CHESS and MacCHESS software developments

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At CHESS, recent developments in ease of use and reliability of software for data collection and processing include:

The CHESS World Wide Web server, URL http://www.chess.cornell.edu/, provides information to prepare users for a visit to CHESS, as well as on-line help for both users and operators. At the same time, data collection software is installed on each station computer, so that experiments can be run even if the network fails.

The HP9000/745i station computers, running the VUE window manager, have "front panels" configured to print files, transfer files to another computer, and so forth with single clicks of a mouse button. A MacCHESS "control panel" makes it easy to start and stop programs for crystallographic data collection.

Beamline control is provided by command-line interfaces ("oscam", "fourc", etc.) to SPEC. "Rspec" provides an interface through which other programs may communicate with SPEC. "CCDspec", used with rspec, provides push-button control over commonly used functions such as table alignment.

The ADX user interface, for operating the CCD detector from ADSC, has been customized and installed at A-1. At all stations, "m.simulate" is now available to help determine data collection strategy. "Mccview" allows coordinated initiation of the HKL processing programs and m.simulate.