

## ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

### Rapporteur Report

<b>Partnership:</b>	ESF EMS ERCOM
<b>Conference Title:</b>	MEGA 2011
<b>Dates:</b>	29 May 3 June 2011
<b>Chair:</b>	- Sandra di Rocco, KTH Stockholm, SE - Mikael Passare, Stockholm University, SE
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	Irfan Siap

### General Comments

Any general comments you might have concerning the conference, your role, the scientific area covered by this conference, etc.

The theme of The MEGA 2011 conference was about Algebraic Geometry and Computational instruments and its effective methods. This conference has been one of the series organized in different cities biannually.

The latest topics on Algebraic Geometry which find applications in different areas of mathematics were presented by leading scientists in this field.

The conference was a 5 day event with different length talks designed carefully. The structure of the program including the breaks, half day free time, lunch time, dinners altogether was professional.

### Quality of Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

Comments on the balance and scope of the scientific programme, the scientific quality of the presentations and discussions.

The conference was professionally structured with the talks with different lengths, poster sessions, software oriented talks, breaks, and social activities (two dinners). There was a good number of young researchers and students. Presentations were delivered by leading scientists in the field and also by young researchers. There were many interesting, attracting and up to date topics presented.

There were many good talks that attracted the interest of young researchers where discussions continued in the breaks and in the social events.

There was also a software oriented session on Wednesday afternoon. I believe that this has been a good organization since there were many young attendees.

However, there were a few talks that are not covered by the theme of the conference. These talks may have not been of primary interest to the audience. However, since there were just a few of them, I think that this did not effect the program negatively.

Prior the last day of conference, there was also a Forward Look Session where the organizer and the participants discussed the past and the current conference. The ideas for the future were also exchanged.

### **Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere**

Was the schedule and the atmosphere conducive to an easy exchange of information? Was there time and space for an informal discussion? Were younger researchers integrated?

Right after the talks, participants were given chance to ask questions regarding the presentations. These attempts lead to opportunities to interact and discuss later. Since the theme was a specific one and some people new already each other's discussions some of the discussions were natural. The young researchers had also opportunity to listen and join to these informal discussions. On the other hand, in coffee breaks, lunch time and in the dinners the participants found chances to talk and discuss problems further. In general, a positive atmosphere towards future collaboration was formed.

### **Balance of Participants**

Was there an appropriate balance between young and senior participants? Was a balance of national groups and researchers from different (sub) fields achieved?

The participants were mostly young researchers and students. The size of senior researchers was also sufficient. I believe that the ratio was excellent. Further, there were many researchers from different countries of Europe and also some from overseas. Also, a good range of topics was covered related to the theme of the conference.

### **Outlook and Future Developments**

Will new collaborations emerge from this conference? (How) could the conference outcomes be utilized further? Are there suitable (ESF) programmes or instruments to further the work of the conference?

As I had a chance to talk to some of the participants, I witnessed that MEGA conferences held in the past lead to new collaborations. I strongly believe that this one also will lead to future collaborations too.

### **Follow-up**

What immediate and long term follow-up would benefit collaborations and dialogues that may have begun at the conference?

The senior researchers discussed the latest topics and some new up to date packages were also discussed. These may lead to immediate collaborations and dialogues.

### **Organisation and Infrastructure**

Were venue, catering and accommodation appropriate for this conference? Were participants satisfied with the on-site administration and support?

The conference took place in the campus of Stockholm University. All sessions run in Aula Magna Conference Hall which was an excellent place for presentations. The location was easily

accessible with the local transportation. Ahead, there was sufficient information regarding the arrivals and other details. The participants were informed regarding the lunch (where to eat, etc.) and also the two dinners. The on-site administration and support was also excellent.

### **Summary & Overall Assessment**

Was the conference successful; were its aims achieved?

In general, this conference was very successful. I believe that this conference will lead to further collaborations. Also, this conference was a very good opportunity for young researchers to interact with the senior researchers and among each other.

## **About ESF Research Conferences**

### **The Scheme**

This conference is part of the European Science Foundation's (ESF) Research Conferences Scheme. The Scheme aims to promote scientific excellence and frontier level research throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Conferences aim to provide leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, with a platform to present their work, to discuss the most recent developments in their fields of research and to network.

### **Conference Format**

The core activities should be based on lectures by invited speakers, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by extensive discussion periods. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room, should be encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable should be limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. Time should be reserved for a 'Forward Look Plenary Discussion' about future developments in the field.

Participants can take all their meals together to encourage further contact and networking, which can be particularly beneficial to younger researchers who may be less outspoken in the formal lecture room setting. In order to gain optimum benefit from the conference, both the speakers and the participants are asked to stay for the whole duration.

### **Division of Tasks**

The Conference Chair is responsible for ensuring the quality of the scientific programme through the selection and invitation of speakers, and through the selection of participants.

The ESF Conferences Unit is responsible for managing all the logistical aspects of the conference organisation, including the provision of an on-site secretariat.

Further information: [www.esf.org/conferences](http://www.esf.org/conferences)