GNU/Linux, software libre para la comunidad universitaria	I
GNU/Linux, software libre para la comunidad univ	versitaria
Software científico en GNU/Linux	

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Introducción

El software libre siempre ha estado muy ligado a las universidades y el mundo académico. Por este motivo, es fácil encontrar muchos programas libres dentro del ámbito científico.

El propósito de este documento es mostrar las principales aplicaciones libres que puedan resultar útiles a un científico o ingeniero.

Adjunto a este documento, se aportan manuales que enseñan a utilizar algunos de los programas descritos. Es digno de recalcar que parte de dicha documentación se generó con motivo del curso extraordinario *Herramientas en GNU/Linux para estudiantes universitarios* que se celebró en la Universidad de Salamanca y que fue organizado por el Departamento de Informática y Automática, AUGCyL, GLiSa, la Asociación de Estudiantes Miguel de Unamuno y la Delegación de Alumnos de la Facultad de Ciencias.

La mayoría del software científico que podemos encontrar en GNU/Linux sigue la filosofía de desarrollo del mundo Unix, según la cual se favorece la creación de pequeñas herramientas muy específicas y potentes que funcionan a través de la línea de comandos. Gracias a este modelo de desarrollo, es posible una fácil interacción entre ellas y la posibilidad de creación de diferentes interfaces gráficas a partir de un esfuerzo común.

Como ya se ha dicho, aquí se mostrarán las aplicaciones que los autores han considerado más importantes; no obstante, para encontrar programas que respondan a necesidades más específicas, puede:

- Visitar recopilaciones de software como el directorio de software libre de la FSF y la UNESCO o Scientific Applications on Linux
- Examinar los repositorios de una distribución GNU/Linux (suelen estar organizados por categorías).
- Utilizar buscadores de Internet.

Procesadores de texto

2.1. TeX

TeX es un sistema de tipografía creado por Donald E. Knuth en 1978.

Su aparición supuso un hito en la composición de fórmulas matemáticas.

Su complejidad ha hecho que surjan soluciones de alto nivel basadas en él y que conservan sus bondades.

Posee una gran cantidad de complementos que se pueden encontrar en la red CTAN.

De manera similar a lo que ocurre con GNU/Linux, TeX y el resto de programas basados en él se distribuyen empaquetados en distribuciones que facilitan su instalación. Las más importantes son:

teTeX

Es una distribución de TeX para GNU/Linux. El desarollo de teTeX sido abandonado por su autor, aunque todavía forma parte de algunas distribuciones.

TeX Live

TeX Live es una distribución de TeX para GNU/Linux. Ha sustituido a teTeX en la mayoría de distribuciones GNU/Linux.

MacTeX

Es una distribución de TeX para Mac OS X.

MiKTeX

Es una distribución de TeX para Microsoft Windows.

proTeXt

Es una distribución de TeX para Microsoft Windows basada en MiKTeX. Su objetivo es dotar a MiKTeX de un proceso de instalación sencillo.

También es importante destacar que existen comunidades de usuarios de TeX y sus variantes que favorecen su difusión y aprendizaje. Una de ellas que podría interesar al lector es CervanTeX, pues se centra en la comunidad hispanohablante.



Figura 2.1: Logotipo de TeX

2.1.1. LaTeX

LaTeX es un sistema de preparación de documentos basado en TeX y el lenguaje de marcado utilizado en el mismo. En concreto, es un conjunto de macros de TeX.

Fue creado por Leslie Lamport en 1984.

En la actualidad es un estándar de facto en las revistas científicas. 1



Figura 2.2: Logotipo de LaTeX

2.1.1.1. Texmaker

Texmaker es un editor de texto diseñado para facilitar la producción y procesado de archivos LaTeX.

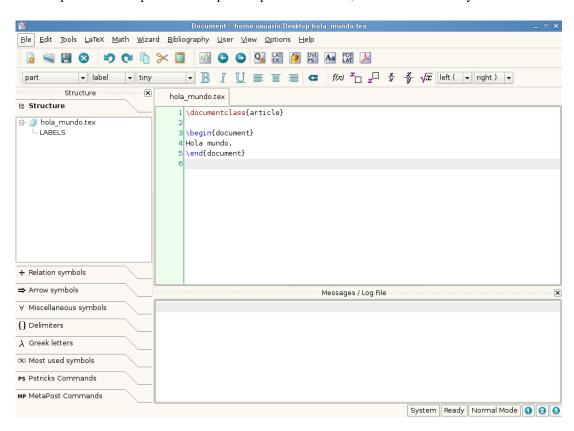


Figura 2.3: Texmaker

- Información general para los autores de la Sociedad Matemática Americana
- Directrices de entrega de artículos de Physical Review

2.1.1.2. Kile

Kile es el editor de texto del proyecto KDE pensado para ser utilizado en la creación de documentos TeX o LaTeX.

