

# MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# NEWSLETTER

June 2001

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## WELCOME

- to Philip Le Feuvre, who is the Computer Officer for CREEM. Philip has a wide range of experience in universities. He comes to us from the University of the Highlands and Islands, where he was network analyst. Before that, he was a system specialist at the School of Design, Univ of Dundee; in IT Services, Univ of Dundee; in the Computing Service at the Univ of Glasgow; systems/net administrator at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; in the Computing Centre at University College Swansea; and in our own Computing Lab (now IT Services) during 1981-86. A tortuous route from the John Honey Building to the Mathematical Institute!
- to Jaume Terradas who is visiting the solar group this month. Jaume is a research student in La Palma, Mallorca and has been working on prominence oscillations.
- Volkmar Holzwarth who is also visiting the solar group, and has given a joint astronomy-solar talk. Volkmar is a PhD student with Manfred Schussler, in the Max Planck Institute in Lindau (where, incidentally a former postdoc from the group is now the Herr Direktor!), and is working on thin flux tube theories of magnetic activity in the Sun and stars.
- to back Gordon Petrie who is now a postdoc at University of Crete, Heraklion and will be visiting Thomas Neukirch for a few days.

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## NEWS

- Several members of the Solar Theory Group (Colin Beveridge, Francois-Xavier Bocquet, Klaus Galsgaard, Chris Mellor, Thomas Neukirch, Eric Priest, Zaharenia Romeou, Jean-Claude Thelen and Thomas Wiegmann)

attended the ‘1st PLATON Workshop on Flares, CMEs and Reconnection’ at the Ruhr-University Bochum (Germany) on the 11th and 12th of June. PLATON is a European Research Training Network which is coordinated by the Solar Theory Group, and it focuses on solar and astrophysical plasma theory. The workshop was organized by Gunnar Hornig (Bochum) and Thomas Neukirch (Network Coordinator) with a total of 27 participants. Talks were given by C. Beveridge on “3D magnetic topologies in the solar corona”, by K. Galsgaard on “Perturbations of a 3D null point”, by T. Neukirch on “Flares, CMEs and Reconnection: What did PLATON promise?”, by E. Priest on “Flares and CMEs: Open questions”, by Z. Romeou on “A numerical approach on the calculation of 3D MHS equilibria” and by T. Wiegmann on “The role of magnetic reconnection for CMEs And the origin of the slow solar wind”.

The workshop was also attended by several former members of the Solar Theory Group, namely Claire Foullon (at the moment University of Leuven), Gordon Petrie (University of Crete, Heraklion) and Erwin Verwichte (Royal Observatory, Brussels), as well as Slava Titov who is a regular visitor of the Solar Theory Group and now has a position in Bochum.

- Last month several members of the Solar Theory Group went to a workshop dedicated to MHD waves in astrophysical plasmas. The workshop was held in Palma, Mallorca, 9-11 May, and supported by an INTAS grant held by Bernard Roberts and a NATO grant held by Dr J L Ballester (Palma). The workshop was organised jointly by Prof Roberts and Dr Ballester. The opening review was given by Bernard Roberts on “MHD waves in the solar atmosphere: Theory”, and there were talks from St Andrews participants by Istvan Ballai (“Nonlinear waves in rarefied plasmas”), Ineke De Moortel (“Applications of wavelet analysis to coronal oscillations”), Alan Hood (“Phase mixing of Alfvén pulses”), Temury Zaqarashvili (“Swing amplification of shear Alfvén waves through periodical density variations in a conductive medium”), and Claire Foullon (“Effects of some internal magnetic fields on solar oscillations”). (Claire is currently at the Center for Plasma Astrophysics, Leuven, as part of the PLATON Network led by Thomas Neukirch.) Alan Hood chaired one of the sessions. The workshop attracted about 30 participants, bringing together INTAS colleagues from Tbilisi (Georgia), Palma and St Andrews as well as others from as far afield as Australia, Venezuela, Belgium, England, Germany, Norway and Portugal. Unfortunately participants from the Russian node in the

INTAS Network were prevented from attending because of either illness or an airline strike. Workshop proceedings are planned for publication in the autumn.

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## **SEMINARS**

- Statistics L.T. B - 4pm)
    - Thursday 28th June Professor Luis Raul PERICCHI (University of Puerto Rico, Visiting University of Bristol) “Objective Bayes Factors and Posterior Model Probabilities: A Host of Potential Applications”
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## **NEXT ISSUE**

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to [mcsnews@mcs](mailto:mcsnews@mcs) by 12pm Thursday 2nd August.