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TI-Nspire CAS for Teaching at University Level

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ABSTRACT

Users of the Derive program were shocked when they learned that Derive would be discontinued and replaced by a new product — it was at the TIME-2006 conference in Dresden, Germany. This new product is TI-Nspire CAS, with 2 platforms: handheld and software. In order to satisfy the needs of Derive users, two meetings were organized in Stockerau, Austria (April 2007 and March 2008). It was a good opportunity to tell TI-developers which features of Derive should be included in future versions of Nspire CAS. At the TIME-2008 conference in South Africa, many features (namely 3D plotting) were still missing. In fact, the progress of Nspire CAS was a long achievement: the format of the calculator could not be the one of Voyage 200 and it was difficult to find something that would satisfy the "old" Derive users. Also, at the TIME-2010 conference in Malaga, Spain, many colleagues were not yet convinced by Nspire CAS: it was not clear at all if TI really wanted to attract university level teachers or leave the space to the big CAS like Maple or Mathematica.

It seems that the new handheld color screen has many advantages and the new operating system (OS 3) has the potential to attract those who are teaching to engineering students, at university level. The talk will show some of these advantages, using examples in multiple variable calculus, differential equations and complex analysis.