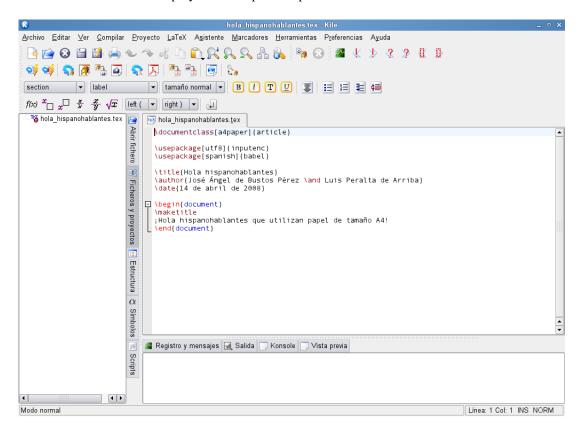


Figura 2.4: Kile

2.2. GNU TeXmacs

GNU TeXmacs es un editor WYSIWYG (lo que ves es lo que consigues) especilizado en textos científicos.

GNU TeXmacs es capaz de ejecutar de manera integrada a aplicaciones como gnuplot, Maxima, GNU Octave...

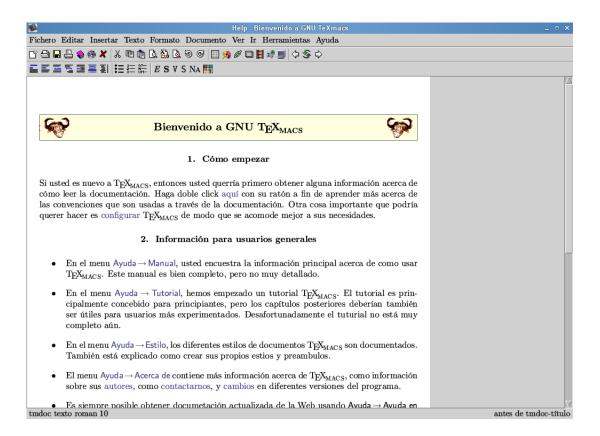


Figura 2.5: GNU TeXmacs

2.3. LyX

LyX es un procesador de texto gráfico basado en el modelo WYSIWYM (lo que ves es lo que quieres decir). Esto significa que el autor sólo se debe preocupar de la estructura y contenido del texto, ya que el programa se encarga de la presentación.

La potencia de LyX radica en que combina la potencia de LaTeX con la facilidad de uso de una interfaz gráfica.

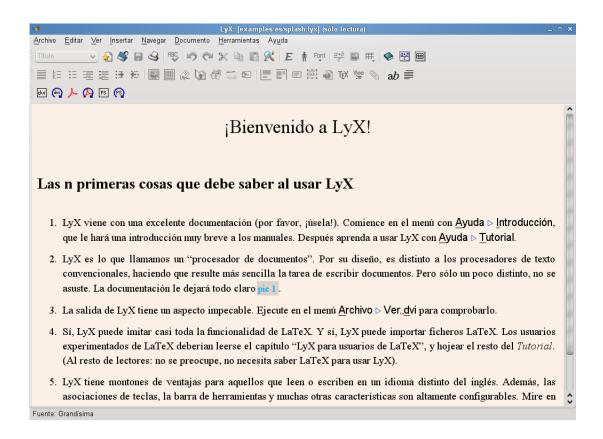


Figura 2.6: LyX

2.4. OpenOffice.org Math

OpenOffice.org Math es el editor de ecuaciones de las suite ofimática OpenOffice.org.

Aparece en esta recopilación por su capacidad para exportar las ecuaciones en formato MathML, que es el estándar para incluir expresiones matemáticas en páginas web.

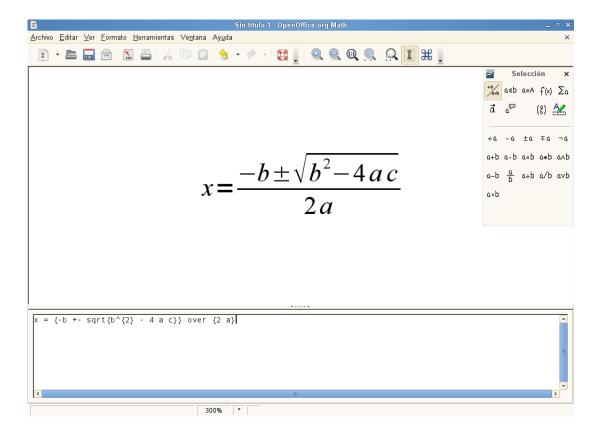


Figura 2.7: OpenOffice.org Math

Creación de gráficos

3.1. Representación de funciones y datos

3.1.1. gnuplot

gnuplot es un programa interactivo para la visualización de funciones y datos, aunque también se puede utilizar de manera no interactiva.

Soporta tanto gráficos bidimensionales como tridimensionales. Puede dibujar líneas, puntos, cajas, contornos, campos vectoriales, superficies, varios tipos de textos asociados...

