

Multiple Roles and Excellence Strategies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Uwe Sleytr and Peter Schuster

ALLEA and the European Research Area

Madrid, 17.04.2008





THE AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

1. A learned society

2. An organization promoting young scientists

3. A research perfoming institution



The Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS)

- Founded in 1847
- Autonomous status: legal entity under public law, "under the special protection of the Federal Republic of Austria"
- "Its mission is to promote the sciences and humanities in every respect and in every field, particularly in basic research."
- 3 major activities:
 - A learned society
 - An organisation promoting young scientists
 - An organisation performing research: 66 research facilities, 33 institutes, approx. 1.300 employees in research and administration



The Austrian Academy of Sciences as a learned society

	sciences	humanities	total
full members	84	78	162
corr.members, Austrian	79	73	152
corr.members, foreign	157	142	299
honorary members	9	6	15
total	329	299	628

Young Academy (founded 2006) 70 members (currently 38) members elected for eight years, age below 45

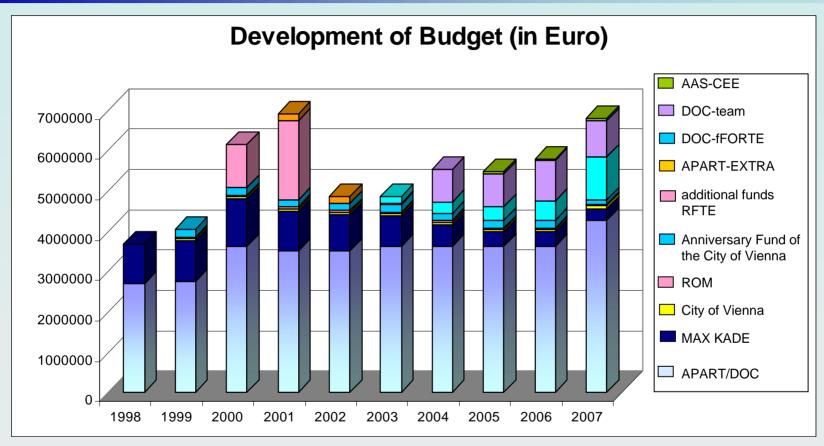


The Austrian Academy of Sciences as an agency promoting young scientists

Seven scholarship programs for doctoral students and post-docs ...

... among them DOCfFORTE and L'Oreal Scholarships being special programs supporting women in science





Scholarship budget within the last ten years



The Austrian Academy of Sciences as a research institution

1100 scientists and technicians doing research in 33 institutes and 8 centers

- Historical aspects
- A few highlights in the last few years



1910 ... the Institute for Radium Research becomes the first research institute of the AAS

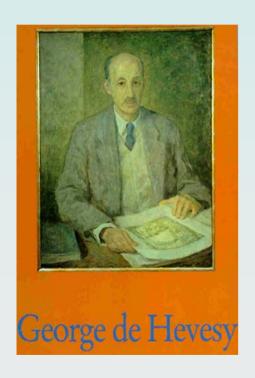
Private sponsor: Dr. Karl Kupelwieser



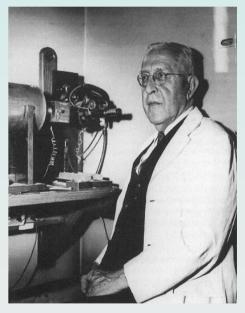
 Institut für Radiumforschung der Wiener Akademie der Wissenschaften (1910)



The Institute for Radium Research became an Austrian success story ...

