Austrian Center for Didactics of Computer Algebra

DERIVE interfaces with Word and Multi Edit

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Abstract:

Two sets of macros are presented establishing the DERIVE interfaces with Word and Multi Edit (ME). These interfaces are better than the DERIVE interface because Word or ME provides more tools for the text editing, viewing, and printing than DERIVE. If a user calls, e.g., Word, types a formula using the MS equation editor, marks the formula, and clicks on a menu item or presses a hot key, then the corresponding DERIVE result appears at the cursor position as if it was created by the MS equation editor. All the DERIVE functions are accessed through the Word or ME menu items created by the macros. The interfaces can be easily customized. This is important in teaching, where all unnecessary menu items must be hidden because they divert the attention of students or even frighten them by unknown mathematical terms. The nice color worksheets can be made for solving problems. Complicated programs with symbolic calculations can be created using the Word or ME macro languages and run by a simple key press. The interfaces can protect documents and DERIVE itself from illegal copying.