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NPACI Education Center Announces Partnership with The Mathworks

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY-- On December 4, 1997, the [Education Center on Computational Science and Engineering \(EC/CSE\)](#) at San Diego State University (SDSU) announced a partnership with [The Mathworks](#)--developer and distributor of the popular MATLAB software suite. Through the partnership, the EC/CSE is receiving copies of MATLAB for use on Mac, IBM, or Unix platforms. SDSU and the California State University (CSU) system are NPACI partners. The EC/CSE is a funded activity of NPACI's EOT thrust area and one of the projects of the Education, Outreach, and Training Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (EOT-PACI).

[EOT-PACI](#) is a joint initiative of NPACI and the National Computational Science Alliance (Alliance), NPACI's counterpart in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Partnerships for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (PACI) program. At the request of the NSF, NPACI and the Alliance have merged their EOT efforts, concentrating activity in the areas of K-12, undergraduate and graduate education, and lifelong learning; outreach to new academic and research communities; universal access through programs to encourage greater diversity in computing; training; and evaluation of education programs.

MATLAB provides a cross-platform computational environment that is used extensively in academia and industry for exploration and code development in a wide variety of fields. Beyond basic matrix and statistical operations, the suite includes advanced tools for optimization and simulation, mapping and image processing, financial analysis, signal processing, and many others. The software is available in UNIX, Windows, and Macintosh versions, and is already available on the SDSU campus-wide network.

"The partnership with The Mathworks will help the Center provide exploratory and programming tools of choice for a variety of computationally-intensive undergraduate classes," said Kris Stewart, director of the EC/CSE and NPACI partner. "We envision use in such fields as computer science, physics, astronomy, computational biology and chemistry, geology, and geography." The mission of the EC/CSE is to foster the incorporation of advanced research tools, primarily developed by NPACI or Alliance partners, into the undergraduate curricula at SDSU and within the CSU system.

Stewart has developed a series of MATLAB-based modules for use in computational science instruction at the [undergraduate](#) and graduate levels that will be made available through EC/CSE. Andy Spydell, an SDSU master's student in computer science working at the EC/CSE facilities with SDSC's Bob Leary and Stewart, has also produced interesting results in MATLAB-based analysis and animation for molecular dynamics. Spydell's and Stewart's work, along with the experiences of other computational science teachers and researchers using MATLAB, will form the basis for additional instruction modules to be extended to other disciplines at SDSU and within CSU.

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