

Sage Widgets for Teaching Calculus (and some other uses of Sage)

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Sage Edu Days 5



Widgets for Calculus

The Idea

- Create database of code snippets & interacts for use in teaching calculus
- Should be simple & easy to modify
- Designed for “on the fly” use in class, office hours, etc.
- Should be arranged by topic and run in the single cell server
- Design should follow that of <http://www.sagemath.org/eval.html>





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The Plan

- Select several topics from calculus as focus.
- Consider type of widget (interact, snippet) for each topic.
- Write widgets & test.
- Write supporting code to translate widget code into database format.
- Upload to a server.



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Examples

- Plot functions
- Plot implicit functions
- Bezier curves
- Explore arc length
- Polar plots
- Explore sequences and series



Translating into database format

- Save widget in text file
- Run code to convert to database format
- Output to new text file and. . .
- Add to database



Next steps...

- Get my own webpage / database working (similar to <http://www.sagemath.org/eval.html>)
- Continue cleaning up widgets that I've drafted
- Look for new ideas for widgets



My uses of Sage in teaching

- Demonstrations in differential equations, calculus, and statistics
- Interacts for in-class activities in calculus
- Interacts given to differential equations students for use in
 - lab assignments
 - additional homework review
 - creation of example systems of ODEs
- Daily use in mathematical modeling course by students



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Sage for the Dark Side

Have used Sage regularly in my administrative duties as associate dean.

- Analysis of success rates in courses
- Fixing a co-requisite mess
- Data summary of mathematics placement for freshmen
- Future use: Matching freshmen with preferred spring semester writing courses (a happy marriage?)





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