

THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 276

November 1999

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

Friday 19 November 1999 - London

Annual General Meeting

J. Matoušek, W.T. Gowers

Friday 31 March- Saturday 1 April 2000 - Oxford

Modelling Dynamics in the Life Sciences

Friday 19 May-Saturday 20 May 2000 - Oxford

Joint meeting with the

British Society for the History of Mathematics

Friday 23 June 2000 - London

M.J.D. Powell

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

There are some 3000 mathematicians listed in "Mathematical Who's Where United Kingdom", and a majority of them are members of the Society. The Council has agreed to hold a membership drive, and we have sent information about the Society to those who are not members, and shall also be sending them copies of the *Newsletter* for a year.

The division between Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, which has been so harmful in the past, is becoming more illusory and unreal, as subjects such as Number Theory, once considered the purest of the pure, find applications of an essential kind, while developments in Physics, Biology and other subjects produce ideas of fundamental interest to the 'pure' mathematician. Nevertheless, there is a mistaken belief that the London Mathematical Society is only for pure mathematicians (in fact, more than 900 of our 2300 or so members list an 'applied' topic among their interests), and so the letter from the President and the Meetings

and Membership Secretary highlights the many activities of the Society in traditionally 'applied' areas: Society Meetings, Grants, Short Courses, and support for the British Applied Mathematics Colloquium, the recent International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics in Edinburgh and the forthcoming International Congress on Theoretical Physics at Imperial College. Of course, this is only part of the Society's activities, and there is no diminution in activity in the traditionally 'pure' areas.

Applications for membership are considered by Council, and then approved at a Society meeting. If you would like to apply for membership, please send your application to reach De Morgan House by Tuesday 16 November, as it will then be considered both by Council and at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 19. If you have mislaid the application form, please let Ephrem Belay know (belay@lms.ac.uk, or 020 7291 9972), and he will send you a replacement.

SEMINAIRE DE MATHEMATIQUES SUPERIEURES

NATO Advanced Study Institute

A Seminar on Approximation, Complex Analysis, and Potential Theory will be held at the University of Montreal from July 3 - 14, 2000. The principal speakers are A. Ancona (Orsay), N. Arakelian (Armenian Nat'l Acad. Sci.), D.H. Armitage (Queen's, Belfast), T. Bagby (Bloomington, Indiana), M. Bonk (TU Berlin), H. Chen (Nanjing), D. Drasin (Purdue), S.J. Gardiner (Dublin), P.M. Gauthier (Montreal), A.A. Gonchar (Steklov, Moscow), T. Ransford (Laval), A. Stray (Bergen).

Partial financial assistance will be available. Priority will be given to graduate students. Requests for participation or financial assistance must be received before 21 February 2000. For further information contact: G. David, Coordinator SMS, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Montreal, CP 6128 Centre-ville, Montreal (QC), Canada H3C 3J7 (tel: (514) 343-6710, fax: (514) 343-5700, sms@dms.umontreal.ca, <http://www.dms.umontreal.ca/activite/sms>).

SIR WILFRED H. COCKCROFT

Sir Wilfred H. Cockcroft, who was elected a member of the London Mathematical Society on 20 March 1952, died on 27 September 1999.

NORTH BRITISH FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS SEMINAR

The North British Functional Analysis Seminar will be held at Merz Court, University of Newcastle, from 2.30 pm until 5 pm on Friday 5 November 1999. The speaker will be Professor Edward Effros (University of California at Los Angeles). For further information, please contact Dr Zinaida Lykova, Newcastle University (Z.A.Lykova@ncl.ac.uk).

OPERATOR THEORY MEETING IN NEWCASTLE

There will be a one-day conference on Operator Theory from 9.00 am till 3.30 pm on Saturday 6 November 1999 in the Department of Mathematics, Merz Court, University of Newcastle. The speakers will be Professors E.B. Davies, T.A. Gillespie and J.R. Partington and Drs M.A. Dritschel, M. Mathieu, B. Jacob and V. Kisil.

The meeting has financial support from the London Mathematical Society. Research students are encouraged to apply for a contribution towards their expenses. It follows the North British Functional Analysis Seminar on 5 November at which Professor E. Effros will lecture. Further details can be had from Professor N.J. Young (N.J.Young@ncl.ac.uk).

EPSRC - POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN MATHEMATICS

Closing date 10 January 2000

- Applications welcome from all areas of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics
- Fellowships are open to EU Nationals
- Application forms and details from EPSRC web site: http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/documents/programmes/education_training/math/prf00int_nw0.htm or e-mail (stephen.new@epsrc.ac.uk).

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Friday 19 November 1999 at 3.15 pm

Professor J. MATOUŠEK
will speak at 3.30 pm on

Two Geometric Problems in the Plane

Professor W.T. GOWERS, FRS
will speak at 5.00 pm on

Some Problems in Additive Number Theory

Tea will be served at 4.30 pm

The meeting is at the Chemistry Auditorium,
Christopher Ingold Building, Department of Chemistry,
University College, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1.

