

```
>>> from sympy import *
```

will import all SymPy functions into the global Python namespace. All the examples in this paper assume that this has been run.

Additionally, symbolic variables, called symbols, must be assigned to Python variables before they can be used. This is typically done through the `symbols` function, which creates multiple symbols at once. For instance,

```
>>> x, y, z = symbols('x y z')
```

creates three symbols named `x`, `y`, and `z`, assigned to Python variables of the same name. The Python variable names that symbols are assigned to are immaterial—we could have just as well have written `a, b, c = symbols('x y z')`. All the examples in this paper will assume that the symbols `x`, `y`, and `z` have been assigned as above.

Expressions are created from symbols using Python syntax, which mirrors usual mathematical notation. Note that in Python, exponentiation is `**`.

```
>>> (x**2 - 2*x + 3)/y
```

```
(x**2 - 2*x + 3)/y
```

All SymPy expressions are immutable. This simplifies the design by allowing interning. It also allows expressions to be hashed and stored in a Python dictionary, which enables caching and other features.

**2.2. The Core.** The core of a computer algebra system (CAS) refers to the module that is in charge of resending symbolic expressions and performing basic manipulations with them. In SymPy, every symbolic expression is an instance of a Python class. Expressions are represented by expression trees. The operators are represented by the type of an expression and the child nodes are stored in the `args` attribute. A leaf node in the expression tree has an empty `args`. The `args` attribute is provided by the class `Basic`, which is a superclass of all SymPy objects and provides common methods to all SymPy tree-elements. For example, consider the expression  $xy + 2$ :

```
>>> from sympy import *
```

```
>>> x, y = symbols('x y')
```

```
>>> expr = x*y + 2
```

The expression `expr` is an addition, so it is of type `Add`. The child nodes of `expr` are `x*y` and `2`.

```
>>> type(expr)
```

```
<class 'sympy.core.add.Add'>
```

```
>>> expr.args
```

```
(2, x*y)
```

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We can dig further into the expression tree to see the full expression. For example, the first child node, given by `expr.args[0]` is 2. Its class is `Integer`, and it has empty `args`, indicating that it is a leaf node.

```
>>> expr.args[0]
2
>>> type(expr.args[0])
<class 'sympy.core.numbers.Integer'>
>>> expr.args[0].args
()
```

The function `srepr` gives a string representing a valid Python code, containing all the nested class constructor calls to create the given expression.

```
>>> srepr(expr)
"Add(Mul(Symbol('x'), Symbol('y')), Integer(2))"
```

Every SymPy expression satisfies a key invariant, namely, `expr.func(*expr.args) == expr`.<sup>1</sup> This means that expressions are rebuildable from their `args`. Here, we note that in SymPy, the `==` operator represents exact structural equality, not mathematical equality. This allows one to test if any two expressions are equal to one another as expression trees.

Python allows classes to overload operators. The Python interpreter translates the above `x*y + 2` to, roughly, `(x.__mul__(y)).__add__(2)`. `x` and `y`, returned from the `symbols` function, are `Symbol` instances. The 2 in the expression is processed by Python as a literal, and is stored as Python's builtin `int` type. When 2 is called by the `__add__` method, it is converted to the SymPy type `Integer(2)`. In this way, SymPy expressions can be built in the natural way using Python operators and numeric literals.

One must be careful in one particular instance. Python does not have a builtin rational literal type. Given a fraction of integers such as `1/2`, Python will perform floating point division and produce `0.5`.<sup>2</sup> Python uses eager evaluation, so expressions like `x + 1/2` will produce `x + 0.5`, and by the time any SymPy function sees the `1/2` it has already been converted to `0.5` by Python. However, for a CAS like SymPy, one typically wants to work with exact rational numbers whenever possible. Working around this is simple, however: one can wrap one of the integers with `Integer`, like `x + Integer(1)/2`, or using `x + Rational(1, 2)`. SymPy provides a function `S` which can be used to convert objects to SymPy types with minimal typing, such as `x + S(1)/2`. This gotcha is a small downside to using Python directly instead of a custom domain specific language (DSL), and we consider it to be worth it for the advantages listed above.

**2.3. Assumptions.** An important feature of the SymPy core is the assumptions system. The assumptions system allows users to specify that symbols have certain common mathematical properties, such as being positive, imaginary, or integer. SymPy is careful to never perform simplifications on an expression unless the assumptions allow them. For instance, the identity  $\sqrt{x^2} = x$  holds if  $x$  is nonnegative ( $x \geq 0$ ). If  $x$  is real, the identity  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$  holds. However, for general complex  $x$ , no such identity holds.

By default, SymPy performs all calculations assuming that variables are com-

<sup>1</sup>`expr.func` is used instead of `type(expr)` to allow the function of an expression to be distinct from its actual Python class. In most cases the two are the same.

<sup>2</sup>This is the behavior in Python 3. In Python 2, `1/2` will perform integer division and produce 0, unless one uses `from __future__ import division`.

plex valued. This assumption makes it easier to treat mathematical problems in full generality.

```
>>> x = Symbol('x')
>>> sqrt(x**2)
sqrt(x**2)
```

By assuming symbols are complex by default, SymPy avoids performing mathematically invalid operations. However, in many cases users will wish to simplify expressions containing terms like  $\sqrt{x^2}$ .

Assumptions are set on `Symbol` objects when they are created. For instance `Symbol('x', positive=True)` will create a symbol named `x` that is assumed to be positive.

```
>>> x = Symbol('x', positive=True)
>>> sqrt(x**2)
```

`x`

Some common assumptions that SymPy allows are `positive`, `negative`, `real`, `nonpositive`, `nonnegative`, `real`, `integer`, and `commutative`<sup>3</sup>. Assumptions on any object can be checked with the `is_assumption` attributes, like `x.is_positive`.

Assumptions are only needed to restrict a domain so that certain simplifications can be performed. It is not required to make the domain match the input of a function. For instance, one can create the object  $\sum_{n=0}^m f(n)$  as `Sum(f(n), (n, 0, m))` without setting `integer=True` when creating the `Symbol` object `n`.

The assumptions system additionally has deductive capabilities. The assumptions use a three-valued logic using the Python builtin objects `True`, `False`, and `None`. `None` represents the “unknown” case. This could mean that the given assumption could be either true or false under the given information, for instance, `Symbol('x', real=True).is_positive` will give `None` because a real symbol might be positive or it might not. It could also mean not enough is implemented to compute the given fact, for instance, `(pi + E).is_irrational` gives `None`, because SymPy does not know how to determine if  $\pi + e$  is rational or irrational, indeed, it is an open problem in mathematics.

Basic implications between the facts are used to deduce assumptions. For instance, the assumptions system knows that being an integer implies being rational, so `Symbol('x', integer=True).is_rational` returns `True`. Furthermore, expressions compute the assumptions on themselves based on the assumptions of their arguments. For instance, if `x` and `y` are both created with `positive=True`, then `(x + y).is_positive` will be `True`.

SymPy also has an experimental assumptions system where facts are stored separate from objects, and deductions are made with a SAT solver. We will not discuss this system here.

**2.4. Extensibility.** Extensibility is an important feature for SymPy. Because the same language, Python, is used both for the internal implementation and the external usage by users, all the extensibility capabilities available to users are also used by functions that are part of SymPy.