La principal virtud que hace especial a este programa es la cantidad de formatos de salida con los que cuenta. Entre ellos destacan LaTeX, EPS, PDF, METAFONT, SVG, PNG...

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

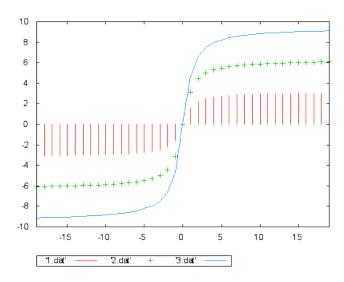


Figura 3.1: Gráfico generado con gnuplot

3.2. Diagramas

3.2.1. Dia

Dia es un programa para la creación de diagramas.

Está inspirado en la aplicación privativa Visio.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux y Microsoft Windows.

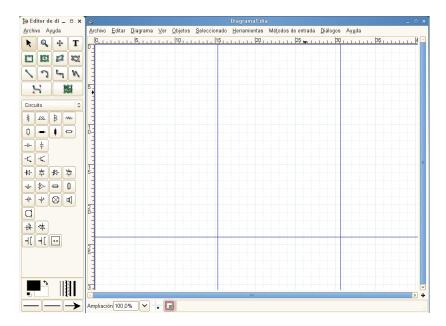


Figura 3.2: Dia

3.2.2. Xfig

Xfig es una programa para dibujar esquemas.

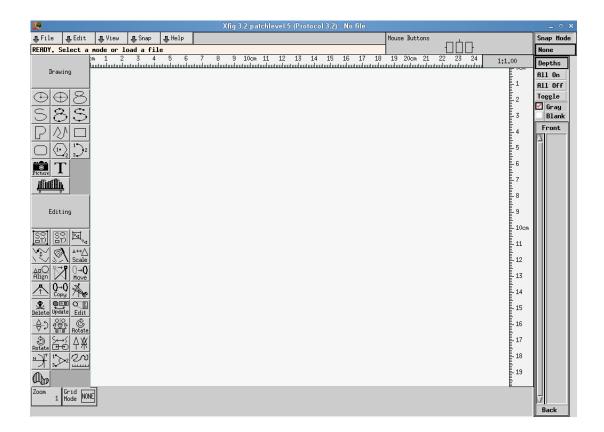


Figura 3.3: Xfig

3.3. Dibujos geométricos

3.3.1. GeoGebra

GeoGebra es un sistema de geometría dinámica.

Puede hacer construcciones con puntos, vectores, segmentos, secciones cónicas, funciones...

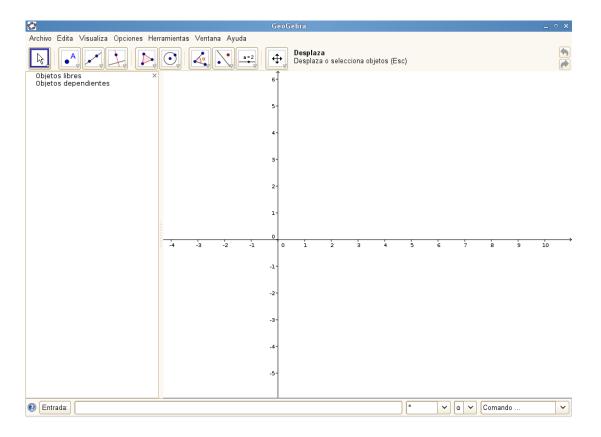


Figura 3.4: GeoGebra

3.3.2. GEONExT

GEONEXT es un programa para hacer dibujos geométricos que pueden ser animados.

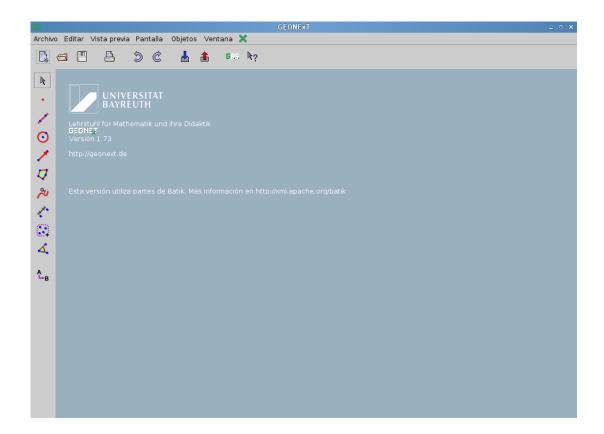


Figura 3.5: GEONExT

3.4. Visualización de estructuras químicas

3.4.1. GDIS

GDIS es un visor y manipulador de moléculas aisladas y sistemas periódicos.

