

NOTIZIARIO

Neutroni e Luce di Sincrotrone



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Cover photo. Inside the ISIS Second Target Station building at the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, United Kingdom.



IX School of Neutron Scattering "Francesco Paolo Ricci"

M.A. Ricci and M. Zoppi

The 9th edition of the School of Neutron Scattering "F. P. Ricci", was held in S. Margherita di Pula (CA - IT) from September 22nd to October 3rd. This year, the school has been focused on the application of neutrons to structural determination in soft matter, in a wide range of correlation distances. Near and intermediate range order, along with wetting processes, have been considered and the students have been exposed to both theory and data handling sessions on SANS, neutron diffraction, and neutron reflectometry.

Teachers and students have represented a wide sample of European countries ranging from Spain to Hungary and from Scotland to Sicily. Among the teachers, we are pleased to mention and acknowledge, in particular, Bob Thomas, who has delivered in S. Margherita his last tutorial before retirement. His experience and enthusiasm, for science and teaching, have been an enjoyable lesson delivered to all of us.

The students have appreciated the general lectures and, in particular, the exercises and data handling sessions that were held during the second week. It was a pleasant surprise to discover with what care and competence they prepared and delivered their final reports.

It is worthwhile mentioning that our originally planned series of scientific talks, on subjects of interest in the recent literature that were scheduled at the beginning of section in the morning and after lunch with the undisclosed aim of bringing back the students to work, were hardly necessary. We are happy to admit that sometimes we had to change the schedule, because we felt unfair to



take their attention off while they were at work before us, and so busy with their data handling session. Lecture notes and other information on the school, along with a series of pictures, are available at the school website:

http://webusers.fis.uniroma3.it/sns_fpr/.

The school would not have been complete without paying visit to Sardegna Ricerche, a research center established in S. Margherita di Pula in 1985, by the regional government of Sardinia. Students have spent an afternoon there and met staff scientists involved in research programs on renewable energy, biophysics, and new communication technologies.

The main topic of the school was the liquid state. As a matter of fact, liquids were everywhere, not only in our minds: the sea in front of our conference room, the mirto, in our glasses at the “baretto” after dinner, and unfortunately also some rain, almost every day over our packed lunch, no to mention the flooding of the conference room, which however was not able to interrupt the lectures that were held in the hall of Hotel Flamingo, under the curious sight of the other guests. As directors, we can only apologize for the inconvenience and stress, stating, if needed at all, that weather is usually much better in Sardinia.

Finally we acknowledge the financial support of: Association School of Neutron Scattering F.P. Ricci, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, Università degli Studi Roma Tre and Department of Physics E. Amaldi, Sardegna Ricerche, ISIS Pulsed Neutron Source (UK) and ILL Reactor (F).



Successful Neutron/X-Ray School at Argonne and Oak Ridge

The 10th United States National School on Neutron and X-ray Scattering was held September 24-October 11, 2008, at Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

The 46 graduate students came from 1 foreign and 35 U.S. academic institutions. The lecturers came from academic and government research institutions. Following their arrival at Argonne for initial lectures, the students traveled to Oak Ridge for lectures and experiments devoted to neutrons on September 28 to October 2, 2008. While at ORNL, the 46 students attended lectures, and each performed three neutron scattering experiments: two at High Flux Isotope Reactor (one was on a triple axis instrument) and one at the Spallation Neutron Source.

The students then returned to Argonne for additional lectures and two x-ray experiments at the Advanced Photon Source. In their evaluation of the program, the students praised the quality of the lectures and eagerly anticipated returning to the facilities as users. It was a great opportunity for learning and hands-on experience, and like all scientists, they wanted more time to perform experiments!

Additional information on the School is available at the websites www.dep.anl.gov/nx/ and <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/conf/NXS2008/>