The typical way to create a custom SymPy object is to subclass an existing SymPy class, generally either `Basic`, `Expr`, or `Function`. All SymPy classes used for expression trees<sup>4</sup> should be subclasses of the base class `Basic`, which defines some

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<sup>3</sup>If  $A$  and  $B$  are Symbols created with `commutative=False` then SymPy will keep  $A \cdot B$  and  $B \cdot A$  distinct.

<sup>4</sup>Some internal classes, such as those used in the polynomial module, do not follow this rule for

133 basic methods for symbolic expression trees. `Expr` is the subclass for mathematical  
 134 expressions that can be added and multiplied together. Instances of `Expr` typically  
 135 represent complex numbers, but may also include other “rings” like matrix expres-  
 136 sions. Not all SymPy classes are subclasses of `Expr`. For instance, logic expressions,  
 137 such as `And(x, y)` are subclasses of `Basic` but not of `Expr`.

138 The `Function` class is a subclass of `Expr` which makes it easier to define math-  
 139 ematical functions called with arguments. This includes named functions like  $\sin(x)$   
 140 and  $\log(x)$  as well as undefined functions like  $f(x)$ . Subclasses of `Function` should  
 141 define a class method `eval`, which returns values for which the function should be  
 142 automatically evaluated, and `None` for arguments that shouldn’t be automatically  
 143 evaluated.

144 The behavior of classes in SymPy with various other SymPy functions is de-  
 145 fined by defining a relevant `_eval_*` method on the class. For instance, an object  
 146 can tell SymPy’s `diff` function how to take the derivative of itself by defining the  
 147 `_eval_derivative(self, x)` method. The most common `_eval_*` methods relate  
 148 to the assumptions. `_eval_is_assumption` defines the assumptions for *assumption*.

149 As an example of the notions presented in this section, we present below a stripped  
 150 down version of the gamma function  $\Gamma(x)$  from SymPy, which evaluates itself on  
 151 positive integer arguments, has the positive and real assumptions defined, can be  
 152 rewritten in terms of factorial with `gamma(x).rewrite(factorial)`, and can be dif-  
 153 ferentiated. `fdiff` is a convenience method for subclasses of `Function`. `fdiff` returns  
 154 the derivative of the function without worrying about the chain rule. `self.func` is  
 155 used throughout instead of referencing `gamma` explicitly so that potential subclasses  
 156 of `gamma` can reuse the methods.

157 `from sympy import Integer, Function, floor, factorial, polygamma`

```

158
159 class gamma(Function)
160     @classmethod
161     def eval(cls, arg):
162         if isinstance(arg, Integer) and arg.is_positive:
163             return factorial(arg - 1)
164
165     def _eval_is_real(self):
166         x = self.args[0]
167         # noninteger means real and not integer
168         if x.is_positive or x.is_noninteger:
169             return True
170
171     def _eval_is_positive(self):
172         x = self.args[0]
173         if x.is_positive:
174             return True
175         elif x.is_noninteger:
176             return floor(x).is_even
177
178     def _eval_rewrite_as_factorial(self, z):
179         return factorial(z - 1)
180
```

---

efficiency reasons.





where the limiting value  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} K_{n+\varepsilon}(z)$  has to be computed when  $\nu = n$  is an integer. A generic algorithm is used to evaluate hypergeometric-type linear combinations of the above type. This algorithm automatically detects cancellation problems, and computes limits numerically by perturbing parameters whenever internal singularities occur (the perturbation size is automatically decreased until the result is detected to converge numerically).

Due to this generic approach, particular combinations of hypergeometric functions can be specified easily. The implementation of the Meijer G-function takes only a few dozen lines of code, yet covers the whole input domain in a robust way. The Meijer G-function instance  $G_{1,3}^{3,0}(0; \frac{1}{2}, -1, -\frac{3}{2}|x)$  is a good test case [34]; past versions of both Maple and Mathematica produced incorrect numerical values for large  $x > 0$ . Here, mpmath automatically removes the internal singularity and compensates for cancellations (amounting to 656 bits of precision when  $x = 10000$ ), giving correct values:

```
>>> mpmath.mp.dps = 15
>>> mpmath.meijerg([], [0], [[-0.5, -1, -1.5], []], 10000)
mpf('2.4392576907199564e-94')
```

Equivalently, with SymPy's interface this function can be evaluated as:

```
>>> meijerg([], [0], [[-S(1)/2, -1, -S(3)/2], []], 10000).evalf()
2.43925769071996e-94
```

We highlight the generalized hypergeometric functions and the Meijer G-function, due to those functions' frequent appearance in closed forms for integrals and sums [todo: crossref symbolic integration]. Via mpmath, SymPy has relatively good support for evaluating sums and integrals numerically, using two complementary approaches: direct numerical evaluation, or first computing a symbolic closed form involving special functions. [example?]

**3.2. Numerical simplification.** The `nsimplify` function in SymPy (a wrapper of `identify` in mpmath) attempts to find a simple symbolic expression that evaluates to the same numerical value as the given input. It works by applying a few simple transformations (including square roots, reciprocals, logarithms and exponentials) to the input and, for each transformed value, using the PSLQ algorithm [16] to search for a matching algebraic number or optionally a linear combination of user-provided base constants (such as  $\pi$ ).

```
>>> x = 1 / (sin(pi/5)+sin(2*pi/5)+sin(3*pi/5)+sin(4*pi/5))*2
>>> nsimplify(x)
-2*sqrt(5)/5 + 1
>>> nsimplify(pi, tolerance=0.01)
22/7
>>> nsimplify(1.783919626661888, [pi], tolerance=1e-12)
pi/(-1/3 + 2*pi/3)
```

**4. Features.** SymPy has an extensive feature set that encompasses too much to cover in-depth here. Bedrock areas, such as calculus, receive their own sub-sections below. Additionally, Table 1 describes other capabilities present in the SymPy code base. This gives a sampling from the breadth of topics and application domains that SymPy services.

Table 1: SymPy Features and Descriptions

Feature	Description
Discrete Math	Summations, products, binomial coefficients, prime number tools, integer factorization, Diophantine equation solving, and boolean logic representation, equivalence testing, and inference.
Concrete Math	Tools for determining whether summation and product expressions are convergent, absolutely convergent, hypergeometric, and other properties. May also compute Gosper's normal form [31] for two univariate polynomials.
Plotting	Hooks for visualizing expressions via matplotlib [?] or as text drawings when lacking a graphical back-end.
Geometry	Allows the creation of 2D geometrical entities, such as lines and circles. Enables queries on these entities, including asking the area of an ellipse, checking for collinearity of a set of points, or finding the intersection between two lines.
Statistics	Support for a random variable type as well as the ability to declare this variable from prebuilt distribution functions such as Normal, Exponential, Coin, Die, and other custom distributions.
Polynomials	Computes polynomial algebras over various coefficient domains ranging from the simple (e.g., polynomial division) to the advanced (e.g., Gröbner bases [7] and multivariate factorization over algebraic number domains).
Sets	Representations of empty, finite, and infinite sets. This includes special sets such as for all natural, integer, and complex numbers.
Series	Implements series expansion, sequences, and limit of sequences. This includes special series, such as Fourier and power series.
Vectors	Provides basic vector math and differential calculus with respect to 3D Cartesian coordinate systems.
Matrices	Tools for creating matrices of symbols and expressions. This is capable of both sparse and dense representations and performing symbolic linear algebraic operations (e.g., inversion and factorization).
Combinatorics & Group Theory	Implements permutations, combinations, partitions, subsets, various permutation groups (such as polyhedral, Rubik, symmetric, and others), Gray codes [27], and Prufer sequences [10].