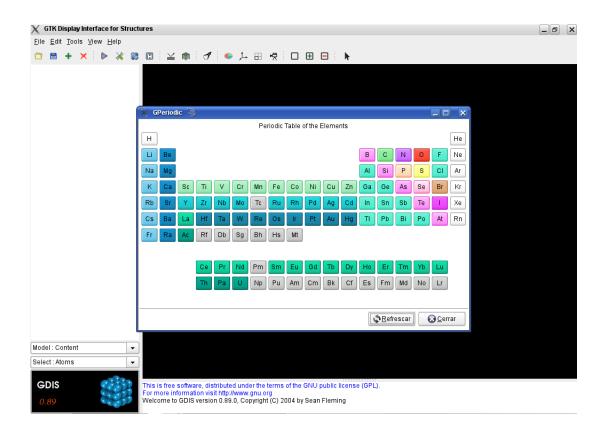


Figura 3.6: GDIS

3.4.2. Chemtool

Chemtool es un pequeño programa para dibujar estructuras químicas.

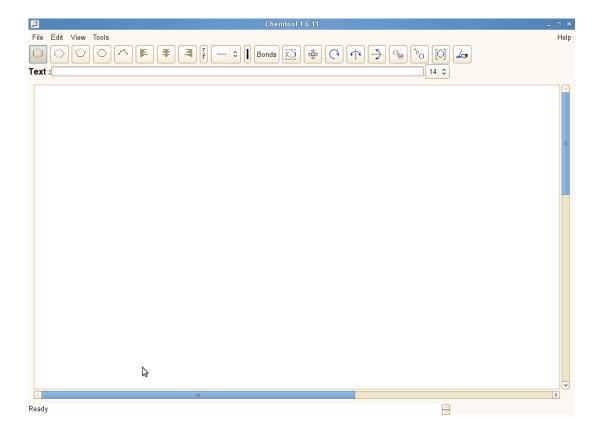


Figura 3.7: Chemtool

3.4.3. Garlic

Garlic es un visor y editor molecular.

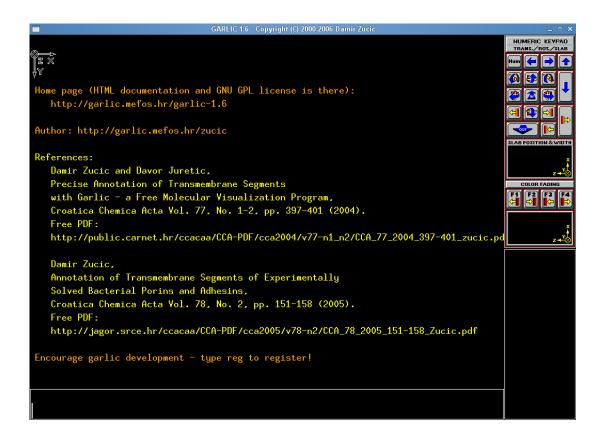


Figura 3.8: Garlic

Cálculo simbólico

4.1. Maxima

Maxima es un sistema para la manipulación de expresiones simbólicas y numéricas, incluyendo diferenciación, integración, expansión en series de Taylor, transformadas de Laplace, ecuaciones diferenciales ordinarias, sistemas de ecuaciones lineales, vectores, matrices y tensores.

Produce resultados con alta precisión usando fracciones exactas y representaciones con aritmética de coma flotante arbitraria.

También puede realizar gráficas interaccionando con otros programas como gnuplot.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

4.1.1. wxMaxima

wxMaxima es una interfaz de Maxima basada en las bibliotecas wxWidgets.

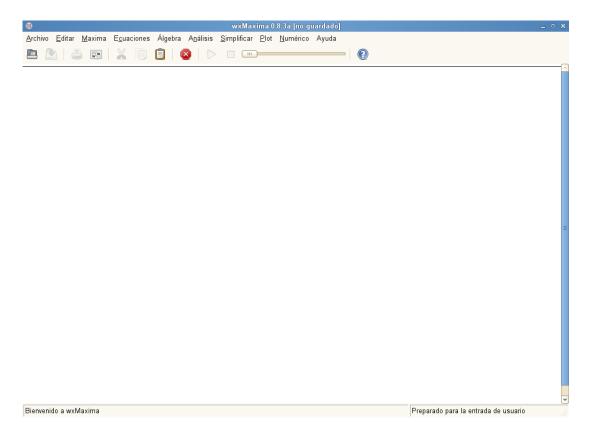


Figura 4.1: wxMaxima

4.1.2. Xmaxima

Xmaxima es una interfaz de Maxima creada utilizando Tcl/Tk.

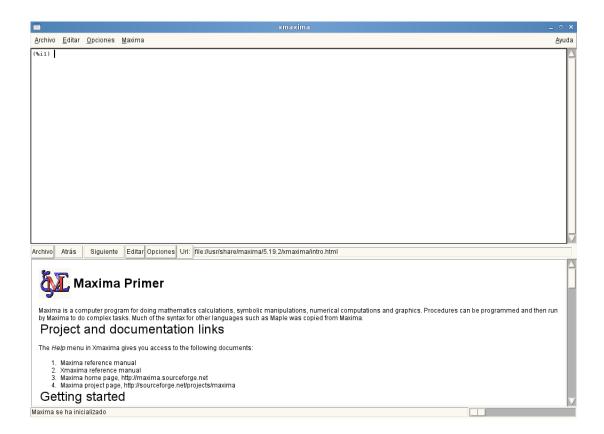


Figura 4.2: Xmaxima

4.2. Yacas

Yacas es un sistema de Álgebra Computacional de propósito general para la manipulación simbólica de expresiones matemáticas. Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux y Microsoft Windows.

