

T2_72 CHALLENGES OF MAKING ON-LINE PHYSICS COURSE MATERIALS ACCESSIBLE WORLDWIDE

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The PhET Interactive Simulations Project recently partnered with the Excellence Center of Science and Mathematics Education at King Saud University with the joint goal of making simulations available worldwide. One of the main challenges of this partnership is to make PhET simulations easily translatable so that truly anyone can use them in their classroom. The PhET project team has created a translation utility that allows a person, who is fluent in both English and another language, to easily translate any of the PhET simulations. This can be done with minimal computer expertise, making the translation process accessible to faculty and teachers. In this presentation we will share many of the unexpected hurdles we encountered that would apply in general to on-line scientific course materials including working with a language that reads right to left, different character sets, possible misconceptions and various conventions for expressing equations, variables, units and scientific notation.