First Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society Electronic Conference

By Barry J. Hardy,[1] Stephen W. Doughty,[2] Martin F. Parretti,[2] W. Graham Richards[2] and Jeni Tennison[3]

[1] *Virtual Environment International, Oxford Centre for Innovation, Mill St., Oxford 0X2 0JX, UK (e-mail: barry@vei.co.uk)*

[2] *Physical & Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford University, Oxford, OX1 3QZ, UK (e-mail: steve@bellatrix.pcl.ox.ac.uk, martin@bellatrix.pcl.ox.ac.uk, wgr@bellatrix.pcl.ox.ac.uk)*

[3] *Dept of Psychology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK (e-mail: jft@psychology.nottingham.ac.uk)*

Abstract

In this article we describe activities at the First Molecular Modelling and Graphics Society Electronic Conference (MGMS EC-1) which was held on the Internet and World Wide Web in October 1996.[1] MGMS EC-1 involved the presentation and discussion of scientific research results in a virtual conferencing environment which incorporated virtual replicas of many activities usually observed at a physical conference in addition to features unique to the electronic medium. Highlights of the scientific programme and technical developments in the design and use of these facilities are briefly described. A second electronic conference is planned for October 1997.[2]

Introduction

At the MGMS EC-1 event[1] presenters were able to display research results using a World Wide Web (WWW) presentation of text and graphics and could discuss the results within the context of an interactive software environment running on the Internet. Simply put, a scientist was able to sit at his/her computer and view presentations and exchange comments with other scientists situated in their own offices or labs in other parts of the world. A variety of activities was possible including the ability to manipulate molecular structures, to submit and review resumés, to review exhibitor product descriptions and to carry out online searches of the proceedings.

MGMS EC-1 was held on the Internet 7-18 October 1996[1] with entry to the site via an extensive set of WWW pages. The conference was sponsored by Elsevier, the Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society (MGMS), Oxford Molecular, MSI, Springer-Verlag, Wyeth-Ayerst, NASA-Ames and GlaxoWellcome. The event attracted close to a hundred presentations and over two hundred participants. The conference was served both from a UK location (The University of Oxford) and the US (S.U.N.Y. and Wesleyan University) with continuous real-time mirroring of the interactive environment. A similar event is planned for October 1997.[2] In this article we give an overview of the features, events and news of the first conference whereas a more detailed analysis of the software environment and its use is given elsewhere.[3] A hypertext version of this article and accompanying full color graphics are available at http://www.vei.co.uk/mgmsec1/article/.

Overview

MGMS EC-1 was a fully international event open to all members of the scientific community and covered a broad range of disciplines related to molecular modelling, graphics and simulation methods and applications including section areas and conveners in the following topics:

Protein Structure
(Rod Hubbard, University of York, UK);

Membranes and Membrane Proteins
(Alan Robinson, University of Oxford, UK);

Computational Nanotechnology
(Al Globus, NASA-Ames, USA);

Protein Folding
(Jeffrey Skolnick, Scripps Institute, USA);

Modelling of In Vivo *Activity*
(Edward Hodgkin, Wyeth-Ayerst Research, USA);

Knowledge-based Library Design
(Mike Hann, GlaxoWellcome, UK);

Surface Science (Donald Brenner, North Carolina State, USA);

Chemical Design Automation News

INDEX

Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling

655 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10010

0263-7855/97/$17.00

ELSEVIER