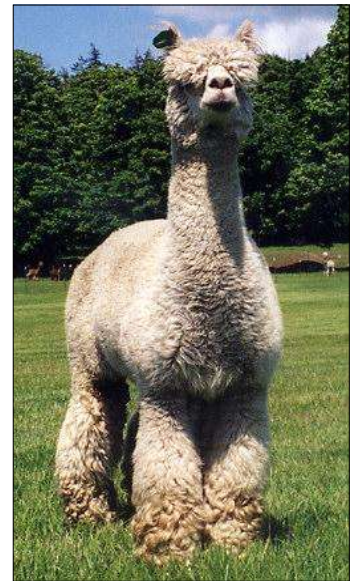


A view of Alan,

I have found Alan's scientific perspective beautifully clear with the striking honesty of real rigour that leads innovation through simple but deep observations. His open, calm and methodical scientific professionalism bursts into enthusiastic and playful stories. I find his approachable gentle ability to explain ideas without judgement and his inquisitive open mind to learning new things immensely helpful in building my own confidence and also inspiring. His attitude to people is deeply human but with an ever present cheeky sense of humour. There is also a mountain-like reliability about him which with his light but friendly manner makes him a joy to work with.

I had initially wanted to make a cartoon showing him proving $P=NP$, by a lake reflecting his thoughts, featuring the loch-ness monster, seagulls and perhaps some of his many delightful anecdotes. It was to be a surreal play of rippling! However, I changed my mind as I slowly realised that I did not really know what I was trying to do. Nonetheless, along the way, I came across this fantastic surreal result that is almost as good (shown in the adjacent Figure). In a search for "rippling + proving" in google images, I discovered it to yield a unique result - a so called google-whack - why google believes this is the only true illustration of rippling and proving is beyond me, but every time I recall it, it leaves me with a smile.



Song of Automation

There was a man in informatics
Who taught to machines mathematics
So pure and so fine
Was his rippling divine
That it spawned the obsessed DReaM fanatics

His glory increased through the years
His proof-plans reduced men to tears
His group was devoted,
His theories much quoted,
He was loved and adored by his peers

And all who are in the regime
Cry 'automation reigns supreme'
We are happy and proud
To have been allowed
To partake in the glorious DReaM

Dreaming with Alan

At first I was scared of AI Bundy
He kept talking to all and sundry
"To ensure termination
There's fertilization
And skeletons give us no quandary"

Next impressions were somewhat unnerving
Embeddings were somehow preserving
The waving's mutated
The rippling's x-rated
The whole thing was very disturbing

Five years later I think I now get it
I've got over my instinct to leg it
Orange boxes are key
To the things from the sea
Let me dream forever, I beg it!

Life in the DReaM group ... or thanks, Alan

The DReaM group is an exceptional place to work because it is full of interesting and intelligent people who are never competitive but always supportive. It is relaxed and friendly but at the same time inspiring, producing top level research without any hothouse pressure. This is almost entirely because of the subtle leadership from above. Alan leads without ever demanding and inspires without ever intimidating.

It is not unusual to hear people from all kinds of fields, universities and age groups describing Alan in tones of awe, as the best supervisor they have ever encountered, as an outstandingly rewarding person to work with. His contribution to AI is enormous not only because he produces excellent research himself, but because he has given so much of himself to the DReaM group over the years, creating a huge network of successful AI researchers whose own contributions to the field are very much affected by the support, inspiration and advice given to them during their years with Alan. All of the DReaMers are aware of how lucky we are to be working in Alan's group. Alan ... we are very grateful to you for creating such opportunities for us and we hope that we can make the most of them and go on, as so many have done before us, to spread the light of Bundyism through the AI world.

from the Current DReaMers