

# THE SAGE ENGINE

RICHARD KOCH

## 1. SAGE

Sage is a mathematical software system providing an open source alternative to Magma, Maple, Mathematica, and Matlab. It is available from <http://www.sagemath.org/> as a free download. The program provides all of the standard features expected from such a system: arbitrary precision arithmetic, symbolic integration and differentiation, two-dimensional plotting of functions, matrix algebra, and much more.

Download sage from this web site. Move the resulting “Sage” program to /Applications. The application will have a longer name, something like SageMath.7.6. Unfortunately, this name cannot be changed, so every time you upgrade Sage, you need to remember that this document exists and follow its instructions again.

(Renaming was originally possible, so we once wrote

If we keep the current name, the engine file will be tied to one particular version of Sage. To fix this, change the name to just ‘‘Sage’’. This clever step, which simplifies several steps below, is due to Daniel Grambier.)

SageTeX is a piece of the Sage download. It is basically a LaTeX style file, which allows users to embed and process Sage code from within TeX files. The last three pages of this document show this style file in action. The source code on page three is followed by LaTeX output on pages four and five.

## 2. HOW SAGETEX WORKS

In the source file, the initial line

```
% !TEX TS-program = sage
```

tells TeXShop to process the file using the sage engine; this engine first calls pdf<sub>l</sub>atex, then calls sage, and finally calls pdf<sub>l</sub>atex again. The remaining lines in the preamble are standard LaTeX commands, except the required line

```
\usepackage{sagetex}
```

In the remaining source, sage commands are entered within lines of the form

```
\sage{...}
```

These lines cause sage to process commands and output LaTeX source fragments, which become part of the LaTeX document.

Notice in particular that sage can plot standard functions. Sage can also compute integrals symbolically; for example, look carefully at the command which processes  $\int \frac{x^2+x+1}{(x-1)^3(x^2+x+2)} \cdot$ . This command contains standard LaTeX code to display the integral, but then Sage integrates and returns a typeset copy of the result.

### 3. SETTING UP THE ENGINE

This folder contains an engine file named “sage.engine”. Move this file to the active portion of  $\sim$ /Library/TeXShop/Engines. The fifth line from the bottom of this engine contains a full path to the sage binary inside the Sage program, and includes the precise name of the version of Sage downloaded. This changes whenever Sage is updated, so edit the line appropriately. In the initial engine, the line reads

```
/Applications/SageMath-7.6.app/Contents/Resources/sage/sage "$sagename"
```

Here “/Applications/SageMath-7.6.app” is the name of the current Sagetex being used, and “/Contents/Resources/sage/sage” reaches inside the application bundle to find the sage binary it contains. Dan Drake, who is responsible for SageTeX, wrote this engine.

The “Sage” program contains a style file named “sagetex.sty” and a number of support files. This style file is supposed to be copied to your TeX distribution. The file depends on other features of sage, so whenever you upgrade sage, you also need to upgrade sagetex.sty in your TeX distribution. It is easy to forget to do this. So rather than copying the style file, we just create a symbolic link from its location in TeX Live to its location in Sage.

Run Terminal in /Applications/Utilities. Type the following

```
cd /usr/local/texlive/texmf-local/tex/latex
```

Then type the following on a single line. Terminal may make a linefeed when the line grows too long and that is fine, but do not for instance make a linefeed after the top “local” and before the bottom “/share”.

```
sudo ln -s /Applications/SageMath-7.6.app/Contents/Resources/sage/local
/share/texmf/tex/latex/sagetex/sagetex.sty sagetex.sty
```

Finally issue the command

```
sudo mktexlsr
```

#### 4. FINAL REMARKS

A Sage tutorial is available at the Sage page <http://www.sagemath.org/help.html>. It is definitely recommended. Extensive additional documentation is available at the same web page.