

AARMS Report for the East Coast Combinatorial Conference 2016

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Amount awarded: \$ 3000.00

Conference: 11th East Coast Combinatorics Conference (ECCC 2016)

Dates: July 18 and 19, 2016, at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax

Plenary Speakers: Mateja Sajna, University of Ottawa
Anthony Bonato, Ryerson University

Description

ECCC 2016 was a successful conference. In addition to the two plenary speakers, we had 14 contributed talks, on a range of topics from combinatorics and graph theory, from combinatorial games to infinite random graphs.

Participation

There were 42 attendees. Most were from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, but in addition to the plenary speakers from Ontario we had attendees from Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and New York. Approximately 30 of the attendees continued on to GrasCan 2016, which was held at Dalhousie University on the following two days.

Scientific Highlights

The highlight of the conference were the two plenary talks. Mateja Sajna spoke on Eulerian Properties of Hypergraphs and Triple Systems, and Anthony Bonato spoke on The New World of Infinite Random Geometric Graphs; both spoke well and included open problems. There were also informal meetings between attendees on common research interests, particularly among those attendees who continued on to GrasCan, where some problems raised at ECCC continued to be discussed.

We were also pleased that 13 students attended the conference: 7 undergraduates and 6 graduates. With 30 minutes for the contributed talks, most of the speakers were able to explain their basic concepts well, so that the students were able to get a good general idea of what was going on without needing to understand the technical details of the final slides. The students we talked to enjoyed the conference and felt that they learned from it (and they all came back for the second day). Most of the mathematics taught at the undergraduate level is necessarily relatively old and fixed, so we believe it is highly beneficial for undergraduates to attend a conference such as this, filled with new material, plenty of open problems, and mathematicians enthusiastic about their research.

Income and Expenditure

Project Name:	East Coast Combinatorics Conference 2016
Revenue (please specify):	
AARMS Grant	\$ 3,000.00
President's Special Conference Fund	\$ 508.64
Total Revenues:	\$ 3,508.64
Expenditures (please specify):	
Facility cost	\$ 104.95
Catering	\$ 821.29
Student accommodation assistance	\$ 211.96
Travel Cost for Plenary Speaker Mateja Sajna	\$ 872.74
Travel Cost for Plenary Speaker Anthony Bonato	\$ 1,379.88
Office supplies (nametags and folders)	\$ 77.60
Thank you gifts for plenary speakers	\$ 40.22
Total Expenditures:	\$ 3,508.64
Net of Revenues and Expenditures	\$ 0.00

In the past the ECCC has charged a registration fee of about \$50 to those attendees with NSERC grants, but no fee for attendees without grants. However, due to NSERC's current emphasis on faculty with graduate students, last year there were only two attendees with grants and the fee was waived. Since the facility costs are higher at MSVU for conferences with registration fees, we decided not to charge a registration fee this year.

Other Information

We felt ECCC 2016 went very well, and we are very grateful for the grant from AARMS which made it possible (as well as a smaller grant from the MSVU President's Special Conference Fund). Unfortunately we forgot to take a group photo (perhaps because everyone was so busy enjoying themselves).