

Faraday Discussion 118
Cluster Dynamics
University of Durham, UK
17-19 April 2001

The Faraday Discussion on Cluster Dynamics was held at the University of Durham from 17 to 19 April 2001. It attracted approximately 100 participants, including many of the major players in the area, and the quality of discussion was very high indeed.

The meeting began with the Spiers Memorial Lecture, delivered by Prof. Roger Miller of the University of North Carolina. This was a wide-ranging lecture, which set the scene admirably for the remainder of the Discussion. Prof. Miller's work on clusters formed in helium droplets also linked to papers presented by Andrej Vilesov and Kevin Lehmann. Subsequent papers were presented by Tanja van Mourik, David Nesbitt, Richard Saykally, Timothy Zwier, Martin Suhm, Ad van der Avoird, Krzysztof Szalewicz, Fedor Naumkin, Daniel Neumark, Jean-Michel Mestdagh, Udo Buck, Nadine Halberstadt, David Wales, Benny Gerber, Anne McCoy, Marsha Lester, Paul Dagdigan, Zlatko Bacic, Peter Botschwina, Otto Dopfer and Gregory Gellene. Carl Lineberger presented penetrating Concluding Remarks in a very lively and entertaining style, using digital photographs he had taken throughout the meeting.

Advertising the meeting was carried out by all the usual paper methods and by advertising on the molecular-dynamics-news email list, which has about 1800 members. My impression is that the (free) molecular-dynamics-news meeting was by far the most effective.

The Organising Committee began by making only 12 invitations, to shape the Discussion. All the invitations were accepted, leaving only 11-12 papers to be selected from the submitted abstracts. In the event, two more late invitations were made after the abstracts were received, to fill a gap that was perceived at that point. This allowed only 11 of the 50 submitted abstracts to be accepted as full papers, even at the cost of having 25 papers at the Discussion. The selection was a difficult task, and many excellent papers had to be turned down. In retrospect, it would have been better to make only 8-10 invitations in the first round.

In the event, one invited paper did not materialize, leaving 24 papers in total.

As recommended at a recent meeting of Faraday Division SCC, each session chairman was asked to make some introductory comments to set the scene for the benefit of graduate students and non-specialists and to suggest areas for discussion. This worked very well in most cases. One consequence of this, however, was that it made editorial sense to divide the printed Discussion into 8 sections, instead of the traditional three or four, and to begin each printed section with the session chairman's remarks.

A pre-Discussion party was held at Jeremy Hutson's house the evening before the Discussion began, and was attended by most of the speakers and a few others. This was very successful, and I believe it was an important contributor to the easy flow of discussion, especially in the (very lively) first session.

Many of the participants at the Discussion saw it as the latest in a sequence of Faraday Discussions on complexes and clusters, the last of which was held in Durham in 1994. These meetings have become something of a tradition in the field, and several participants asked about "Durham 2008".

The following organisations sponsored the meeting:

- Taylor and Francis Ltd., the publishers of International Reviews in Physical Chemistry
- CCP6, the Collaborative Computational Project on Molecular Quantum Dynamics
- Sun Microsystems
- Leybold Vacuum
- Hiden Analytical Ltd.

The accommodation was at Collingwood College, Durham, and the conference dinner was held at Durham Castle (University College). I would recommend this combination for future such events. The discussion sessions were held in the Scarbrough Lecture Theatre, which is well positioned for registration and refreshment facilities.

I would like to thank Christine Hall for all her organisational work for this, her first Faraday Discussion, and the Organising Committee for responding so helpfully to my many requests for input and support.

*Professor Jeremy Hutson (University of Durham)
Chairman, Faraday Discussion 118*

13 Sept 2001