

Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Durham-RAL Database Committee, held on Monday 19th December 1988, at 2pm in the Seminar Room of the Physics Department, Durham University.

Present:

Prof.A.D.Martin (Chairman)	Dr.P.D.B.Collins
Dr.C.J.Maxwell	Dr.M.R.Pennington
Dr.R.G.Roberts	Dr.R.M.Turnbull
Dr.D.M.Websdale	Dr.D.J.Miller
Dr.M.R.Whalley	Miss H.M.Davidson

Apologies for absence were received from Dr.W.J.Stirling.

AGENDA (Prepared by MRW)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Progress Report
4. Questionnaire
5. E-mail Directories
6. Data Reviews
7. Future Plans/Discussion
8. AOB

Item 1: Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

ADM asked for any news concerning the request for a Data Officer. DJM replied that informal feedback was very favourable about the activities of the project, but there seemed no prospect for new manpower. RMT pointed out that we should apply by January 1990 not October 1990 as stated in the minutes. The Committee agreed.

In connection with the suggestion for a FAX numbers database MRW commented that some people did not want to make FAX numbers public to avoid being sent junk mail. DJM pointed out that FAX numbers were already included in the latest Berkeley addresses booklet. ADM commented that such a database would be useful, even in a modest initial form. DJM was reminded of the list of CERN FAX numbers which he had promised to send MRW. (Action: DJM, MRW)

Item 2: Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked MRW for his work on installing and implementing the Physics Department Micro-VAX cluster. It should be noted that this work was outside the scope of the Database project and represented an additional responsibility.

Item 3: Progress Report

MRW began his report by noting that HMD was fitting in very well and doing good work. User statistics continued to improve with about 1700 accesses to the data/experiment/particles databases, to be compared with previous numbers of around 700. Use of the SLAC PPF database had also increased by about 50% this year to 7600 accesses. There were discernable peaks in the statistics corresponding to promotion at CERN and the issue of a questionnaire to users (see Item 4). 169 new reaction data records had been coded.

plus 210 bibliographic entries. The EMAIL database was now implemented (see Item 5). Promotional activities had included a display stand at the IOP Royal Holloway College meeting, and a talk by MRW to the Rutherford Experimentalist's Summer School. The service had been advertised in the Review of Particle Properties, and a Newsletter had been issued in October. A pocket guide had also been produced telling users how to logon and search the databases.

DJM asked about citations in references of experimental papers referring to the Database as a source of data. MRW replied that in one or two instances this had happened. DJM noted that collaboration spokespeople could be useful in this connection.

MRW had visited CERN in July for several weeks to find out and correct any problems with the system on the ground, and to talk to the library staff who were helping in implementing the Databases at CERN. He had also succeeded in obtaining an additional 20 m bytes of disc space. The High Energy Reaction (HERA) group, in particular Douglas Morrison, had expressed an interest in helping to code data. They would code the e^+e^- data from a particular journal. Whilst such collaboration was desirable MRW noted that a delay of six months for receipt of coded data would be unacceptable. RMT cautioned that if the project got too involved with CERN, and UK funding was tight, people might recommend leaving everything to CERN!

Item 4: Questionnaire

569 questionnaires had been sent out and 140 replies received, representing a 26.5% reply rate. A document summarising responses was circulated to the Committee. Some conclusions could be drawn. 69% preferred full screen mode to line mode. There seemed to be a lack of knowledge of VM/CMS. The SLAC PPF database was more popular than the others. More people claim to always find the items they want on the SLAC database than on REACTION. There followed some comments by members of the Committee on particular missing items they had experienced. The HELP facility was only used by 50% of the respondents. RMT and DJM raised the possibility of arranging for notices about using the Databases to appear when logging in on local machines. The increasing level of use of the guest account was also noted. It was suggested by ADM that a second account for heavy users be provided with a password. Respondents to the questionnaire favoured the introduction of a Citations Database. MRW told the Committee that work on providing a Citations Database was in progress. Independent record numbers already existed and would facilitate the implementation. The weekly updating of such an augmented database would not take much longer than at present. A substantial number of respondents wanted the system available on a VAX. MRW commented that there was no simple way of achieving this.

Item 5: EMAIL Database

MRW reported that the list of permanent UK staff EMAIL addresses had been established. The completed list had been circulated and changes and suggestions requested and received. RMT noted that according to the questionnaire responses the biggest users of the Databases were graduate students. Should not these and post-docs also be included? In any case the list would require an annual update. MRW noted that the SLAC EMAIL listing was also to be included. The EMAIL Database would not be implemented at CERN

for political reasons (at the request of Louise Addis at SLAC).

Item 6: Data Reviews

A Data Review on Direct Photon Production by MRW and Dr.P.Aurenche had been produced, and a draft was circulated to the Committee. It was intended to release the review by the end of January. RMT commented that the review was timely. His collaboration only had one set of unpublished data still to bring out and the Fermilab E706 group only had a small amount of data currently available.

RGR reported that he had consulted Robin Marshall about collaboration on a possible data review on the R-ratio in e^+e^- annihilation. He was prepared to assist. ADM noted that also $B\bar{B}$ mixing and rare K decays were items to be kept on the list.

Turning to plans for the next Data Review, a new review on Drell-Yan (perhaps involving WJS) and an update of the earlier DIS structure function review by MRW and RGR, were suggested. DJM suggested that RGR could write to the BCDMS and CDHS collaborations, asking for their unpublished data sets (Action: RGR). The question of updating the existing $\gamma\gamma$ Data Review by RGR and MRW, was also raised. DJM questioned whether the photon structure function should be included in the proposed new structure function review or the $\gamma\gamma$. MRP commented that most of the new information was in the resonance region, where the energy is lower than we are usually interested in. ADM considered that we should hold off on the $\gamma\gamma$ review. RMT commented that with LEP and HERA soon to produce data we might consider reviews relevant to those machines. DJM suggested a review on the Z line shape which should be measured before the end of next year. ADM suggested adding this to the bottom of the list. Whilst the R-ratio was topical, DJM noted that Tristan was still producing new data. It was concluded that the immediate priorities should be an update of the review of DIS Structure Functions and a review on Drell-Yan (Action: MRW, RGR, WJS). DMW questioned whether the Drell-Yan review should include W 's and Z 's or just virtual photons. ADM favoured the inclusion of W 's and Z 's and this was agreed.

Future plans having been discussed elsewhere the date of the next meeting was provisionally set for Monday May 15th at 2pm in the Seminar Room of the Physics Department at Durham.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm

CJM 2/1/89