

Mochima theoretical physics spring school

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Preface

The Mochima theoretical physics spring school on the Foundations of statistical and mesoscopic physics took place in Mochima, Edo. Sucre, Venezuela, between the 20th and 24th of June 2005¹. The Mochima biological station, 400 km east from Caracas, is devoted to the study of the sea fauna of the Mochima National Park in the Caribbean sea. This scientific event, between conventional school and informal workshop, aimed at providing a current overview of the general field of Statistical Physics and Mesoscopic Physics and at fostering interaction among active physicists coming from different countries and postgraduate students from Venezuela in this area.

Several tutorial minicourses were delivered with the intention of providing the theoretical foundations of statistical physics and quantum mechanics as well as of more specialized topics like renormalization or homotopy. The students also had the opportunity to present in very short and informal talks their own research in front of a very international audience. Indeed, although the participation was limited to a very restricted audience, due to the “basic” conditions of accommodation and the small size of the available lecture hall of the biological station of Mochima, many countries/origins were represented: Armenia, Catalonia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Ireland, Kabilia, Macedonia, Ukraine, Venezuela for this meeting between the “Old continent” and the “New World”.

Our objective was essentially pedagogical, as we were interested in motivating the students to learn and to go on studying physics, through a close contact with known scientists in a pleasant place appropriate for scientific discussions. Appropriate here means far enough from everything and isolated enough for all kinds of electronic communications to be useless. We warmly thank all the lecturers, who although “invited” came on their own funds and we are confident that this first visit in Venezuela for most of them will not be the last one. We acknowledge all the participants who contributed to the very pleasant atmosphere of this school and we hope that some contacts between students and lecturers will be kept in the future².

The school was possible thanks to the sponsorship of several institutions: Fondo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (FONACIT, Venezuela), Centro de Estudios Avanzados (CEA, IVIC, Venezuela), Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (France), Société Française de Physique (SFP, France).

¹<http://www.lpm.u-nancy.fr/webperso/berche.b/MochimaWeb/Mochima.shtml>

²Comment that only the non-American member of the “organizing team” may write: as mentioned above, the aim was to offer to students of Caracas the wonderful opportunity to attend lectures given by internationally recognized speakers, but at the same time to offer to these lecturers the fantastic opportunity to meet very nice students and more generally to meet a beautiful country and its so welcoming people.

Eventually, we wish to express our gratitude to the editorial office of *Condensed Matter Physics*, and in particular to Oksana Patsahan for her patience, efficiency and useful advice.

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List of participants

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The conference photo: 1. Wolfhard Janke, 2. Ara Apkarian, 3. Odrha Iribarren, 4. Imre Mikoss, 5. Yurij Holovatch, 6. Catherine Dufour, 7. Eduardo Ludeña, 8. Monica García-Ñustes, 9. Dragi Karevski, 10. Andres Nuñez, 11. Carlos Vásquez, 12. Carolina Trigo, 13. Hender López, 14. Alexander López, 15. Judith Daza, 16. Arnaldo Donoso, 17. Bertrand Berche, 18. Emmanuelle Gourieux, 19. Ralph Kenna. Picture: *cortesía de Anne y Marko*.

