

Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Durham-RAL HEP Database Committee held on Monday, 14th December 1987, at 10.30am in Committee Room 1 at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

Present: Dr. P.D.B. Collins, Prof. A.D. Martin (Chairman), Drs. C.J. Maxwell, D.J. Miller, R.G. Roberts, W.J. Stirling, D.B. Webdale, and M.R. Whalley.

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. I.O. Skillicorn and Dr. M.R. Pennington.

AGENDA (prepared by MRW)

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Yearly Report
3. Programme Proposals
4. Discussion of 3
5. Any other business
6. Next Meeting

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

The Chairman (ADM) asked what had happened regarding the proposal to include a listing of addresses of HEP institutes in the database. MRW replied that the work had already been done for this and the database could be included immediately. Indeed he had received two requests for such a list, one from the Munich Conference Organisers, routed via Gerry Moorhead at CERN. It was generally thought to be a good idea to include an extra database category for HEP addresses. DEW suggested the inclusion of FAX numbers and BITNET addresses. PDBC noted that BITNET addresses were now included in the PDG booklet (action:MRW).

ADM asked what approaches had been made to prospective compilers of a data review on e^+e^- fragmentation proposed at the last meeting. DEW replied that he had spoken to Roger Barlow who claimed that the data was still fraught with ambiguities and the situation was not clear-cut enough to warrant production of such a review at this stage.

WJS mentioned that the Database project had been discussed at the PPC meeting held in September. Support had been forthcoming for the Database, and assurances given for the future. ADM reported on Alistair Rose's visit to Durham on 1st December, and read from the letter subsequently received.

Items 2-4: Progress Report, Future Plans:

MRW reported that the established policies on collection and coding of data had continued throughout the year. So far this year approximately 100 records have been coded at Durham and 30 at RAL. Our collaboration with the USSR COMPAS group had continued with 110 new records supplied for our database. Charts and tables of user figures for the databases were presented to the Committee. Overall accesses had nearly doubled from 1978 in 1986 to 3876 in 1987. The SLAC preprint database in particular was peaking off at a very high

rate of usage. It was true that the most frequent users were mainly students and postdocs but the feeling was that this is as to be expected. ADM noted that we should not take these figures too literally as there were also other hidden usages by MRW and RGR on behalf of users. CJM noted that guest account users were not necessarily identifiable.

Improvements to the service

MRW noted in particular the parallel vocabulary database which should aid users in finding the correct particle names. The Bibliographic database was now integrated into the main database resulting in a simplified searching procedure.

MRW reported that a User's Manual was being produced, due out in January as a Rutherford report. It was proposed to give a trial copy of the manual to new users (action:RGR). It was also proposed to incorporate these instructions on the database itself (action:MRW). 500 copies of our Newsletter had also been dispatched this year.

MRW reported that the Database was now fully available at CERN following his successful visit there in September. ADM asked whether monthly updates of the reaction database at CERN were sufficient. MRW replied that each update required the transfer of at least 10 large files and in any case this is the approximate update frequently of the RAL version. WJS asked about the user statistics at CERN. MRW replied that the service had yet to be fully publicised at CERN. DJM suggested a notice in Europhysics News as good publicity for the new service. MRW noted that there would be another CERN Courier article next year (action:MRW).

Discussion then turned to the subject of Data Reviews. MRW reported that the fourth Data Review entitled 'Energy-Energy Correlations in e^+e^- Interactions' by Drs. Stirling and Whalley had been completed and was being prepared for release as a Rutherford report early in 1988. RGR and MRW were already beginning an update of the Structure Function Review, to include more graphical displays of data, and new EMC and BCDMS results. WJS remarked that many high-Pt photon experiments were currently producing final data and hence such a review seemed timely. DEW wondered whether such a review should include Photoproduction data. A suggested topic for the near future was high Pt photon production. WJS commented that it should on the grounds that it was essentially the same physics. ADM suggested that hyperon beam data should be removed from the list of intended reviews. DEW agreed that hyperon beams would only become important in the early 1990's. DJM suggested hadronic production cross sections of charm and beauty as another topic to consider. It was agreed that it should be made clear in the proposal that High-Pt Photons and Structure Functions are imminent planned reviews.

Turning to Programme Proposals DJM questioned whether it was appropriate to request a new Data Officer to assist in coding in the present application. DEW expressed the view that this could do no harm. October 1990 would be the earliest such an appointment could be

made if it were not included in this application. ADM noted that the Data Officer would increase the requested sum by 50% and in view of this wondered whether this was the correct course. It was finally agreed to express a clear intention to apply for a Data Officer appointment starting from October 1990.

Raising the question of membership of the Database Committee, ADM noted that IOS had expressed a desire to leave the Committee since he was now no longer a member of any SERC committees. ADM suggested that we should accept this and thank IOS for all his past efforts. Dr. R. Turnbull of Glasgow was suggested as a possible new member of the Committee and it was agreed to ask him (Action:ADM). It was noted that he could possibly be asked to lend his expertise to the high Pt photon review.

There being no other business, the Chairman proposed that the next meeting be held in Durham.

The meeting ended at 12.45.

C.J.M.
1/1/88

Note:- The date of the next meeting which was decided (23 May) has been found to be inconvenient. A new date will be arranged shortly.