

Scottish Combinatorics Meeting 2017: Report

The 3rd Scottish Combinatorics Meeting was held at the University of St Andrews on 24th and 25th April 2017. This event was the third in a newly-established annual series, building on the success of the first two SCM held in 2015 and 2016. This was the first SCM to be held outside of Glasgow.

We had nine invited speakers. Seven of these were drawn from UK institutions, while one speaker was from Iceland. The final speaker, Laszlo Babai (Chicago), was a joint invitee with the BCTCS (British Colloquium for Theoretical Computer Science) which was hosted by the School of Computer Science in St Andrews from 26th-28th April. The speakers were drawn from a mixture of mathematics and computer science departments, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the area.

A total of 44 delegates attended either all or part of the event; while the majority of these came from Scottish universities, a number also travelled from south of the border and even from outside the UK. Once again, the attendees spanned many disciplines, with researchers based in mathematics, statistics and computer science departments.

Fourteen of those attending were students (including several keen undergraduates), and three of these took the opportunity to give short presentations on their work; these covered many different topics in combinatorics.

As with previous SCMs, the schedule was planned so as to allow significant time for informal discussions among the participants. Feedback from attendees was uniformly positive, and we feel that the meeting provided a valuable forum and resource for the north British combinatorial community.

Financial report

The meeting came in under-budget, due to a number of factors. For several speakers, partial costs were covered by other grants; for Babai, all expenses were covered by the BCTCS. One invited speaker and one PhD speaker were local and so had no associated costs. We were also fortunate that we did not incur room-booking costs. The overall costs break down as follows:

Travel, accommodation and meals for speakers	£ 2651.74
Catering (lunches, morning coffee and afternoon tea both days)	£ 734.50
TOTAL	£3386.24