

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

August 2001

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Samantha Strindberg for the successful defence of her thesis on ‘Optimized Automated Survey Design in Wildlife Population Assessment’. Sam is now a statistician at the Wildlife Conservation Society, based at New York Zoo.
 - to Jiaxin Hu on successfully defending his thesis entitled ‘Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations on Fractals’.
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WELCOME

- to Ken Newman, who will spend a year here on sabbatical. Ken is from the Division of Statistics, University of Idaho, and his research interests are in the use of state-space models for fish populations. Ken will be working primarily with CREEM (especially RUWPA) and SMRU.
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NEWS

- Thomas Wiegelmann attended the ‘Secci Consortium meeting’ from July 12-13 in Abingdon and briefly outlined his project ‘Reconstruction of Coronal Magnetic Fields’ which is planned for use in the Stereo/Secci 3D-reconstruction software package.
- Ilya Silin (Max Plack Institut fuer Aeronomie, Katlenburg-Lindau, Germany) visited the Solar group from July 16 - August 1. He worked on kinetic space plasma simulations and gave a talk entitled ‘2D Kinetic Simulations of Current Sheet Instabilities using a Vlasov-code’ on July 18.

- St Andrews was well represented at the Thematic Term on Semigroups, Automata and Languages held at the Observatorio da Universidade de Coimbra between May 2 and July 11. Luis Descalco and James Mitchell were present at the School on Algorithmic Aspects of the Theory of Semigroups and its Applications held from May 2 to 11, and the School on Automata and Languages held from June 4 to 8. They were joined by Peter Campbell for the School on Semigroups and Applications held from July 2 to 6. The St Andrews group was made up to five with the attendance of Colin Campbell and Nik Ruskuc at the Workshop on Presentations and Geometry held from July 9 to 11 at which Nik was a principal speaker. Seminars were also given at this Workshop by James and Luis.
- Colin Campbell and Peter Campbell attended a conference on Finitely-presented groups: questions and algorithms which was held at the Università degli Studi di Trento from 23-26 July.
- Thomas Neukirch gave a talk in the Applied Mathematics Seminar at the University of Glasgow on 24 May. His title was ‘3D Models of Solar Magnetic Fields’.
- Thomas Neukirch visited the Institute of Theoretical Physics of the Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany between 29 June and 20 July to collaborate with Slava Titov and Gunnar Hornig on various projects concerning magnetic reconnection. He also discussed possible future collaborations with the Bochum group within the PLATON Research Training Network while he was there, in particular with Rami Vainio and Horst Fichtner.

During the last two weeks of his visit Thomas was joined by Solar Theory Group PhD student Francois-Xavier Bocquet who is also collaborating with Slava Titov on 3D MHD equilibria of flux tubes.

- Clare Parnell visited Craig Deforest at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, CO for 4 weeks during July. Whilst there, she worked on coronal plumes, gave a seminar entitled ‘A model of the solar magnetic carpet’, climbed 2 fourteeners (mountains over 14,000 ft) and got hailed on by cherry-sized hail whilst *sleeping* in a bivi bag!

NEXT ISSUE

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 6th September.