

ETERNITY CALCULATOR

Team F

Department of Computer Science, Comp 354
Concordia University

Goals

Based on the research we made from interviewing various stakeholders/personas, using our own experience and knowledge of calculators, and gathering relevant market research information from the internet, we decided that our main focus was to create a calculator that embodies **Simplicity** (portability, aesthetics/UI, functionality/UX), **Customizability**, and **Reliability** (precision and correctness).

- Desktop calculator app
- Simple in look and use
- Customizable
- Reliable

R&D

We conducted interviews to decide on our main goals. We gathered feedback and information from individuals with different technical backgrounds to provide us with sufficient data to break down what problems we needed to solve.

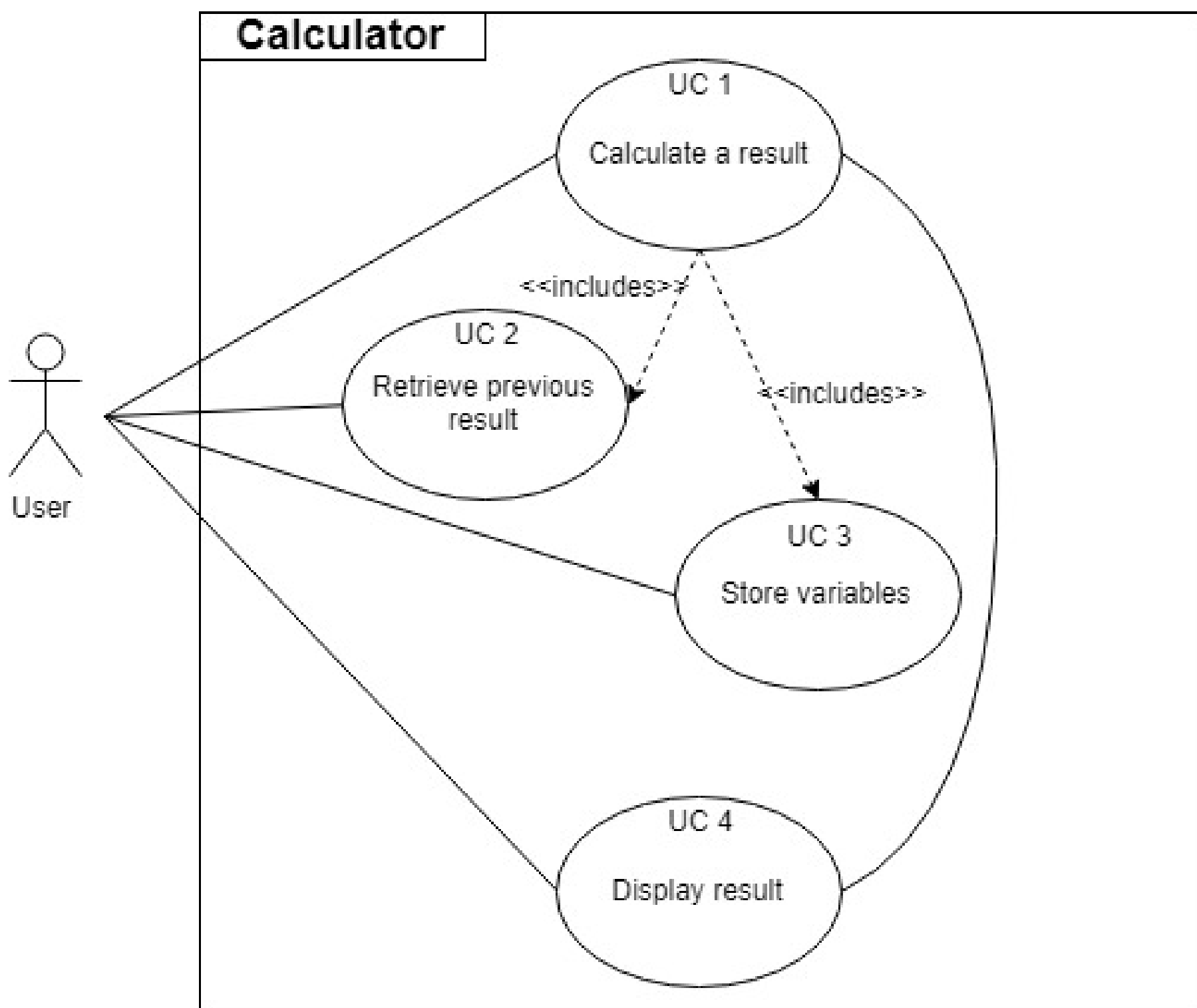


Fig. 1: Use Cases Derived From Interviews

Users had very differing demands but we were able to extract commonalities to arrive at goals/use cases.

What's Inside?

Following from the requirements gathering, we decided to include the following features which align with the user requirements and satisfy the use cases.

Feature List:

- Type expressions in natural language (Simplicity)
- Define constants (Customizable)
- Define functions (Customizable)
- Recall previous result (Reliability, Simplicity)
- View complete calculation history (Reliability, Simplicity)
- Different themes (Customizable)
- Visual feedback with detailed error messages (Reliability, Simplicity)

