

Newsletter

Mathematics & Statistics

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PHYLOGENETICS WORKSHOP, CAMBRIDGE, UK



Some familiar faces currently in the UK attending the phylogenetics workshop at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge – academics Mike Steel and Charles Semple; former postdocs Erick Matsen, Wim Hordijk and Stefan Grünewald; PhD students Klaas Hartmann and Peter Humphries; and former Summer student Tanja Gernhard.

More than 80 participants took part in the first workshop *Current Challenges and Problems in Phylogenetics*, to launch the 4-month phylogenetics programme at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge, UK. Talks were presented by **Mike Steel** and **Charles Semple**, our PhD students **Klaas Hartmann** and **Peter Humphries**, and our former postdocs **Erick Matsen**, **Stefan Grünewald** and **Magnus Bordewich**. The week-long meeting was sponsored by EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) and organised by Vince Moulton (UEA), Daniel Huson (Tübingen), Brent Emerson (UEA) and Mike Steel. Two more workshops are planned in October and December, and at the last meeting PhD students **Beata Faller**, **Mareike Fischer** and **Simone Linz** will present talks.

- Mike Steel

PAPERS SUBMITTED:

Jennifer A Brown, Mohammad M Salei, Mohammad Moradi, Gavin Bell & David R Smith: *Adaptive two-stage sequential sampling* (submitted to Population Ecology)

BOOK CHAPTER ACCEPTED:

Lee D: *Exact Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithms and their applications in probabilistic data analysis and inference* (Intelligent Data Analysis: Developing New Methodologies Through Pattern Discovery and Recovery, H-F Wang ed., IGI Publishing)

PAPER ACCEPTED:

H-Q Bui & R S Laugesen: *Affine synthesis onto Lebesgue and Hardy spaces* (Indiana University J. Math)

SOCCER STARS – PRESENT & FUTURE!

A STAR IS BORN!

Adjunct Fellow (and everyone's favourite Irishman) John Newell and his wife Karen are now the proud parents of this cute little fellow, recently adopted from Guatemala.

John reports that little Juan (or Sean) Cristobal Newell is doing really well and is destined to be the next big thing in Irish soccer!



TOP TEAM!

Congratulations to Sarah Vincent and her Dux de Lux soccer team, which recently won the Division One Women's Knock-out Cup Final against Western. The score was 1:0 and Sarah, Player-Manager for Dux de Lux, also won the award for Most Valuable Player of the Season.

CONFERENCES & VISITS

Marco Reale: to give a talk entitled *Are stock market volatility series H-selfsimilar?* at the Workshop on Non-linear and Complex System Analysis, Brisbane, 27-29 September 2007

Xin Zhao: to give a talk entitled *Stochastic volatility on oxygen concentration of preterm infants* at the Workshop on Non-linear and Complex System Analysis, Brisbane, 27-29 September 2007

David Wall: to give a talk entitled *Functional equations with application in biology* at the Workshop on Recent Advances in Functional and Delay Differential Equations, University of Dalhousie, Nova Scotia, Canada, 1-5 November 2007

Qui Bui: research visit to the University of Illinois to collaborate with Rick Laugesen, November 2007

John Hannah: to give a talk entitled *Limits of solvability: unsolvable problems in Fibonacci's Liber Abaci* at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting, Wellington 12-15 December 2007

