

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Durham-RAL HEP Database Committee held on Monday 19th May 1986 at 14.00, in the Seminar Room of the Physics Department, University of Durham.

Present: Dr. P.D.B. Collins, Prof. A.D. Martin (Chairman), Dr. D.J. Miller, Mrs E.J. Miller, Drs. M.R. Pennington, R.G. Roberts, Prof. I.O. Skillicorn, Drs. W.J. Stirling and M.R. Whalley.

AGENDA (prepared by MRW)

1. Matters arising from the Minutes (ADM)
2. Progress report (MRW)
3. Data Reviews (MRW/RGR)
4. Berkeley Conference (MRW)
5. SLAC preprint database (RGR/MRW)
6. Discussion
7. A.O.B.

Item 1: The Chairman's remarks

The Chairman (ADM) welcomed MJS to the Committee and surveyed the purpose of these meetings: the December one to discuss the SERC grant application and the present mid-year meeting for a wider ranging consideration of what may be achieved with the funded resources.

In matters arising from the minutes: RGR was to contact Douglas Morrison about the compiling of neutrino cross sections (Action:RGR). On reviews, the NN/NN compilers were praised for their tremendous efforts. Though future possibilities would be discussed later, Bob Brown's advice on a review of hyperon beam results had been sought. His view was that this was most timely with achievements in hand and little new to come.

Item 2: Progress report

MRW reported on the progress made during the period January to May 1986:

- (i) the usage was much as before with 48 users making 250 accesses, 30 per cent of which used the guest account.
- (ii) the numbers of papers coded were 86 in Durham and 20 at RAL, with a further extra 100 records added to the main database from the older collection as a result of the NN, NN data review.
- (iii) on promotions, MRW had given talks at Oxford and at Durham at the Institute of Physics HEPP group annual meeting in April. A new User Guide and Reference Card had been distributed and a Newsletter was about to be distributed with 3 or 4 to each institute. Some 120 copies of the NN,NN compilation had been distributed at a cost to RAL of some £4 per copy.
- (iv) on international collaborations, the Soviet COMPAS group had sent a tape which included a multiplicity database.

- (v) various improvements to the service had been made with better output format and with DE and EIP keywords complete from 1980 to the present.
- (vi) publicity talks were planned for the autumn term, 86, for the London Colleges.

RGR asked about users, to which NRW replied that new users from the Max Planck Institut, from Bonn and from CERN were sending records to their local machines.

Item 3: Data Reviews

RGR remarked on the exceptional amount of work involved in the compilation of the NN, $\bar{N}\bar{N}$ data review by Martin Carter, PDSC and NRW with ten months devoted to arranging the pages, graphics etc. and experimenting with laser printing. A supplement with new results may be appropriate in two years. A similar supplement to the structure function review incorporating new results from the CDS wide band neutrino experiment is being planned.

RGR reported that the review of $\Upsilon\Upsilon$ + hadrons experimental results was now 60 per cent complete with new sections on single particle production and on the $\Upsilon\Upsilon$ branching ratios of particles. There followed an extensive discussion of the format of this compilation, eg. the presentation of curves as well as data. This was complicated by the fact that jet cross-sections were not absolute measures, but depended not only on their definition, but on experimental acceptances and cuts, making comparison of one experiment with another almost impossible without access to the experiment's Monte Carlo routines. On the problem of obtaining the actual numbers for experimental results, IOS suggested that Prof. Soding should be contacted at DESY, pointing out how difficult it was to get numbers from e+e- groups compared with those at hadron machines.

On the question of future reviews, hyperon beam results was a possibility to be investigated further (Action:NRW). NJS suggested that a review of energy-energy correlations, asymmetry measurements and collider jet production cross sections may be very timely. This proposal met with universal approval and will be reported on at the next meeting (Action:NJS).

Item 4: The Berkeley Conference

NRW reported that he would visit Ottawa in July to give a paper on our databases and then on to Berkeley to further links with the Berkeley PDG. The aim was to go a week before the Berkeley REP conference to allow time to arrange a demonstration of accessing the reaction databases on SPIRES. An obstacle yet to be surmounted was the use of guest accounts on the SLAC computer by non-SLAC users. This problem NRW hoped to overcome. (Action:NRW).

Item 5: the SLAC preprint database

RGR reported on the ten year history of his efforts to implement

the SLAC preprint database on the RAL machine for UK users, with all its difficulties of loading, updating etc. Now MRW had successfully implemented a far simpler database with the SLAC preprint lists, (specimen searches were presented at the meeting). It was planned that this database would be regularly updated using BITNET and antipreprints would be implemented automatically. With the better packing now possible, 10 years of lists would be available at one time, rather than the previous 5 year limit.

Under this new system, a menu of the other PDG(UK,US) databases would be given upon logging in, thereby increasing publicity for these databases. The only requirement from SLAC was that their name should be associated with the title of this new bibliographic database. RGR reported that this new service could be accessed just like the other databases on the RAL computer, using a guest account if necessary, from the UK and CERN. MRW was greatly praised for this new addition to the project's services.

Item 6: Discussion

DJM initiated a discussion of the long term prospects for the project in the present financial climate - in a nut shell "could the present number of users justify the expense?" The chairman (ADM) eloquently expressed the strengths of the database project and what could be achieved if a data officer were funded. He commented that the number of users was not necessarily a true reflection of the worth of the project to the community. At the suggestion of WJS, it was agreed that statistics on the number of requests for reviews be included with the user information in the next grant application. IOS, while emphasising that all projects were under review at the present time, suggested that a list of areas not currently covered by the database, but which could be included given sufficient resources, would be useful to the grants' committee. (Action:ADM,RGR,MRW).

Item 7: Any other business

The next meeting was fixed for Monday, December 15th, 1986 at 10.30 at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

The meeting ended at 16.15

MRP
21st August 1986