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# *IN MEMORIAM* PROFESSOR DIMITRIE D. STANCU, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY

The Romanian Mathematical Sciences and in particular the mathematics community from Cluj-Napoca have suffered a great loss with the decease of professor Dimitrie D. Stancu, honorary member of the Romanian Academy.

By his own results and by the results of the collaborators he mentored, Dimitrie D. Stancu has outstandingly contributed to the development of the Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory, the fundamental fields of Mathematics in Cluj-Napoca. The linear positive operators of Stancu type are well known in this domain, and their properties have been studied by hundreds of mathematicians around the world. Over two hundred articles published in reputed journals contain (according to MathSciNet and ZBL) in their title the name of Stancu, not to mention the citations.

D.D. Stancu was born on February 11, 1927, in Călacea village, Timiş county (Romania). He lost his father at a small age. Since his mother had no financial possibilities to raise him, he went to the "Regina Maria" Orphanage from Arad for some time. There he started the primary school, which he finished in a nearby town, Sânnicolaul Mic. He graduated from the gymnasium school in Arad, and then from the "Moise Nicoară" Highschool in the same city. During these years, the mathematics was his favourite subject.

In 1947 he was admitted as student at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the "Babeş-Bolyai" University in Cluj. The talent and the hardworking behaviour he showed as student, as well as the results he obtained in the first two years determined the leaders of the Faculty to appoint him as "preparator" (the position before teaching assistant) in his third year as student. After graduating the Faculty, he was appointed as teaching assistant at the Mathematical Analysis chair, led by the famous academician Tiberiu Popoviciu. He has obtained his PhD degree in 1956 (title of thesis: A study of the polynomial interpolation of functions of several variables, with applications to the numerical differentiation and integration; methods for evaluating the remainders (in Romanian), advisor: acad. T. Popoviciu), and then he gradually promoted until he became full professor in 1968.

He supervised in turn over 40 PhD students<sup>1</sup> and he contributed to the formation of many specialists in the field of Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory. For several years he was the head of the Statistical and Numerical Calculus Chair, and he also served as vice-dean of the Faculty. During 1957–1961 he also worked at the Institute of Numerical Analysis founded by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The full list can be consulted at the Mathematics Genealogy Project http://www.genealogy.ams.org/ or http://genealogy.math.ndsu.nodak.edu/

Tiberiu Popoviciu, and then, in the academic year 1961–1962, he benefitted from a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Department of Numerical Analysis (lead by the late prof. P.C. Hammer).

Between 1978–2013 he was a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Calcolo* (edited since 1998 by Springer-Verlag) and between 2002–2014 he was the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Revue d'Analyse Numérique et de Théorie de l'Approximation* (www.ictp.acad.ro/anta), edited at the "Tiberiu Popoviciu" Institute of Numerical Analysis under the auspices of the Romanian Academy. He was also member of the Editorial Board of the journals *Mathematica*, in 1976 (edited under the auspices of the Romanian Academy) and *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai, Serie Mathematica* (between 1977–1995 and 2005–2014).

He published over 120 scientific works in reputed journals in our country and abroad, and he attended important international conferences as invited speaker.

He taught courses in Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory, Number Theory, Probability Theory and Statistics, Mathematical Analysis and others. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society (since 1961) and of Gesellschaft für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik (GAMM), and served as a referee for Mathematical Reviews and Zentralblatt Math.

Not only he was a man gifted with mathematical talent, but he was also sincere, modest and close to his collaborators and students. It is not surprising that so many students chose his field of interest and made further contributions. As a token of appreciation for his outstanding merits, he was elected in 1999 as honorary member of the Romanian Academy, while the "Lucian Blaga" University in Sibiu and the North University of Baia Mare awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

As we have mentioned before, Didi (as his close friends used to call him) worked 4 years at our Institute, since its very foundation. He became and remained very attached to the people here. As a token of gratitude and respect for his personality, the Institute will set up and host a webpage for professor Stancu (http://www.ictp.acad.ro/stancu), digitizing and uploading all the papers that are allowed according to the copyright rules.

The mathematicians from Cluj-Napoca, as well as all his collaborators across the world deeply regret the sudden death of professor Stancu, who represented and will continue to represent an important name among the Romanian mathematicians.

I. Păvăloiu and E. Cătinaş

"Tiberiu Popoviciu" Institute of Numerical Analysis

#### **PROFESSOR DIMITRIE D. STANCU – SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY**

### I. BOOKS

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- D.D. Stancu, Course (with problems) in Numerical Analysis, Univ. "Babeş-Bolyai", Cluj-Napoca, 1977, 330 pp. (in Romanian).

D.D. Stancu has also coordinated (with Gh. Coman) the third volume in the series (2)-(3) above.

### **II. SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS**

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# V. RESEARCH CONTRACT REPORTS.

During 1977–1989, D.D. Stancu has elaborated (as director of a research project with the Ministry of National Education) 12 volumes (each containing at least 100 pages) with the results of the research team in Numerical Analysis, Approximation Theory, Statistical Analysis of experimental data.