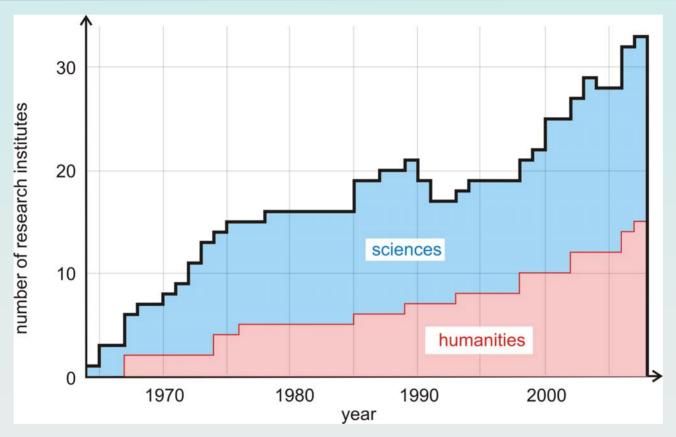


... two Nobel prizes



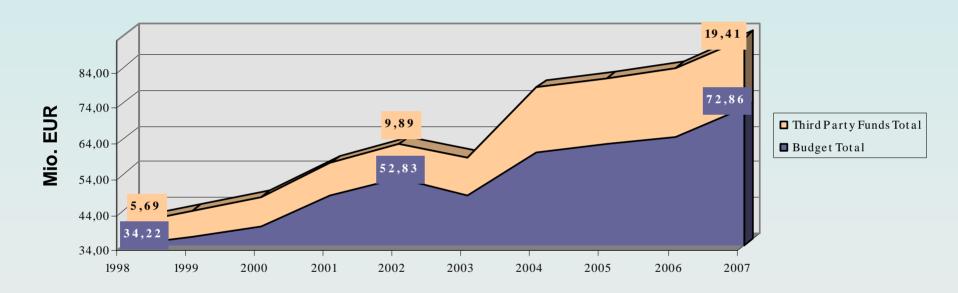
Victor Franz Heß





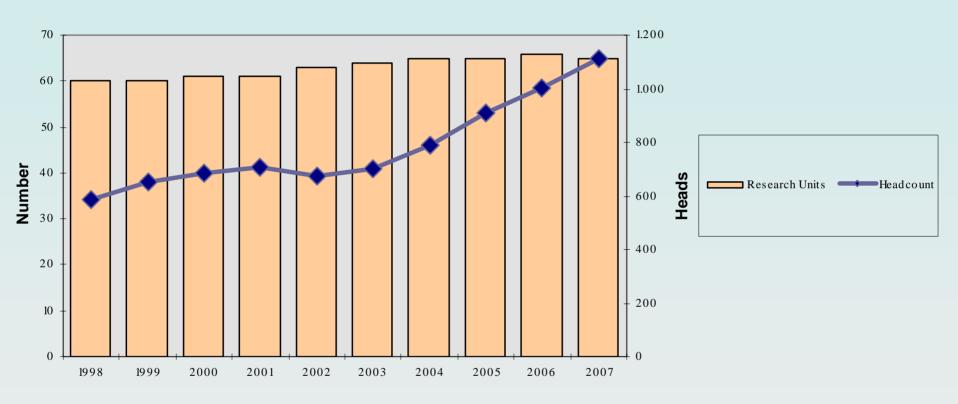
Two phases of expansion of the ÖAW





Funding within the last ten years





Research units and head count within the last ten years



Research at the AAS today

- Autonomous: oriented towards basic research flexible
- Heterogeneous: covering diverse research fields and missions
- Initiatives for new trend-setting research areas
- Complementary research activities (with regard to Austrian universities)
- Strengthening already existing excellence
- Room for long-term research
- Ensuring excellence based upon quality assessment and evaluation



Each institute or center

- has its own international science advisory board,
- provides a research plan for five years, and
- is evaluated by an external committee every five years.

The Academy has an international research board that

- gives advice to the presiding committee in research matters,
- nominates the heads of evaluation committees, who in turn nominate all other committee members.



AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

April 2008 ALLEA – General Assembly

Institute for Biomedical Aging Research	Founded 1992
Institute for Molecular Biotechnology GmbH	Founded 1999
Research Center for Molecular Medicine	Founded 2000
Gregor Mendel-Institute for Molecular Plant Biology	Founded 2000
Johann Radon-Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics	Founded 2003
Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information	Founded 2003
Institute for Studies of Iranian Culture	Founded 2003
Institute for Demography	Enlarged 2003

07.04.2008



Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information



Innsbruck:

- R. Blatt,
- H. Briegel,
- R. Grimm and
- P. Zoller

Wien: A. Zeilinger



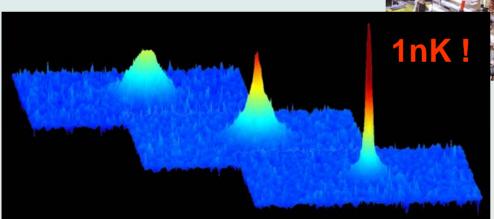
Founded by the AAS in 2003

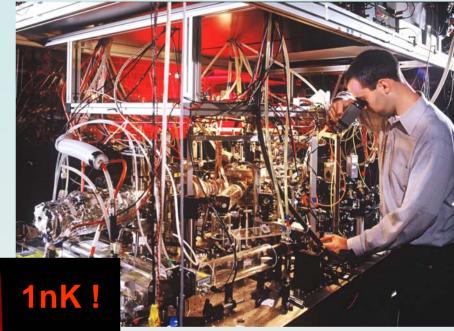


Ultracold atoms

investigation of novel states of matter at very low temperatures:

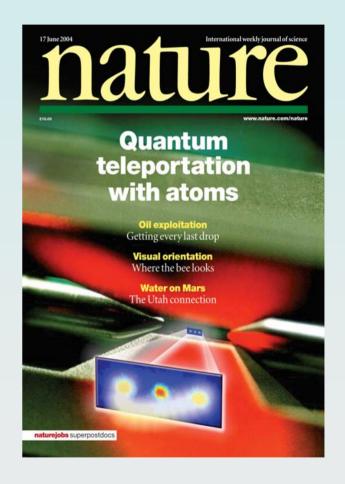
"quantum gases"













Gregor Mendel-Institute for Molecular Plant Biology



Analysis of defective genes of the ,model plant'

Arabidopsis thaliana

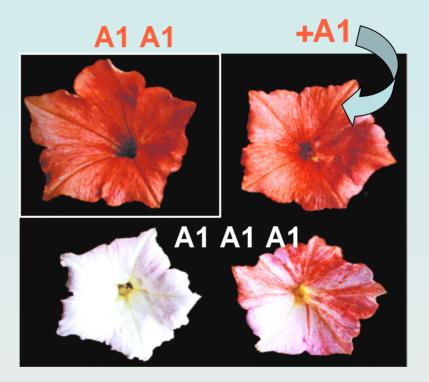
for the explorartion of gene and genome function



Founded by the AAS in 2000



two A1-genes
yield the red color
of the flower



additional A1-gene

,transgene^e

three A1-genes: expression of A1-genes is unstable

The discovery by Marjori and Antonius Matzke was a basis for the Nobel Prize on RNA interference in 2006

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

April 2008 ALLEA – General Assembly

Institute for Space Research of the AAS

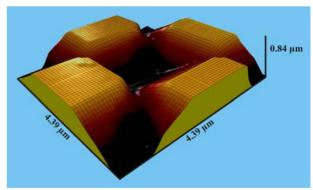
construction of high precision instruments for space missions

the first atomic force microscope in space

a miniature mircrophone to measure weathering and storms on the Saturn moon Titan













Director: Heinz W. Engl
Deputy directors:
Ulrich Langer und
Peter Markowich

Eight research groups with group leaders from five Austrian universities

60 scientific coworkers from 15 different countries, about 50% on project money

Organization of special semesters with guests from all over the world on predefined topics in applied mathematics

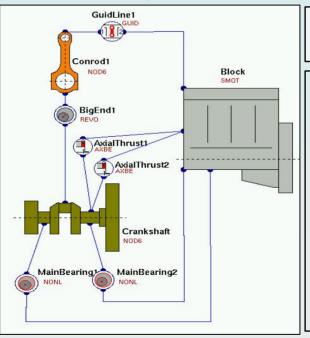


Design of models and devlopment of algorithms for applications from many different dsciplines

Engine

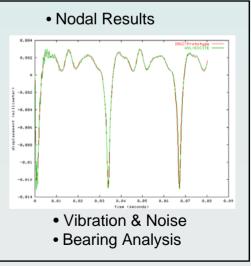
Cambalati Cam Sprocket Timeg Belt Tensories Cambalati Oi Pump Oi Pump

Multibody Model

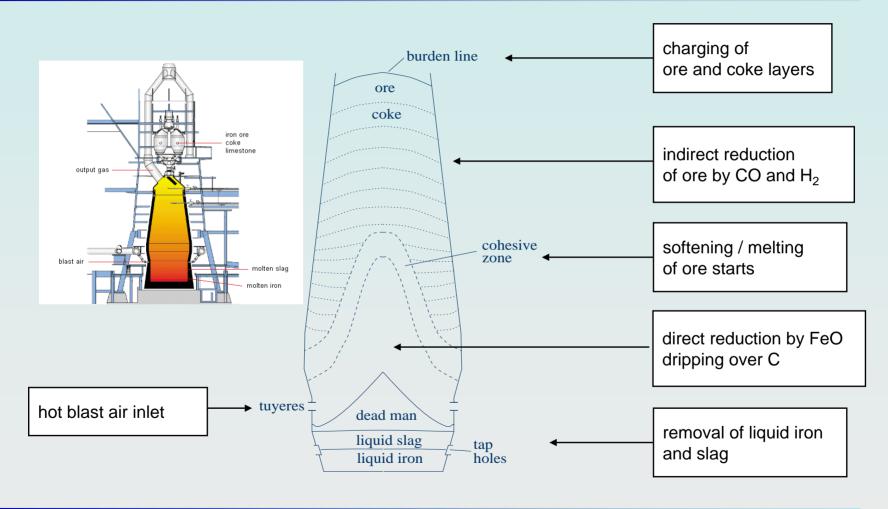


Numerical Simulation

Dynamic Simulation









THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!