Please note the early start at 3.15 pm

All interested are very welcome

Enquiries may be addressed to Miss S.M. Oakes, London Mathematical Society,
De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HP,
telephone 020 7637 3686, e-mail lms@lms.ac.uk

VISIT OF PROFESSOR O. CORNEA

Professor Octav Cornea (Lille) will visit the UK under a Scheme 2 grant of the London Mathematical Society. He will give talks on "Rigidity of the Morse complex and nonsmoothable Poincaré complexes" as follows:

4.15 pm, Monday, 15th November, Room 347, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Meston Building, Aberdeen University (local organizer Dr R. Levi).

2.30 pm, Wednesday, 17th November, Room 4312, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, James Clerk Maxwell Building, University of Edinburgh (local organizer Professor A. Ranicki)

5.00 pm, Monday, 22nd November, Higman Room, Mathematical Institute, 24-29 St. Giles, Oxford University (local organizer Dr U. Tillmann).

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THE LIBRARY

The new Library Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) of the Library at University College London, to replace Libertas, is now live: the URL is <http://library.ucl.ac.uk>. Netscape 4 or Internet Explorer 5 are required. Further information about the OPAC and the running-down of Libertas has been posted at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/aleph_news.html

THE IAN SNEDDON 80TH BIRTHDAY CONFERENCE

Professor Ian N. Sneddon FRS, reaches his 80th birthday in December 1999 and to mark this occasion the Mathematics Departments of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde are organising a one day conference in the University of Glasgow on 3 December 1999. The speakers are:

- J.M. Ball FRS (Oxford) Some open problems in elasticity theory
- R.J. Knops (Heriot-Watt) Alternative spatial behaviour in incompressible elasticity
- L.E. Payne (Cornell) Decay results in quasilinear parabolic problems
- S. Rionero (Naples) The energy stability method in fluid mechanics
- A.J.M. Spencer FRS (Nottingham) New approaches to three-dimensional elasticity solutions for thick elastic plates
- J.F. Toland FRS (Bath) Recent mathematical developments in classical problems from hydrodynamics

There is no registration fee but participants are however asked to register by informing Brian Straughan (tel: 0141-330-4258, e-mail: bs@maths.gla.ac.uk). A dinner will be held at a cost of £23 per head. This conference is sponsored by The Edinburgh Mathematical Society, The London Mathematical Society, The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde.

STOCHASTIC ANALYSIS

LMS/EPSRC Short Course

Oxford, 20-24 March 2000

The last fifty years have seen a dramatic expansion in the field of stochastic analysis. Stochastic techniques have become crucial in diverse areas, from pure mathematics to applied sciences including biology, physics, chemistry, engineering, and of course famously, over the last twenty-five years stochastic methods have revolutionised the financial markets.

The meeting will be aimed at graduate students with an interest in stochastic analysis and its applications. The core of the meeting will be three series of lectures accessible to beginning research students, but of benefit to all research students:

- **Stochastic methods in finance**
Professor Tomas Björk (Stockholm School of Economics)
- **Interacting particle systems**
Professor Geoffrey Grimmett (Statistical Laboratory, University of Cambridge)
- **Martingale methods and weak convergence**
Professor Tom Kurtz (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Lectures will be supplemented by tutorials and discussion.

The registration fee is £60. EPSRC-supported students should expect that this will be paid from RTSG funds. Participants will pay their own travel costs. Funds are expected to be made available to cover the accommodation and subsistence costs, but not travel costs, of a number of research students at UK universities. Numbers will be limited and those interested are advised to make an early application.

Registration forms may be obtained from Helen Woodward, London Mathematical Society, De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HP (e-mail: woodward@lms.ac.uk).

Prifysgol Cymru
ABERYSTWYTH
University of Wales

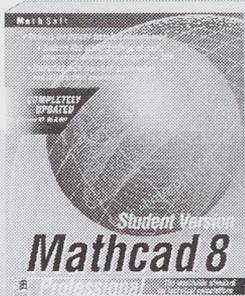
Lectureships in Mathematics

Applications are invited for two lectureships in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The successful candidates will interact with a thriving research group specializing in Computational Rheology. The group has a Grade 5 rating in Applied Mathematics. Its activities involve constitutive models for complex fluids and the numerical prediction of complex flows, feeding off a central experimental programme. Candidates with strong research profiles or potential in any area of modern applied mathematics, analysis, or computation, who are willing to collaborate on challenging problems in the dynamics of complex fluids, are encouraged to apply. One of those appointed will have responsibility for teaching courses in analysis. The posts are available from January 2000, but starting dates can be delayed if necessary.

Appointments will be made at an appropriate point on the Lecturer Grade A (£16,655 - £21,815) or Grade B (£22,726 - £29,048) scales, according to qualifications and experience.

Further particulars and application forms, returnable by **12th November 1999**, may be obtained from the Personnel Office, Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3AX (tel: 01970 621832; fax: 01970 622975; e-mail: lml@aber.ac.uk).

Informal enquiries may be made of Professor Russell Davies (tel: 01970 622755; fax: 01970 622777; e-mail: ard@aber.ac.uk) or Dr Tim Phillips (tel: 01970 622769; fax: 01970 622777; e-mail: tnp@aber.ac.uk).



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System requirements:
PC with Pentium processor; Windows 95, 98 or NT; at least 32 MB RAM; 20 MB free hard disk space; CD-ROM drive.

