ON THE 60th BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR WERNER HAUSSMANN

This issue of *"Revue d'Analyse Numérique et de Théorie de l'Approximation"* is dedicated to Professor Werner Haußmann who will celebrate his 60th birthday on November 12, 2001.

Werner Haußmann was born in Nürtingen in the Southwestern part of Germany. After finishing high school (the German "Gymnasium") there in 1961, he studied mathematics and physics at Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen until 1966. His original aim had been to become a school teacher. However, he finished the university with the diploma in mathematics and a thesis on Chebyshev approximation by exponential functions. These studies brought him in touch with several prominent members of the famous Tübingen school of mathematics, and with Hartmut Ehlich (his diploma advisor) and Karl Zeller, in particular.

In 1966 he became assistant to Professor Ehlich who had moved from Tübingen to the newly founded Ruhr University at Bochum. Haußmann finished his doctoral degree in 1969 with Ehlich and a thesis on Hermite interpolation in several variables. His "Habilitationsschrift" dating from 1971 dealt with the theory of spline systems. The latter work enabled him to become lecturer ("Dozent") in 1971 and associate professor ("Wissenschaftlicher Rat und Professor") in 1972, both at Bochum. Already before his "Habilitation" he had started to gather a number of gifted students around him, giving them guidance during the preparation of their diploma theses.

In 1975 he accepted an offer for a full professorship at the University of Duisburg, now being Gerhard Mercator University. At Duisburg he founded the well–known group in applied analysis, and has also been serving the department and the university in many administrative duties until the present day.

On July 27, 1978 Werner Haußmann married Dr. Ilse Becker, a former assistant in the geometric algebra group at Duisburg. After getting settled in Mülheim on the Ruhr where they have been living since then, three children were born: Ute, Ulrike, and Peter.

In a natural and obvious way, the scientific activities of Haußmann can be divided into several streams, some of them running in parallel now.

As was already mentioned, his individual research started in (multivariate) interpolation and approximation by polynomials and splines. These fields remained in the focus of his interest until the late 70's.

At about that time he started a most fruitful collaboration with Karl Zeller (a direct scientific descendant of Karl Weierstrass) which continued over almost two decades. During this period in some 20 joint articles (several of

them written in collaboration with further authors) Haußmann and Zeller investigated a wide variety of topics in numerical analysis, approximation and potential theory, including quadrature formulae, multivariate approximation and interpolation methods of various types, as well as questions in harmonic approximation.

It was around 1983, when harmonic approximation started to catch Haußmann's interest most intensively. His first paper in that field was written jointly with the late M. Goldstein and K. Jetter, published in 1984 and dealt with best harmonic L^1 approximation to subharmonic functions. Later many further papers on the subject followed in which – in addition to the above mentioned authors – joint research with D. Armitage, St. Gardiner, O. Kounchev, L. Rogge, and L. Wehrend was presented. Research in this field has been going on until present, one of the most recent contributions dealing with incomplete lattice sets that control the behaviour of entire harmonic functions.

Towards the end of the 80's Werner Haußmann also became actively involved in attracting the international approximation community to the Ruhr area, that is, the former mostly industrial part of West Germany stretching along the river Ruhr from Dortmund in the East to Duisburg in the West. So far, the outcome of these activities have been four international meetings on multivariate approximation and interpolation, one at Duisburg in 1989 and three subsequent ones at Witten–Bommerholz (1996, 1998, 2000). All of them have drawn a most distinguished audience and significantly contributed to an improvement of the area's reputation as a center of research and development. In addition he was also one of the organizers of a conference at the Mathematical Research Institute at Oberwolfach (1988) and of a NATO advanced research workshop in Hanstholm/Denmark (1991).

In about 1994 Haußmann started a most productive collaboration with several members of the Bulgarian school of approximation, including academician B. Bojanov. This activity has also continued until present and has triggered many valuable contacts between the Bulgarians and other members of the department at Duisburg.

In summary, it should be mentioned that all the scientific initiatives (which we were only able to roughly sketch in the above) lead to some 60 papers authored by Werner Haußmann and his co–authors, and that 12 doctoral students plus their descendants profited from his scientific leadership.

Four of his former Ph.D. students are professors at different German universities now, and the authors of this article are two of them. We are most positive to speak on behalf of all of Professor Haußmann's students when expressing our best wishes for the future, in particular for continuing success in his various professional activities and a life full of health and happiness.

Heiner Gonska and Hans-Bernd Knoop