

Introduction to Finite Element Modelling

The response to NAL's NAL-UNI lecture programme on *Finite Element Modelling*, being delivered now (22-25 July 1998) by Prof J N Reddy has been unprecedented. When Prof Reddy of Texas A&M University, visiting NAL and India as a TOKTEN Fellow, most gracefully agreed to deliver the lecture, in spite of the short notice, Dr Prathap (NAL-UNI Coordinator) expected about 50 participants. But the number of registrations just kept growing; soon it crossed the 100-mark (requiring Dr Prathap to hastily relocate the course at the Systems Auditorium), and when Acting Director Dr B R Pai formally inaugurated the programme on Wednesday morning, the number had climbed to over 120.

Even a cursory visit to the Systems Auditorium will explain why. Prof Reddy is doing extremely well! "I really enjoy doing FE courses, although I am not used to lecturing to so many", Prof Reddy began, and then proceeded to describe "the three basic ideas of FEM" ("divide the whole into parts; set up the 'problem' over a typical part; and then assemble the part to obtain the solution to the whole"). The introduction then went on to discuss "what an engineer does at work" (one or more from 'theoretical formulation', 'physical measurements', numerical simulation of physical process' and 'system design', and always with the objective of delivering reliable and cost-effective systems).

It should therefore be four useful days of instruction for the participants from Prof Reddy who fought off a jet lag and a bad throat (could this be why he said "doctors are not scientists"?) to deliver a truly memorable NAL-UNI course.