J. Richter-Gebert, U.H. Kortenkamp

The Interactive Geometry Software Cinderella

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Java-1.1 compatible platform; 800x600 True Colour Graphics; 32 MB RAM or more; 133 MHz CPU or higher; CD-ROM drive. Java Runtime environment for Windows 95/98/NT, MacOS 7.6.1. or later, Solaris (SPARC) and Linux included.

A.M. Cohen, H. Cuypers, H. Sterk

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1999. VIII, 160 pp., with CD-ROM.
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ISBN 3-540-65368-6

System requirements:
Java compatible platform; Netscape 4.08 is included.



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DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

FELLOW AND COLLEGE LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS

Downing College invites applications for a Fellowship and College Lectureship in Mathematics, with effect from 1 October 2000, or as soon as possible thereafter. The post is intended primarily for someone active in a branch of pure mathematics or mathematical statistics (including probability). The appointment, which is open to both men and women, will be for three years with a possibility of renewal for a further two years and is subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the College. Further periods of reappointment may be possible, but will depend on the College's continued need for the post as well as on the individual's performance in it. The Lecturer will be responsible, with the College Director of Studies in Mathematics, for the academic work of our undergraduates in Mathematics, and may wish to participate in the activities of the University Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. The stipend of a College Lecturer, which can be pensionable under the Universities Superannuation Scheme, will be at a point in the range £17,238 to £22,579 (University Assistant Lecturer scale), depending on age and experience. Further information about the College can be found on the web pages at www.dow.cam.ac.uk

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and date of birth, should be sent to The Senior Tutor, Downing College, Cambridge CB2 1DQ by **3 December 1999**. Applicants should arrange for three academic referees to write directly to The Senior Tutor (or e-mail ceb34@cam.ac.uk) by the closing date.

The College is an equal opportunities employer.

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Two-day Meeting
31 March - 1 April 2000, Oxford

MODELLING SPATIOTEMPORAL DYNAMICS IN INTERACTING SYSTEMS

Preliminary Announcement

As experimental technology in the life sciences increases, generating more and more data, it is becoming clear that a theoretical framework is required within which these results can be interpreted. This has led to a number of exciting, new challenges to mathematics, with the result that the application of mathematics to the life sciences is becoming a rapidly growing area. The aim of this meeting is to promote this area of mathematics. A major challenge concerns how to incorporate the properties and interactions of individual, component elements into a whole population (organ) model.

This meeting of the Society is open to everyone. In particular, it is hoped that it will bring together young mathematicians and established senior scientists in the field. Particular topics to be studied include developmental biology, cardiac physiology, neurobiology, ecology and epidemiology.

Confirmed Speakers:

Hans Othmer (Minnesota)
Sasha Panfilov (Utrecht)

Julian Lewis (ICRF, London)
Kees Weijer (Dundee)

Organiser: P.K. Maini

Scientific Committee:

H.G. Othmer (Minnesota), T.J. Pedley, FRS (Cambridge), B.D. Sleeman (Leeds)

ANNUAL DINNER

The 1999 Annual Dinner will be held after the Annual General Meeting on Friday 19 November at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm at the Old Refectory, University College, London WC1. The cost is £26.25 per person and members may book places for guests. The booking form, enclosed with the October Newsletter, should be returned together with payment to the London Mathematical Society office by **Monday 15 November**.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1999

This year the Council Elections are being conducted by Single Transferable Vote and the new Nominating Committee has proposed enough candidates to ensure a contested election. Ballot forms were posted individually to all members early in October. Completed forms should be returned to De Morgan House by **11 November** (or brought in person to the Annual General Meeting on 19 November).

John Pym
Council & General Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF PURE MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

Two University Lecturers or Assistant Lecturers in Pure Mathematics

Applications are invited for these posts in any field of Pure Mathematics to take up appointment from 1 October 2000 or possibly earlier.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Head of Department, DPMMS, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1SB (telephone (01223) 337996, fax (01223) 337920, e-mail S.Lowe@dpmms.cam.ac.uk or <http://www.dpmms.cam.ac.uk>).

Applications should be sent to the Head of Department and should include a *curriculum vitae* and e-mail address, list of publications, and the names, postal and e-mail addresses of 3 referees. Candidates must ask their referees to send their reports direct to the Head of Department, to reach him by the closing date.

The closing date for applications is **10 December 1999**.

The University is committed to equality of opportunity and has a policy on arrangements for part-time work

ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Newton Institute Rothschild Visiting Lecture Series

This new regular series of lectures will be given by the Rothschild Visiting Professors attached to Newton Institute programmes, at institutions throughout the UK. The current schedule is as follows:

Professor R.D. James (Minnesota) *Mathematical Developments in Solid Mechanics and Materials Science* programme

- October 29 University of Oxford, Department of Materials Science
Magnetostriction of martensite: new materials that combine shape-memory and ferromagnetism
- November 3 University of Nottingham, School of Mathematical Sciences
Deformable thin films: from macroscale to microscale and from nanoscale to microscale
- November 29 University of Oxford, The Mathematical Institute
Magnetic forces and microscale actuators
- December 3 University of Bath, Department of Mathematics
Magnetostriction of martensite: new materials that combine shape-memory and ferromagnetism

Professor A. Guth (MIT) *Structure Formation in the Universe* programme

- November 12 University of Oxford Theoretical Physics Seminar
Eternal Inflation: Successes and questions

(NB Further lectures by Professor Guth will be announced shortly.)