Code Generation	Enables generation of compilable and executable code in a variety of different programming languages directly from expressions. Target languages include C, Fortran, Julia, JavaScript, Mathematica, Matlab and Octave, Python, and Theano.
Tensors	Symbolic manipulation of indexed objects.
Lie Algebras	Represents Lie algebras and root systems.
Cryptography	Represents block and stream ciphers, including shift, Affine, substitution, Vigenere's, Hill's, bifid, RSA, Kid RSA, linear-feedback shift registers, and Elgamal encryption
Special Functions	Implements a number of well known special functions, including Dirac delta, Gamma, Beta, Gauss error functions, Fresnel integrals, Exponential integrals, Logarithmic integrals, Trigonometric integrals, Bessel, Hankel, Airy, B-spline, Riemann Zeta, Dirichlet eta, polylogarithm, Lerch transcendent, hypergeometric, elliptic integrals, Mathieu, Jacobi polynomials, Gegenbauer polynomial, Chebyshev polynomial, Legendre polynomial, Hermite polynomial, Laguerre polynomial, and spherical harmonic functions.

**4.1. Simplification.** The generic way to simplify an expression is by calling the `simplify` function. It must be emphasized that simplification is not an unambiguously defined mathematical operation [14]. The `simplify` function applies several simplification routines along with some heuristics to make the output expression as “simple” as possible.

It is often preferable to apply more directed simplification functions. These apply very specific rules to the input expression, and are often able to make guarantees about the output (for instance, the `factor` function, given a polynomial with rational coefficients in several variables, is guaranteed to produce a factorization into irreducible factors). Table 2 lists some common simplification functions.

Table 2: SymPy Simplification Functions

<code>expand</code>	expand the expression
<code>factor</code>	factor a polynomial into irreducibles
<code>collect</code>	collect polynomial coefficients
<code>cancel</code>	rewrite a rational function as $p/q$ with common factors canceled
<code>apart</code>	compute the partial fraction decomposition of a rational function
<code>trigsimp</code>	simplify trigonometric expressions [17]

Substitutions are performed through the `.subs` method, which is sensible to some mathematical properties while matching, such as associativity, commutativity, additive and multiplicative inverses, and matching of powers.

333     **4.2. Calculus.** Derivatives can be computed with the `diff` function.

```
334 >>> diff(sin(x), x)
335 cos(x)
```

336     Unevaluated `Derivative` objects are also supported.

```
337 >>> expr = Derivative(sin(x), x)
338 >>> expr
339 Derivative(sin(x), x)
```

340     Unevaluated expressions can be evaluated with the `doit` method.

```
341 >>> expr.doit()
342 cos(x)
```

343     Integrals can be analogously calculated either with the `integrate` function, or the unevaluated `Integral` objects.

```
344 >>> integrate(sin(x), x)
345 -cos(x)
346 >>> expr = Integral(sin(x), x)
347 >>> expr
348 Integral(sin(x), x)
349 >>> expr.doit()
350 -cos(x)
351 -cos(x)
```

352     Definite integration can be calculated with the same method, by specifying a range of the integration variable. The following computes  $\int_0^1 \sin(x) dx$ .

```
353 >>> integrate(sin(x), (x, 0, 1))
354 -cos(1) + 1
```

355     SymPy implements a combination of the Risch algorithm [13], table lookups, a reimplementation of Manuel Bronstein’s “Poor Man’s Integrator” [12], and an algorithm for computing integrals based on Meijer G-functions. These allow SymPy to compute a wide variety of indefinite and definite integrals.

360     Summations and products are also supported, via the evaluated `summation` and `product` and unevaluated `Sum` and `Product`, and use the same syntax as `integrate`. Summations are computed using a combination of Gosper’s algorithm and an algorithm that uses Meijer G-functions. Products are computed via some heuristics.

364     The limit module implements the Gruntz algorithm [19] for computing symbolic limits. For example, the following computes  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin(\frac{1}{x}) = 1$  (note that  $\infty$  is `oo` in SymPy).

```
365 >>> limit(x*sin(1/x), x, oo)
366 1
```

369     As a more complicated example, SymPy computes  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( 2e^{\frac{1-\cos(x)}{\sin(x)}} - 1 \right)^{\frac{\sinh(x)}{\operatorname{atan}^2(x)}} = e$ .

```
370 >>> limit((2*E**((1-cos(x))/sin(x))-1)**(sinh(x)/atan(x)**2), x, 0)
371 E
```

372     **4.3. Printers.** SymPy has a rich collection of expression printers for displaying expressions to the user. By default, an interactive Python session will render the `str` form of an expression, which has been used in all the examples in this paper so far.

```
373 >>> phi0 = Symbol('phi0')
374 >>> str(Integral(sqrt(phi0), phi0))
375 Integral(sqrt(phi0 + 1), x)
```

376     Expressions can be printed with 2D monospace text with `pprint`. This uses Unicode characters to render mathematical symbols such as integral signs, square roots, and parentheses. Greek letters and subscripts in symbol names are rendered

381 automatically.  
 382 Alternately, the `use_unicode=False` flag can be set, which causes the expression  
 383 to be printed using only ASCII characters.

```
384 >>> pprint(Integral(sqrt(phi0 + 1), phi0), use_unicode=False)
385 /
386 |
387 | -----
388 | \ / phi0 + 1 d(phi0)
389 |
390 /
```

391 The function `latex` returns a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  representation of an expression.

```
392 >>> print(latex(Integral(sqrt(phi0 + 1), phi0)))
393 \int \sqrt{\phi_0 + 1}\, d\phi_0
```

394 Users are encouraged to run the `init_printing` function at the beginning of  
 395 interactive sessions, which automatically enables the best pretty printing supported  
 396 by their environment. In the Jupyter notebook or `qtconsole` [29] the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  printer is  
 397 used to render expressions using MathJax or  $\text{\LaTeX}$  if it is installed on the system.  
 398 The 2D text representation is used otherwise.

399 Other printers such as MathML are also available. SymPy uses an extensible  
 400 printer subsystem which allows users to customize the printing for any given printer,  
 401 and for custom objects to define their printing behavior for any printer. SymPy's  
 402 code generation capabilities, which we will not discuss in-depth here, use the same  
 403 printer model.

404 **4.4. Solvers.** SymPy has module of equation solvers for symbolic equations.  
 405 There are two submodules to solve algebraic equations in SymPy, referred to as old  
 406 solve function, `solve`, and new solve function, `solveset`. `Solveset` is introduced with  
 407 several design changes with respect to old `solve` function to resolve the issues with  
 408 old `solve` function, for example old `solve` function's input API has many flags which  
 409 are not needed and they make it hard for the user and the developers to work on  
 410 solvers. In contrast to old solve function, the `solveset` has a clean input API, It  
 411 only asks for the much needed information from the user, following are the function  
 412 signatures of old and new solve function:

```
413 solve(f, *symbols, **flags) # old solve function
414 solveset(f, symbol, domain) # new solve function
```

415 The old `solve` function has an inconsistent output API for various types of inputs,  
 416 whereas the `solveset` has a canonical output API which is achieved using sets. It  
 417 can consistently return various types of solutions.

