

MINUTES of the second meeting of the Durham - RAL Database Committee held on Monday, 16th July, 1984, at 2 pm in Room 325 of the Physics Department, University of Durham.

Present: Drs P.D.B. Collins, R.C.E. Devenish, Prof A.D. Martin (Chairman), Mrs E.J. Miller, Drs M.R. Pennington, R.G. Roberts, D.B. Webdale and M.R. Whalley.

AGENDA (prepared by MRW):

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Progress report - MRW/RGR
3. Report on the visit to US institutions - MRW
4. Future plans / discussion
5. A.O.B.

MINUTES:

Item 1: It was agreed that the Minutes of the 16th January 84 meeting should be approved.

Items 2 and 3: MRW reported on the progress of the Database since the January meeting. In the year since January there were 54 identified users, plus a further 14 who used the guest identifier to date. This compares with 72 users for the whole of the previous year. The number of individual accesses were 395 to date compared with 612 last year. MRW noted that the e+ e- database was under-utilised. Coding reached 50 papers up to the present week.

MRW reported that

- (1) the database previously called PINK (from PI N compilation) had been renamed HEPDATA,
- (2) a beginner's user guide had been prepared and already distributed to users. It was proposed to send it also to the DESY library, CERN DD, and it was hoped to include it in the CERN 'HELP' facility,
- (3) a newsletter had been sent to UK users,
- (4) letters to the spokesperson of each presently approved experiment had been sent asking who will be the contact person to deliver data to the Database. 34% had so far replied,
- (5) a number of small improvements in syntax had been implemented, including making access to BDMS like that to the SLAC Spires system (see (9) below),
- (6) a graphics terminal would be installed in the DESY library together with an Epson printer. MRW hoped to go to DESY to promote usage of the Database once the terminal was available,
- (7) he attended the recent CODATA meeting in Jerusalem on "compilation in data on science and technology". Talks were given on high energy databases by MRW, from Flaminio of HERA, and by Tom Trippe from the Particle Data Group (Berkeley). This meeting provided a

window on the database world and it was hoped that MRW would be able to attend the next conference in this series in Ottawa in '86.

(8) The Database was also promoted at the European Symposium on Antiproton Interactions held in Durham the previous week. Many participants showed keen interest in the Database.

(9) His promotional tour of US institutions was a great success. At SLAC and LBL the Reaction Databases were implemented under SPIRES. (The Review of Particle Properties is similarly implemented at RAL with HEPDATA) and SPIRES guest identifiers were discussed. Promotion of the reaction database in the US was to be undertaken by LBL. At Fermilab a demonstration of the new system was given, though networking using a modem was not all it might be. There was also the problem of getting hard copy printout at US laboratories, unless a printer allowed a Screendump. The PDC at LBL will monitor usage of the facility. Eventually there are plans to co-ordinate access with a HEP literature-searching guide. MRW emphasised the usefulness of this extension of access to the Database to the US. Though such promotional exercises were time-consuming they had the effect of a marked increase in the interest shown in the Database, both from potential suppliers and users of data. Tom Trippe of PDC Berkeley promoted the Database at the Leipzig conference.

RGR reported on updates of the DI and DL databases. MRW and EJM have taken over the updating of the bibliographic database.

#### Item 4: Future Plans / Discussion

Reviews: MRW and RGR reported that a review of structure function results was well under way. A discussion of the form of the data, graphical or numerical, took place, and the latter was felt to be more suitable. Copyright agreement was being obtained from the publishers of the journals in which the data was contained, so that these could be used in this project. RCED suggested that an appendix to the review, giving details of access to up-to-date numerical data, should be included.

The newsletter would be used to advertise for consultants to advise on what data may be missing from any review. RCED suggested possible topics for review: leptonic decays of c and b quark - states, electroweak interference, the ratio R of  $e^+e^-$ , inclusive hadron production in  $e^+e^-$  annihilation. MRW commented that the DE database included data on R, and in future may include  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \mu^+ \rightarrow \mu^-, \tau^+ \tau^-$ , and single lepton production.

ADM raised the question of the time-scale for producing such reviews. RGR said that three months was necessary for the structure function review, with one more week of work still needed on this topic. The next one on  $e^+e^-$  was possible by November. The next Newsletter would be available in the Autumn and the CERN Scientific Information Service would help with the mailing, adding an international flavour.

ADM informed the Committee that while EJM is on maternity leave money from the SERC for a part-time replacement would be available.

ADM raised the question of future improvements in the Database. MRW mentioned the changing nature of computer usage away from networked main-frames to local machines. RCED suggested that the Database might be accessed by direct network address, rather than through CMS as at present. MRW had thought of the local machine acting as a terminal for this.

ADM raised the issue of the next SERC grant application in March 1985 and the request to include additional information on the usage of the Database. RCED gave the background to this request. ADM stated that, of course, all such requests made extra demands on MRW diverting him from the basic Database work. MRW gave details of how information on usage was presently collected. It was agreed that only information presently available should be included in the next grant application. MRW said that he will include logging-on time information as well. While on the subject of the next grant application PDBC asked what could be realistically included in the work of the database without a Data Officer. MRW said that Ron Crawford leaving the group had caused no problem and that he and EJM were coding photoproduction data. A letter had been sent to Krenz regarding his neutrino cross section compilation, but no reply has as yet been received.

Item 5: A.O.B.

EJM raised the issue of the very poor link from Durham to RAL, which was so crucial for the Database. MRW discussed how the present problems wasted so much of their time and that the replacement of the GEC 4060 by a pad should improve matters. ADM suggested that he should write to RAL on behalf of the Committee highlighting this problem.

It was proposed that the next meeting of this Committee should take place on Monday, December 17th, 1984 at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

The meeting ended at 4 pm.

MRP  
October 5th, 1984