Full current details are available at <http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/vislec.html>

LMS CONFERENCE GRANTS

Programme Committee has recently awarded grants to support the following conferences and meetings. These are open to members. If you wish to attend, or would like more information, please contact the organiser.

Date/Venue	Title	Organiser
6 Nov 1999 Newcastle	Operator Theory Workshop	N. Young (n.j.young@ncl.ac.uk)
3 Dec 1999 Glasgow	Ian Sneddon 80th Birthday Conference	B. Straughan (bs@maths.gla.ac.uk)
16-18 Dec 1999 Cambridge	Practical & Theoretical Aspects of Particle Filters Workshop	D. Crisan (d.o'.crisan@statslab.cam.ac.uk)
11-14 Apr 2000 Cardiff	Probability & Statistics Research Students' Conference	S. Gilchrist (rsc2000@cardiff.ac.uk)
12-15 Apr 2000 Leeds	Mathematical Methods of Regular Dynamics Conference	V. Kuznetsov (vadim@amsta.leeds.ac.uk)
15-17 Apr 2000 Sheffield	British Topology Meeting	J.P.C. Greenlees (j.greenlees@sheffield.ac.uk)

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Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications, 62

Mathematical Explorations with MATLAB

K. Chen, Peter J. Giblin and A. Irving

This book explores the mathematics encountered in first year university courses, using the popular package MATLAB. The emphasis is on understanding and investigating the mathematics, and putting it into practice in a wide variety of modelling situations.

£42.50 HB 0 521 63078 9 320pp 1999
£15.95 PB 0 521 63920 4

TEXTBOOK

Geometry of Sporadic Groups I*Petersen and Tilde Geometries*

A. A. Ivanov

This book is the first volume in a two-volume set, which will provide the complete proof of classification of Petersen and tilde geometries. This is an essential purchase for researchers into finite group theory, finite geometries and algebraic combinatorics.

£45.00 HB 0 521 41362 1 422pp 1999

Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications, 76

Models and Computability

S. Barry Cooper and John K. Truss

This book and its sister volume, *Sets and Proofs*, provide readers with a comprehensive guide to the current state of mathematical logic. All the authors are drawn from invited speakers at 'Logic Colloquium '97'

£29.95 PB 0 521 63550 0 430pp 1999

London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series, 259

Random Graphs

V. F. Kolchin

Results of recent research on classical combinatorial structures such as random graphs, permutations, and systems of random linear equations in finite fields.

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Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications, 53

Lecturers: textbook inspection details available from email uksales@cup.cam.ac.uk quoting *LMS Newsletter* advert. See also our

Cambridge books are available from good bookshops. Alternatively phone UK + 44 (0)1223 326050 to order direct using your credit card or email Giulia Williams on science@cup.cam.ac.uk or browse our Worldwide Web server www.cup.cam.ac.uk



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Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Publications, 29

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Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics, 94

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ICMS Instructional Course QUANTUM COMPUTING

27-31 March 2000

Scientific Organising Committee

- Richard Jozsa (Computer Science, Bristol)
- Noah Linden (Mathematics, Bristol)
- Angus Macintyre (ICMS, Edinburgh)
- Andrew Pitts (Computer Laboratory, Cambridge)

In the past five years the new subject of quantum computing has emerged which both offers the potential of immense practical computing power and also suggests deep links between the well-established disciplines of quantum theory and information theory and computer science. A notable feature of the subject is its interdisciplinary nature with contributions from physicists, mathematicians and computer scientists in particular.

The aim of the instructional course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to current developments in quantum computation/quantum information theory. It is particularly designed to be accessible to computer scientists as well as graduate students and post-docs from other relevant disciplines.

The Instructional Course is one of the activities of UK Quantum Computing Network, funded by the EPSRC.

Lecturers:

Charles Bennett (tbc)	Quantum communication
Harry Buhrman	Complexity/communication complexity
Chris Fuchs	Quantum communication
David DiVincenzo	Implementations
Richard Jozsa	Algorithms and complexity
Noah Linden	Introduction to quantum mechanics and entanglement
Hoi-Kwong Lo	Cryptography
Sandu Popescu	Quantum information
Andrew Steane	Error correction/fault tolerance/decoherence

The meeting website contains detailed information, including a provisional timetable and registration forms. You can locate it via the current ICMS programme site (<http://www.ma.hw.ac.uk/icms/current/>).

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

14 India Street, Edinburgh EH3 6EZ, UK

Tel: +44 (0)131 220 1777; Fax: +44 (0)131 220 1053,
E-mail: icms@maths.ed.ac.uk

BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

At the Business Meeting held during the 17th British Combinatorial Conference (12-16 July 1999, University of Kent) a new Committee was elected to serve until the next Conference. At a subsequent meeting of the new Committee, two members were elected to serve as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The full list of members is as follows: Professor P.J. Cameron (Chairman), Dr D. Bedford, Dr K. Edwards (Treasurer), Dr J.W.P. Hirschfeld, Professor B. Jackson, Dr J.D. Lamb, Professor C.J.H. McDiarmid, Professor P. Rowlinson (Secretary); and *ex-officio*: Professor G. Brightwell (Bulletin Editor), Ms C.G. Rutherford (Organizer of the forthcoming Postgraduate Conference).

