

Newsletter No. 1
of the
European RTN Network RAAG
Contract No. HPRN-CT-2001-00271
March 1, 2002

Through a contract with the Universität Passau in Germany, the European Community has established the Research Training Network RAAG (Real Algebraic and Analytic Geometry). This bi-monthly newsletter, to be distributed among the Network researchers and other interested mathematicians by e-mail, will inform about the activities and the progress of the Network. Further information about the Network, and about RAAG in general, may be found on the Network's website at

<http://www.ihp-raag.org/>

Welcome to the network

The Network officially starts today, its duration will be 48 months. The Network management has already been busy the last couple of months in order to prepare for a smooth start. But a number of important issues still have to be resolved, e.g., decisions about Network conferences and the Network policy about employment of young researchers. And, once the Network starts its operations, there will be all kinds of practical problems for which a routine has not yet been established.

Naturally, at the current time the Network has not produced any results or any progress to report about. Therefore, this first newsletter will mostly contain information on the management and the structure of the Network. The researchers of the Network will be better able to use its resources if they have some familiarity with its organisation. Also, it is hoped that the Network will not only be seen as a more or less anonymous institution that distributes considerable amounts of money, but rather that it will develop into something like a "home" for the European real geometers. To emphasize this point, every researcher of the Network is explicitly invited to share his or her ideas, opinions, suggestions, criticism, ... with the Network management. The entire Network, in particular the newsletters and the website, will depend on the active participation of all the Network's scientists.

The Network pursues a general policy of openness in which the newsletter plays a pivotal role. *All* activities to be funded by the Network should be reported in the newsletter and on the website. Apart from news about the organisation of the Network, future newsletters can also contain information about new publications by Network researchers, about open problems, about research plans for dissertations,

about collaborations between Network scientists, ... All members of the Network, in particular the Coordinators, are urged to supply this kind of information.

The purpose of the Network

The Network supports research in Real Algebraic and Analytic Geometry in Europe. One of its main objectives is the training of young researchers through active participation in research of the highest quality. Funds for the Network are supplied by the EC. The largest share is to be used for the appointment and employment of young researchers. Otherwise the Network organizes various different types of meetings, covers travel expenses and supports publishing activities and the creation of a website.

The structure of the Network

The Network's researchers (a list will be posted on the website) work in seven European countries. The scientists in each country are organized in a team; altogether the seven teams form the Network. Each team is represented by one university, a senior scientist from that university being the *Local Coordinator*, i.e., the team's manager. The overall management for the entire Network lies with the Universität Passau as Principle Contractor with the EC. The Local Coordinator of the German team serves as *Network Coordinator*. A subcontract, called the Membership Agreement, between the institutions representing the teams regulates the rights and responsibilities of the different teams. The teams and their coordinators are:

Network Coordinator: Niels Schwartz

- Team DE: Germany, Universität Passau
Niels Schwartz, Schwartz@fmi.uni-passau.de
Deputy: Andreas Fischer, afischer@fmi.uni-passau.de
- Team ES: Spain, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Carlos Andradas, carlos_andradas@mat.ucm.es
Deputy: Jesus Escribano, escribano@sip.ucm.es
- Team FR: France, Université de Rennes I
Michel Coste, Michel.Coste@univ-rennes1.fr
Deputy: Jean-Philippe Monnier, jean-philippe.monnier@univ-angers.fr
(Université d'Angers)
- Team IT: Italy, Università degli Studi di Pisa
Fabrizio Broglia, broglia@dm.unipi.it
Deputy: Giuliana Fatabbi, fatabbi@dipmat.unipg.it
(Università degli studi di Perugia)

- Team NL: The Netherlands, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Jacek Bochnak, bochnak@cs.vu.nl
Deputy: Laura Kubbe, laura@cs.vu.nl
- Team PL: Poland, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Kraków
Stanislaw Lojasiewicz, Lojasiew@im.uj.edu.pl
Deputy: K. Nowak, nowak@im.uj.edu.pl
- Team UK: United Kingdom, University of Bath
Daniel Richardson, masdr@bath.ac.uk
Deputy: Andrew Holt, mapajh@bath.ac.uk

Collectively, the Coordinators form the *College of Coordinators*, which is chaired by the Network Coordinator. Some of the principal responsibilities of the Coordinators are listed below.

The *College of Coordinators*:

- budgetary decisions concerning the entire Network or several teams,
- decisions on a (topically and regionally) balanced programme of Network meetings,
- implementation of the training programme,
- monitoring the progress of the Network.

