

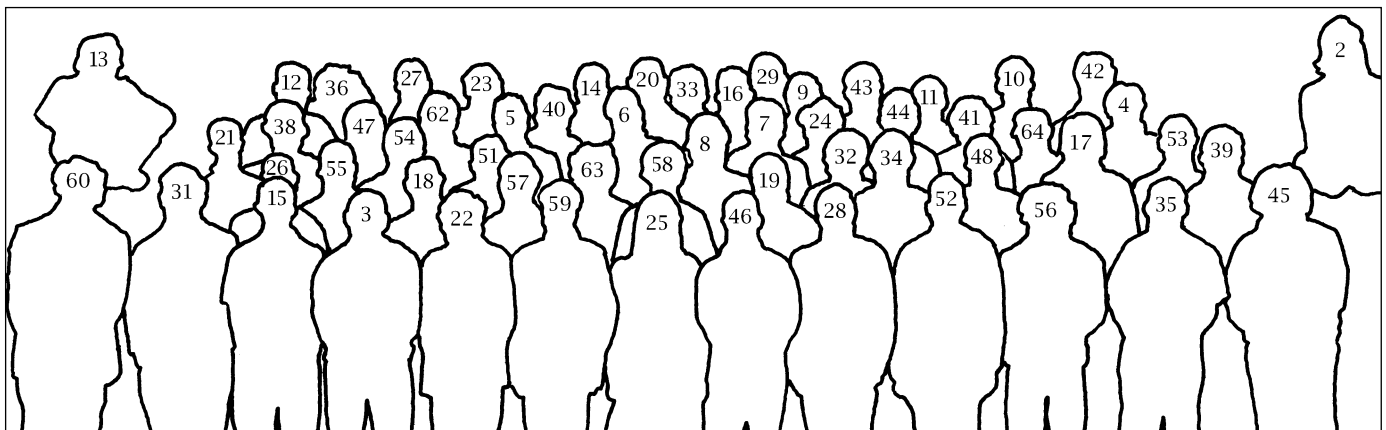
Twenty-five Years Ago: The Durham Symposium on Partial Differential Equations

Peter J. Bushell and David E. Edmunds

A London Mathematical Society (LMS) Symposium on Partial Differential Equations was held at the University of Durham, UK, from July 12 to July 23, 1976. The organisers were D. E. Edmunds and L. E. Fraenkel, both then at the University of Sussex, and the symposium was supported not only by the LMS but also by a grant from the British Science Research Council (SRC), which has now mutated into the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council). Indeed, the meeting may fairly be regarded as the culmination of eight years of support of PDEs by the SRC, which was keen to give fresh impetus to work in this important area. The programme consisted of formal lectures and “splinter-group” discussions organised on an ad hoc basis. Open problems were recorded in a book, now kept

in the School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Sussex.

The intention was to have a broad, high-level research meeting, with participation by invitation only. That this ambition was realised in a most remarkable way is perhaps more apparent now than it was at the time, for while the participants included an extraordinarily large proportion of mathematicians who were then of the first rank by world standards, there were also many younger people present who subsequently went on to gain similar eminence. The appeal and historical significance of this photograph stems from the way in which this snapshot of the past gives a glimpse of the future.



Key to Photograph

2. C. J. Amick (Cambridge), 3. M. F. Atiyah (Oxford), 4. J. F. G. Auchmuty (Indiana), 5. J. M. Ball (Heriot-Watt), 6. T. B. Benjamin (Essex), 7. H. Brézis (Paris VI), 8. F. E. Browder (Chicago), 9. K. Brown (Heriot-Watt), 10. P. J. Bushell (Sussex), 11. J. Carr (Heriot-Watt), 12. C. M. Dafermos (Brown), 13. J. J. Duistermaat (Utrecht), 14. N. du Plessis (Newcastle upon Tyne), 15. M. S. P. Eastham (Chelsea College, London), 16. D. E. Edmunds (Sussex), 17. J. Fells (Warwick), 18. W. D. Evans (Cardiff), 19. R. Finn (Stanford), 20. W. Forster (Southampton), 21. L. E. Fraenkel (Sussex), 22. F. G. Friedlander (Cambridge), 23. L. Gärding (Lund), 24. E. Giusti (Firenze), 25. F. Goldman (Glasgow), 26. V. W. Guillemin (M.I.T.), 27. J. Hale (Brown), 28. P. Hess (Zurich), 29. L. Hörmander (Lund), 31. R. J. Knops (Heriot-Watt), 32. J. Leray (Collège de France), 33. A. Lichnerowsky (Paris-Sud), 34. R. H. Martin (North Carolina), 35. J. B.

McLeod (Oxford), 36. R. Melrose (Cambridge), 38. V. B. Moscatelli (Sussex), 39. V. J. Mustonen (Oulu, Finland), 40. L. Nirenberg (New York), 41. J. Norbury (University College, London), 42. J. Ockendon (Oxford), 43. L. A. Peletier (Delft), 44. A. Plant (Essex), 45. A. J. B. Potter (Aberdeen), 46. P. H. Rabinowitz (Wisconsin), 47. J. C. Saut (Paris-Sud), 48. J. B. Serrin (Minnesota), 51. G. Stampacchia (Scuola Normale), 52. R. F. Streater (Bedford College, London), 53. C. A. Stuart (Aberdeen), 54. L. Tartar (Paris-Sud), 55. M. Thompson (Ahmadu Bello, Nigeria), 56. J. Toland (Essex), 57. N. S. Trudinger (Canberra), 58. J. R. L. Webb (Glasgow), 59. H. Weinberger (Minnesota), 60. T. J. Willmore (Durham), 62. Mrs. J. Hale, 63. Mrs. G. Stampacchia, 64. Unknown-not registered. Participants not appearing in photograph: H. Amann (Ruhr, Universität Bochum), A. Jeffrey (Newcastle upon Tyne), M. Miranda (Trento), I. Singer (M.I.T.), R. A. Smith (Durham).