418 • Single solution

```
419 >>> solveset(x - 1)
420 >>> {1}
```

421 • Finite set of solution, quadratic equation

```
422 >>> solveset(x**2 - pi**2, x)
423 {-pi, pi}
```

424 • No Solution

```
425 >>> solveset(1, x)
426 EmptySet()
```

427 • Interval of solution

```
428 >>> solveset(x**2 - 3 > 0, x, domain=S.Reals)
429 (-oo, -sqrt(3)) U (sqrt(3), oo)
```

```

430     • Infinitely many solutions
431 >>> solveset(sin(x) - 1, x, domain=S.Reals)
432 ImageSet(Lambda(_n, 2*_n*pi + pi/2), Integers())
433 >>> solveset(x - x, x, domain=S.Reals)
434 (-oo, oo)
435 >>> solveset(x - x, x, domain=S.Complexes)
436 S.Complexes
437     • Linear system: finite and infinite solution for determined, under determined
438       and over determined problems.
439 >>> A = Matrix([[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6], [7, 8, 10]])
440 >>> b = Matrix([3, 6, 9])
441 >>> linsolve((A, b), x, y, z)
442 {(-1,2,0)}
443 >>> linsolve(Matrix([[1, 1, 1, 1], [1, 1, 2, 3]]), (x, y, z))
444 {(-y - 1, y, 2)}
445 The new solve i.e. solveset is under active development and is a planned replace-
446 ment for solve. Hence there are some features which are implemented in solve and is
447 not yet implemented in solveset. The table below show the current state of old and
448 new solve functions.
449

```

Solveset vs Solve		
Feature	solve	solveset
Consistent Output API	No	Yes
Consistent Input API	No	Yes
Univariate	Yes	Yes
Linear System	Yes	Yes (linsolve)
Non Linear System	Yes	Not yet
Transcendental	Yes	Not yet

```

450
451
452 Below are some of the examples of old solve function:
453     • Non Linear (multivariate) System of Equation: Intersection of a circle and a
454       parabola.
455 >>> solve([x**2 + y**2 - 16, 4*x - y**2 + 6], x, y)
456 [(-2 + sqrt(14), -sqrt(-2 + 4*sqrt(14))),
457  (-2 + sqrt(14), sqrt(-2 + 4*sqrt(14))),
458  (-sqrt(14) - 2, -I*sqrt(2 + 4*sqrt(14))),
459  (-sqrt(14) - 2, I*sqrt(2 + 4*sqrt(14)))]
460     • Transcendental Equation
461 >>> solve(x + log(x)**2 - 5*(x + log(x)) + 6, x)
462 [LambertW(exp(2)), LambertW(exp(3))]
463 >>> solve(x**3 + exp(x))
464 [-3*LambertW((-1)**(2/3)/3)]
465

```

```

466 4.5. Matrices. SymPy supports matrices with symbolic expressions as elements.■
467 >>> x, y = symbols('x y')
468 >>> A = Matrix(2, 2, [x, x + y, y, x])
469 >>> A
470 Matrix([
471 [  x, x + y],
472 [  y,   x]])

```

All SymPy matrix types can do linear algebra including matrix addition, multiplication, exponentiation, computing determinant, solving linear systems and computing inverses using LU decomposition, LDL decomposition, Gauss-Jordan elimination, Cholesky decomposition, Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse, and adjugate matrix.

All operations are computed are computed symbolically. Eigenvalues are computed by generating the characteristic polynomial using the Berkowitz algorithm and then solving it using polynomial routines. Diagonalizable matrices can be diagonalized first to compute the eigenvalues.

```
>>> A.eigenvals()
{x - sqrt(y*(x + y)): 1, x + sqrt(y*(x + y)): 1}
```

Internally these matrices store the elements as a list making it a dense representation. For storing sparse matrices, the `SparseMatrix` class can be used. Sparse matrices store the elements in a dictionary of keys (DoK) format.

SymPy also supports matrices with symbolic dimension values. `MatrixSymbol` represents a matrix with dimensions  $m \times n$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  can be symbolic. Matrix addition and multiplication, scalar operations, matrix inverse and transpose are stored symbolically as matrix expressions.

```
>>> m, n, p = symbols("m, n, p", integer=True)
>>> R = MatrixSymbol("R", m, n)
>>> S = MatrixSymbol("S", n, p)
>>> T = MatrixSymbol("t", m, p)
>>> U = R*S + 2*T
>>> u.shape
(m, p)
>>> U[0, 1]
2*T[0, 1] + Sum(R[0, _k]*S[_k, 1], (_k, 0, n - 1))
```

Block matrices are also supported in SymPy. `BlockMatrix` elements can be any matrix expression which includes explicit matrices, matrix symbols, and block matrices. All functionalities of matrix expressions are also present in `BlockMatrix`.

```
>>> n, m, l = symbols('n m l')
>>> X = MatrixSymbol('X', n, n)
>>> Y = MatrixSymbol('Y', m, m)
>>> Z = MatrixSymbol('Z', n, m)
>>> B = BlockMatrix([[X, Z], [ZeroMatrix(m, n), Y]])
>>> B
Matrix([
  [X, Z],
  [0, Y]])
>>> B[0, 0]
X[0, 0]
>>> B.shape
(m + n, m + n)
```

**5. Domain Specific Features.** SymPy includes several packages that allow users to solve domain specific problems. For example, a comprehensive physics package is included that is useful for solving problems in classical mechanics, optics, and quantum mechanics along with support for manipulating physical quantities with units.

**5.1. Vector Algebra.** The `sympy.physics.vector` package provides reference frame, time, and space aware vector and dyadic objects that allow for three dimen-

sional operations such as addition, subtraction, scalar multiplication, inner and outer products, cross products, etc. Both of these objects can be written in very compact notation that make it easy to express the vectors and dyadics in terms of multiple reference frames with arbitrarily defined relative orientations. The vectors are used to specify the positions, velocities, and accelerations of points, orientations, angular velocities, and angular accelerations of reference frames, and force and torques. The dyadics are essentially reference frame aware  $3 \times 3$  tensors. The vector and dyadic objects can be used for any one-, two-, or three-dimensional vector algebra and they provide a strong framework for building physics and engineering tools.

