

Semester Report WS 02/03 by Julian Pfeifle

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Field of Research: Discrete and Combinatorial Geometry
Topic: Triangulated Complexes
PhD Student at the program since March 1, 2000

Goodbye!

This has been my last semester at the graduate college, so it's an excellent time to thank all the people who made it possible, exciting, and fun: above all, former coordinator Bettina Felsner, Helmut Alt, the speaker of the program, and of course Günter M. Ziegler, my PhD advisor.

In these three years, the CGC faculty members have made a success out of every one of an amazing number of courses, schools and workshops, some of which took place at unforgettable locations. I'll tell everyone about the impressive lineup of distinguished speakers you managed to assemble for the Monday lectures (you must have convinced the authors of half the local library to visit Berlin), all the great math you taught, and the very friendly and cooperative atmosphere you created in Berlin. Thank you!

Some very special thanks goes to all the students and former members of the program, without whose company and support these three years wouldn't have been half as nice and rewarding.

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As was to be expected, I'm spending this last semester on writing up my thesis, and as was also to be expected, this is taking longer than I thought. I spent most of the time on cleaning two chapters that I had (sort of) written up before, but not yet polished nor published – one is my construction of a family of polar-to-neighborly 4-polytopes with an ascending Hamiltonian path, and the other one a proof that there are no (weakly) neighborly centrally symmetric star-shaped spheres (also called *fans*) on few rays. As an avid reader of these semester reports, you already know about these projects, and you will find the final version in my thesis, (quite) soon.

Activities

- Attendance of the lectures and colloquia of the CGC

- Invited lecture *Polytope und zelluläre Sphären*, at *Studentenkonferenz* of the annual meeting of the German Mathematical Society (DMV), Halle (Germany), September 2002
- *Diskrete Mathematik 2002*, Symposium at TU Dresden, Dresden (Germany), October 2002
- *Combinatorics*, workshop in honour of Walter Deuber's 60th Birthday, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin (Germany), October 2002
- Conference talk *Many triangulated 3-spheres*, Kolloquium über Kombinatorik, Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg (Germany), November 2002
- Talk with the same title at the 2nd Workshop on Combinatorics, Geometry, and Computation, Hiddensee (Germany), October 2002
- *Diskrete Mathematik 2002*, Symposium at TU Dresden, Dresden (Germany), October 2002
- *Discrete Convex Geometry*, workshop in honour of Jürgen Bokowski's 60th birthday, Darmstadt (Germany), February 2003
- Held three talks on *Combinatorial Homotopy Theorems* at the seminar *Topologische Kombinatorik* by Mark de Longueville at FU Berlin
- Attended the seminars *Oberseminar Diskrete Geometrie*, and *Brown Bag Seminar* at TU Berlin

Preview

My next plans are to return to Barcelona, and from there take a stint as a post-doc fellow at the MSRI Special Semester on Discrete and Computational Geometry in Berkeley. The weather in those places will be warmer, but I'll leave behind that proverbial "*Koffer in Berlin*" ...