Computational Physics Group

The EPS Computational Physics Group was founded in 1972. Its primary aim is to organise international conferences and postgraduate schools on computational physics, and to sponsor specialised meetings, in association with EPS Divisions, on computation in different branches of physics, computers or software for physics. It also aims to establish working contacts in computational physics between European physicists in industry and research institutions, and to stimulate visits and exchanges of physicists and students between laboratories with interests in computational physics.

The present Board of the Group consists of the following:

Individual members:
- M. Bloch, CEN-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette
- P.G. Burke (Chairman), Queen's University, Belfast, and Daresbury Laboratory
- F. James, CERN, Geneva
- E.W. Laing, University of Glasgow, Glasgow.

Delegate members:
- S. Cooperman, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv
- J. Nadrchal, Institute of Solid State Physics, Prague
- R. Zelazny, Institute of Nuclear Research, Swierk.

Co-opted members:
- K.A. Berrington, Queen's University, Belfast (Secretary)
- D. Biskamp, Max-Planck Institut für Plasmaphysik, Garching
- G. Diercksen, Max-Planck Institut für Physik und Astrophysik, Munich.

EPS Address

Members of the European Physical Society are asked to take note of the change in our Post Office Box number.

Essential information that needs to be included in envelopes addressed to the Secretariat is:

European Physical Society
P.O. Box 69
CH-1213 Petit-Lancy

Please note that all the numbers cited above should be quoted.

I.O.M. Rebate

The Institute of Physics of the U.K. wishes it to be known that its offers to EPS members for reduced subscription rates on I.O.P. journals (EN, 8, 10, p. 12) in future covers three professional magazines, as well as Reports on Progress in Physics and one research journal.

European Conferences on Computational Physics

The inaugural meeting of the Group, the First European Conference on Computational Physics, entitled "The Impact of Computers on Physics", was held in April 1972 at CERN, Geneva, and covered a broad range of computer applications.

More recently, it was decided to hold a series of topical conferences, and the Second European Conference, held in Garching, F.R.G. in April 1975, had as its title "Computing in Plasma Physics and Astrophysics". The topics covered included stellar evolution, transport processes in laboratory plasmas and in stars, high energy astrophysics, particle simulation of plasmas and stellar systems, magneto-fluid equilibrium and stability, non-linear dynamics and resistive instabilities. The proceedings of this conference were published in Computer Physics Communications, 12 (1976).

The next conference in the series will be held at Nottingham University, U.K., 12-15 September 1978, on "Computational Atomic and Molecular Physics", with emphasis on studies of stationary states and scattering of atoms and molecules. This conference will be combined with the annual Quantum Theory Conference that is held in England.

It is hoped that the computational conferences will in future be held annually, and some thought is being given to the fourth conference in 1979. A likely topic is "Computing in High Energy Physics".

European Summer Schools in Computational Physics

The second main activity of the Group is to organise postgraduate summer schools. In June 1975, a highly successful School was held in Smolenice Castle in Slovakia, not far from Bratislava. Lectures were given on numerical mathematics, computational science and hardware, and their applications to physics. In all, 109 students attended the School, 54 from the host country, Czechoslovakia, 28 from other eastern European countries and 27 from the West.

The second School took place during August 1977, in Libice Castle, Bohemia, near Prague. Its theme was "On-line and Real-time Computing in Physics". There were 114 students and lecturers participating at the School, 53 from Czechoslovakia, 35 from other countries in eastern Europe and 26 from western countries.

The success of the first and second Schools is due largely to the hard work of the local organisers, in particular J. Nadrchal, a member of the Computational Physics Board. Arrangements are already being made to continue the pattern, now firmly established, of holding these Schools in various regions of Czechoslovakia biennially. It is thus intended that the third School will take place in September 1979 in the Beskydy Mountains of North-East Moravia.

Membership

In the five years since the conference at CERN the membership of the Computational Physics Group has risen steadily to over 300, from some 30 countries, indicating the growth and importance of this field of research. Members of the EPS who wish to join the Group should do so through the EPS Main Secretariat.

Further information on the activities of the Group may be obtained from the Secretary, Dr. K.A. Berrington, Dept. of Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland.

E. W. Laing