

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Daniel Mintz on the successful defence of his PhD thesis, “Mathematics for history’s sake: a new approach to Ptolemy’s Geography”.
 - Congratulations to Richard Gormley on the successful defence of his Ph.D thesis, “Animal population estimation using mark-recapture and plant-capture”.
 - Congratulations to Hannah Coutts on the successful defence of her Ph.D. thesis.
 - Congratulations to Angie and Ian Miguel, on the arrival of their daughter Emily Alice Miguel, who was born on Saturday 26th February, weighing 7 pounds 9 oz.
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WELCOMES

- Welcome to Mike Todd who started as a new lecturer in January. Mike works in dynamical systems, and comes to us from Boston where he was a postdoc. Mike will be based in Office 320.
 - Welcome to Xiong Jin who joined the Analysis Group in January as a Royal Society Newton International Fellow. After studying at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Xiong took his PhD in Paris where he also worked for a short time as a post doc. He is in Office 218.
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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Mike Todd made a research trip to Latin America from 5th-27th January, giving a minicourse on thermodynamic formalism for non-uniformly hyperbolic dynamical systems at a workshop on partial hyperbolicity at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), as well as at the Catholic University of Chile (PUC). He is now happily settling in at St Andrews.
- Several members of the Solar Group (Bernie, Alan, Clare, Ineke, Andy) attended a Royal Society International Seminar on ‘Wave Heating of the Solar Corona Revisited’, organized by Ineke, at The Kavli Royal Society Centre, Chichley Hall, Buckinghamshire in January. Alan, Clare and Andy gave talks at the meeting and Bernie chaired one of the sessions.
- In January, Janine Illian gave a seminar talk at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Edinburgh. She also visited Haavard Rue and his group at the University of Trondheim, Norway. In February Janine presented a talk on “Complex point process without grids or pain” at the Workshop on Bayesian Inference for Latent Gaussian Models with Applications in Zuerich. In the same month Sara Martino from the University of Trondheim visited Janine for a few days.
- In February, Sophie was an invited speaker at the Open University Winter Combinatorics Meeting (Milton Keynes), with a talk entitled “From sum-free sets to subgroups: what lies between?”
- In February, Richard Scott gave an invited talk at the Royal Astronomical Society special discussion meeting on Exoplanets. He also made research visits to Seattle and New York.
- Magda Carr welcomed Dr Janek Laanerau (Tallin University of Technology) and Dr Alan Cuthberston (Heriot Watt) to the School for two days in January. Together they submitted a proposal to HYDRALAB IV on “Dynamics of Restricted Exchange Flows in Coastal Inlets”.
- Magda Carr attended a conference in Les Houches (French Alps) on “Geophysical and Astrophysical Internal Waves” from Feb 6th to Feb 11th where she gave an invited talk.
- Colva gave a seminar at Southampton in March on Minimal and random generation of finite permutation and matrix groups.

- On Saturday 12th March, a Science Discovery Day, open to the general public, was held in Physics as part of the Fife Science Festival Week. The Solar Group (mostly the PhD students) manned a stall, giving out postcards and there were magnetic toys to play with. They also gave 4 lectures on “The Sun, its Effects on Earth and Space Travel”. These went very well and we had between 200-250 in total for all the talks. The students all did a great job and really enjoyed themselves, as did the general public.
- In March, Janine Illian travelled to London, where she attended a very inspiring Ordinary Meeting at the Royal Statistical Society. At this meeting a paper by Lindgren, Rue and Lindstroem was read, on an explicit link between Gaussian fields and Gaussian random fields; Janine presented a short comment on the paper. Later in the month Janine travelled to Enschede, the Netherlands, to participate in and present at the conference on spatial statistics.
- On 16 March, Ineke De Moortel gave a seminar on “Coupled Kink and Alfven waves in the solar corona” in Sheffield.

NEXT ISSUE

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