4.3. Axiom

Axiom es un sistema de Álgebra Computacional de propósito general.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux y Mac OS.

Cálculo numérico

5.1. GNU Octave

GNU Octave es un programa de línea de comandos y un lenguaje de alto nivel, diseñado principalmente para realizar cómputos numéricos que forma parte del proyecto GNU.

Tiene una sintaxis altamente compatible con la del programa privativo MATLAB.

Desde la línea de comandos de GNU Octave se pueden generar gráficos de funciones y datos, aunque conviene saber que para ello utiliza herramientas externas como gnuplot.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

5.1.1. QtOctave

QtOctave es una interfaz gráfica que tiene como objetivo facilitar el trabajo con GNU Octave mediante ventanas, menús y asistentes.

QtOctave ganó el premio de primer finalista del I Concurso Universitario de Software Libre en la categoría de ocio y educación. Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux y Microsoft Windows.

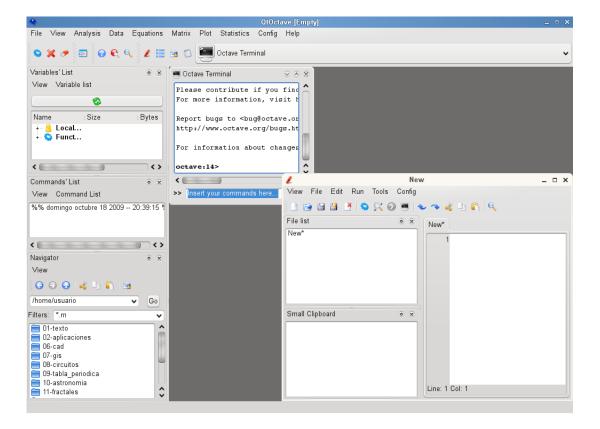


Figura 5.1: QtOctave

5.2. Scilab

Scilab es un programa científico para cómputos numéricos.

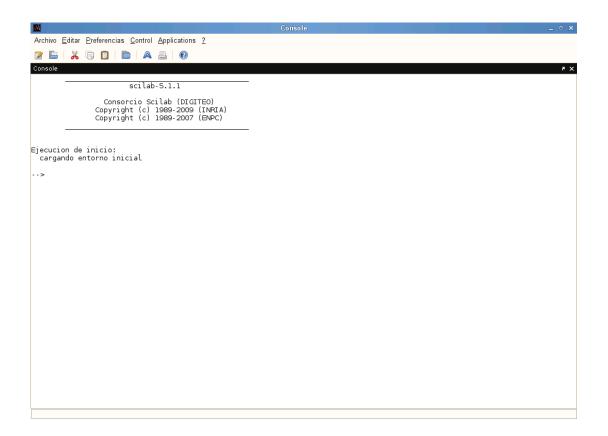


Figura 5.2: Scilab

5.3. FreeMat

FreeMat es un entorno para científicos e ingenieros que se dedican al modelado y procesamiento de datos.

Su sintaxis es altamente compatible con la del sistema privativo MATLAB.

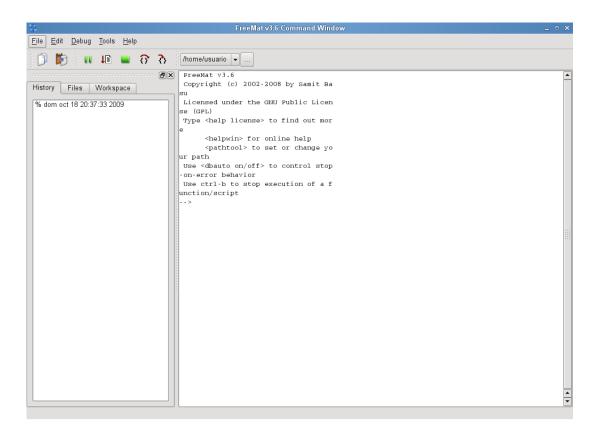


Figura 5.3: FreeMat

Análisis estadístico

6.1. R

R es un entorno y lenguaje de programación para análisis estadístico y gráfico.

