

TOPICAL GROUP ON COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS

The American Physical Society

Jay P. Boris
Chairman
Lab. for Comp. Physics
Naval Research Laboratory
Washington, DC 20375
(202) 767-3055

Claudio Rebbi
Vice-Chairman
Physics Department
Boston University
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 353-9058

John W. D. Connolly
Secretary-Treasurer
325 McVey Hall
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506
(606) 257-8737

NEWSLETTER - FALL 1988

The American Physical Society approved last year the formation of a Topical Group on Computational Physics. This group has not officially organized itself yet, with respect to such formalities as by-laws, election of officers, regular newsletters, etc. This will all be accomplished in the near future. In the meantime, we are anxious to get the group functioning as a vital part of the Society. It is the purpose of this first newsletter to introduce the concept of the group, and to encourage its members to become involved with its activities.

CONCEPT:

"The objective of the Topical Group on Computational Physics is the advancement and dissemination of knowledge regarding the use of computers to obtain the solution of problems encountered in the study of physical phenomena. It provides to its members, and to all members of the Society, an opportunity for exchange of information, and a forum for discussion.

"In addition, the Topical Group shall: promote research and development in computational physics; enhance prestige and professional standing of its members; encourage scholarly publication; and promote education in the design and application of computational devices." (From the draft of the bylaws for the Topical Group on Computational Physics)

MEMBERSHIP:

The total membership of the Topical Group on Computational Physics was 1378 as of February 1988, up from 552 in 1987. This topical group is the most rapidly growing sub-entity of the American Physical Society, which reflects the exponential growth in the use of computation in physics research. Members of the Society who are not yet members are encouraged to apply. Two ways of doing this are to check off the appropriate box on the APS renewal forms, or to fill in the form on the page entitled "Invitation to join Topical Groups" which appears in each Bulletin.

OFFICERS:

Even though the Topical Group has not yet been officially organized, we have been instructed by the APS staff to function as if we were. A number of members of the Society have volunteered to function as an ad hoc slate of officers until the time when an election can be held. These are:

Chairman:

Jay P. Boris, Naval Research Laboratory

Vice-Chairman:

Claudio Rebbi, Boston University

Secretary-Treasurer:

John W. D. Connolly, University of Kentucky

Steering Committee:

Berni J. Alder, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Sydney Fernbach, Alamo, California

Charlotte F. Fischer, Vanderbilt University

David Forslund, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Malvin H. Kalos, New York University

Steven Koonin, California Institute of Technology

Michael L. Norman, University of Illinois

Elaine Oran, Naval Research Laboratory

Harold Scheraga, Cornell University

TOPICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES:

The Topical Group has sponsored a number of special sessions over the past year, including a symposium on Computational Plasma Physics in San Francisco in September 1987; a symposium on Computational Chemical Physics at the New Orleans meeting in March 1988; and a symposium on Computational Methods in Physics at the Baltimore meeting in April 1988.

Future sessions are planned at the meeting of the Division of Fluid Dynamics in Buffalo in November 1988; at the St. Louis meeting in March 1989; and at the Division of Plasma Physics in September 1989.

Members of the Topical Group are encouraged to submit suggestions for other symposia on Computational Physics. These can be submitted to any of the officers of the Topical Group.

The Topical Group is currently organizing a conference dedicated to computational physics, to be held in Boston on June 5-8, 1989. Suggestions for invited speakers should be directed to Professor Claudio Rebbi of Boston University. A call for contributed papers will be issued in the near future.

We are also exploring the possibility of holding a conference in Amsterdam in September 1990. This would be jointly sponsored by the Computational Physics Group of the European Physics Society.

We are very anxious for this group to be a success, and to get its activities underway. The success depends on your participation, and we sincerely hope you will get involved.

John W. D. Connolly,
Secretary-Treasurer