Probability and Phase Transition

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edited by

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PREFACE

Random spatial processes were the subject of a special six-month programme at the Isaac Newton Institute of the University of Cambridge, in 1993. A major event of that programme was a NATO Advanced Study Institute, of which this volume contains the proceedings. The meeting took place during 4–16 July, and brought together specialists and students working on spatial disorder and phase transition. The main language of the meeting was probability theory, but with important input from other areas of science, particularly physics.

The success of the Advanced Study Institute was ensured by a generous grant from the NATO Scientific Affairs Committee; this funding enabled the full participation of young people who might otherwise have been unable to attend. Travel support for young U.S. participants was provided by the National Science Foundation.

Cambridge proved to be an excellent and popular venue, of which an essential component was the superb environment offered by the Isaac Newton Institute. The Institute provided not only substantial funding, but also a wonderful building, and a staff of individuals who assisted the smooth organisation with efficiency and good humour.

The Organising Committee offers its thanks to Sarah Shea-Simonds, whose graceful administration of the preparation for the meeting was especially appreciated by the Director. Her virtuosity at all dialects of TeX is evident in her fine work in producing this volume. The editor was aided also by the Isaac Newton Institute, and by support from the SERC under grant GR G59981.

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