





Teaching with Open Source Physics Curricular Material

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Teaching with Technology

Current technologies allow physics educators the ability to integrate instruction with computer-based modeling. This talk describes technologies that encourage interactive-engagement and limit the amount of programming when designing, implementing, distributing, and using computer models. It is based on:

- <u>Tracker</u> video analysis and modeling tool analyzes video clips. Students can both analyze the motion of objects and overlay simple dynamical models on the video and see how well the model matches the real-world.
- Easy Java/JavaScript Simulations (EjsS) creates interactive simulations in Java or JavaScript simulations without the necessity of prior programming knowledge.
- OSP ComPADRE Digital Library archives and distributes curriculum resources, such as Physlets and EjsS simulations, that engage students in physics, computation, and computer modeling.

Need for Digital Libraries

A Google search for "*pendulum*" returns 27,100,000 pages; while "*pendulum simulation*" returns 11,900 pages (The search for *pendulum simulation* without the quotes returns 449,000 pages).

- Most of the simulations (or animations that "fake" the physics) are inappropriate for teaching.
- There is usually no instructional material, no support materials for teachers, and no information about how these materials are correlated to state or national science standards.
- Most of these simulations also support a passive (viewing) pedagogy versus an active (interacting) pedagogy.

In order to be effective for instruction, simulations need to be easy to find, simple, adoptable, adaptable, and coupled with support content for students and teachers.

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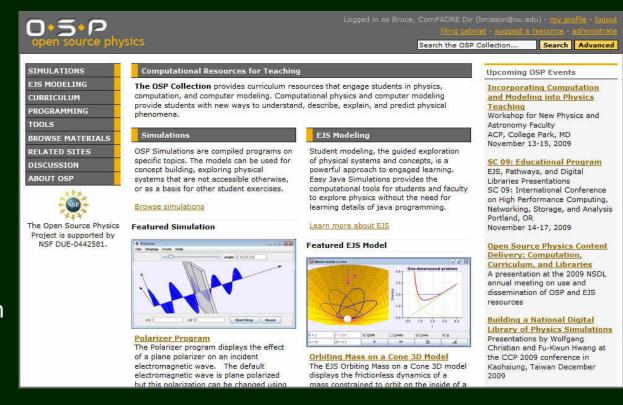
Standard and Custom Library and Web Services

Connections to Users and NSDL

600+ Java Sims 150+ JavaScript Sims 1200+ Physlet Pages

10,000+ visitors/month

5,000+ simulation downloads/month



Personalization

Find

• Sort

Collect

Relate

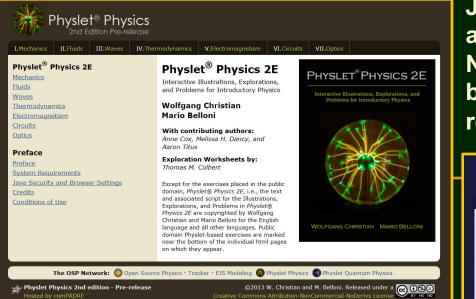
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PP2E and PQP2E on ComPADRE

Materials are currently available (*Physlet Physics 2E and Physlet Quantum Physics 2E*) on ComPADRE. 1ed in 2003





www.compadre.org/PQP

Java Code: New signed jar. Updated and tested 1,300 pages. New Narrative: Follows original format but many exercises and sections rewritten (especially PQP 2E). 1ed in 2013

