

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Cork Operator Conference 1988

The 3rd annual conference in Operator Theory and Operator Algebras took place in UCC from 29 June to 2 July 1988. It was supported by the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, the Royal Irish Academy, the Irish Mathematical Society and UCC. There were 33 participants from 9 countries (Canada, France, Ireland, Poland, Sri Lanka, U.K., U.S.A., West Germany, Yugoslavia). The principal speakers were Joachim Cuntz on *Differential structures on C^* -algebras* and *KK-theory and cyclic cohomology* and Larry Brown on *Semicontinuity and closed faces in C^* -algebras* and *Existence of projections in multiplier algebras*.

The organizers wish to thank the participants and sponsors. Next year's conference will probably be in May.

Gerard Murphy

Groups In Galway 88

The tenth anniversary of Groups in Galway was celebrated by a three-day meeting (May 26-28, 1988) which was attended by some two dozen participants. There were twelve very interesting talks (details below) and the usual generous breaks for coffee etc. Moreover, the traditional pilgrimage to the Weir was not forgotten! It is a pleasure to thank the participants, the speakers, and the sponsors (Irish Mathematical Society, Royal Irish Academy and University College Galway) for their support.

The speakers were: G. Ellis (Galway): *Groups with category structures*, N. Gilbert (Bangor): *Factor stabilisers in the automorphism group of a free product*, T. Laffey (U.C.D.): *Order-transitive groups*, Dr. MacHale (Cork): *Automorphisms of groups sending many elements to their n th powers—a survey of results*, M. Newman (Canberra): *Groups of exponent four*, G. Sherman (Terre Haute): *What is the probability that a subgroup is normal?*, E. Ormerod (Canberra): *The Wielandt subgroup of a metacyclic p -group*, B. McCann (Galway): *Examples of normal products*, B. Goldsmith (D.I.T.): *Maximal order abelian subgroups of symmetric groups*, E. O'Brien (Canberra): *Algorithm for the determination of finite p -groups*, S. Andreadakis (Athens): *Residually finite*

HNN extensions of abelian groups, L. Kovacs (Canberra): *Classification of varieties of groups*.

In 1989, Groups in Galway reverts to its usual two-day format—the meeting will take place on Friday/Saturday, May 12-13. Further details should be available early in 1989, from the organiser: John McDermott, Mathematics Department, University College, Galway.

John McDermott

Fourth Dublin Conference on Matrix Theory and Its Applications

The conference was held in UCD on March 10 and 11, 1988. There were thirty participants, coming from Ireland, England, France, Holland, West Germany, Portugal, the United States, Canada and Japan. The Oxford University Press put on a display of books on linear algebra and related topics. The following lectures were presented:

C. Johnson (College of William and Mary): *Precise intervals for the eigenvalues of an hermitian and a positive definite matrix*, B. Reichstein (Catholic University of America): *On a problem of expressing a cubic form as a sum of cubes of linear forms*, T.T. West (TCD): *Linear operators with finite nullity and defect*, L. Beasley (Utah State University): *Linear transformations on Boolean matrices*, G.N. de Oliveira (University of Coimbra): *Invariant polynomials of partitioned matrices*, R. Westwick (University of British Columbia): *Spaces of matrices of finite rank*, R. Thompson (University of California at Santa Barbara): *The Schubert calculus and spectral inequalities*, R. Harte (UCC): *Companion matrices revisited*, T.J. Laffey (UCD): *Some questions on integer matrices*, T. Furuta (Hirosaki University): *Matrix inequalities*, S. Barnett (University of Bradford): *Routh's array and euclidean remainders for polynomials from an observability matrix*, H. Bart (Erasmus University): *Complementary triangularization of pairs of matrices*, L. Cummings (University of Waterloo): *A characterization of the permanent by the Cauchy-Binet formula*, R. Gow (UCD): *Skew-symmetric matrices in characteristic two*, R. Puystjens (University of Gent): *A generalization of the kernel theorem for Moore-Penrose invertibility of morphisms*, R. Grone (San Diego State University): *The Laplacian of a graph*

Synopses of the conference lectures will appear in a report in *Linear Algebra and its Applications*.

Fergal Gaines