The Committee is grateful to the London Mathematical Society for its contribution towards the cost of the Kent Conference.

The **Eighteenth British Combinatorial Conference** will be held at the University of Sussex from 1 to 6 July 2001. Details will be provided at <http://www.maths.sussex.ac.uk/>. Any queries should be addressed to James Hirschfeld (bcc2001@sussex.ac.uk).

The **Eleventh Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference** will be held at Queen Mary and Westfield College from 25 to 27 April 2000. Details will be provided at <http://www.maths.qmw.ac.uk/~cgr/pcc2000>. Any queries should be addressed to Ms C.G. Rutherford (C.G.Rutherford@qmw.ac.uk).

The **British Combinatorial Bulletin** is published each Spring; the major portions of it can now be found at <http://www.cdam.lse.ac.uk/BCB/>. It contains news of conferences and colloquia on combinatorial topics, a list of British mathematicians known to be interested in Combinatorics, and information about recent and forthcoming research publications. Hard copies are distributed free to UK institutions and are available to overseas residents at a cost of £10 for two years' issues: please remit £10 to Professor G. Brightwell, Department of Mathematics, London School of

Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

Approved **One Day Colloquia on Combinatorial Topics** will continue to be supported by the Committee. A limited sum of money is available, and any Institution requesting support will be expected to meet part of the total cost from its own funds. Proposals for consideration by the Committee should be sent to the Secretary (p.rowlinson@stirling.ac.uk).

ABDUS SALAM INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Mathematics Activities

School on Vanishing Theorems & Effective Results in Algebraic Geometry

25 April - 12 May, Directors: J.-P. Demailly (Université de Grenoble I, France) and R. Lazarsfeld (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA) *Deadline for requesting participation: 30 November 1999.*

School on Automorphic Forms on $GL(n)$

31 July - 18 August, Directors: G. Harder (Universität Bonn & Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik, Bonn, Germany) and M.S. Raghunathan (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India) *Deadline for requesting participation: 28 February 2000.*

School on Mathematical Problems in Image Processing

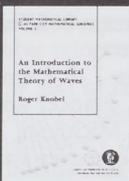
4 - 22 September, Directors: L. Ambrosio (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy), G. Dal Maso (SISSA, Trieste, Italy) and J.M. Morel (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France) *Deadline for requesting participation: 31 March 2000.*

For further information contact: Ms Sharon Laurenti, Mathematics Section, The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Strada Costiera 11, I-34014 Trieste, Italy (tel: +39 - 040 - 2240272; fax: +39 - 040 - 2240490; web page: http://www.ictp.trieste.it/www_users/math/).

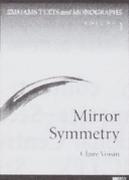
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265 pp, 0-8218-2045-1, Jan 2000 £25.00 Hdk



TEXTBOOK

An Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Waves

Roger A. Knobel, University of Texas-Pan American, Texas

Based on an undergraduate course on linear and nonlinear waves, the aim of this book is to provide a text suitable for independent study by undergraduate students in mathematics, engineering, and science. The content of this book is self-contained, requiring no special reference material. Exercises are given within the text to allow further practice with selected topics.

196pp, STML/3, 0-8218-2039-7, Jan 2000 £16.50 Pbk



TEXTBOOK

Miles of Tiles

Charles Radin, University of Texas, Austin, USA

The common thread throughout this book is aperiodic tilings. Understanding this new type of tiling requires an unusual variety of specialities, including ergodic theory, functional analysis, group theory and ring theory. Included are many problems (with solutions) and a large number of figures. The book's multi-disciplinary approach and extensive use of illustrations make it useful for a broad mathematical audience.

120pp, STML/1, 0-8218-1933-X, Oct 1999 £11.50 Pbk



Mirror Symmetry and Algebraic Geometry

David A. Cox, Amherst College, USA
Sheldon Katz, Oklahoma State University, USA

This book is the first completely comprehensive monograph on mirror symmetry, covering the original observations by physicists through to the most recent progress made to date.

467pp, SURV/68, 0-8218-1059-6, May 1999 £47.50 Hbk

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CHAIR IN PURE MATHEMATICS (Geometry) Ref EM32

Candidates for the above new position should have an outstanding record of research in any area of Geometry, combined with a strong commitment to postgraduate supervision. The successful candidate will also be expected to play a strong role in research leadership and the strategic development of the work of the Department of Mathematics.

Current research in Pure Mathematics at Hull is focussed mainly in two broad areas - Geometry & Topology (differential geometry, integrable systems, topological groups) and Analysis & Probability (functional, stochastic, and nonstandard analysis and their applications; probability on algebraic structures). In the 1996 RAE Pure Mathematics was graded 4. The creation of the new Chair in Pure Mathematics reflects the commitment of the University to the expansion of research of the highest quality in this area.