The Network Coordinator

- is responsible for all contacts with the EC,
- manages the day to day operations of the Network,
- supervises the transfer of funds,
- reports to the EC,
- informs the EC about all changes in the Network, compared with the initial plans.

The Local Coordinators

- manage the local teams,
- manage the local funds,
- implement the local training programme, including the integration of appointed young researchers into their teams,
- inform the Network Coordinator of all changes in their sphere of responsibility,
- provide the Network Coordinator with information and data that are needed for the reports to the EC and for decisions concerning the Network.

Every team comprises a contracting university and a number of other institutions that are named in the contract. Only researchers from these institutions can use Network resources. No individuals are named in the contract. However, the Network Coordinator will keep and update a list of the researchers who are considered Network members and are eligible for the use of its funds.

Other organisational tasks

Apart from the management of the Network and its teams there is a number of other organisational tasks, mostly concerned with communications in the Network and with publishing activities. The following persons are responsible for the management of these tasks:

Newsletter Niels Schwartz, Schwartz@fmi.uni-passau.de
Deputy: Nicole Schröter

Website Frederic Mangolte, Frederic.Mangolte@univ-savoie.fr
Deputy: Stéphane Simon, stephane.simon@univ-savoie.fr

Bibliography and collection of abstracts for the field of RAAG
Daniel Richardson, masdr@bath.ac.uk
Deputy: Andrew Holt, mapajh@bath.ac.uk

Preprints and publications on the website
Marcus Tressl, Marcus.Tressl@mathematik.uni-regensburg.de
Deputy: Tobias Kaiser, tobias.kaiser@mathematik.uni-regensburg.de

State-of-the-art surveys on the website
Michel Coste, Michel.Coste@univ-rennes1.fr
Deputy: Jean-Philippe Monnier, jean-philippe.monnier@univ-angers.fr

Publication of Lecture Note Series
Fabrizio Broglia, broglia@dm.unipi.it
Deputy: Federica Pieroni, pieroni@mail.dm.unipi.it

Liaison with industry
Laureano Gonzalez-Vega, gvega@matesco.unican.es
Deputy:

Rules for the Network

The contract between the Universität Passau and the EC contains a large number of rules that have to be observed by the Network. The most important rules have been compiled in a "rule book" that has been made available to the Coordinators of the teams. The rule book will answer many questions about the use of Network funds and other obligations of the Network. The rule book is not a finished document – rather it evolves as new questions arise (which will undoubtedly happen). If there are any problems concerning the use of Network resources, any member of the Network

should contact his or her Local Coordinator or the Network Coordinator for clarification.

The website

The website of the Network is currently being created by Frederic Mangolte. It is operational as of today. However, since it is a new site, not all planned features are available at this time. Eventually the website will carry information about the Network and its scientists, about RAAG in general, about conferences, about employment opportunities, etc. Much of the Network's publishing activities will be on the website.

Ideas for additional features of the website are always welcome and can be communicated to any Coordinator or to the manager of the website.

Training and appointments of young researchers

From the side of the EC the *raison d'etre* of the Network lies with its training activities. The Network will make every effort to include young researchers, both on the pre-doctoral and the post-doctoral level, as active participants. Therefore young researchers are specially invited to contribute their ideas and comments about every activity of the Network. The young researchers are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter and to the website. Moreover, there will be opportunities to hold special sessions for young researchers at RAAG conferences.

As a corner stone of its training programme the Network offers employment opportunities for young researchers in participating institutions. Appointments of young researchers must have an international character, i.e., nobody can be employed in the country of his or her citizenship. There are other restrictions that also apply. Young researchers can be appointed by the Network without having been a member of the Network before, they become members of the Network through their appointment.

The newsletter will report regularly about the employment of young researchers by the Network.

The first young researcher to be appointed by the Network will be

José F. Fernando from the Universidad Complutense, Madrid, who will do post doctoral work with Claus Scheiderer in Duisburg.

Network meetings

The Network will organize different kinds of meetings: annual general conferences on RAAG, workshops about specialized research topics, and schools that offer introductions to active areas of RAAG at graduate level. The Network management will decide on a calendar of meetings at least one year in advance.

Scheduled meetings will be announced regularly in the newsletter.

RAAG 2002

A general conference on RAAG will be organized by the Network in September or October of this year. The site will be in Poland.

An official announcement will be published as soon as the dates, the exact location and other organizational issues have been settled.