

Sinclair Mathnet

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FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings to all my friends and colleagues in the Department of Mathematics from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where I am spending my first Fall term since 1950 not in school! But my separation from academe is not too dramatic since I write to

you sitting at a desk in a library at a small college in this charming Wisconsin town (where my wife was born and raised) after having spent three days of intensive visiting, note taking and report writing at College of DuPage Community College in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. (Thanks to Tom Wilson for helping me make the connection to arrange a visit there.)

While I miss seeing all of you and all of the exciting things that we do in our department, I am having a very enjoyable and fruitful time working on my sabbatical projects and other activities of personal interest. The visit to College of DuPage was very enjoyable and very informative. It provided me with a good deal of food for thought about initiatives and improvements we might want to consider and with even more in the way of confirmation of the appropriateness of the way we do things and the impressive quantity and quality of the things that we do. In October I will be making a similar visit to Johnson County Community College in Kansas and then to Glendale Community College in Arizona in November. I will also visit one additional college yet to be determined. I look forward to sharing my reports on each of these visits with you and soliciting your direction on how we can make good use of the information I will have gathered.

I am also pleased to have made good progress in collecting data for the data analysis portion of my

project. I have gathered up the grades in the follow up courses to Math 101, 102, 116, 121, 122, 131, 132 and 201 for all the students who took these courses during 05/WI, 04/FA, 04/SP and 04/WI quarters. I plan to collect the data for at least five more quarters and then do summary analyses and reports of student grade increases (or decreases) from these courses to the courses for which they are the prerequisite. This will give us useful information about our effectiveness in preparing students for follow up courses.

The word "sabbatical" comes from the word "Sabbath" which means a day of rest. The phrase "sabbatical year" refers to every seventh year among the ancient Jews in which the fields and vineyards were left fallow. Tom Huguley has told me that he thinks a good sabbatical leave is one in which we get entirely away from our usual work. But I have recently discovered two important facts: 1) setting up an automatic "out of the office" response to your incoming emails does not keep you from getting the emails, and 2) I am on an awful lot of distribution lists. As a result I find myself reading 20 to 30 emails a day from Sinclair about things going on at Sinclair. But that's ok because it enables me to keep up with things and leaves me with a sense of total confidence that Tony Ponder and David Stott have everything well in hand, that all of you are doing your usual good jobs and that together you will all keep up the high quality successful work of our department. It is clear from these emails and other information that, with regional expansion, budget cuts, a new Vice President for Instruction, a new Strategic Plan and many other initiatives going on at Sinclair, we can expect considerable change in the near future. We must be alert, attentive and involved as a department to make sure that the interests of our students and our department do not get overlooked in the shuffle.

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Faculty Feature

So have you noticed that new guy occupying Barb Carruth's old office? And what has happened to our chair Al Giambrone? If you've been wondering where everyone is, here's the dirt: Barb retired at the end of June, Al is on sabbatical until spring quarter of next year, and Tony Ponder is the new guy, acting as chair until Al returns. At that time, Tony will take Barb's position as assistant to the chair. Until that time, David Stott is acting assistant to the chair.



Acting Chair
Tony Ponder

We were wondering about that new guy, Tony Ponder, and caught up with him to ask him a few questions.

Of course, he is not really new. He has been teaching Math at Sinclair since 1991. But let's back up even further and talk about what he was doing before that. Tony is originally from Xenia, Ohio, where he grew up with his two sisters and two brothers. His mother was an elementary school teacher (and has since retired), and his father was the service manager at Dave Dennis Auto Mall. Tony was the only one of his siblings to follow in his mother's footsteps and become an educator.

Tony holds two degrees, a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University, and a Master's degree from Wright State University.

So what was Tony doing when he was hired by Sinclair Community College back in 1991? "I was waiting tables at a Bob Evans in Columbus." Tony moved back to Dayton, and presently lives in his hometown of Xenia with his 9-year old son, Micah. Micah attends the 4th grade at Spring Hill Elementary School, and has a cat named Socks.

You may not know that Tony is in his second year as the treasurer to OhioMATYC (Ohio Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges). He recently completed his term as a member of the FITS team here at Sinclair, the committee that deals with

issues of faculty raises. He gave up the position as chair of the full-time search committee to be able to better attend the duties required in his new position.