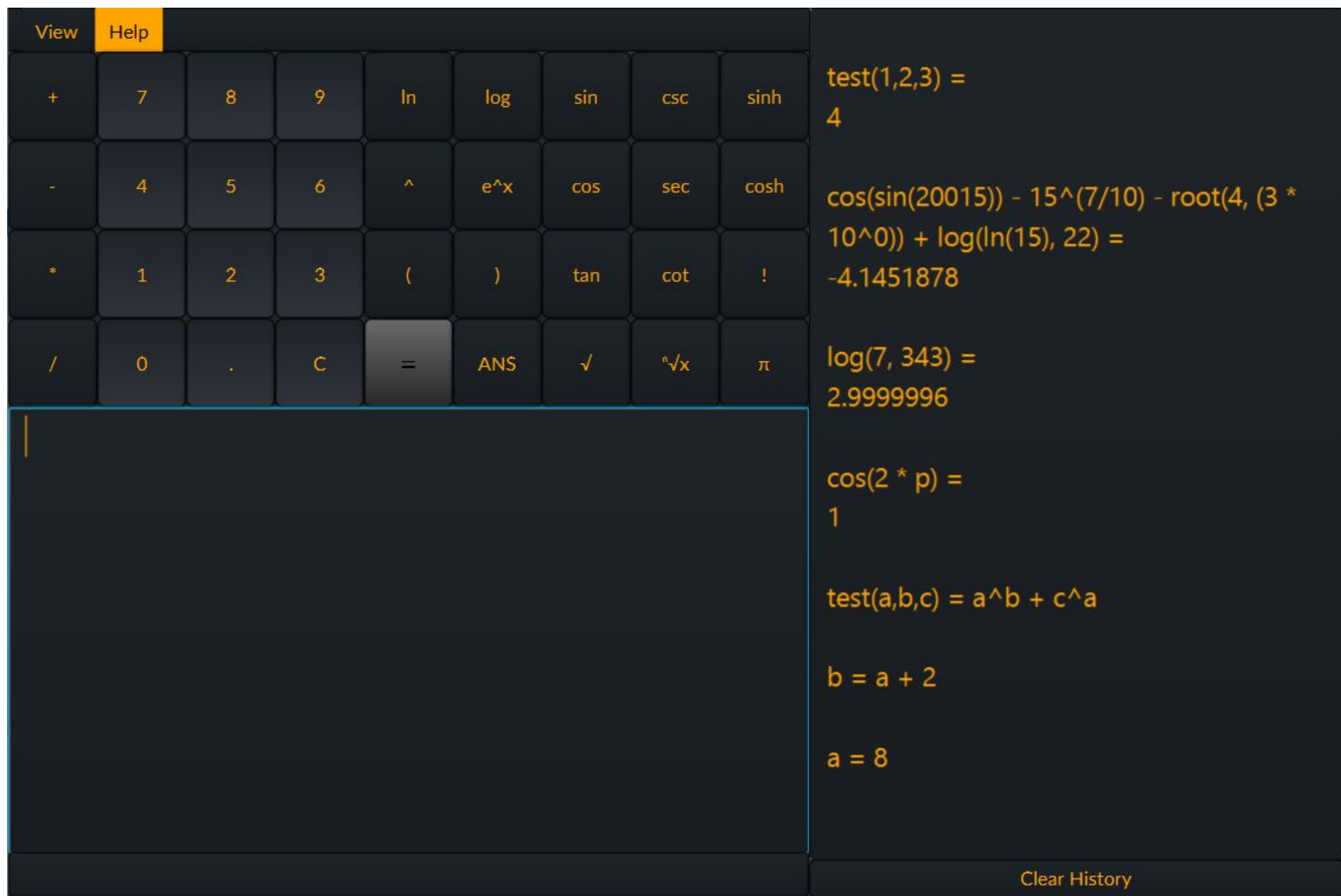


Fig. 2: Calculator with example calculations

User Experience

- Input box encourages user to type in expression and reduce reliance on buttons.
- Buttons placed in a way to easily reach the most commonly used functions.
- Left side is where user interacts with the controller where as the right side is where he/she sees the view (i.e. MVC pattern)

Solution

- **Technical/Mathematical:** Access to advanced functions, precision, mapping keys to functions to customize. (feels like they can program the calculator to their liking)
- **Common/Casual User:** Simple functions, simple looking, portability.
- **Academic User:** Key mapping for personalisation and accessing key functions for courses in a simple way.

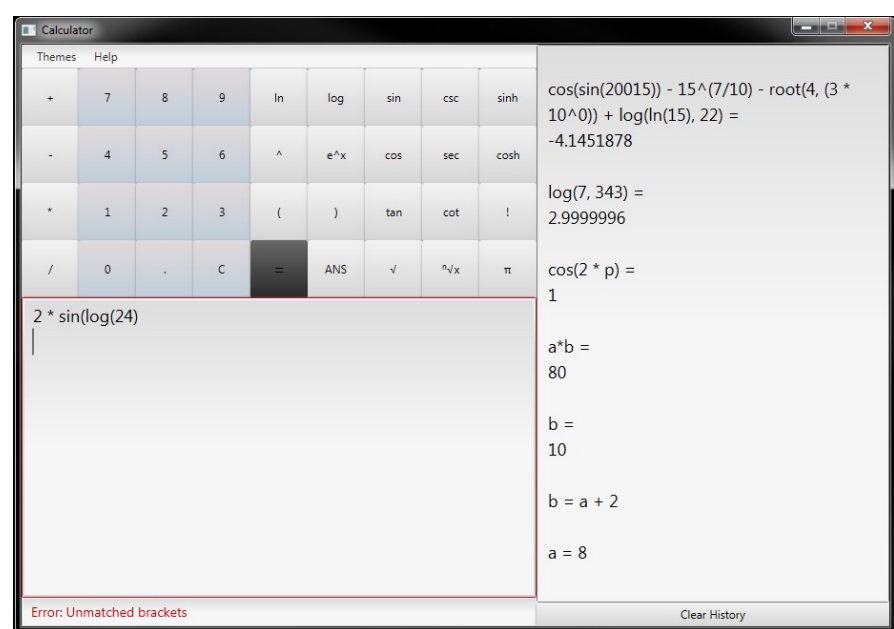


Fig. 3: Light Theme Calculator

Challenges

Some of the obstacles we faced were simple, while others were so challenging that they made us reconsider our architecture:

- inaccuracies in the power function due to the exponential growth of slight offsets
- Large numbers in power function and root function resulted in stalls due to large number of iterations.
- In rare cases, user can enter input that may result in undefined behavior.

Future

Main focus is on UX (user experience) to create an engaging, portable, and personalized tactile experience!

- Improving the overall UX experience (themes, keymapping)
- Making our calculator available online Accessible on different platforms (e.g. smartphones)
- Continued Maintenance on Code (Code architecture for ease of maintenance and modification)