Se trata de una implementación libre del premiado lenguaje S.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

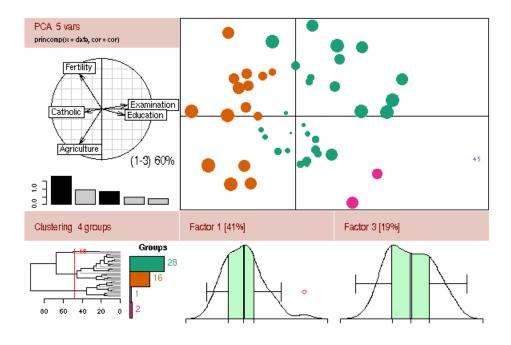


Figura 6.1: Gráfico generado con R

6.1.1. R-Commander

R-Commander es una interfaz gráfica de usuario para R consistente en una ventana con menús, botones y campos de información.

6.2. **PSPP**

PSPP es una implementación libre del programa privativo SPSS.

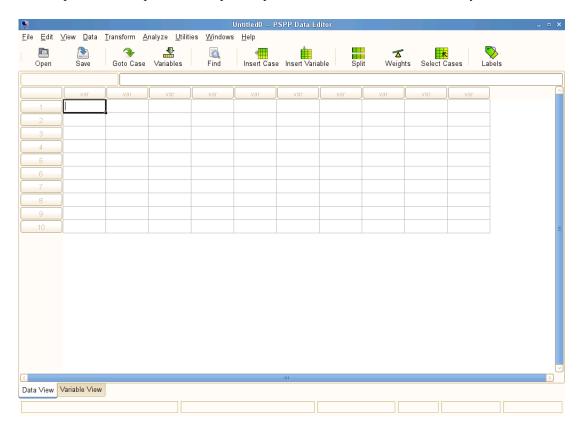


Figura 6.2: PSPP

Diseño asistido por computador o CAD

7.1. QCad

QCad es una aplicación para dibujo asistido por ordenador en dos dimensiones.

Con QCad se pueden crear dibujos técnicos como planos para edificios, interiores, piezas mecánicas o esquemas.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

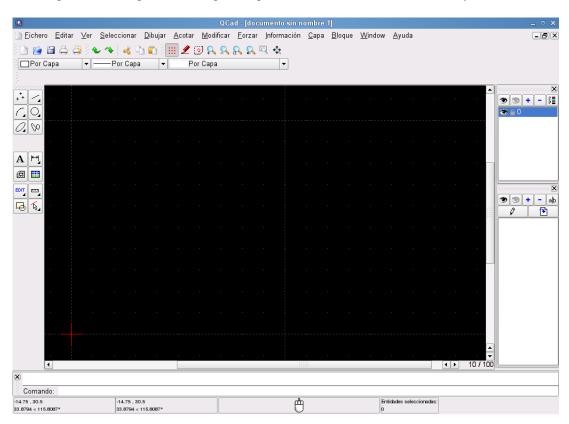


Figura 7.1: QCad

7.2. PythonCAD

PythonCAD es un CAD escrito sólo y sorprendentemente con el lenguaje de programación Python.

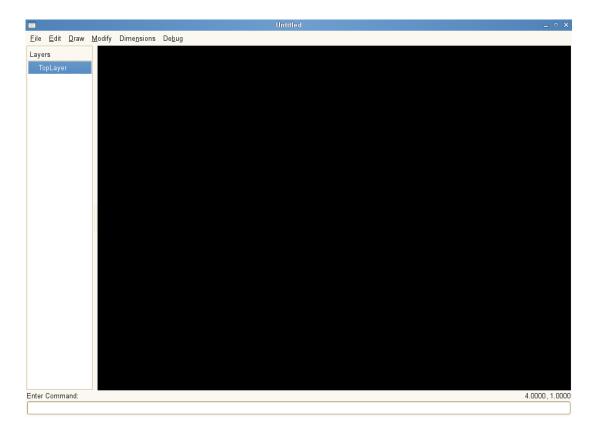


Figura 7.2: PythonCAD

Sistemas de información geográfica o GIS

8.1. GRASS

GRASS es un sistema de información geográfica que forma parte de los proyectos oficiales de la Fundación para el Código Abierto Geoespacial.

Soporta información tanto raster como vectorial y posee herramientas de procesado digital de imágenes.



Figura 8.1: GRASS

Circuitos eléctricos

9.1. Logisim

Logisim es una herramienta educativa para el diseño y la simulación de circuitos lógicos digitales.

Aunque cuenta con una interfaz muy sencilla, Logisim puede ser usado (y es usado) para diseñar y simular completas unidades centrales de procesamiento con propósitos educativos.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

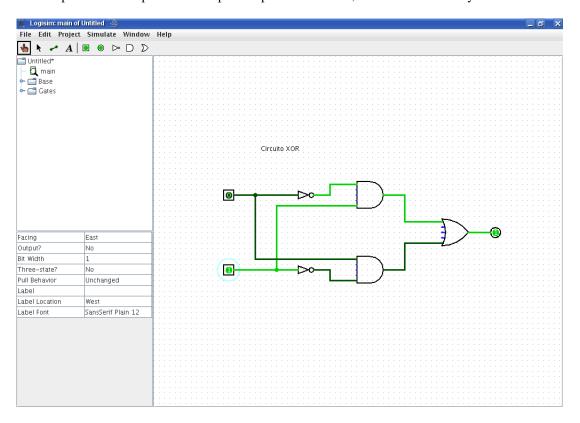


Figura 9.1: Logisim

9.2. KiCad

KiCad es un programa de automatización del diseño electrónico (EDA).