The following Python interpreter session showing how a vector is created using the orthogonal unit vectors of three reference frames that are oriented with respect to each other and the result of expressing the vector in the  $A$  frame. The  $B$  frame is oriented with respect to the  $A$  frame using Z-X-Z Euler Angles of magnitude  $\pi$ ,  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ , and  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  rad, respectively whereas the  $C$  frame is oriented with respect to the  $B$  frame through a simple rotation about the  $B$  frame's X unit vector through  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  rad.

```
>>> from sympy import pi
>>> from sympy.physics.vector import ReferenceFrame
>>> A = ReferenceFrame('A')
>>> B = ReferenceFrame('B')
>>> C = ReferenceFrame('C')
>>> B.orient(A, 'body', (pi, pi / 3, pi / 4), 'zxz')
>>> C.orient(B, 'axis', (pi / 2, B.x))
>>> v = 1 * A.x + 2 * B.z + 3 * C.y
>>> v
A.x + 2*B.z + 3*C.y
>>> v.express(A)
A.x + 5*sqrt(3)/2*A.y + 5/2*A.z
```

**5.2. Classical Mechanics.** The `physics.mechanics` package utilizes the `physics.vector` package to populate time aware particle and rigid body objects to fully describe the kinematics and kinetics of a rigid multi-body system. These objects store all of the information needed to derive the ordinary differential or differential algebraic equations that govern the motion of the system, i.e., the equations of motion. These equations of motion abide by Newton's laws of motion and can handle any arbitrary kinematical constraints or complex loads. The package offers two automated methods for formulating the equations of motion based on Lagrangian Dynamics [23] and Kane's Method [22]. Lastly, there are automated linearization routines for constrained dynamical systems based on [30].

**5.3. Quantum Mechanics.** The `sympy.physics.quantum` package provides quantum functions, states, operators, and computation of standard quantum models.

**5.4. Optics.** The `physics.optics` package provides Gaussian optics functions.

**5.5. Units.** The `physics.units` module provides around two hundred predefined prefixes and SI units that are commonly used in the sciences. Additionally, it provides the `Unit` class which allows the user to define their own units. These prefixes and units are multiplied by standard SymPy objects to make expressions unit aware, allowing for algebraic and calculus manipulations to be applied to the expressions while the units are tracked in the manipulations. The units of the expressions can be easily converted to other desired units. There is also a new units system in

570 `sympy.physics.unitsystems` that allows the user to work in specified unit systems.

571 **5.6. Tensors.** Ongoing work to provide the capabilities of tensor computer algebra  
572 bra has so far produced the `tensor` module. It is composed of three separated submod-  
573 ules, whose purposes are quite different: `tensor.indexed` and `tensor.indexed_methods`  
574 support indexed symbols, `tensor.array` contains facilities to operator on symbolic  
575  $N$ -dimensional arrays and finally `tensor.tensor` is used to define abstract tensors.  
576 The abstract tensors subsection is inspired by xAct[25] and Cadabra[28]. Canoni-  
577 calization based on the Butler-Portugal[24] algorithm is supported in SymPy. It is  
578 currently limited to polynomial tensor expressions.

579 **6. Other Projects that use SymPy.** There are several projects that use  
580 SymPy as a library for implementing a part of their project, or even as a part of  
581 back-end for their application as well.  
582 Some of them are listed below:

- 583 • **Cadabra:** Cadabra is a symbolic computer algebra system (CAS) designed  
584 specifically for the solution of problems encountered in field theory.
- 585 • **Octave Symbolic:** The Octave-Forge Symbolic package adds symbolic cal-  
586 culation features to GNU Octave. These include common Computer Algebra  
587 System tools such as algebraic operations, calculus, equation solving, Fourier  
588 and Laplace transforms, variable precision arithmetic and other features.
- 589 • **SymPy.jl:** Provides a Julia interface to SymPy using PyCall.
- 590 • **Mathics:** Mathics is a free, general-purpose online CAS featuring Mathe-  
591 matica compatible syntax and functions. It is backed by highly extensible  
592 Python code, relying on SymPy for most mathematical tasks.
- 593 • **Mathpix:** An iOS App, that uses Artificial Intelligence to detect handwritten  
594 math as input, and uses SymPy Gamma, to evaluate the math input and  
595 generate the relevant steps to solve the problem.
- 596 • **IKFast:** IKFast is a robot kinematics compiler provided by **OpenRAVE**.  
597 It analytically solves robot inverse kinematics equations and generates opti-  
598 mized C++ files. It uses SymPy for its internal symbolic mathematics.
- 599 • **Sage:** A CAS, visioned to be a viable free open source alternative to Magma,  
600 Maple, Mathematica and Matlab.
- 601 • **SageMathCloud:** SageMathCloud is a web-based cloud computing and  
602 course management platform for computational mathematics.
- 603 • **PyDy:** Multibody Dynamics with Python.
- 604 • **galgebra:** Geometric algebra (previously `sympy.galgebra`).
- 605 • **yt:** Python package for analyzing and visualizing volumetric data (`yt.units`  
606 uses SymPy).
- 607 • **SfePy:** Simple finite elements in Python.
- 608 • **Quameon:** Quantum Monte Carlo in Python.
- 609 • **Lcapy:** Experimental Python package for teaching linear circuit analysis.
- 610 • **Quantum Programming in Python:** Quantum 1D Simple Harmonic Os-  
611 cillator and Quantum Mapping Gate.
- 612 • **LaTeX Expression project:** Easy LaTeX typesetting of algebraic expres-  
613 sions in symbolic form with automatic substitution and result computation.
- 614 • **Symbolic statistical modeling:** Adding statistical operations to complex  
615 physical models.

616 **7. Conclusion and future work.** SymPy is a robust CAS that provides a wide  
617 array of features. It is written in a general purpose programming language, Python,

which allows it to be used in a first-class way with other Python projects, including the scientific Python stack. It is designed to be used in an extensible way. Unlike many other CASs, it is designed to be used both as a end-user application and as a library.

The goal of SymPy is somewhat lofty: to be a full-featured CAS. However, a few things sit at the head of the project’s roadmap.

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## 9. Supplement.

**9.1. Limits: The Gruntz Algorithm.** SymPy calculates limits using the Gruntz algorithm, as described in [19]. The basic idea is as follows: any limit can be converted to a limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$  by substitutions like  $x \rightarrow \frac{1}{x}$ . Then the most varying subexpression  $\omega$  (that converges to zero as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  the fastest from all subexpressions) is identified in  $f(x)$ , and  $f(x)$  is expanded into a series with respect to  $\omega$ . Any positive powers of  $\omega$  converge to zero. If there are negative powers of  $\omega$ , then the limit is infinite. The constant term (independent of  $\omega$ , but could depend on  $x$ ) then determines the limit (one might need to recursively apply the Gruntz algorithm on this term to determine the limit).

To determine the most varying subexpression, the comparability classes must first be defined, by calculating  $L$ :

$$(1) \quad L \equiv \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |f(x)|}{\log |g(x)|}$$

And then operations  $<$ ,  $>$  and  $\sim$  are defined as follows:  $f > g$  when  $L = \pm\infty$  (it is said that  $f$  is more rapidly varying than  $g$ , i.e.,  $f$  goes to  $\infty$  or 0 faster than  $g$ ,  $f$  is greater than any power of  $g$ ),  $f < g$  when  $L = 0$  ( $f$  is less rapidly varying than  $g$ ) and  $f \sim g$  when  $L \neq 0, \pm\infty$  (both  $f$  and  $g$  are bounded from above and below by suitable integral powers of the other). Here are some examples of comparability classes:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &< x < e^x < e^{x^2} < e^{e^x} \\ 2 &\sim 3 \sim -5 \\ x &\sim x^2 \sim x^3 \sim \frac{1}{x} \sim x^m \sim -x \\ e^x &\sim e^{-x} \sim e^{2x} \sim e^{x+e^{-x}} \\ f(x) &\sim \frac{1}{f(x)} \end{aligned}$$