READERSHIP IN APPLIED MATHEMATICS Ref EM33

Candidates for the above new position should have an outstanding record of research, combined with a strong commitment to postgraduate supervision. The successful candidate will also be expected to be involved in research leadership and development in the Department.

Current research in Applied Mathematics at Hull is concentrated in the two main areas of Continuum Mechanics (including fluid dynamics, heat transfer, and modelling of biological systems) and Mathematical Physics (foundations of quantum theory, spectral analysis, relativity and thermodynamics).

Applications will be particularly welcome from candidates with a strong research interest in the broad area of Continuum Mechanics, but outstanding candidates in other areas will also be considered.

Both positions are available from 1 March 2000 or as soon as possible thereafter.

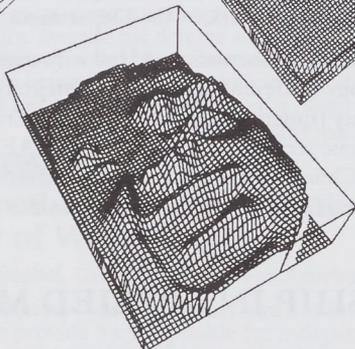
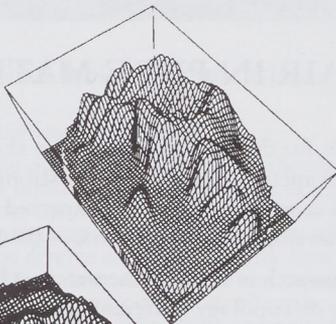
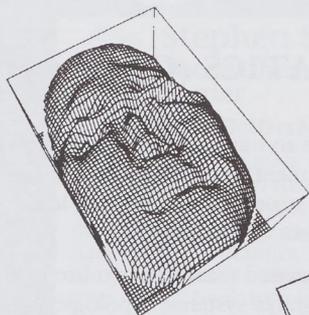
Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Nigel Cutland, Head of Department of Mathematics
Tel: 01482 465569; e-mail: n.j.cutland@maths.hull.ac.uk

For further information and details of how to apply contact the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematics Personnel Office, The University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX, quoting the relevant reference.
Tel: 01482 466661; e-mail: m.c.parnaby@admin.hull.ac.uk

or visit <http://www.hull.ac.uk/mathsjobs>

Closing date for applications: 15 November 1999

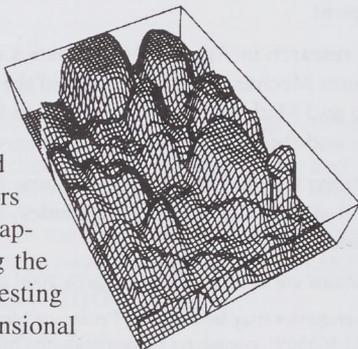
Two- and Three-Dimensional Patterns of the Face



Peter W. Hallinan,
Gaile G. Gordon,
A. L. Yuille,
Peter Giblin, and
David Mumford

1999; Hardcover; 262 pages; ISBN 1-56881-087-3; \$48.00; £ 34.00

The three-dimensional shape of the human face and its two-dimensional images are complex and hard to characterize. This book ties together applied mathematics, applied statistics, and engineering by applying general theories and concepts to the specific and familiar example of the human face. The authors include fully worked out examples of two approaches to face recognition, demonstrating the power of pattern theory and suggesting interesting new mathematics in the two- and three-dimensional aspects of the face.



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SECOND SCOTTISH GEOMETRY & TOPOLOGY DAY

This will take place from noon on Saturday, 4 December 1999 in the Mathematics Department of the University of Glasgow. There will be four talks on Geometry and Topology and it is hoped that the programme will appeal to geometers and topologists, especially those based in Scotland and the North of England. Further details will appear in the web page (<http://www.maths.gla.ac.uk/~andy/ScotGeoTop.html>) or can be obtained from the organisers Dr A. Baker (a.baker@maths.gla.ac.uk) and Dr R. Levi (ran@maths.aberdeen.ac.uk).

BOOK REVIEW

Fermat's Last Theorem for Amateurs by Paulo Ribenboim, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1999, 425pp, £30.50, ISBN 0-387-98508-5

The first thing that should be said about this book is that the title could be deceptive. This is not the book for the interested amateur who think they have discovered the two page proof of Fermat's Last Theorem which may have eluded all the great mathematicians who have worked on the problem. The book is really about the 'elementary' methods that have led to partial solutions of Fermat's Last Theorem, and the author admits that, as far as he can see, the methods presented will not supply a proof for all exponents. Most of the methods just use rational numbers, but there are occasions where irrational numbers and even p -adic numbers are used. In fact, this book will tax most final year undergraduates. One of its values is that it gives comprehensive proofs of the theorem for the easiest exponents $n=3,4,5$ and 7 , and this would be of great use to undergraduates embarking on project work on Fermat's Last Theorem. Perhaps the greatest value of this book is the encyclopaedic knowledge it displays, which is what we have come to expect from the author of "Prime Number Records". Not only does it give detailed proofs, but it also gives com-

prehensive references to the other published proofs of the easier cases.

