

# MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# NEWSLETTER

January - February 2008

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## WELCOME

- Welcome to David Pascoe, who is joining the Solar Group as a Postdoc for the next two years to work on Coronal Seismology. David has done his PhD on MHD oscillations in coronal loops with Valery Nakariakov and Tony Arber in Warwick, both former St Andrews postdocs. David is sharing Room 119 with Andrew Haynes.
- Welcome to Tuomas Rajala from the University of Jyvaeskylae, Finland, who is currently visiting Janine Illian. He is a PhD student with Prof Antti Penttinen. Anttie is one of Janine's co-authors on a book that appeared in January, published by Wiley entitled 'Statistical Analysis and Modelling of Spatial Point Patterns'
- Welcome to Angelika Studeny who started as a new PhD student in January and will be working with Janine Illian, Steve Buckland and Anne Magurran from Biology.
- Welcome to Michelle Murray, a former Solar Group PhD student who is now a postdoc at MSSL. Michelle visited the Solar Group for two weeks during February and gave a seminar on 'Interchange Reconnection: A mechanism for transient coronal dimming '.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Andrew Haynes on the successful defence of his PhD thesis on Monday 14th January.
- Congratulations to David Dritschel who was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

- Congratulations to Janine Illian who has been awarded a PhD studentship funded by Microsoft Research in January. The studentship is due to be advertised soon.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

- Each school in the university has been awarded £250 to facilitate research staff activities within the school, for example to cover catering costs of a school meeting of research staff, to host a seminar or fund a speaker. The primary focus should be on activities to enhance the generic and career management skills of the research staff. Ideas on how to use this fund are welcome. Please contact Louise Burt ([louise@mcs.st-and.ac.uk](mailto:louise@mcs.st-and.ac.uk)).
- During a whirlwind trip to London, Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, Alex Craik met historian of physics Olivier Darrigol in Paris. He then attended Heffers bookshop in Cambridge to launch the (now affordable) softcover edition of his book "Mr Hopkins' Men...". There, he addressed the assembled throng who had turned up (at least eight people); and he and wife Elizabeth were given an excellent dinner afterwards, courtesy of Springer.

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## SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Rhona Maclean gave an invited seminar on "Magnetic structure of a solar coronal bright point" at the Centre for Astrophysics at UCLan in Preston, on the 21st of February.
- On 11th January, Ineke De Moortel organised an RAS Specialist Discussion Meeting in London on 'Coronal Heating: New Observational Results and Forward Modelling'.
- Thomas Neukirch, together with four other colleagues from the UK, organised a three day workshop on "Solar Kinetics and MHD" at Coseners House, Abdingdon. The workshop was attended by 28 participants from all over the UK, among them Solar Group PhD student Mike Harrison, and was funded by STFC. Apart from six overview talks there were intense working group discussions on how to close the gap between kinetic theory and MHD for solar physics. Judging by the feedback of the participants the workshop has been quite successful and a number of new collaborative projects seem to have been initiated during the three days.

- In January, Eric Rexstad and Louise Burt attended a 2.5 day workshop on the analysis of CODA survey data where they gave presentations on different types of analyses. CODA (Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance) was a large scale, multinational survey which took place last summer in the Atlantic. The workshop took place in Valsain, a picturesque village in the mountains about 50 miles outside Madrid, known for an ancient aquaduct which the workshop participants visited on a warm and sunny afternoon. Although much older, this aquaduct was dwarfed by the huge Roman aquaduct in the nearby town of Segovia.
- In January, Richard Scott gave a talk at the annual Dynamics of Rotating Fluids meeting at UCL on ‘Potential vorticity mixing and equatorial super-rotation in planetary atmospheres’.
- In January Dr Madhu Bhattacharjee travelled to Hawaii to present her work at the 2008 Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing, with a travel award by Stanford University and Applied Biosystems. She was also an invited session organiser for ICONQR conference, hosted by Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, in January 2008.
- Clare Parnell and Andrew Haynes visited Klaus Galsgaard in Copenhagen for a week in February. Andrew gave a seminar entitled ‘3D Magnetic Reconnection in an Elementary Solar Interaction’.
- On 28 and 29 February, James McLaughlin gave an invited seminar to the members of the Solar Physics and Space Plasma Research Centre at the University of Sheffield on ‘Nonlinear fast magnetoacoustic wave propagation in the neighbourhood of a 2D magnetic X-point’.
- Ineke De Moortel and Nicholas Owen visited Danielle Bewsher (a former Solar Group PhD student) at RAL for a week in February. Ineke De Moortel also gave an invited seminar (‘Forward Modelling of Coronal Intensity Perturbations’) at Queen’s University Belfast on 27th February.
- Solar group PhD students David MacTaggart, Dee McDougall, Anna Lisa Restante, Anthony Yeates and PostDoc Andrew Haynes attended the SOLAIRE Postgraduate School on Computational Methods in Astrophysics in Bochum, Germany from 2 March - 14 March 2008. Thomas Neukirch lectured at the School on the topic of Stationary MHD.
- In late December Janine Illian visited Prof Martin Schlather at the University of Goettingen, Germany, and gave a seminar entitled ‘Similarities and

differences in multivariate spatial data'. She also visited Dr Leeza Pachepsky at Microsoft Research, Cambridge in December and February and gave a seminar entitled 'Spatial point process modelling and its applications in ecology'.

## **NEXT ISSUE**

Please send material for the next Newsletter to: [mcsupdate@mcs.st-and.ac.uk](mailto:mcsupdate@mcs.st-and.ac.uk)