Physlet[®] Quantum Physics An Interactive Introduction - Beta Physlet[®] Quantum Physics 2E Physlet[®] Quantum PHYSLET Introduction Physics 2E Special Relativity QUANTUM The Need for a Quantum Theory An Interactive Introduction Quantum Theory PHYSICS Mario Belloni Applications Wolfgang Christian **2E** Anne J. Cox Preface Preface Except for the exercises placed in the public System Requirements domain, Physlet® Quantum Physics 2E, i.e., the text and associated script for the Java Security and Browser Settings Illustrations, Explorations, and Problems in Physlet® Quantum Physics 2F are Conditions of Use copyrighted by Wolfgang Christian and Mario Belloni for the English language and all other languages. Public domain Physlet-based exercises are marked near the bottom of the MARIO BELLONI individual html pages on which they appear. WOLFGANG CHRISTIAN The OSP Network: 🙆 Open Source Physics - Tracker - EJS Modeling 🍘 Physlet Physics 🌒 Physlet Quantum Physics * Physlet Quantum Physics 2nd edition - Pre-release ©2013 M. Belloni, W. Christian, and A. J. Cox. Released under a 💽 🛈 Se Hosted by comPADRE Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License

Role of Simulations in Teaching

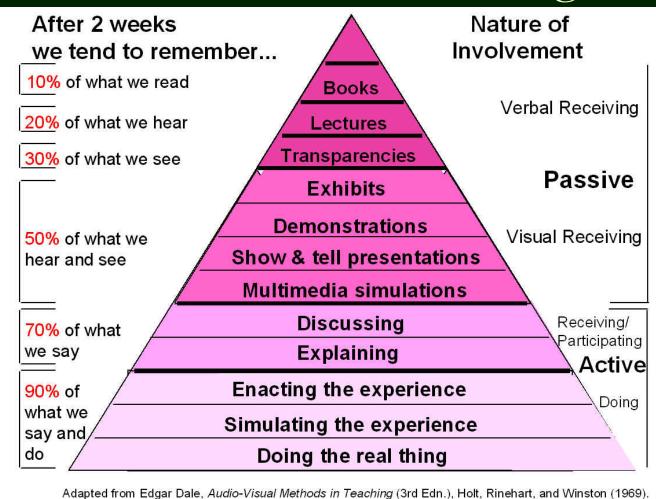
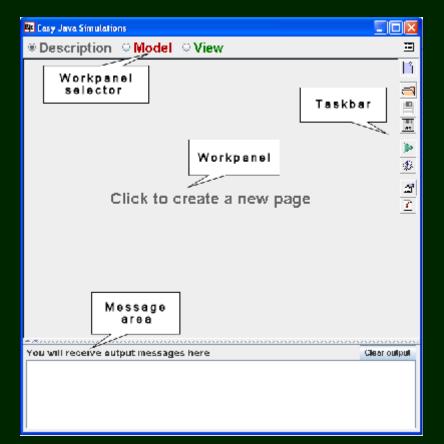


image from Bob Beichner

Easy Java/JavaScript Simulations



Load, modify, and save a model. [Colliding Galaxies]

Computer Models

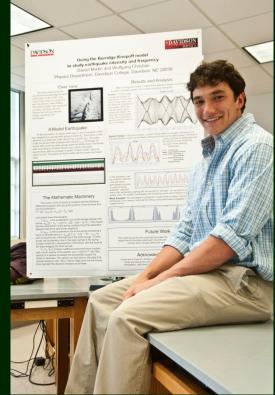
- Models allows students to think about things in terms of simpler artificial things.
- Curriculum
 - Exploratory models engage the student in ideas presented by an expert (teacher). Students are led to confront another's view of a problem.
 - Model-based and programming activities are expressive exercises that require students to externalize their own ideas and assumptions and to create concrete representations that they can reflect on.