Ever since Andrew Wiles produced his proof, there have been numerous books on Fermat's Last Theorem, aiming at a different readerships. There has been the two popular books, one by Amir Aczel [1] and the other by Simon Singh [3] which was reviewed in the *Newsletter* in issue 253, October 1997. It was very gratifying to see a large number of copies of Singh's book stacked up in the local bookshop. It is one of the best popular books on Mathematics produced and fully deserved to become a best-seller. It followed Singh's brilliant *Horizon* film and we should hope that this will also be released for purchase and become a best seller in the video market. Somewhat less well known is "Notes on Fermat's Last Theorem" by Alf van der Poorten [4]. This explains the mathematics in much more detail, but is still an excellent read, with a lot of good jokes. For the professional mathematician who wants to see the main facets of the proof, there is "Modular Forms and Fermat's Last Theorem", a collection of lectures coming out of a 1995 conference at Boston University [2].

The book under review is very different from any of these. It is a serious mathematical work in which the history has been well-researched. It gives detailed proofs of the more elementary aspects and it will be very useful to have these in one book, together with the detailed references. It ends with a brief outline of Wiles' proof and also references to several incorrect proofs. This book is certainly a valuable and different addition to the Fermat bibliography.

David Singerman
University of Southampton

References

- [1] A.D. Aczel, *Fermat's Last Theorem, Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem*, Viking (1998).
- [2] G. Cornell, J.H. Silverman, and G. Stevens (eds), *Modular Forms and Fermat's Last Theorem*, Springer (1997).
- [3] S. Singh, *Fermat's Last Theorem*, Fourth Estate (1997).
- [4] A. Van der Poorten, *Notes on Fermat's Last Theorem*, John Wiley & Sons (1996).

ICMS Instructional Conference OPERATOR ALGEBRAS AND OPERATOR SPACES

5-14 April 2000

Scientific Organising Committee

- V. Jones (UC Berkeley)
- E.C. Lance (Leeds)
- G. Pedersen (Copenhagen)
- G. Pisier (Paris)
- S. Popa (UCLA)
- A.M. Sinclair (Edinburgh) (Local Organiser)
- G. Skandalis (Paris)

This conference, the latest of a series in analysis run by ICMS, aims both to introduce this active field of mathematics to younger scientists and to provide an opportunity for specialists to exchange ideas. The programme takes the form of several series of lectures (each series consisting of 2 or 3 one-hour lectures) designed to introduce and elaborate upon a particular field, such as operator spaces, free probability, exact C^* -algebras, subfactors and related areas of operator algebras. These series will be complemented by more specialised talks examining current trends. In addition to the formal lectures, there will be ample opportunity for informal tutorials and discussions.

The meeting is supported by the European Commission.

Speakers will include:

- C. Anantharamam-de la Roche (Orleans, France)
- D. Bisch (UC Santa Barbara, USA)
- K. Dykema (Texas A & M, USA)
- U. Haagerup (Odense, Denmark)
- V. Jones (UC Berkeley, USA)
- E. Kirchberg (Berlin, Germany)
- V. Paulsen (Houston, Texas, USA)
- G. Pisier (Paris VI, France)
- S. Popa (UCLA, USA)
- M. Rieffel (UC Berkeley, USA)
- D. Voiculescu (UC Berkeley, USA)

More information on the scientific content may be obtained from the local organiser: Allan M Sinclair (Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Edinburgh, JCMB, The Kings Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, UK, e-mail: allan@maths.ed.ac.uk).

The meeting website contains detailed information, including a provisional timetable and registration forms. You can locate it via the current ICMS programme site (<http://www.ma.hw.ac.uk/icms/current/>).

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

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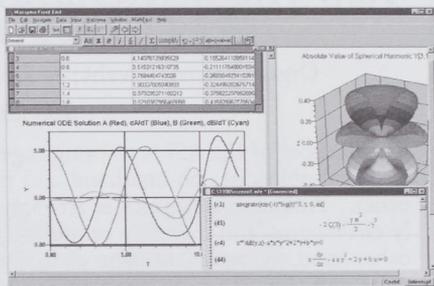
Superiority of Macsyma Maths Software Proven

Macsyma's superiority in many areas over newer, less mature competitors was recently **proven** by Michael Wester's 1999 comparison of maths software. (Wiley, 1999, see <http://www.chartwellyorke.com>).

From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Michael Wester compared leading symbolic maths packages. Macsyma 2.1 was the most powerful by this test in 1995. Macsyma 2.4 today is essentially equal with Maple and leads Mathematica by 14%. Macsyma leads in 13 of 30 categories while Maple and Mathematica each lead in 7 categories - and yet Macsyma is a fraction of the cost at £150 + vat for a PC or Unix licence (or £25 Student Licence).

If you already own Mathematica, Maple, MathCad, MuPad, Derive, Axiom or Matlab, you can "crossgrade" to Macsyma for £85 + vat from UK distributors Chartwell-Yorke, see below for contact details.

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Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences
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NEW THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO STRONGLY
CORRELATED SYSTEMS

Organisers: A. Tselik; A. Zawadowski; T. Giamarchi; H. Saleur

10 - 20 April 2000

The purpose of the ASI is to bring together researchers of different profiles; mathematical physicists on one hand and people working closer to experiment on the other. Problems in physics of strongly correlated systems are very mathematically challenging and therefore require sophisticated methods to solve them. On the other hand, to formulate them properly one needs a detailed knowledge of real systems and thus we need people with their feet firmly standing on the ground of experiment.