When asked about hobbies, Tony says, "Who has time for hobbies anymore? When I have the time, I like to golf, although I'm lousy at it."

As for his present position as acting chair, Tony says that he is busier than he thought he would be. There are a lot of deadlines that he has to keep track of (and meet), but he adds that the assistant to the chair, David Stott, has been very helpful. Tony created a web offering of the MAT 105, Business Math course, which he is also teaching this quarter. He is still quick to smile, and appears calm in the face of the storms that occur daily in the life of the (acting) chairman.



Assistant Chair
David Stott

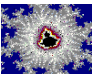
Welcome to your new position(s), Tony. Here's to a great year!

Susan Harris ■

(Continued from page 1) I would like to conclude by congratulating and offering my best wishes for future success to Dr. Jeanne Jacobs as she leaves Sinclair to assume her new role as President of the Homestead Campus at Miami Dade Community College in Florida. Jeanne has given excellent support to our department both as dean of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Division and as Vice President for Instruction and I have always enjoyed and felt very comfortable working with her. I will miss her gentle and caring approach to dealing with every problem and every person, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work under her capable leadership.

[Note: I have asked Tony to write this column for the next edition of *Mathnet*. I will return to Dayton in the Winter Quarter, hopefully with more to report about my sabbatical activities. Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and successful Fall Quarter.]

Al Giambrone ■

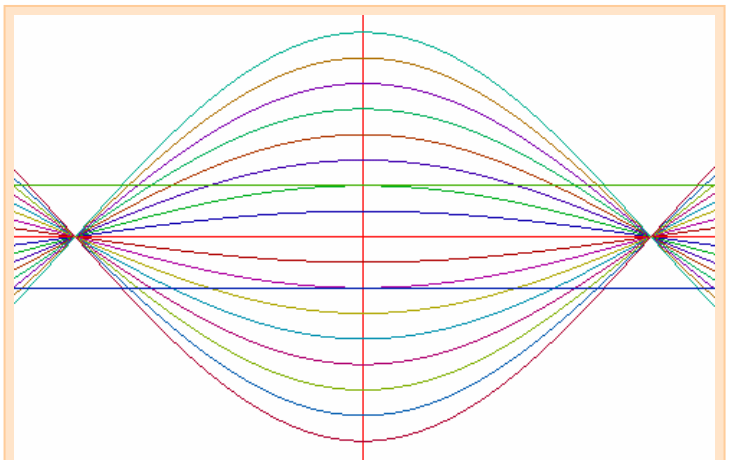
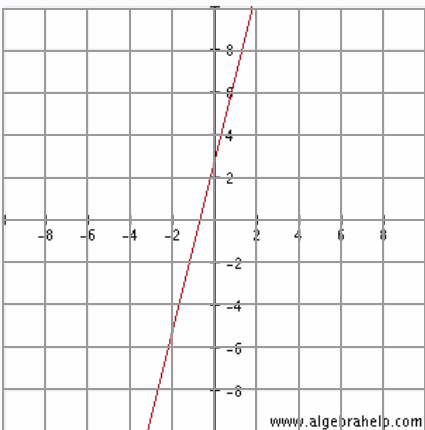


On-line Graphing Resources

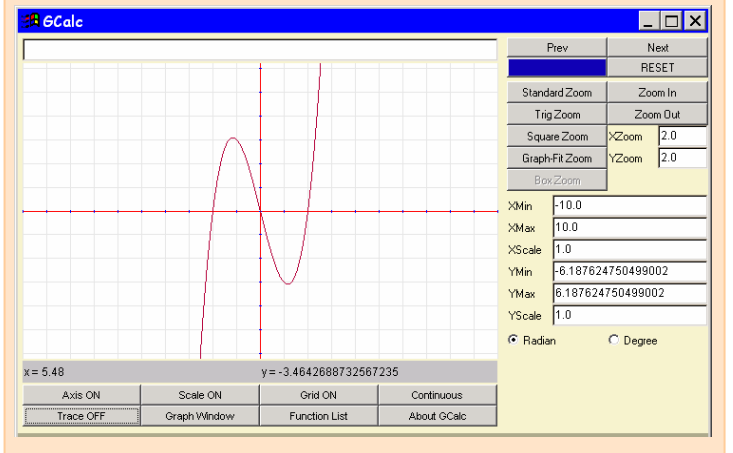
A few years ago, we featured a web site, <http://gcalc.net>, where a very nice graphing utility can be found. In terms of flexibility and ease of use, it is probably one of the best sites out there for graphing functions in rectangular coordinates. There are some other sites, however, that are worth taking a look at, in particular if you need rectangular axes that are numbered or if you want to use polar coordinates.