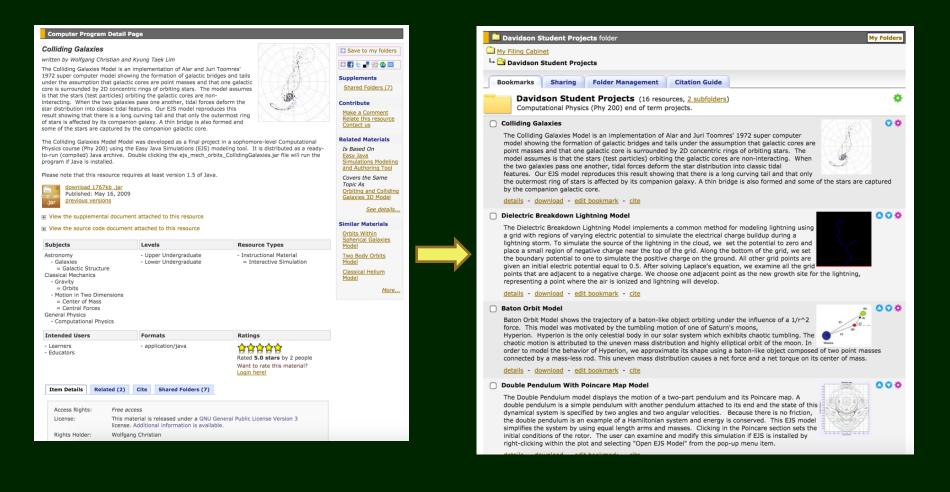
Undergraduate Computational Physics

Teaching should reflect current research and professional practice. Every undergraduate physics major should know about computational physics, including essential algorithms, minimal level of programming experience, and computational ways of thinking.

- Differential equations and ODE numerical algorithms: oscillators, Newtonian orbits, and few-body problems.
- PDEs and boundary value problems: Laplace and Poisson equations.
- Stochastic models and Monte Carlo algorithms: Random walks and the Ising model.
- Chaos theory: Logistic map and driven pendulum.
- Final project of the student's choice.



AAPT/ComPDRE Filing Cabinets Authoring by Building Mash-ups in the Digital Library

