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Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #1 Posted by [Pal G.](#) on 18 May 2009, 3:56 p.m.

A new kind of search engine...

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

Enjoy,
PG

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #2 Posted by [Chuck](#) on 18 May 2009, 4:06 p.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.

I've been playing with it:

integrated functions
plot 2D and 3D fuctions
solved 2nd order differential equations
found laplace and inverse laplace transforms
create a star chart
found the atomic structure for caffeine
compared stocks....

and all on my **ipod touch!!!!** That's power, baby. And never ending fun!

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #3 Posted by [Katie Wasserman](#) on 18 May 2009, 4:43 p.m.,
in response to message #2 by Chuck

It does lots of mathematics to be sure and knows a good bit about physical proprieties of natural and artificial things but it doesn't know anything about HP calculators not even stuff it should know about like CORDIC algorithms -- I'm very disappointed.

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

*Message #4 Posted by **Nigel Bamber** on 19 May 2009, 1:34 a.m.,
in response to message #3 by Katie Wasserman*

Katie

Please excuse my ignorance but what is a CORDIC algorithym ?

Nigel

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

*Message #5 Posted by **Thomas Okken** on 19 May 2009, 9:58 a.m.,
in response to message #4 by Nigel Bamber*

They're very elegant and efficient algorithms for calculating transcendental functions (trigonometric functions and others). These algorithms made it possible for the HP-35 to have a full set of trigonometric and logarithmic functions despite its small amount of memory. See [CORDIC](#) in Wikipedia for more information.

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

*Message #6 Posted by **Juergen Keller** on 18 May 2009, 4:42 p.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.*

It is really smart i.e., it knows the answer to the following questions:

- 1) The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything?
- 2) How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?

:-)

And of course, it knows the answer to more serious questions...

Juergen

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #7 Posted by **Chuck** on 18 May 2009, 5:43 p.m.,
in response to message #6 by Juergen Keller

...and if you've ever wondered how much wood a woodchuck can chuck....

of course I know this one already. :)

CHUCK

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #8 Posted by **Allen** on 18 May 2009, 11:27 p.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.

It does not know what to do with [John 3:16](#). .. That's a number. hmm.

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #9 Posted by **BruceH** on 21 May 2009, 6:52 p.m.,
in response to message #8 by Allen

Quote:

It does not know what to do with [John 3:16](#). .. That's a number. hmm.

It should return [this](#).

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #10 Posted by **Valentin Albillo** on 19 May 2009, 6:49 a.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.

Hi Pal G:

Really, really nice, thanks a lot for letting us know, much appreciated ! :-)

Its mathematical capabilities are really astounding. I've tried a number of examples I've concocted myself that some of you might want to try in order to see the nice results, just copy-paste each line in its turn and don't forget to use the "More digits" option:

1) solve $\text{LOG}(\text{PI}^e + 1491/505 * \text{LOG}(x)^4) - \text{PI} = 0$

A nice symbolic representation and 4 roots, the real ones being:

$$X = 0.50000000051903$$

$$X = 1.99999999979239$$

2) solve $(2002/X)^7 + (2002/X) - 71 = 0$

Six complex roots and the real one:

$$X = 1093.00000007366+$$

3) solve $\text{GAMMA}(X) - 85/31 = 0$

5 real roots displayed and among them

$$X = 0.3259999953+$$

4) solve $X^5 + X + 6 = 0$

5 roots (4 complex, one real), all of them returned in both numeric and fully symbolic form

Best regards from V.

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

Message #11 Posted by [Namir](#) on 19 May 2009, 10:53 a.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.

Awsome site! I tried several examples for solving equations. Got the results I was looking for. You sometimes have to put the equation in a certain form to get the solution. for example:

$$\text{solve } \log(X^4) - X = 0$$

Does not give numerical roots, while:

solve $4*\log(X)-X=0$

Does give the two roots.

Namir

Re: Did everyone miss this? Wolfram Alpha now LIVE.

*Message #12 Posted by **Jake Schwartz** on 19 May 2009, 4:14 p.m.,
in response to message #11 by Namir*

It's funny...I typed in "googol" and it returned 10^{100} in decimal, binary and prime factors, etc.

Then I typed in "google" and it returned the current value of Google stock and all sorts of info on the company :-)

Pretty slick.

Jake

very limited use IMHO

*Message #13 Posted by **Frank Boehm (Germany)** on 20 May 2009, 8:45 a.m.,
in response to message #1 by Pal G.*

and some funky responses

<http://www72.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=wolfram+death>

<http://www72.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=alpha+beta>

Well, if you are into maths, it's nice. If you need some statistic data tables, it's nice. For everything else, it seems to lack a bit of contents...

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