The Gruntz algorithm is now illustrated on the following example:

$$(2) \quad f(x) = e^{x+2e^{-x}} - e^x + \frac{1}{x}.$$

The goal is to calculate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ . First the set of most rapidly varying subexpressions is determined, the so called *mrv set*. For (2), the following mrv set  $\{e^x, e^{-x}, e^{x+2e^{-x}}\}$  is obtained. These are all subexpressions of (2) and they all belong to the same comparability class. This calculation can be done using SymPy as follows:

```

707 >>> from sympy.series.gruntz import mrv
708 >>> mrv(exp(x+2*exp(-x))-exp(x) + 1/x, x)[0].keys()
709 dict_keys([exp(x + 2*exp(-x)), exp(x), exp(-x)])
710 Next any item  $\omega$  is taken from mrv that converges to zero for  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . The item
711  $\omega = e^{-x}$  is obtained. If such a term is not present in the mrv set (i.e., all terms
712 converge to infinity instead of zero), the relation  $f(x) \sim \frac{1}{f(x)}$  can be used.
713 Next step is to rewrite the mrv in terms of  $\omega$ :  $\{\frac{1}{\omega}, \omega, \frac{1}{\omega}e^{2\omega}\}$ . Then the original
714 subexpressions are substituted back into  $f(x)$  and expanded with respect to  $\omega$ :

```

$$(3) \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{\omega} + \frac{1}{\omega}e^{2\omega} = 2 + \frac{1}{x} + 2\omega + O(\omega^2)$$

Since  $\omega$  is from the mrv set, then in the limit  $x \rightarrow \infty$  it is  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  and so  $2\omega + O(\omega^2) \rightarrow 0$  in (3):

$$(4) \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{\omega} + \frac{1}{\omega}e^{2\omega} = 2 + \frac{1}{x} + 2\omega + O(\omega^2) \rightarrow 2 + \frac{1}{x}$$

Since the result  $(2 + \frac{1}{x})$  still depends on  $x$ , the above procedure is iterated on the result until just a number (independent of  $x$ ) is obtained, which is the final limit. In the above case the limit is 2, as can be verified by SymPy:

```

722 >>> limit(exp(x+2*exp(-x))-exp(x) + 1/x, x, oo)
723 2

```

In general, when  $f(x)$  is expanded in terms of  $\omega$ , it is obtained:

$$(5) \quad f(x) = \underbrace{O\left(\frac{1}{\omega^3}\right)}_{\infty} + \underbrace{\frac{C_{-2}(x)}{\omega^2}}_{\infty} + \underbrace{\frac{C_{-1}(x)}{\omega}}_{\infty} + C_0(x) + \underbrace{C_1(x)\omega}_0 + \underbrace{O(\omega^2)}_0$$

The positive powers of  $\omega$  are zero. If there are any negative powers of  $\omega$ , then the result of the limit is infinity, otherwise the limit is equal to  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} C_0(x)$ . The expression  $C_0(x)$  is simpler than  $f(x)$  and so the algorithm always converges. A proof of this, as well as further details are given in Gruntz's Ph.D. thesis [19].

## 9.2. Series.

**9.2.1. Series Expansion.** SymPy is able to calculate the symbolic series expansion of an arbitrary series or expression involving elementary and special functions and multiple variables. For this it has two different implementations- the **series** method and Ring Series.

The first approach stores a series as an object of the **Basic** class. Each function has its specific implementation of its expansion which is able to evaluate the Puiseux series expansion about a specified point. For example, consider a Taylor expansion about 0:

```

739 >>> from sympy import symbols, series
740 >>> x, y = symbols('x, y')
741 >>> series(sin(x+y) + cos(x*y), x, 0, 2)
742 1 + sin(y) + x*cos(y) + O(x**2)

```

The newer and much faster[1] approach called Ring Series makes use of the observation that a truncated Taylor series, is in fact a polynomial. Ring Series uses the efficient representation and operations of sparse polynomials. The choice of sparse polynomials is deliberate as it performs well in a wider range of cases than a dense

representation. Ring Series gives the user the freedom to choose the type of coefficients he wants to have in his series, allowing the use of faster operations on certain types.

For this, several low level methods for expansion of trigonometric, hyperbolic and other elementary functions like inverse of a series, calculating  $n$ th root, etc, are implemented using variants of the Newton[11] Method. All these support Puiseux series expansion. The following example demonstrates the use of an elementary function that calculates the Taylor expansion of the `sine` of a series.

```
>>> from sympy import ring
>>> from sympy.polys.ring_series import rs_sin
>>> R, x = ring('x', QQ)
>>> rs_sin(x**2 + x, x, 5)
-1/2*x**4 - 1/6*x**3 + x**2 + x
```

The function `sympy.polys.rs_series` makes use of these elementary functions to expand an arbitrary SymPy expression. It does so by following a recursive strategy of expanding the lower most functions first and then composing them recursively to calculate the desired expansion. Currently it only supports expansion about 0 and is under active development. Ring Series is several times faster than the default implementation with the speed difference increasing with the size of the series. The `sympy.polys.rs_series` takes as input any SymPy expression and hence there is no need to explicitly create a polynomial ring. An example:

```
>>> from sympy.polys.ring_series import rs_series
>>> from sympy.abc import a, b
>>> from sympy import sin, cos
>>> rs_series(sin(a + b), a, 4)
-1/2*(sin(b))*a**2 + (sin(b)) - 1/6*(cos(b))*a**3 + (cos(b))*a
```

**9.2.2. Formal Power Series.** SymPy can be used for computing the Formal Power Series of a function. The implementation is based on the algorithm described in the paper on Formal Power Series[20]. The advantage of this approach is that an explicit formula for the coefficients of the series expansion is generated rather than just computing a few terms.

The following example shows how to use `fps`:

```
>>> f = fps(sin(x), x, x0=0)
>>> f.truncate(6)
x - x**3/6 + x**5/120 + O(x**6)
>>> f[15]
-x**15/1307674368000
```

**9.2.3. Fourier Series.** SymPy provides functionality to compute Fourier Series of a function using the `fourier_series` function. Under the hood it just computes  $a_0$ ,  $a_n$ ,  $b_n$  using standard integration formulas.

Here's an example on how to compute Fourier Series in SymPy:

```
>>> L = symbols('L')
>>> f = fourier_series(2 * (Heaviside(x/L) - Heaviside(x/L - 1)) - 1, (x, 0, 2*L))
>>> f.truncate(3)
4*sin(pi*x/L)/pi + 4*sin(3*pi*x/L)/(3*pi) + 4*sin(5*pi*x/L)/(5*pi)
```

**9.3. Logic.** SymPy supports construction and manipulation of boolean expressions through the `logic` module. SymPy symbols can be used as propositional variables and also be substituted as `True` or `False`. A good number of manipulation

795 features for boolean expressions have been implemented in the `logic` module.

