

FOREWORD: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
“SEMICENTENNIAL T. POPOVICIU INSTITUTE OF NUMERICAL  
ANALYSIS”, MAY 7–10, 2008.

ION PĂVĂLOIU\* and EMIL CĂȚINAȘ\*

The Department of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, was founded under the leadership of Tiberiu Popoviciu in 1951.

The outstanding results obtained within this department convinced the leadership of the Romanian Academy of the necessity of a research institute dedicated exclusively to Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory. Thus, in 1957 the Institute of Numerical Analysis was founded, under the leadership of Professor Tiberiu Popoviciu.

On the occasion of 50 years since its foundation, the Institute has organized on May 7–10, 2008, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the International Conference “Semicentennial T. Popoviciu Institute of Numerical Analysis”. The opening ceremony took place on May 7, at the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library. The opening speech was given by academician Camil Mureșanu, the president of the Cluj-Napoca Branch of the Romanian Academy. Several historical aspects have been outlined subsequently by Ion Păvăloiu, head of the Institute, academician Dimitrie D. Stancu, Oleg Aramă and Ștefan Țigan (former members of the Institute). Professor Adrian Petrușel presented the message of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the “Babeș-Bolyai” University, and professor Ștefan Mărușter outlined some historical aspects regarding the construction of the first computers in our country in the sixties, in Bucharest, Timișoara and Cluj-Napoca.

The plenary lectures of the conference were given by: prof. Robert Beauwens (Belgium), prof. Sergio Amat Plata (Spain), academician Ion Cuculescu (Romania), prof. Ioannis K. Argyros (USA), prof. Bernardo Lafuerza-Guillén (Spain) and prof. Teodor Precupanu (Romania).

In the last day of the conference, it was organized a trip to the Jidvei Castle.

The web page of the conference is <http://www.ictp.acad.ro/ictp50>, where one can find, among other information, the program of the conference and several pictures.

This issue of *Revue d'Analyse Numérique et de Théorie de l'Approximation* is devoted to the works presented at this conference.

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Below we present a picture with the participants, taken before the conference dinner.