KiCad se compone de un gestor de proyectos que interacciona con cuatro programas principales:

- El editor de esquemas eeschema.
- El selector de componentes usados en el diseño del circuito cvpcb.
- El programa editor de circuitos impresos pebnew.
- El visor Gerber gerbview.

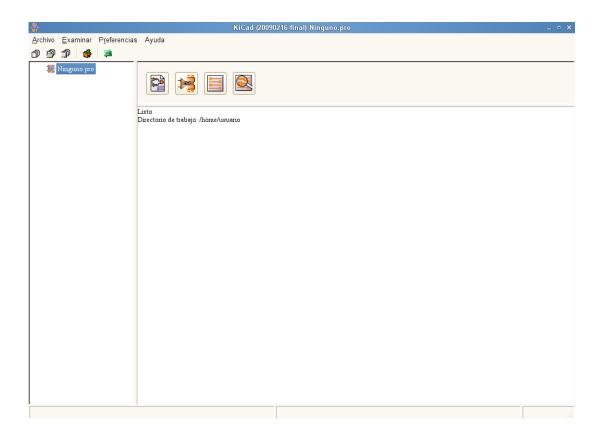


Figura 9.2: KiCad

Capítulo 10

Tabla periódica de los elementos

10.1. Kalzium

Kalzium es una aplicación que muestra la tabla periódica de los elementos.

Además de los datos comunes que aparecen en las tablas impresas, dispone de otros tales como el punto de fusión, la afinidad electrónica, el radio covalente, el origen del nombre...

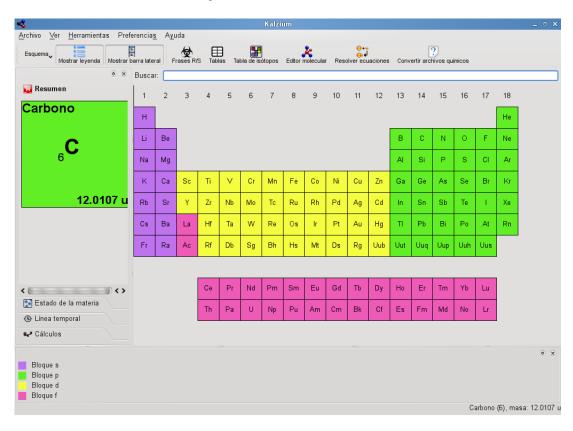


Figura 10.1: Kalzium

Capítulo 11

Simulación astronómica

11.1. Celestia

Celestia es un simulador espacial tridimensional, que al contrario que la mayoría de software astronómico no nos confina a la superficie de la Tierra.

Es un programa que ha sido utilizado por la NASA y la Agencia Espacial Europea. ¹

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS.

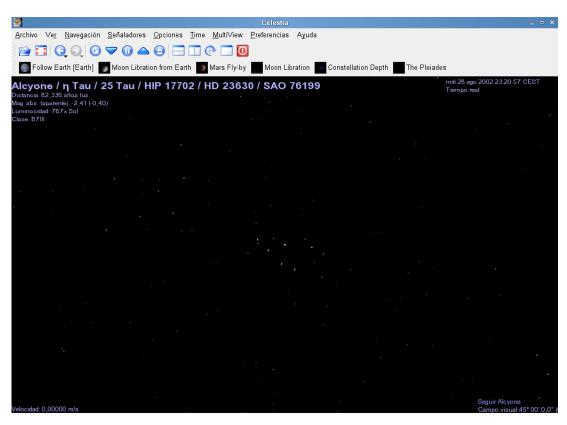


Figura 11.1: Celestia

- Proyecto de enseñanza de Celestia de la NASA
- Noticia de la Agencia Espacial Europea ilustrada con Celestia

11.2. KStars

KStars es el planetario del proyecto KDE.

Ofrece una simulación precisa del cielo nocturno para cualquier localización terrestre a la fecha y hora deseadas. La representación incluye 130.000 estrellas, 13.000 objetos del cielo profundo, el Sol, la Luna y miles de cometas y asteroides.

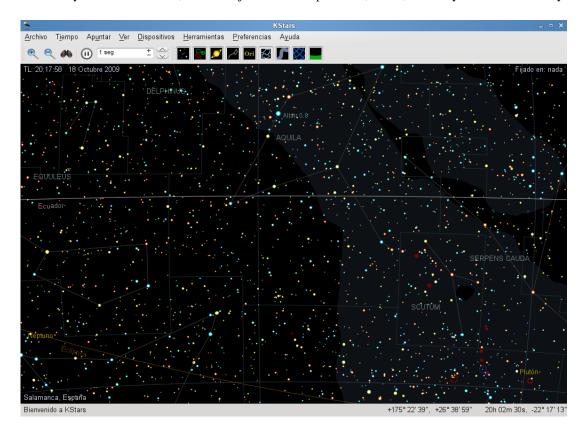


Figura 11.2: KStars

11.3. Stellarium

Stellarium es un planetario que muestra un cielo tridimensional, tal y como se vería a simple vista, con prismáticos o con un telescopio.

