

Report of the Student Seminar Summer Term 2013 Bastenhäuser, Dannenfels, April 10 - 12, 2013

by Axel Pelster and Daniel Sellmann
Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

In the summer term 2013 the student seminar of the Collaborative Research Center SFB TR/49 took place at the Bastenhäuser in Dannenfels within the period April 10 – 12, 2013. After the arrival, old and new student members became acquainted with each other during lunch time. In the afternoon we started with the scientific presentations for which we reserved a duration of 30 minutes each, including extensive discussions. In total we had 6 talks at this first day which gave a fair cross-section of different current experimental and theoretical research topics of the Collaborative Research Center. Remaining questions were then solved during the socializing evening session where also UEFA champions league games were watched in a relaxed atmosphere. During the morning of the second day we completed the scientific student presentations by subsequent 5 talks which mainly focused on different numerical tools for investigating static and dynamic properties of quantum many-body systems. It was clearly visible that each PhD student invested quite some time to make his presentation understandable to a broader, nonspecialist audience. Finally, an open discussion about the next student seminar led to the result that a longer stay in a larger German city would be preferred by the majority of student members. Further suggestions upon organizational details will be taken into account in the future.



In the second half of the student seminar we had an intensive soft-skill course about how to apply in both academia and industry with two experienced coaches. In the first part we discussed how to write application papers in both German and English. In particular it was quite instructive to examine and advice also the own application documents which were supplied by some student members. In the second part we got an insight how to perform a job interview. Also here the training included volunteers who simulated such a job interview and whose performance was later on assessed in the group. It was a general consensus among the student members that the coaches were able to perform the soft-skill course in quite a relaxed but active atmosphere. Furthermore, the distribution of a detailed list of recommendations, which points have to be considered for a written and oral job application, was highly appreciated.

Due to the inadequate wheather conditions the originally planned hike to a hut was replaced by a cheerful rainy drive within a covered wagon which was pulled by a tractor. Afterwards, an extensive wine tasting completed the social program at the student seminar.



The complete programme of the student seminar of the summer term 2013 is available on the homepage

www.uni-kl.de/physik/sfbtr49/dannenfels

The next student seminar is planned to take place in Hamburg within the last week before the lecture time of the winter semester 2013/2014.