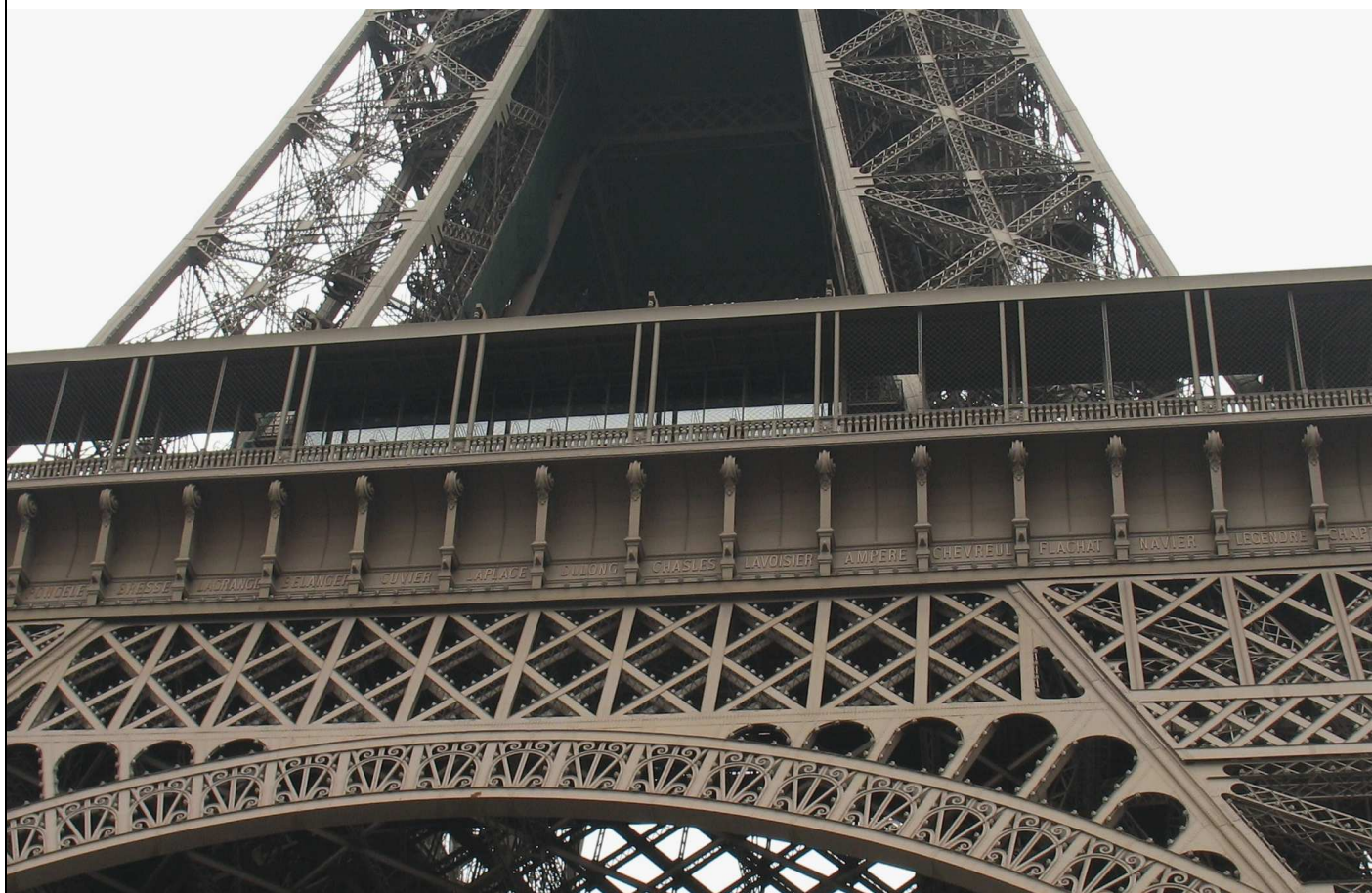
Gunter Steinke: to give a talk entitled *Old and new on the universal covering group of $SL(2, R)$* at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting, Wellington, 12-15 December 2007.

Mike Plank: to give a talk at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting, Wellington 12-15 December 2007

WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Extn</u>
Tobias Thierer	University of Auckland	M Steel	21/5/07	21/12/07	616	8876
Prof. Willy Hereman	Colorado School of Mines, USA	M Hickman	1/7/07	20/12/07	605	8028
Dr Timothy Robinson	University of Wyoming, USA	J Brown	5/11/07	28/6/08	605	8028

THE EIFFEL TOWER – A MATHEMATICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE



Those of you with amazing eyesight (or a computer screen) should be able to identify, on the base of the first level, many of the names of famous French scientists, including a number of mathematicians. The French, rightly, don't hold back when acknowledging their scientific greats.

- Douglas Bridges

MATHS PRODIGY, 9, SAYS UNIVERSITY TOO EASY!

A nine-year-old mathematics prodigy has become Hong Kong's youngest undergraduate, waltzing through his first day at university saying that classes were too easy. March Boedihardjo, an Indonesian-Chinese boy resident in Hong Kong, was accepted by Hong Kong's Baptist University to study for a Master's degree after gaining straight As in entrance A-level exams usually taken at 17 or 18.

The university has designed a 5-year programme for the child, but it has stirred controversy among some experts who say he might experience stunted personal and social development as a result.

-Reuters 5/9/07