

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

May-June 2005

WELCOME

- The Analysis Group were pleased to welcome Antti Käenmäki (University of Jyväskylä) and John Hutchinson (Australian National University) on short research visits to St Andrews.
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CONGRATULATIONS

- Warm congratulations to David Pontin (former Solar Group PhD student) and Lynette on their recent engagement.
 - Congratulations to Arron Sloan who was awarded a Royal Statistical Society Prize (2005) for his performance in the MSci (Honours) Mathematics & Statistics at the University of St Andrews.
 - Congratulations to Francois-Xavier Bocquet for the successful defence of his thesis "Investigations of Current Build-up in Topologically Simple Magnetic Fields".
 - Congratulations to Alan Hood on obtaining a grant for the UK MHD Consortium of £202K. The school expects to obtain a SRIF3 award (around 200K) to fund the replacement of Copson.
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MISCELLANEOUS

- The University has hosted the award ceremony for the East Central Scotland Mathematical Challenge on the 1st of June. John O'Connor and Colin Campbell, who have been involved in the challenge for many years (as well as other members of the school), attended the ceremony together with Jean Reinaud. The East Central Scotland Mathematical Challenge is

currently coordinated by Giles Thomas, University of Dundee. The torch will be passed to Kenneth Falconer in 2006. The success of this event is also due to the great work and help provided by Valerie Sturrock and Peter Lindsay. Many thanks to both of them.

- Groups St Andrews 2005. The seventh in the series of Groups St Andrews conferences will be held in St Andrews from 30 July to 6 August. The previous conferences in the series were held in St Andrews (1981, 1985 and 1989), Galway (1993), Bath (1997) and Oxford (2001). The main speakers are Peter Cameron (Queen Mary, London), Rostislav I Grigorchuk (Texas A&M), Jonn C Meakin (Nebraska-Lincoln) and Akos Seress (Ohio State). For more information see the conference website at: <http://www.groupsstandrews.org/>
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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Len Thomas presented an invited talk at a conference on the "Environmental Consequences of Underwater Sound", in Arlington, Virginia in mid-March. The conference was also a review of the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR) Marine Mammal program. Len and others at CREEM share a large ONR grant to work on distance sampling methods development, so the talk was a chance for Len to tell ONR what he's been doing with their money (i.e. sing for his supper). Due to the preponderance of military types at the meeting, talks were actually called "briefings", although luckily meals were served in a dining room, not a mess hall.
- Dr Bob Gisiner, marine mammal program manager in ONR, paid a visit to CREEM on April 11th to meet people working on the project he's funding. CREEM hosted a buffet lunch attended by many members of the Sea Mammal Research Unit, and Bob gave an informal talk on "A little overview of what we do at ONR, how to apply for grants, how to deal with the frustration and disappointment of not getting grants, etc".
- Duncan Mackay visited the UCLan between the 3-6th May where he gave a seminar on "Magnetic Flux Transport Simulations of the Sun and Sun-Like Stars".
- Peter Gallagher (Dublin) visited the Solar Group from 4th to 6th May. Peter gave a Solar Group seminar and discussed a wide range of topics with various members of the group.

- Ineke De Moortel visited Klaus Galsgaard (Copenhagen) from 9th to 12th May to work on 3D numerical simulations of magnetic reconnection.
- Brigitta von Rekowski gave a contributed talk about Solar coronal heating by magnetic cancellation at the UK MHD meeting (26-27 May, Exeter).
- Alan Hood chaired a session and gave a talk on Flux Emergence at the UKMHD meeting.
- James McLaughlin attended the UKMHD meeting and gave a contributed talk on 'The coupling of fast and slow magneto-acoustic waves in a 2D null-point topology'.
- Michelle Murray presented a poster entitled '3D Simulations of Magnetic Flux Emergence' at the UKMHD meeting.
- Michelle Murray and Alan Hood spent the week starting 9th May at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Tenerife visiting Fernando Moreno-Insertis and Vasilis Archontis.
- Colin Campbell, Edmund Robertson, James Mitchell, Lizzie Kimber and Martyn Quick attended Groups Galway 2005 which was held in the National University of Ireland, Galway from 12 - 14 May. Colin gave an invited lecture 'The Fibonacci lengths of binary polyhedral groups and related groups'.
- Kenneth Falconer gave the opening lecture at the 'Fractals in Engineering' conference in Tours, France. Kenneth also made the after dinner speech at the conference dinner, held in the splendid environment of Chenonceau Chateau on the Loire.
- Riwal Plougonven gave seminars at the University of Reading (16 May) and the University of Toronto (10 June). He also presented 2 posters at the joint conferences (13-17 June) of the American Meteorological Society (13th conference on the Middle Atmosphere, 15th conference on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics)
- Thomas Neukirch has visited the University of Utrecht and the FOM Institute "Rijnhuizen" on 9-11 June. Apart from discussions with Professor Hans Goedbloed (FOM/Utrecht) and Dr Rony Keppens (FOM), he also participated in the PhD examination of Dieter Nickeler.

- Antonio J Diaz was invited to visit Sheffield for two weeks (16-27 May) and enjoyed the kind hospitality of the members of the group. He gave an seminar ("Oscillatory models of prominences"), and had discussions and feedback from various members and students from the group, specially professors R. Erdelyi, M. Ruderman and doctors C. Mendoza-Briceno and I. Balai. As a result, a couple of colaborations are underway.
- Cesar Mendoza-Briceno visited the Solar Group for 3 days during June. He did his PhD in the group and has been here on several other occasions. He gave a talk in the Waves subgroup meeting ("Coronal loop oscillations by random energy releases") and worked with A. Daz, B. Roberts, M. McEvan and D. MacKay. He also enjoyed playing football!

NEXT ISSUE

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