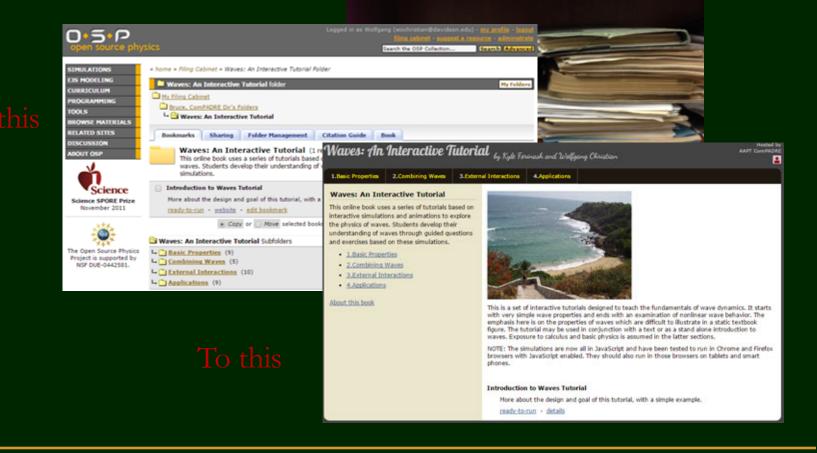


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AAPT/ComPADRE Books

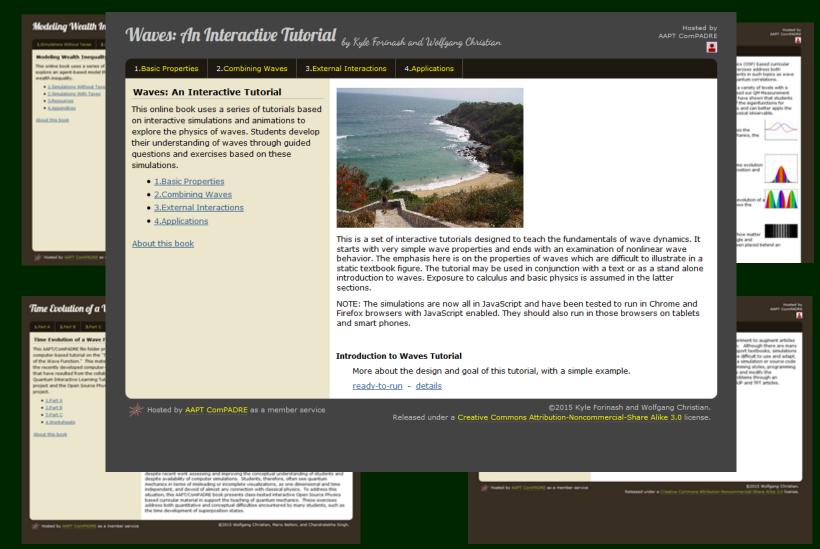
Going from this





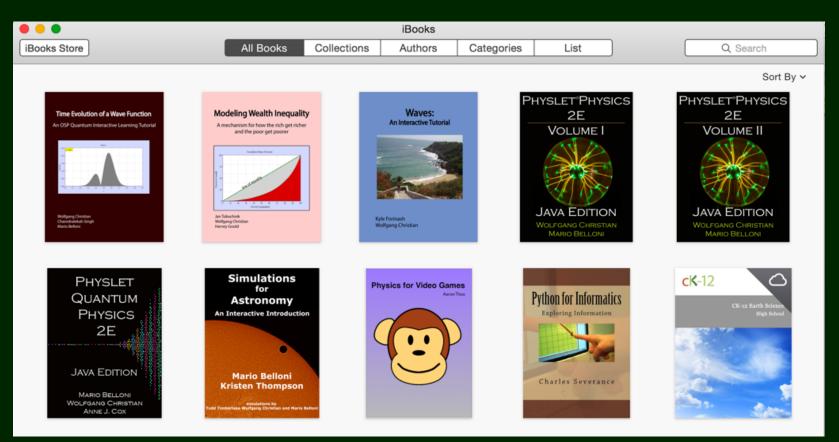
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Distributing Content with the EjsS Reader



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What we have learned about:

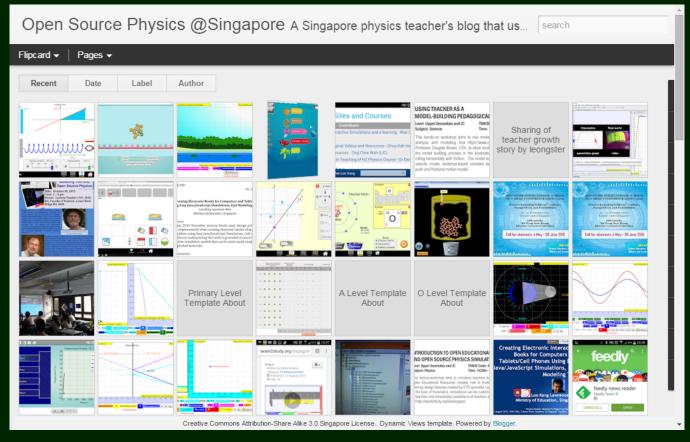
Getting Simulations Right

- Work on curriculum development from the start as you work on programming. It will carry the message in the end.
- Focus on an important concept or application. Too many options distract.
- The devil is in the detail. A small practical problem can ruin a grand plan.
- It is HARD to do new things in front of students. (e.g. JiTT, Peer Instruction, ILD, Flipped Classroom, Etc.)
- Real curriculum change, which means changing people, takes time. My first book, CUPS: Waves and Optics, was published in 1994.

The **OSP-EjsS-ComPADRE** platform removes many of the complicated tasks involved in integrating simulation and modeling into the classroom allowing teachers and students to focus on the science.



Open Source and CC – Facilitating Collaboration



Physlets and the OSP Collection are recognized by over 50% and 22%, respectively, of United States physics faculty as a research-based instructional strategy they are familiar with or have used (Henderson & Dancy).

OSP Collection Team & Collaborators

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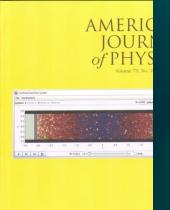
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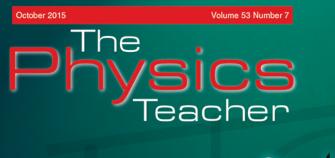
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