<http://www.algebrahelp.com/calculators/function/graphing/>

This best feature of this site is that it numbers the axes. Graphs are drawn in four colors, but you cannot control the color choice. Four graphs may be drawn on the same set of axes.



<http://gcalc.net> GCalc (version 2.0) allows you to graph multiple functions simultaneously (18 different curves are plotted in the image above) using up to 20 colors. Many selections on GCalc are similar to a graphing calculator – standard zoom, trig zoom, etc., showing a grid or not, showing a scale or not, showing a trace or not, etc. A drawback to GCalc is that it does not number the scale.



Function
 $y = f(x) =$

– **More Functions**
 $y = g(x) =$
 $y = h(x) =$
 $y = i(x) =$

Graph Window
x runs from to scale:
y runs from to scale:

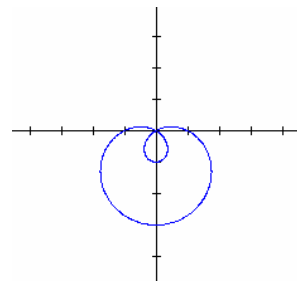
– **Advanced Options**
Graph Image
Show: Gridlines Labels Work
Dimensions: × (max 400 × 400)

Points
Graph points on the function at the following x locations:
 (use a comma separated list ex. "1, 5, 7")

POLAR COORDINATES:

<http://cs.jsu.edu/mcis/faculty/leathrum/Mathlets/awl/polar-main.html>

You can choose from 5 colors (for 5 curves), but scales are not numbered and radii are not shown.



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Congratulations!

Several part-time faculty members were recognized at the Part-time Faculty Recognition Ceremony held during Fall Conference. These faculty members have provided valuable and commendable service to the Department and to Sinclair students during their tenure at Sinclair. The Department would like to thank them for their willingness to invest of themselves at Sinclair and for their contributions to the life and ministry of the Department and College. The part-time members who were recognized and their years of service are as follows:

Five Year Award

Dahyabhai Patel

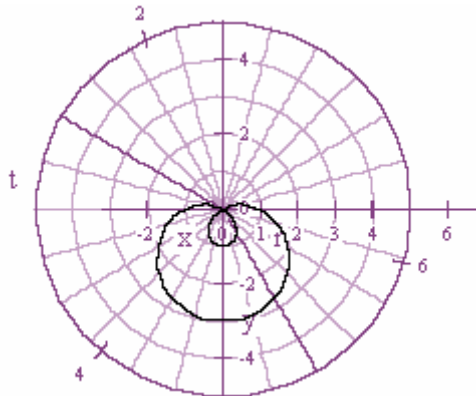
Twenty Year Award

Connie Ecklar
James Sanderson
Marilyn Thompson

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<http://support.livemath.com/resources/student/calculator/>

This site features ten different on-line calculators requiring a LiveMath plugin, but it is easy to download. The polar grapher displays radii and has some numbering.



To get a nice copy of your graph, first open a document in Word. Go to the graph on the web site and press ALT and PRINTSCREEN simultaneously to place a copy of the graph on Word's clipboard. You can then copy the clipboard to your Word document and edit the picture with the picture editor.

Harvey's Joke Corner

Q. What starts with E, ends with E, but has only one letter?

A. The average envelope.

I started my vacation on July 1 (midnight plane flight) and ended the vacation on July 8, 6 p.m. (return flight), a 73/4 day July vacation. This was a "fourth of July" vacation.

Q. What should you never say to an antiques dealer?

A. "What's new?"

I used a 25% discount coupon to purchase the book *Prime Numbers* by David Wells, regular price \$24.95.

24.95	(regular price)
- 6.24	(25% discount)
18.71	
1.40	(7.5% sales tax)
20.11	

According to the table of prime numbers in the back of this book, 2011 is a prime number!

