

IPP SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2015 – ANDREA DAL MOLIN

During the week between the 14th and the 18th of September I attended the IPP Summer University at Garching (Germany). This event consists in a cycle of lectures on Fusion topics for Bachelor and Master students from all around the world.

I got to know this project from a fellow student who attended last year and I was encouraged by her to send in my application. After all, for a Plasma Physics student like me it was an incredible opportunity, so I was eager to take part in it!

The lectures covered most of fusion topics and were conveniently scheduled in order to give everyone a common knowledge before facing more complicated subjects. The lecturers were really able to deliver these concepts and, more importantly, to give clear answers to our questions.

What interested me the most was to learn more about the stellarator design. Unfortunately, during my studies, this subject was not developed enough, so this event gave me the opportunity to extend my knowledge of this fascinating topic. Dr. Hakan Smith gave a lecture on the physical theory behind this particular configuration, reviewing the most important problems for plasma confinement and explaining the optimization performed on devices to limit these effects. During the second lecture, Dr. Thomas Windisch talked about the experimental side of the stellarator family, showing us the main differences in the design concept of the various machines and the operating goals of Wendelstein 7-X.

In my opinion, the most valuable aspect of this week was meeting different people from all over the world who share my interest in plasma physics. It was exciting to get to know fellow students, IPP PhD students and researchers from other countries and learn from their experiences. These encounters made me realize how fusion is indeed a multigenerational and international effort.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to thank once again Dr. Roberto Bilato and Ingrid Kaufmann for the flawless organization of this amazing event!