

## CEIC 2011 Activity Report

### Members and terms

- Peter Olver, 2008-2014 (Chair)  
School of Mathematics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
- Thierry Bouche, 2011-2014  
UFR de Mathématiques, Institut Fourier, Université de Grenoble I, Grenoble, France
- Olga Caprotti, 2008-2012  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Chalmers University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- James Davenport, 2008-2012  
Department of Computer Science, University of Bath, UK
- Carol Hutchins, 2008-2012  
Courant Institute, New York University, USA
- László Lovász, 2011-2014  
Department of Computer Science, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- Ravi Vakil, 2011-2014  
Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, USA

### Meetings

The annual Meeting of the CEIC took place in New York on May 6-8, 2011. Attending: Peter Olver (Chair), Thiery Bouche, Olga Caprotti, James Davenport, Carol Hutchins, László Lovász, Ravi Vakil.

Minutes can be found on the CEIC web page (see below).

The next meeting of CEIC will take place in Berlin, July 19-20, 2012.

### CEIC Email List

For the purposes of discussions among committee members and email from IMU and elsewhere, it was decided to establish a moderated e-mail distribution list:

[ceic14@mathunion.org](mailto:ceic14@mathunion.org).

The recipients of the list are the members of CEIC, along with the IMU technician. People who can post to the list without requiring explicit approval are members of the IMU EC, the IMU staff, and three former CEIC members: Ulf Rehmann, John Ball, and Michael Doob. Messages from others to the list need the approval of the CEIC Chair. The list became operational on February 21, 2011.

### CEIC web site

After much discussion about the out-of-date CEIC web site still in existence at the beginning of 2011, it was decided that, pending the full revamping of the IMU web site occasioned by the establishment of the permanent headquarters in Berlin, Peter Olver would, with the help of the Committee, design and host a new CEIC web site. This was put online on January 13, 2012, with a link from the IMU home page, and can be found directly at

<http://math.umn.edu/~olver/ceic.html>

A link to the historical CEIC pages is included. Eventually, the CEIC pages will be incorporated in the Berlin web site.

### e-Archiving

The February 22, 2010 Interim Report of the IMU e-Archiving Committee was transmitted to the archiving office in Berlin. How to proceed will be a topic of discussion at the next CEIC meeting in Berlin.

### **IMU-Net**

IMU-Net is edited by Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel. Six regular issues plus a special issue on the journal blog (see below) appeared in 2011. One issue has so far appeared in 2012. It was further decided to have informal cooperation with Steven Krantz, who is editing the new Notices of the American Mathematical Society column on journals and publishing issues.

### **IMU Bulletins**

It was noted during the year that the currently archived IMU Bulletins are extremely large files (for example #58 is 7.55MB), perhaps because of the fancy watermarking and graphics contained therein. This causes problems for users with limited bandwidth or storage. It has been suggested that the IMU technicians find a way to produce a much smaller size version for users in such situations. Also, it was noted that the current .pdf files do not open properly in Preview on a Macintosh, and so a more universal .pdf format should be used.

### **FWDM and EWDM**

It was decided at the 2011 meeting that, because they were no longer relevant in the current form of the Internet, CEIC will no longer support the Federated World Directory of Mathematicians (FWDM) and the Electronic World Directory of Mathematicians (EWDM). Thus, links to these do not appear on the new CEIC web pages, although a link to FWDM does still appear on the main IMU web page, as well as the historical CEIC pages.

### **Journal blog**

As a result of the IMU and the International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM) establishment of a Working Group to study the issue of Ranking of Mathematical Journals, the IMU and ICIAM approved a blog on mathematical journals to be hosted by the IMU. The original moderators of the blog were

Doug Arnold (ICIAM), Carol Hutchins (IMU), Nalini Joshi (ICIAM), Peter Olver (IMU), Fabrice Planchon (IMU), Tao Tang (ICIAM),

and Peter Olver was assigned the role of chairing the group.

Originally the blog was to be devoted to the question of journal ranking, but it was later decided to open the blog to all matters involving journals. The blog went live on November 18, 2011, and can be found at

<http://www.mathunion.org/journals>

The blog moderators have struggled with the difficulty of using the Typo3 software implemented by the IMU technician. While some initial difficulties have been successfully resolved, the consensus is that any future blog or social media activity needs to be done in a more supportive and adaptable software environment, and also soliciting advice from mathematicians who are actively involved in social media platforms.

On January 12, 2012, because Tao Tang was too busy to play an active role, he was replaced by Ming-Chih Lai. As of April 1, 2012, the blog has 4 main posts and a number of comments, although activity has been slowing down considerably in the previous month.

### **DML Workshop**

In fall, 2011, the CEIC wrote a proposal to the Sloan Foundation for a \$73,000 grant to support a symposium about the World Digital Mathematics Library, a long time initiative of the IMU and CEIC. The project was funded, and the workshop, titled

The Future World Heritage Digital Mathematics Library: Plans and Prospects

will take place June 1-3 at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington DC. The organizing committee consists of the members of CEIC along with R. Keith Dennis (Cornell University), Michael Doob (University of Manitoba, Canada), and Ulf Rehmann (University of Bielefeld, Germany). The goal of the meeting is to "develop a viable plan of action to realize the long standing dream of a universally accessible library for the world's mathematics literature". Attendance is by invitation only in order to keep the workshop sessions small and focussed. Details can be found on the evolving workshop wiki

<http://ada00.math.uni-bielefeld.de/dml>

The grant funds will be administered by the Friends of the International Mathematical Union (FIMU).

In addition, the NAS received notification from Sloan that their concurrent proposal to assemble a committee of experts to further develop the WDML, to produce a report and to plan prototypes and implementation, has also been funded. The two organizations — CEIC and NAS — are coordinating their activities in this regards.

### **Social Media: Facebook, Wikipedia, Twitter**

In 2010, prior to the India Congress, Manwinder Kaur, a research student from Thapar University Patiala, India created an IMU Facebook page on his own initiative:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Mathematical-Union>

which, as of April 1, 2012, contains just a copy of the Wikipedia article on the IMU. There was some discussion about CEIC assuming administration of this page and adding content, but no action has so far been taken. Similarly for the discussions on expanding the IMU Wikipedia article and possibly starting an IMU Twitter account.

### **World Data System**

A letter expressing the IMU's interest in joining the International Council for Science (ICSU)'s World Data System (WDS) had been sent in 2010. Since no reply had been forthcoming, on April 12, 2011, Peter Olver wrote to the ICSU, the Criteria for WDS Membership, stating that the IMU represents mathematicians throughout the world, many of whom maintain their own data sets and/or conduct research on mathematical methods for analyzing large data sets. However, apart from the IMU archives, the CEIC maintains no data sets of its own.

Following further correspondence, in August, the application of CEIC to become a partner member of WDS was completed. At that time, it was decided not to send an IMU representative to the 1st ICSU World Data System Conference in Kyoto, Japan, September 3-6, 2011. On April 2, 2011, Jean-Bernard Minster of ICSU wrote that an invitation to join WDS had been issued on February 15, but this did not reach CEIC. The matter is under investigation.

### **Finances**

EUR 905.50 was received from the IMU to cover expenditure related to meeting activities.