

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS



NEWSLETTER



Autumn/Winter 2010

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOMES

- Congratulations to Tony Samuel on the successful defence of his PhD thesis, “A commutative noncommutative fractal geometry”.
 - Congratulations to Marit Hartveit on the successful defence of her PhD thesis, “The Lesser Names - The teachers of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and other aspects of Scottish mathematics, 1867-1946”.
 - Welcome to Jie Cheng who joined the Statistics Division in August as a teaching fellow, and is primarily based at the Observatory.
 - We warmly welcome all our new PhD students, and wish them an enjoyable and productive time with us.
 - We welcome Yann Peresse and Tony Samuel to the School as EPSRC PhD Plus postdocs (both have been in the School for their undergraduate and postgraduate studies).
 - In January we will be welcoming a new staff member in Analysis: Dr Mike Todd will be joining us from Boston.
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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Colva Roney-Dougal was in Bangalore in August, at the International Mathematical Union. She then flew to Hyderabad, for the International Congress of Mathematicians. After this, she travelled to Montreal, for a Workshop on Complexity and Group-based Cryptography, part of the

Thematics Semester “Geometric, algorithmic, asymptotic group theory and applications”.

- Max Neunhoffer also travelled to India in late August/early September; to the GAC2010 - GROUPS ACTIONS COMPUTATIONS 2010 conference in Allahabad, where he gave a lecture series on “Computational Group Theory” and ran (together with Juergen Mueller) the workshop “GAP exercises: small programming projects”. He also gave a talk about “Generalisations of Small Cancellation Theory” at the conference.
- Nik visited Belfast from 30th August - 2nd September, where he gave an invited lecture at the Workshop on Algebra, Combinatorics, Dynamics and Applications.
- Kenneth Falconer spent much of August and September in China where he gave some 9 talks and had research discussions with many staff and students. He spent two weeks at the spacious new campus of East China Normal University in Shanghai, where his former PhD student Jun Miao is a lecturer, and where a two day conference was organised to mark Kenneth’s visit. He then travelled south to spend a week at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, built on an incredibly steep hillside. A 24 hour train journey took him back north to Beijing where Jiaxian Hu, who did his PhD in St Andrews 10 years ago, is now professor at Tsinghua University. China is a fascinating country to visit with generous hospitality for visiting academics (though the food takes some getting used to!) with the Chinese government currently spending a great deal of money on their universities.
- Magda Carr and Stuart King undertook 6 weeks laboratory work in the hydraulics lab at the University of Oslo in Norway during September and October where they generated very large breaking internal solitary waves.
- Ineke De Moortel gave an invited review talk on MHD coronal seismology at the 4th Hinode meeting, held in Palermo (11-15 Oct). She also gave a seminar in Glasgow on 20th October and in Preston on 29 November on ‘Coronal Seimology with transverse wave oscillations’.
- Jonathan Fraser and Tony Samuel gave talks at the CODY Autumn Workshop on ‘Fractals in deterministic and random dynamics’ in Warsaw in October.

- Ineke De Moortel and Alan Hood attended a 2 day workshop at the University of Warwick (18-19 November) on 'Waves and Reconnection'. Both gave talks about their recent work.
- Magda Carr, David Dritschel and Stuart King attended and presented work at the 2nd Norway-Scotland Internal Wave Symposium at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in November.
- Ruth King was an invited speaker at the recent International Biometrics Society (British and Irish Region) and Young Statistics Section of the Royal Statistics Society joint meeting on "Capture recapture: developments and applications" at Rothamsted Research (Hertfordshire) on the 26th November. She spoke on "(A review of) Bayesian capture-recapture analyses using a state-space framework" and only just made it back home driving through blizzards at Kirkcaldy....
- A group of staff, postdocs and research students from St Andrews braved the snow and transport difficulties to travel to Edinburgh on 7th December to meet the panel of international experts who are conducting the International Review of UK Research in the Mathematical Sciences. Kenneth gave a short presentation on Mathematical Analysis in Scotland and members of the group took part in sometimes lively discussions on the state of research and its funding.
- Magda Carr travelled to the Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia in December to visit Dr Janek Laanearu with a view to preparing a research proposal on "The interaction between internal waves and sand bars in the Baltic Sea".
- Colin Campbell and Markus Pfeiffer attended Nikolaus 2010 held at RWTH Aachen from 10-11 December.
- Kenneth Falconer has gained a Royal Society Newton International Post-doctoral Fellowship for Xiong Jin for 2 years starting in January. Xiong is from Beijing but did his PhD in Paris and will be working on multifractal analysis of stochastic processes.
- Ruth King will represent St Andrews within the Academic Steering and Management Group of the Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre (SMSTC) from 2011 - 2013, following Alan Hood's stepping down from this role.

- On 21 January 2011, Max Neunhoeffler will give a public lecture for the EMS in Edinburgh with the title “Sudokus and Mathematics”. It is aimed at all mathematics students and other interested people in the university.

NEXT ISSUE

Please send material for the next Newsletter to: mcsupdate@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk