PHYS 213 Python Workshop

C.A.R.E. Tutoring

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Workshop Objectives

1. Basics of Python and SymPy
2. Solving equations symbolically
3. Performing derivatives and integrals
4. Applying these skills to PHYS 213 problems

Python Basics - Variables and Data Types

- Integers: x = 5
- Floats: y = 3.14
- Strings: course = “Thermal Physics”
- Booleans: is_warm = True

```
x = 5
y = 3.14
course = "Thermal Physics"
is_warm = True

print('Integer: x =', x)
print('Float: y =', x)
print('String:', course)
print('Boolean: is_warm =', is_warm)
```

```
Integer: x = 5
Float: y = 5
String: Thermal Physics
Boolean: is_warm = True
```

Python Basics - Math Operations

```
a = 5
b = 3

print('a + b =', a + b) #addition

print('a - b =', a - b) #subtraction

print('a * b =', a * b) #multiplication

print('a / b =', a / b) #division

print('a^b =', a**b) #exponentiation
```

```
a + b = 8

a - b = 2

a * b = 15

a / b = 1.6666666666666667

a^b = 125
```

Introduction to SymPy

- A Python Library for symbolic math

```
from sympy import *
```

- Can handle algebra, calculus, logarithms, and more

Defining Symbols and Expressions

- Create an expression that represents:
  - $2x^4 + 3y + 7$

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
expr = 2*x**4 + 3*y + 7
expr
```

$$2x^4 + 3y + 7$$

- Create an expression that represents:
  - $x^3 + y^2 + 4x + 5y^8 + 2$

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
expr2 = x**3 + y**2 + 4*x + 5*y**8 + 2
expr2
```

$$x^3 + 4x + 5y^8 + y^2 + 2$$

Specific Symbols and Functions in SymPy

Symbol/Function	SymPy Representation
π	pi
e^x	exp(x)
sin(x)	sin(x)
cos(x)	cos(x)
tan(x)	tan(x)
ln(x)	ln(x)
√x	sqrt(x)
∞	oo
x!	factorial(x)

Solving Equations

- Let's say we want to solve $x^2 - 4 = 0$:

```
eq1 = Eq(x**2 - 4, 0)
```
→ The comma (,) acts as the equal sign

```
soln = solve(eq1, x)
```
→ "Solve eq1 for x"

```
print(soln)
```
```
[-2, 2]
```

```
print('First Solution: x =', soln[0])
```
```
First Solution: x = -2
```

```
print('Second Solution: x =', soln[1])
```
```
Second Solution: x = 2
```

Solving Simultaneous Equations

- Let's say we have a system of equations that we want to solve:
  - 2x + 3y = 10 and -9x - 7y = 2

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
eq1 = Eq(2*x + 3*y, 10)
eq2 = Eq(-9*x - 7*y, 2)

soln = solve((eq1, eq2), (x, y))
print(soln)
```

```
{x: -76/13, y: 94/13}
```

Solving Simultaneous Equations (Cont.)

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
eq1 = Eq(2*x + 3*y, 10)
eq2 = Eq(-9*x - 7*y, 2)

soln = solve((eq1, eq2), (x, y))

x = soln[x]
y = soln[y]

print('x and y manipulation:', '2x =', 2*x, 'and', 'y/3 =', y/3)
```

```
x and y manipulation: 2x = -152/13 and y/3 = 94/39
```

Common Errors

- Undefined Symbols:
  - NameError

```
eq = Eq(2*x + 3*y, 10)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------
NameError                                 Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-3-a5175d72df30> in <cell line: 0>()
----> 1 eq = Eq(2*x + 3*y, 10)

NameError: name 'x' is not defined
```

- Fix:
  - Define symbols first

```
x, y = symbols('x y')
eq = Eq(2*x + 3*y, 10)
```

Common Errors (Cont.)

- No solution exists:
  - SymPy returns [ ]

```
eq1 = Eq(x + y, 3)
eq2 = Eq(2*x + 2*y, 7)

soln = solve((eq1, eq2), (x, y))
print("Solution:", soln)
```

```
Solution: []
```

- Many possible fixes:
  - Analyze the format and syntax of each equation
  - Think about whether it makes sense for there to be no solution [ ]

Calculus in SymPy

Symbol	SymPy Representation	Description
$\frac{d}{dx}$	diff(expr, x)	Derivative with respect to x
$\int dx$	integrate(expr, x)	Indefinite integral
$\int_a^b dx$	integrate(expr, (x, a, b))	Definite integral

Derivatives in SymPy (Cont.)

`diff(expression, variable, nth derivative)`

- Determine the 1st derivative of $x^3 + 2y^2 + 8xy$

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
diff(x**3 + 2*y**2 + 8*x*y, x)
```

$$3x^2 + 8y$$

Derivatives in SymPy

`diff(expression, variable, nth derivative)`

- Determine the 2nd derivative of e^{-2x}

```
x, y = symbols('x, y')
diff(exp(-2*x), x, 2)
```

$$4e^{-2x}$$

Indefinite Integrals in SymPy - Example

```
integrate(expression, variable)
```

- Determine the integral of x^2:

```
x = symbols('x')
answer = integrate(x**2)
answer
```

$$\frac{x^3}{3}$$

Definite Integrals in SymPy - Example

```
integrate(expression, (variable, lwr bound, upr bound))
```

- Determine the integral of $2x + e^{-6x}$ from 0 to π:

```
x = symbols('x')
answer = integrate(2*x + exp(-6*x), (x, 0, pi))
answer
```

$$-\frac{1}{6e^{6\pi}} + \frac{1}{6} + \pi^2$$

```
x = symbols('x')
answer = integrate(2*x + exp(-6*x), (x, 0, pi))
answer.evalf()
```

$$10.0362710666706$$

Application to PHYS 213

- Calculating microstates and entropy for flipping coins:
  - factorial(x) and ln(x)
- Calculating equilibrium temperature and entropy for 2 blocks in thermal contact:
  - Symbols, Eq(,), integrate
- Determine the work done for isothermal and adiabatic processes
  - integrate(expr, (x, lwr bound, upr bound))

Feedback Form