Preface

At the time of the definition of the deliverables for the HELAS network activity NA5: Asteroseismology, a consultation was done within the European asteroseismology community during CoRoT Week 9 in December 2005 at ESA/ESTEC. The majority of asteroseismologists present at that meeting were in favour of developing a software tool for the identification of kappa-driven oscillation modes in main-sequence stars, from multi-colour photometry and/or high-resolution spectroscopy. It was felt that the need for such a type of tool was much greater than for any other one, given that such a package is not available while various frequency analysis and modelling tools were already offered. Ideally, a database of time series for mode identification would come along with such a package, so that newcomers in the field of asteroseismology (at Master, PhD or even postdoc level) as well as lecturers would have a complete toolkit for mode identification at their disposal.

The current special volume of *Communications in Asteroseismology* provides the user manuals of both released tools. We present the manuals of the *Database for AsteroSeismology* (DAS) which was defined and implemented by Dr. Roy Østensen and of the *Frequency Analysis and Mode Identification for AsteroSeismology* (FAMIAS) developed by Dr. Wolfgang Zima, both at the Institute of Astronomy of Leuven University, which is the lead institute of the HELAS Workpackage NA5. Both authors have committed to maintain and update DAS and FAMIAS for the whole duration of HELAS.

We refer to the NA5 website[1] for additional HELAS NA5 asteroseismology deliverables prepared by the Porto and Wrocław teams. It concerns grids of nonadiabatic observables, atmospheric model parameters, grids of stellar models and isochrones as well as their frequencies of oscillation, and, finally, model comparison tools and documentation.

We hope that this ensemble of asteroseismology tools is of use for the community.

Conny Aerts, Chairwoman of NA5, Leuven, 15 August 2008.

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[1] http://www.ster.kuleuven.be/~zima/helasna5/