

Union University's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Volume 1

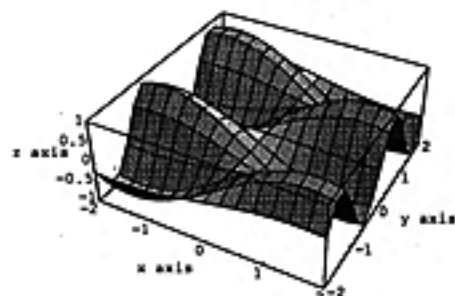
Issue 1, 1992

Mathematica Comes to Union University Mathematics Courses

Union University Mathematics faculty are using leading edge technology in a number of their classes. A new Macintosh laboratory is being utilized, which includes 24 student workstations and one instructor workstation all equipped with Mathematica software from Wolfram Research, Inc. Currently Calculus, Linear Algebra, and Differential Equations are being taught with a Mathematica-based laboratory component.

Mathematica will allow students to solve problems that would require an impractical amount of computation by pencil-and-paper methods. One goal of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department is for students to be better prepared for graduate school and the job market by becoming familiar with a powerful tool that professional mathematicians, engineers, and scientists use in performing their jobs.

Mathematics Department faculty Rebecca Beverly, Richard Dehn, Don Richard, and Joe Tucker received training in the use of Mathematica for mathematics instruction in a week-long workshop in June, 1992, conducted by Dwayne Jennings.



The plot above is a three dimensional plot of $z = \sin[x] \sin[3y]$ generated by Mathematica

Club News

Kappa Mu Epsilon

This year Kappa Mu Epsilon will be inviting professors from local universities to speak to them and other interested students on graduate programs in mathematics and computer science. The club members will participate in the Christmas gift program of the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center.

Officers for the 1992-93 school year are: President, Blake Watkins; Vice-President, P.J. Alexander; Secretary/Treasurer, Tiffany Ayers; Sponsor, Mr. Don Richard; and Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Richard Dehn.

Computer Club

The Computer Club recently enjoyed an excellent presentation on Artificial Intelligence by department member Mr. G. Jan Wilms. The club members are planning field trips to Federal Express and the Huntsville Space Center to see various computer applications. Club officers for the 1992-93 school year are: President, Fred Pirtle; Vice-President, Oliver Dossman; Secretary, Judith Belew; Treasurer, Ken Davis; and Sponsor, Mrs. Pat Laffoon.

Student Awards

At the Spring Awards Day program, the recipient of the Mathematics Award for Excellence was graduating senior Robert Lay. He is currently teaching mathematics in Jackson, TN.

The Computer Science Award for Excellence was presented to graduating senior Lynne Waggoner; the Computer Information Systems Award for Excellence was presented to Jeff Blankenship.

Congratulations are extended to these Union University graduates.

Campus Day Award

In order to assist in recruiting students to Union University, this year's Campus Day display included Hero the robot, 3-D graphics and animations, and a demonstration of the Computer Algebra System Mathematica. The team effort of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department won third place under the creative efforts of Miss Shirley Wong and Mrs. Rebecca Beverly.

Mathematics Scholarship Fund

A scholarship has been established at Union University in honor of Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph Tucker. The scholarship fund was established by donations from students and faculty members in recognition of Dr. Tucker's many years of dedicated service to Union.

Professors Attend Joint Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and American Mathematical Society

Union University will be represented by Dwayne Jennings and Don Richard at the joint MAA/AMS meeting to be held January 13-16, 1993, in San Antonio, TX. These two organizations will meet together for information dissemination on the results of the most recent mathematics projects. There will be presentations, minicourses, and panel discussions on various mathematics projects being initiated across the United States.

New Computer Courses

There are several new courses being offered in the department this year. Programming in C has become a required course for all computer science majors. The course may also be used as an elective in the Computer Information Systems minor and the Computer Science minor. Miss Shirley Wong will be teaching the course this Spring '93 semester. A departmental special studies course is also being offered this Spring '93 in Artificial Intelligence. The instructor for the course is Mr. G. Jan Wilms.

Faculty Update

Mrs. Rebecca Beverly participated in the one-week summer Mathematica Workshop held at Union University.

Mr. Richard Dehn participated in the summer Mathematica workshop at Union. He also became a grandfather.

Mr. Dwayne Jennings participated in Vanderbilt University's Mathematica Across the Curriculum Workshop this past summer. He received a first-place award for demonstrating an introduction to limits using Mathematica in which he used graphics and animation to illustrate Archimedes' method for calculating pi using inscribed polygons in a circle.

Mrs. Pat Laffoon completed a graduate course in Advanced Text Processing at Memphis State University this past summer.

Mr. Don Richard was named Union University's Faculty of the Year at the Spring Awards Day ceremonies.

Dr. Joe Tucker has returned to Union University after one year of retirement. He recently toured Europe with his wife, Belle, and other family members.

Mr. G. Jan Wilms is continuing his research at Mississippi State University on his Ph.D. dissertation in Artificial Intelligence.

Mrs. Shirley Wong is taking graduate courses in Data Communications at Memphis State University. She enjoyed a month-long visit this past summer from her parents who live in Hong Kong.

It's Your Turn . . .

Former Mathematics or Computer Science majors, let us hear from you. We would like to know about your current activities and career pursuits so that we may include them in our next newsletter.

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