

# AMS Updates

## Math Departments Coordinate Job Offer Deadlines

For the past 21 years, the American Mathematical Society has led the effort to gain broad endorsement for the following proposal:

That mathematics departments and institutes agree not to require a response prior to a certain date (usually around February 1 of a given year) to an offer of a postdoctoral position that begins in the fall of that year.

This proposal is linked to an agreement made by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that recipients of NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowships would be notified of their awards, at the latest, by the end of January.

This agreement ensures that our young colleagues entering the postdoctoral job market have as much information as possible about their options before making a decision. It also allows departmental hiring committees adequate time to review application files and make informed decisions. From our perspective, this agreement has worked well and has made the process more orderly. There have been very few negative comments. Last year, more than 180 mathematics and applied mathematics departments and institutes endorsed the agreement.

Therefore, we propose that mathematics departments again collectively enter into the same agreement for the upcoming cycle of recruiting, with the deadline set for Monday, February 6, 2023. The NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences has already agreed that it will complete its review of applications and notify all applicants no later than Friday, January 27, 2023.

The American Mathematical Society facilitated the process by sending an email message to all doctoral-granting mathematics and applied mathematics departments and mathematics institutes. The list of departments and institutes endorsing this agreement was widely announced on the AMS website and is updated weekly until mid-January.

We ask that you view this year's formal agreement at <https://www.ams.org/employment/postdoc-offers.html> along with this year's list of adhering departments.

To streamline this year's process for all involved, we ask that you notify the AMS ([postdoc-deadline@ams.org](mailto:postdoc-deadline@ams.org)) **if and only if**: your department is not listed and you would like to be listed as part of the agreement; or your department is listed and you would like to withdraw from the agreement and be removed from the list.

Please feel free to email us with questions and concerns. Thank you for consideration of the proposal.

—Catherine A. Roberts  
AMS Executive Director

Torina Lewis  
AMS Associate Executive Director

## Inaugural Fall Graduate School Fair Draws More Than 300 Students

At the AMS's first Fall Graduate School Fair, held October 12, representatives of more than 40 graduate programs in the mathematical sciences hosted virtual tables to answer student questions.

The Gather platform provided a dynamic way to interact, replicating an in-person experience for more than 300 undergraduates and master's students. The students were provided with avatars that allowed them to navigate and interact within the virtual fair, much like an online video game.

In addition to the virtual tables, the Graduate School Fair kicked off with a panel of students and graduate chairs, who shared ways that students can explore graduate school options and can pose insightful questions of program staff.

"The panel provided exactly what I had hoped: an opportunity to empower students," said Sarah Bryant, AMS director of programs. "It also, I hope, prompted department representatives to think deeply about how they are recruiting to their programs." She added that the panel discussion was recorded and is available online on the AMS YouTube channel.

The AMS Fall Graduate School Fair will recur annually in addition to the Graduate School Fair at the Joint

Mathematics Meetings. “I wish this resource had been available when I was applying to graduate school,” said panelist Christopher L. Cox, mathematics professor and department head, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

—AMS Communications

## New Version of MathJax Available

An updated version of MathJax is now available, reported its lead developer, Davide Cervone.

“MathJax 4.0.0-alpha.1 is the first release of a major update to MathJax,” said Cervone, professor of mathematics at Union College. “It includes a number of significant new features that our sponsors and users have been waiting for.”

For those unfamiliar, MathJax is an open-source tool for rendering mathematics on the web, designed for diverse audiences. Using MathJax does not require the viewer to download any software, and because it uses actual fonts, its output will scale and print better than math presented as images.

MathJax’s four new features include:

- support for 10 different fonts, including the STIX2 font set, five Gyre math fonts, and a sans-serif font based on the Fira-Math font. “The original MathJax TeX font set remains available as an option,” Cervone said.
- support for automatic and explicit line breaks in both display and in-line expressions, automatic breaking of text elements, better breaking in tables and arrays, more array column specifiers for the array preamble, and TeX macros to control line breaking, indentation, and alignment, as well as more commands for making fixed-size boxes in which line breaking can occur;
- support for HTML embedded in MathML and TeX expressions (e.g., you can insert form elements into the mathematical expressions);
- improvements to the assistive support by including the expression explorer in all combined components.

The release notes provide extensive information about the new features.

MathJax launched in 2010 as an open-source project under the sponsorship of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), and Design Science, Inc., with additional support from StackExchange, the American Physical Society, Elsevier, the Optical Society of America, Project Euclid, WebAssign, and others.

When Design Science left the MathJax Consortium in 2013, the AMS assumed the role of Managing Partner and was responsible for day-to-day operations and management. In 2019, MathJax joined NUMFocus, a nonprofit organization that promotes open practices in research, data, and scientific computing by serving as a fiscal sponsor for open-source projects.

The AMS remains a founding partner of MathJax, making a substantial annual contribution and serving on its steering committee, said Thomas J. Blythe, AMS chief information officer.

“MathJax is vital to the AMS’s commitment to making mathematics accessible on the internet,” he said. “It’s the cornerstone of our accessibility efforts for rendering mathematics in our journals and ePub versions of our ebooks, as well as in AMS MathViewer and MathSciNet®.”

—AMS Communications

## Deaths of AMS Members

Andrew Bucki, of Edmond, Oklahoma, died on March 2, 2022. Born on March 29, 1946, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

C. Carton-Lebrun, of Belgium, died on April 5, 2022. Born on January 8, 1942, she was a member of the Society for 50 years.

Ian Connell, of Canada, died on February 21, 2022. Born on December 20, 1934, he was a member of the Society for 60 years.

Ed Dubinsky, of Miami Springs, Florida, died on June 9, 2022. Born on February 7, 1935, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

Bert Fristedt, of Bloomington, Minnesota, died on July 18, 2020. Born on April 8, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

Betty B. Garrison, of San Diego, California, died on January 16, 2021. Born on July 1, 1932, she was a member of the Society for 66 years.

Eberhard Kaniuth, of Germany, died on April 27, 2017. Born on November 30, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 36 years.

J. Musielak, of Poland, died on October 11, 2020. Born on November 7, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

Keith Phillips, of Boulder, Colorado, died on March 8, 2016. Born on June 11, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 53 years.

Helmut R. Salzmann, of Germany, died on March 8, 2022. Born on November 3, 1930, he was a member of the Society for 58 years.

Jerrold B. Tunnell, of Piscataway, New Jersey, died on April 1, 2022. Born on September 16, 1950, he was a member of the Society for 50 years.