

GR17 report

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Conference season is upon us once again and the big one this year is undoubtedly GR17, due to start in Dublin next Sunday. The list of plenary talks looks particularly strong, with most of the main areas of research receiving very good coverage. Of special note are Barish's outline of recent results from gravitational wave detectors, a review of recent results in mathematical relativity by Piotr Chrusciel, a discussion of the holographic principle by Don Marolf, and reviews of the current state of play in numerical relativity and LQG by Miguel Alcubierre and John Baez, respectively. There's also the small matter of Hawking's commentary on black hole information loss, which is garnering impressive media attention in the UK and Ireland at the moment.

Assuming I have internet access available to me, I'll try to post a daily review of the plenary lectures on sci.physics*, as well as a selection of the most interesting poster sessions and contributed talks. If time permits, I'll try to give an account of this year's public lectures "Probing the Universe and Black Holes with Gravitational Waves" by Prof. Kip Thorne and "Fashion, Faith, and Fantasy in Modern Physical Theories" by Sir Roger Penrose. (In case you're interested in seeing a webcast of a recent version of Penrose's lecture, I've included links to it at the bottom. Beware: there's over three hours of video there.)

Anyway, I've just arrived in Dublin, the weather's good and the Guinness is even better. To while away the time tomorrow I'm going to watch a football game in Croke Park before registering for the conference, assuming my head isn't too sore. Should be an interesting week.

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