796 **9.3.1. Constructing boolean expressions.** A boolean variable can be de-  
797 clared as a SymPy symbol. Python operators `&`, `|` and `~` are overloaded for logical  
798 `And`, `Or` and `negate`. Several others like `Xor`, `Implies` can be constructed with `^`, `>>`  
799 respectively. The above are just a shorthand, expressions can also be constructed by  
800 directly calling `And()`, `Or()`, `Not()`, `Xor()`, `Nand()`, `Nor()`, etc.

```
801 >>> from sympy import *
802 >>> x, y, z = symbols('x y z')
803 >>> e = (x & y) | z
804 >>> e.subs({x: True, y: True, z: False})
805 True
```

806 **9.3.2. CNF and DNF.** Any boolean expression can be converted to conjunc-  
807 tive normal form, disjunctive normal form and negation normal form. The API also  
808 permits to check if a boolean expression is in any of the above mentioned forms.

```
809 >>> from sympy import *
810 >>> x, y, z = symbols('x y z')
811 >>> to_cnf((x & y) | z)
812 And(Or(x, z), Or(y, z))
813 >>> to_dnf(x & (y | z))
814 Or(And(x, y), And(x, z))
815 >>> is_cnf((x | y) & z)
816 True
817 >>> is_dnf((x & y) | z)
818 True
```

819 **9.3.3. Simplification and Equivalence.** The module supports simplification  
820 of given boolean expression by making deductions on it. Equivalence of two expres-  
821 sions can also be checked. If so, it is possible to return the mapping of variables of  
822 two expressions so as to represent the same logical behaviour.

```
823 >>> from sympy import *
824 >>> a, b, c, x, y, z = symbols('a b c x y z')
825 >>> e = a & (~a | ~b) & (a | c)
826 >>> simplify(e)
827 And(Not(b), a)
828 >>> e1 = a & (b | c)
829 >>> e2 = (x & y) | (x & z)
830 >>> bool_map(e1, e2)
831 (And(Or(b, c), a), {b: y, a: x, c: z})
```

832 **9.3.4. SAT solving.** The module also supports satisfiability checking of a given  
833 boolean expression. If satisfiable, it is possible to return a model for which the ex-  
834 pression is satisfiable. The API also supports returning all possible models. The SAT  
835 solver has a clause learning DPLL algorithm implemented with watch literal scheme  
836 and VSIDS heuristic[26].

```
837 >>> from sympy import *
838 >>> a, b, c = symbols('a b c')
839 >>> satisfiable(a & (~a | b) & (~b | c) & ~c)
840 False
841 >>> satisfiable(a & (~a | b) & (~b | c) & c)
842 {b: True, a: True, c: True}
```

**9.4. Diophantine Equations.** Diophantine equations play a central and an important role in number theory. A Diophantine equation has the form,  $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 0$  where  $n \geq 2$  and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are integer variables. If we can find  $n$  integers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  such that  $x_1 = a_1, x_2 = a_2, \dots, x_n = a_n$  satisfies the above equation, we say that the equation is solvable.

Currently, following five types of Diophantine equations can be solved using SymPy's Diophantine module.

- Linear Diophantine equations:  $a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n = b$
- General binary quadratic equation:  $ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f = 0$
- Homogeneous ternary quadratic equation:  $ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dxy + eyz + fzx = 0$
- Extended Pythagorean equation:  $a_1x_1^2 + a_2x_2^2 + \dots + a_nx_n^2 = a_{n+1}x_{n+1}^2$
- General sum of squares:  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2 = k$

When an equation is fed into Diophantine module, it factors the equation (if possible) and solves each factor separately. Then all the results are combined to create the final solution set. Following examples illustrate some of the basic functionalities of the Diophantine module.

```
>>> from sympy import symbols
>>> x, y, z = symbols("x, y, z", integer=True)

>>> diophantine(2*x + 3*y - 5)
set([(3*t_0 - 5, -2*t_0 + 5)])

>>> diophantine(2*x + 4*y - 3)
set()

>>> diophantine(x**2 - 4*x*y + 8*y**2 - 3*x + 7*y - 5)
set([(2, 1), (5, 1)])

>>> diophantine(x**2 - 4*x*y + 4*y**2 - 3*x + 7*y - 5)
set([(-2*t**2 - 7*t + 10, -t**2 - 3*t + 5)])

>>> diophantine(3*x**2 + 4*y**2 - 5*z**2 + 4*x*y - 7*y*z + 7*z*x)
set([(-16*p**2 + 28*p*q + 20*q**2, 3*p**2 + 38*p*q - 25*q**2, 4*p**2 - 24*p*q + 68*q**2)])

>>> from sympy.abc import a, b, c, d, e, f
>>> diophantine(9*a**2 + 16*b**2 + c**2 + 49*d**2 + 4*e**2 - 25*f**2)
set([(70*t1**2 + 70*t2**2 + 70*t3**2 + 70*t4**2 - 70*t5**2, 105*t1*t5, 420*t2*t5, 60*t3*t5, 210*t4*t5, 420*t5**2)])

>>> diophantine(a**2 + b**2 + c**2 + d**2 + e**2 + f**2 - 112)
set([(8, 4, 4, 4, 0, 0)])
```

**9.5. Sets.** SymPy supports representation of a wide variety of mathematical sets. This is achieved by first defining abstract representations of atomic set classes and then combining and transforming them using various set operations.

Each of the set classes inherits from the base class `Set` and defines methods to check membership and calculate unions, intersections, and set differences. When these methods are not able to evaluate to atomic set classes, they are represented as abstract unevaluated objects.

SymPy has the following atomic set classes:

- `EmptySet` represents the empty set  $\emptyset$ .

- **UniversalSet** is an abstract “universal set” for which everything is a member. The union of the universal set with any set gives the universal set and the intersection gives to the other set itself.
- **FiniteSet** is functionally equivalent to Python’s built `inset` object. Its members can be any SymPy object including other sets themselves.
- **Integers** represents the set of Integers  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
- **Naturals** represents the set of Natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$ , i.e., the set of positive integers.
- **Naturals0** represents the whole numbers, which are all the non-negative integers.
- **Range** represents a range of integers. A range is defined by specifying a start value, an end value, and a step size. Range is functionally equivalent to Python’s `range` except it supports infinite endpoints, allowing the representation of infinite ranges.
- **Interval** represents an interval of real numbers. It is specified by giving the start and end point and specifying if it is open or closed in the respective ends.

Other than unevaluated classes of Union, Intersection and Set Difference operations, we have following set classes.

- **ProductSet** defines the Cartesian product of two or more sets. The product set is useful when representing higher dimensional spaces. For example to represent a three-dimensional space we simply take the Cartesian product of three real sets.
- **ImageSet** represents the image of a function when applied to a particular set. In notation, the image set of a function  $F$  with respect to a set  $S$  is  $\{F(x)|x \in S\}$ . SymPy uses image sets to represent sets of infinite solutions equations such as  $\sin(x) = 0$ .
- **ConditionSet** represents subset of a set whose members satisfies a particular condition. In notation, the condition set of the set  $S$  with respect to the condition  $H$  is  $\{x|H(x), x \in S\}$ . SymPy uses condition sets to represent the set of solutions of equations and inequalities, where the equation or the inequality is the condition and the set is the domain being solved over.

A few other classes are implemented as special cases of the classes described above. The set of real numbers, **Reals** is implemented as a special case of **Interval**,  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . **ComplexRegion** is implemented as a special case of **ImageSet**. **ComplexRegion** supports both polar and rectangular representation of regions on the complex plane.

**9.6. SymPy Gamma.** SymPy Gamma is a simple web application that runs on Google App Engine. It executes and displays the results of SymPy expressions as well as additional related computations, in a fashion similar to that of Wolfram|Alpha. For instance, entering an integer will display its prime factors, digits in the base-10 expansion, and a factorization diagram. Entering a function will display its docstring; in general, entering an arbitrary expression will display its derivative, integral, series expansion, plot, and roots.

