

Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Atlantic Algebra Centre

Mini course and Distinguished Colloquium

by

Professor John Wilson

Oxford University, UK

Report

On September 13 – 19, 2014, Professor John Wilson of Oxford University, United Kingdom, visited Atlantic Algebra Centre at St. John's campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Professor Wilson delivered a mini-course entitled "**Branch groups: theory and practice**". He also gave a Distinguished Colloquium "**Non-standard finite simple groups**". The lectures of the mini-course were at a level accessible to graduate and advanced undergraduate (honours) students. The Distinguished Colloquium was designed for a general mathematical audience.

Professor Wilson is a celebrated mathematician working primarily in the Theory of Groups. He is a founder and Editor-in-Chief of "Journal of Group Theory" published by De Gruyter.

From 1994 to 2003 he held the Mason Chair of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham and now holds an Honorary Visiting Professorship at Aston University. Professor Wilson has held visiting professorships and other appointments for various periods at a number of other universities around the globe, most recently at the Université de Genève (January - June 2002), the University of California at San Diego (January - March 2004), ETH Zürich (April - June 2007, May - June 2009), Berlin (September 2011). In October - March of 2015 he will be the Leibnitz Professor at the University of Leipzig.

From 2004 to 2010, he was Professor of Mathematics, Oxford University. On retirement from this position, he became a Departmental Research Fellow in the Mathematical Institute, Oxford. He is also a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.

Research interests of Professor John Wilson include profinite groups, finite and infinite soluble groups, model theory of groups, branch groups, word growth of groups, finitely presented groups, generation problems for finite simple groups.

The lectures of the mini-course by Professor Wilson took place on September 15, 17 and 19, 2014 in Auditorium A-1049, 3 – 4:30 pm. The total number of participants of the mini course was around 20 – 25 students and faculty members. Professor Wilson made himself available at other times during his visit for further questions and discussions at Atlantic Algebra Centre, including Algebra Evenings on September 18. The web page of the mini course is available on the web site of Atlantic Algebra Centre at <http://www.mun.ca/aac/AACMiniCourses/JW/>.

Breakdown of Expenses and Revenues

1. Expenses

- a. Airfare and per diem - \$ 1,830.41
- b. Hotel - \$ 982.80
- c. Hosting - \$ 200
- d. Total of Expenses - \$ 3,013.21

2. Revenues

- a. AARMS - \$2,000
- b. MUN Department of Mathematics and Statistics - \$200
- c. AAC - \$ 813.21
- d. Total of revenues - \$ 3,013.21

3. Expenses minus Revenues = Nil

Yuri Bahturin
Director
Atlantic Algebra Centre