

---

# For Your Information

## “Streaming Video” Project at MSRI

In October 1997 the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) made public its streaming-video archive, which is accessible from MSRI's home page. Videos of lectures are joined with lecture notes, making it possible to follow the lectures in complete detail. Lectures can be paused, and one can skip backwards and forwards, for example, to repeat a difficult passage. In addition to lectures from MSRI, lectures from Pacific Northwest Geometry Seminars, talks given at the Ahlfors symposium (held at Stanford University in September 1997), colloquia from UC Berkeley, and some of the main presentations at the 45th Annual Meeting of SIAM (Stanford, July 1997) are available. The selection includes lectures by Simon Donaldson, Don Knuth, Boris Rozovskii, Ron Stern, Margaret Wright; minicourses by Cameron Gordon (Combinatorial Methods in Low-Dimensional Topology) and Tatiana Toro (Geometric Measure Theory, Harmonic Analysis and Potential Theory); and a visit from hyperbolic realtor Mel Slugbate. MSRI has made video recordings of a large number of lectures during the past year, and we have built up a valuable video library. Each week new streaming-video lectures will be made available from this library and from current events at the Institute.

The streaming-video archive is part of MSRI's Multicast Backbone Project, supported by the National Science Foundation. Our goals are to implement practical methods of Internet communication in order to make the mathematical activities of MSRI nationally and internationally available and to help mathematics departments and centers profit by our experience to do the same. Some of the advantages of the streaming-video archive are: (1) accessibility: the lectures are available, in principle, any time and anywhere on the Internet; (2) simplicity of use: all that is required is a Web browser and a plug-in streaming-video player; and (3) wide support in the computer industry: there are many vendors and a strong movement toward interoperability.

Comments about the streaming-video archive are welcome. Here is a list of relevant Web addresses: MSRI's home page: <http://www.msri.org/>; MSRI's streaming

video introduction page: <http://nextra.msri.org/computing/av/>; list of available lectures on streaming video: <http://nextra.msri.org/computing/av/lectures.html>; Realnetworks' home page (where the plug-in is available): <http://www.real.com/>; Industrial-Strength Streaming Video (a survey article on commercially available streaming video servers, compressors, and viewers as of September 1997): [http://www.newmedia.com/NewMedia/97/12/feature/Streaming\\_Video.html](http://www.newmedia.com/NewMedia/97/12/feature/Streaming_Video.html).

—David Hoffman, MSRI

## Cornell Digital Library of Mathematics Books

Cornell University has a digital library that contains a substantial collection of mathematics books, primarily from the nineteenth century. They are available for viewing on the World Wide Web. In addition, through funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, Cornell is collaborating with the University of Michigan on a digital library collection called Making of America (MOA). MOA focuses on books and journals published between 1850 and 1900 and contains some holdings in science, mathematics, and technology. Both the Cornell mathematics collection and the MOA collection are available at the Web site [http://library3.cit.cornell.edu/MOA/moa-main\\_page.html](http://library3.cit.cornell.edu/MOA/moa-main_page.html).

—Allyn Jackson

**Editor's Note:** Due to printer error, an advertisement for Wolfram Research featuring outdated conference information appeared in the December issue of the *Notices*. Wolfram Research intended to announce their Worldwide Mathematica Conference to be held June 18–21, 1998, in Chicago, Illinois. The *Notices* regrets this error.

In the “About the Cover” box on page 1429 of the December 1997 issue, the name of Linda Buttel was misspelled and Simon Levin was referred to as a mathematician biologist. He is a mathematical biologist. The *Notices* regrets these errors.