Posee un catálogo por defecto de más de 600.000 estrellas y otros extra con más de 210 millones. Proporciona imágenes de las constelaciones de doce culturas diferentes y una Vía Láctea, atmósfera, amanecer y ocaso realistas.

Otras de sus capacidades que le hacen destacar son su capacidad para controlar telescopios y la simulación de eclipses.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS.



Figura 11.3: Stellarium

Capítulo 12

Fractales e imágenes caóticas

12.1. **GNU XaoS**

GNU XaoS es un visor interactivo de fractales que permite al usuario hacer ampliaciones y reducciones de manera fluida y continua.

Puede generar una gran variedad de fractales de distintos tipos como Mandelbrot, Barnsley, Newton... También es capaz de guardar imágenes y vídeos de los fractales realizados.

Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows y Mac OS entre otros.

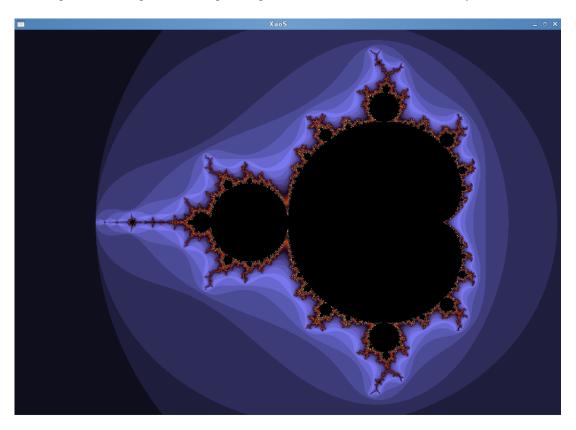


Figura 12.1: GNU XaoS

12.2. Fyre

Fyre es una herramienta para producir imágenes basadas en histogramas de funciones caóticas iteradas. Es una aplicación multiplataforma disponible para GNU/Linux y Microsoft Windows.

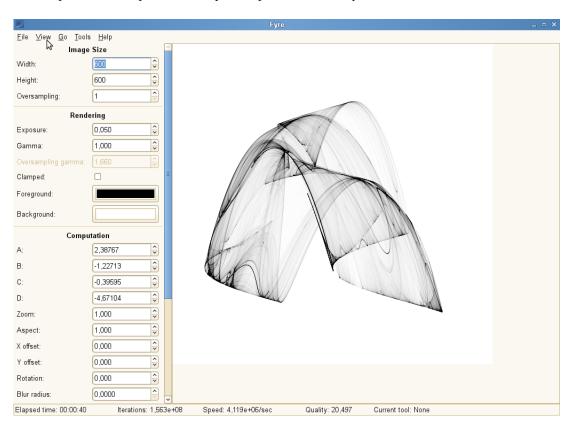


Figura 12.2: Fyre

Apéndice A

Paquetes de software científico en openSUSE 11.1

• openSUSE-11.1-Oss

- Packman
- KDE_Community
- Education
- science
- Application_Geo
- home_dmacvicar
- home_dsteuer

Programa	Paquete	Repositorio ¹
TeX	texlive	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
LaTeX	texlive-latex	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Texmaker	texmaker	KDE_Community
Kile	kile	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
GNU TeXmacs	TeXmacs	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
LyX	lyx	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
OpenOffice.org Math	OpenOffice_org-math	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
gnuplot	gnuplot	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Dia	dia	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Xfig	xfig	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
GeoGebra	geogebra	Education
GEONExT	geonext	Education
GDIS		
Chemtool	chemtool	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Garlic	garlic	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Maxima	maxima	Education
wxMaxima	wxMaxima	Education
Xmaxima	maxima-xmaxima	Education
Yacas	yacas	Education
Axiom	•	
GNU Octave	octave	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
QtOctave	qtoctave	Packman
Scilab	scilab	Packman
FreeMat	FreeMat	home_dmacvicar
R	R-base	Education
R-Commander		
PSPP	pspp	home_dsteuer
QCad	qcad	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
PythonCAD	pythoncad	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
GRASS	grass	Application_Geo
Logisim		
KiCad	kicad	science
Kalzium	kde4-kalzium	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Celestia	celestia	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
KStars	kde4-kstars	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Stellarium	stellarium	Education
GNU XaoS	xaos	openSUSE-11.1-Oss
Fyre	fyre	openSUSE-11.1-Oss

Cuadro A.1: Paquetes de software científico en openSUSE 11.1

Apéndice B

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