The Interdivisional Group of Computational Physics

H. Grote
Secretary

The Computational Physics Group was established to provide a forum for the discussion of all subjects which concern the use of computers in physics. In the past decade, the computer has become an important and often essential tool in such branches of science as astrophysics, plasma, solid state and high energy physics to mention but a few, and it is clear that this trend will extend to other branches in the future. Although the physical problems in these fields are by their nature rather different, there is often considerable overlap in the difficulties encountered in computational and data handling methods, and in the numerical methods used. For example, astrophysics, meteorology, and solid state physics require the solution of partial differential equations in three dimensions ; high energy physics, meteorology and space physics require the recording and reduction of very large amounts of experimental data.

A proposal was put forward to the EPS Council in February 1970, to establish an Interdivisional Group of Computational Physics (see Europhysics News No. 8, March 1970), because it was felt that such a group could best provide the background for an exchange of views on computational problems between physicists of different fields, not only mathematical problems, but data handling and the use of computers in general as well.

The interdivisional approach has many advantages, such as making it possible to compare the computational aspects of a variety of physical problems, which may lead to the development of more generally applicable methods and systems. The approach of physicists in one field can be compared with that of physicists in other fields and each sector might reveal useful applications to the other. Unlike some other groups of the EPS which were in existence in another form prior to becoming a division of the EPS, the Computational Physics Group is newly founded. This fact, coupled with the principal aim of the group, *viz.* to establish and reinforce contact between different branches of physics, means that the main initial effort will be put on holding meetings — conferences, workshops and summerschools — stimulating the exchange of staff and students between laboratories, and encouraging the development of appropriate channels for the publication of papers in computational physics in Europe. An important step forward has been the recent extension of the scope of the Physics Communications Journal which will now accept papers describing applications of computers to physics.

The main effort has consisted of organizing an international conference on computational physics. A first attempt to set up a conference in Paris in September 1971 had to be abandoned, however, because of lack of financial resources.

Now, since November 1970, preparations are going ahead to hold a conference at CERN, Geneva, in April 1972, with the title "First European Conference on Computational Physics" and the theme "The Impact of Computers on Physics". This conference is meant to be the first in a series of perhaps biennial conferences organized by the Computational

Science Editor

A full-time **Editor** attached to the Main Secretariat in Geneva is required by the European Physical Society to take charge of publications. The work associated with this post will include the editing of Europhysics News and the development of this publication and other forms of information and communication with members of the Society.

English is required as first language, a physics background and several years experience in scientific or technical journalism. A knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage.

A monthly salary of not less than Sw.Fr. 3.500.— is envisaged.

Candidates should write in confidence stating their experience and including examples of the work for which they have been responsible, to the :

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