Speakers (already confirmed): I. Affleck, J. Cardy, V. Emory, P. Fendley, A. Georges, T. Giamarchi, F.D.M. Haldane, I. Kogan, G. Kotliar, S. Lukyanov, C. Nayak, A. Nersisyan, S. Sachdev, H. Saleur, F. Smirnov.

Location and Costs: The conference will take place at the Newton Institute and accommodation for participants will be provided at Wolfson Court, adjacent to the Institute. The conference package costs £495, which includes registration fee, accommodation, breakfast and dinner from dinner on Sunday 9 April until after breakfast on Thursday 20 April, and lunches and refreshments on the days that lectures take place. Limited financial support will be available to young researchers from EC Member States and Associated States¹ and researchers from NATO² and Partner³ countries. The conference will be restricted to about 80 participants.

Applications: Application forms and further details are available from the WWW (<http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/programs/scw02.html>). Completed application forms should be sent to Maureen Clark at the Newton Institute or via e-mail (m.clark@newton.cam.ac.uk). Closing date for the receipt of applications is **30 November 1999**.

¹ EC Member States: Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; The Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom.

Associated States: Iceland; Liechtenstein; Norway.

² NATO Countries: Belgium; Canada; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States.

³ Partner Countries: Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bulgaria; Estonia; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Latvia; Lithuania; Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Tajikistan; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



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DIARY

The diary lists Society meetings and other events publicized in the *Newsletter*. Further information can be obtained from the appropriate LMS Newsletter whose number is given in brackets. A fuller list of meetings and events is given in the Society's web site (<http://www.lms.ac.uk/meetings/diary.html>).

NOVEMBER 1999

- 2-5 Hilbert's 10th Problem, Relations with Arithmetic and Algebraic Geometry Workshop, Gent University, Belgium (271)
5 North British Functional Analysis Seminar, Newcastle University (276)
6 Operator Theory Meeting, Newcastle University (276)
19 LMS Meeting - Annual General Meeting, London
19 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Glasgow University (275)
20 Belfast Functional Analysis Day, Belfast University (274)

DECEMBER 1999

- 4 Scottish Geometry & Topology Day, Glasgow University (276)
10 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Heriot-Watt University (275)

JANUARY 2000

- 5-8 Non-Fermi Liquid Effect in Metallic Systems Conference, Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge (275)
14 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Edinburgh University (275)

FEBRUARY 2000

- 4-6 Meeting in Honour of David Burgess's 65th Birthday, Nottingham University (274)
11 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Edinburgh University (275)
28 Feb - 3 Mar Hyperbolic Problems Conference, Magdeburg, Germany (275)

MARCH 2000

- 10 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Dundee University (275)
20-24 LMS Invited Lectures: The Geometry of Isomonodromic Deformations (B. Dubrovin), Mathematical Institute, Oxford
20-24 Stochastic Analysis, LMS/EPSC Short Course, Oxford (276)
27-31 Quantum Computing Instructional Course, ICMS Edinburgh (276)
31-1 Apr Modelling Spatiotemporal Dynamics in Interacting Systems, LMS Meeting, Oxford (276)

APRIL 2000

- 3-14 Approximation, Complex Analysis & Potential Theory Seminar, Montreal University (276)
5-14 Operator Algebras and Operator Spaces

- Instructional Conference, ICMS, Edinburgh (276)
10-20 New Theoretical Approaches to Strongly Correlated Systems NATO/EC Summer School, Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge (276)
11-14 Differential Geometry Workshop, Leeds University (274)
17-20 British Mathematical Colloquium, Leeds University (274)
25-27 Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference, Queen Mary & Westfield College, London (276)

MAY 2000

- 5 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Stirling University (275)

JUNE 2000

- 2 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, St Andrews University (275)

JULY 2000

- 3-7 Functional Analysis Meeting, Technical University, Valencia, Spain (265)
10-14 3rd European Congress of Mathematics, Barcelona, Spain (272)
10-14 Free Surface Flows IUTAM Symposium, Birmingham University (272)
17-21 Integrable Systems in Differential Geometry, Tokyo, Japan (275)
17-22 International Congress of Mathematical Physics, Imperial College, London (257)

SEPTEMBER 2000

- 10-17 Geometry of Quiver-Representations and Preprojective Algebras Summer School, Isle of Thorns, Sussex University (275)
18-23 Differential Geometry International Congress, Bilbao, Spain (275)

APRIL 2001

- 9-12 British Mathematical Colloquium, Glasgow University

JULY 2001

- 1-6 British Combinatorial Conference, Sussex University (276)
9-13 Stochastic Processes and their Applications Conference, Cambridge (275)

AUGUST 2001

- 12-19 Homological Conjectures for Finite-Dimensional Algebras Summer School, Nordfjordeid, Norway (275)

AUGUST 2002

- 20-28 ICM2002, Beijing, China (272)

The Newsletter is published monthly except in August. Items and advertisements for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Susan Oakes, by e-mail, fax or post to the LMS office (addresses below), to arrive before the first day of the month prior to publication.

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