

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the Durham-RAL Database Committee held on Tuesday 17th May 1988, at 2pm in the Seminar Room of the Physics Department, Durham University.

Present:

Prof A D Martin (Chairman), Drs P Aurenche, P D B Collins, C J Maxwell, D J Miller, R G Roberts, W J Stirling, R Turnbull, D M Websdale, M R Whalley, Miss H Davidson.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr M R Pennington.

AGENDA (prepared by MRW)

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Progress Report
4. Data Reviews
5. Future Plans/Discussion
6. Any other business

Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed Hannah Davidson to the Database Project and introduced her to the committee. She is to replace Liz Miller as Coding Assistant who is leaving at the end of May. He also welcomed Dr R Turnbull from Glasgow who is replacing Dr I Skillicorn.

Item 1: Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

MRW reported that more than 500 copies of the HEPDATA user's guide had been distributed at CERN. ADM read the SERC's response to the request for a Data Officer. It suggested that we wait until October 1990 to make the request. Other aspects of the Database operation were considered satisfactory.

Items 2-4 Progress Report, Future Plans

MRW reported that there had been a pronounced increase in user statistics around January 1988, coinciding with the installation of the Database on CERN VM and the distribution of the new user guides. Access to the SLAC (PPF) preprint Database for the four months January to April 1988 were already nearly two-thirds of the total SLAC (PPF) accesses for the whole of last year! Accesses to the HEP Data part of the Database for the same period had increased too, with nearly as many accesses in four months as in the whole of last year. The number of users was 171 at RAL and 180 at CERN, making a total of 351 in the four-month period to be compared with 340 for the whole of last year. Coding was continuing as always with 80 records having been coded so far this year — 30 at RAL and 50 at Durham. It had proved very easy to keep the CERN VM version of the SLAC PPF Database updated. In fact the CERN version was sometimes updated slightly faster than our own. The HEP Data Database was harder to update. It required several

hours to transfer the complete 20 Mbyte database. However, transferring only the changes regularly with less frequent six monthly complete updates was practicable. Problems had been experienced with unreliable tape drives at CERN. DMW noted that Mike Metcalfe, the User Officer at CERN, was the person to contact to possibly obtain more disk space. He also noted that CERN was going over to the use of cartridges and so complete updates could, in principle, be sent by post. DM asked if ISIS was suffering by our success. MRW did not know but noted that the CERN library seemed keen to help in the promotion of the Database service.

Improvements to the Service

MRW reported that there was now a repeat on the PF6 key in full screen mode. The date last updated was also now displayed. The SLAC PPF Database was correlated with the Data Database via independent record numbers (IRN's). Some had been missed. We are trying to go back to 1980 and make it complete from that date. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that some people apparently do not send their preprints to SLAC. We plan to add such records to the SLAC database.

As far as promotion and advertising of the service was concerned a poster session had been given at the IOP meeting at Royal Holloway College. A demonstration was also planned at the Rutherford Lab Experimentalist's Summer School. A poster display could also be given at the Arles Multiparticle Meeting in June (Action: CJM), and at the Munich Conference in August (Action: PDBC, CJM).

Database Reviews

Discussion then turned to the subject of Data Reviews. The review on Energy-Energy Correlations by Drs Stirling and Whalley had now been distributed. MRW and PA were currently collaborating on a review of High- p_T Photon production. The plan was to include all data (good or not so good) up to the latest with a graphical comparison to show their inter-relation. One would like to compare data in specific rapidity bins, but the values used varied with different groups, thus necessitating correction of the data. RT commented that there was a big spread on the x_T of the data and hence rather little to compare in a given kinematical range. $\bar{p}p$ data were now available. DMW noted that the most reliable difference was between π^+ and π^- and not \bar{p}/p . Should not high p_T photoproduction be included, in particular the NA14 results which give evidence for fractionally charged quarks. ADM suggested that inclusion of photoproduction might make the review unwieldy and suggested sticking to prompt photons.

Turning to suggested new topics for reviews, RGR suggested the R-ratio in e^+e^- annihilation, the electroweak component and showing how α runs had recently been studied by Robin Marshall who was the ideal person to contact for collaboration on a review of the the data which went into this work. ADM noted that this seemed a well-defined and timely review. DM suggested a review on $B\bar{B}$ mixing and CP violation data. ADM suggested rare K decays. Drell-Yan was considered a good worthwhile topic with Fermilab E531 π^-p , $\bar{p}p$ data giving full double-differential

cross sections in M^2 and p_T^2 . A small review of $\gamma\gamma$ physics by Drs Roberts and Whalley had already been completed. DM noted that there was now a nice bundle of data on this topic with JADE and PLUTO nearing completion. It was suggested that MRP might be involved in such a review when he returned from leave of absence next academic year. Peter Bussey (Glasgow) and John Dainton (RAL) were suggested as other useful contacts. WJS noted that coming up to LEP it would be nice to have an update of the previous $\gamma\gamma$ review.

Future Plans

On the subject of future plans, the desirability of a citations database was discussed. The various potential misuses of such a database in providing misleading indicators of research performance were stressed, but ADM noted that there were many advantages, in particular the ability to search forwards in time as well as backwards when doing literature surveys to trace the development of a particular topic. MRW commented that a citations database could be updated with the same frequency as the PPF database at present. He noted that a complete list of electronic mail addresses of UK permanent staff in High Energy Physics had been produced, and asked whether FAX numbers should be included. DM said that he had a CERN list of FAX numbers for HEP institutions which he was happy to make available. ADM concluded that the citations database and a list of BITNET addresses and FAX numbers on the database should be implemented. (Action: MRW)

The date of the next meeting was set (provisionally) for 10am on the 4th January at Rutherford Labs.

The meeting ended at 4pm.

CJM 30/5/88

{ FAX }