SymPy Gamma also has several additional features than just computing the results using SymPy.

- It displays integration steps, differentiation steps in detail, which can be viewed in Figure 1:



Fig. 1: Integral steps of  $\tan(x)$

- It also displays the factor tree diagrams for different numbers.
- SymPy Gamma also saves user search queries, and offers many such similar features for free, which Wolfram|Alpha only offers to its paid users.

Every input query from the user on SymPy Gamma is first, parsed by its own parser, which handles several different forms of function names, which SymPy as a library doesn't support. For instance, SymPy Gamma supports queries like `sin x`, whereas SymPy doesn't support this, and supports only `sin(x)`.

This parser converts the input query to the equivalent SymPy readable code, which is then eventually processed by SymPy and the result is finally formatted in LaTeX and displayed on the SymPy Gamma web-application.

**9.7. SymPy Live.** SymPy Live is an online Python shell, which runs on Google App Engine, that executes SymPy code. It is integrated in the SymPy documentation examples, located at this [link](#).

This is accomplished by providing a HTML/JavaScript GUI for entering source code and visualization of output, and a server part which evaluates the requested source code. It's an interactive AJAX shell, that runs SymPy code using Python on the server.

Certain Features of SymPy Live:

- It supports the exact same syntax as SymPy, hence it can be used easily, to test for outputs of various SymPy expressions.
- It can be run as a standalone app or in an existing app as an admin-only handler, and can also be used for system administration tasks, as an interactive way to try out APIs, or as a debugging aid during development.
- It can also be used to plot figures ([link](#)), and execute all kinds of expressions that SymPy can evaluate.
- SymPy Live also formats the output in LaTeX for pretty-printing the output.

**9.8. Comparison with Mathematica.** Wolfram Mathematica is a popular proprietary CAS. It features highly advanced algorithms. Mathematica has a core implemented in C++ [6] which interprets its own programming language (known as Wolfram language).

Analogously to Lisp’s S-expressions, Mathematica uses its own style of M-expressions, which are arrays of either atoms or other M-expression. The first element of the expression identifies the type of the expression and is indexed by zero, whereas the first argument is indexed by one. Notice that SymPy expression arguments are stored in a Python tuple (that is, an immutable array), while the expression type is identified by the type of the object storing the expression.

Mathematica can associate attributes to its atoms. Attributes may define mathematical properties and behavior of the nodes associated to the atom. In SymPy, the usage of static class fields is roughly similar to Mathematica’s attributes, though other programming patterns may also be used to achieve an equivalent behavior, such as class inheritance.

Unlike SymPy, Mathematica’s expressions are mutable, that is one can change parts of the expression tree without the need of creating a new object. The reactivity of Mathematica allows for a lazy updating of any references to that data structure.

Products in Mathematica are determined by some builtin node types, such as `Times`, `Dot`, and others. `Times` is overloaded by the `*` operator, and is always meant to represent a commutative operator. The other notable product is `Dot`, overloaded by the `.` operator. This product represents matrix multiplication, it is not commutative. SymPy uses the same node for both scalar and matrix multiplication, the only exception being with abstract matrix symbols. Unlike Mathematica, SymPy determines commutativity with respect to multiplication from the factor’s expression type. Mathematica puts the `Orderless` attribute on the expression type.

Regarding associative expressions, SymPy handles associativity by making associative expressions inherit the class `AssocOp`, while Mathematica specifies the `Flat` attribute on the expression type.

Mathematica relies heavily on pattern matching: even the so-called equivalent of function declaration is in reality the definition of a pattern matching generating an expression tree transformation on input expressions. Mathematica’s pattern matching is sensitive to associative[2], commutative[3], and one-identity[4] properties of its expression tree nodes[5]. SymPy has various ways to perform pattern matching. All of them play a lesser role in the CAS than in Mathematica and are basically available as a tool to rewrite expressions. The differential equation solver in SymPy somewhat relies on pattern matching to identify the kind of differential equation, but it is envisaged to replace that strategy with analysis of Lie symmetries in the future. Mathematica’s real advantage is the ability to add new overloading to the expression builder at runtime, or for specific subnodes. Consider for example

```
In[1] := Unprotect[Plus]
```



```

1007
1008 Out[1]= {Plus}
1009
1010 In[2]:= Sin[x_]^2 + Cos[y_]^2 := 1
1011
1012 In[3]:= x + Sin[t]^2 + y + Cos[t]^2
1013
1014 Out[3]= 1 + x + y
1015 This expression in Mathematica defines a substitution rule that overloads the func-
1016 tionality of the Plus node (the node for additions in Mathematica). The trailing
1017 underscore after a symbol means that it is to be considered a wildcard. This example
1018 may not be practical, one may wish to keep this identity unevaluated, nevertheless
1019 it clearly illustrates the potentiality to define one's own immediate transformation
1020 rules. In SymPy the operations constructing the addition node in the expression tree
1021 are Python class constructors, and cannot be modified at runtime5 The way SymPy
1022 deals with extending the missing runtime overloadability functionality is by subclass-
1023 ing the node types. Subclasses may overload the class constructor to yield the proper
1024 extended functionality.
1025 Unlike SymPy, Mathematica does not support type inheritance or polymorphism[15].
1026 SymPy relies heavily on class inheritance, but for the most part, class inheritance is
1027 used to make sure that SymPy objects inherit the proper methods and implement the
1028 basic hashing system. Associativity of expressions can be achieved by inheriting the
1029 class AssocOp, which may appear a more cumbersome operation than Mathematica's
1030 attribute setting.
1031 Matrices in SymPy are types on their own. In Mathematica, nested lists are
1032 interpreted as matrices whenever the sublists have the same length. The main differ-
1033 ence to SymPy is that ordinary operators and functions do not get generalized the
1034 same way as used in traditional mathematics. Using the standard multiplication in
1035 Mathematica performs an elementwise product, this is compatible with Mathemat-
1036 ica's convention of commutativity of Times nodes. Matrix product is expressed by
1037 the dot operator, or the Dot node. The same is true for the other operators, and
1038 even functions, most notably calling the exponential function Exp on a matrix returns
1039 an elementwise exponentiation of its elements. The real matrix exponentiationl is
1040 available through the MatrixExp function.
1041 Unevaluated expressions can be achieved in various ways, most commonly with
1042 the HoldForm or Hold nodes, that block the evaluation of subnodes by the parser.
1043 Note that such a node cannot be expressed in Python, because of greedy evaluation.
1044 Whenever needed in SymPy, it is necessary to add the parameter evaluate=False to
1045 all subnodes, or put the input expression in a string.
1046 The operator == returns a boolean whenever it is able to immediately evaluate
1047 the truthness of the equality, otherwise it returns an Equal expression. In SymPy ==
1048 means structural equality and is always guaranteed to return a boolean expression.
1049 To express an equality in SymPy it is necessary to explicitly construct the Equality
1050 class.
1051 SymPy, in accordance with Python and unlike the usual programming convention,
1052 uses ** to express the power operator, while Mathematica uses the more common ^.

```

---

<sup>5</sup>In reality, Python supports monkey patching, nonetheless it is a discouraged programming pattern.