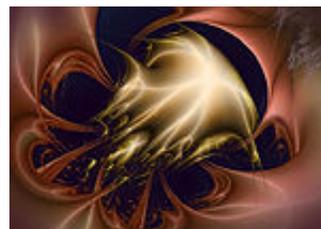
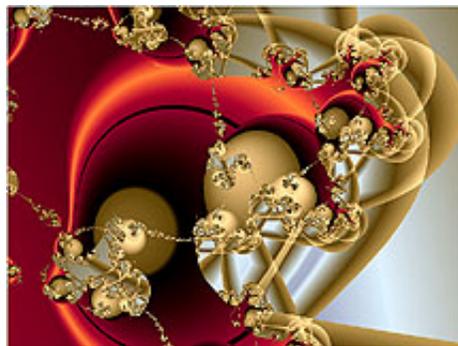


BELGIAN MATHEMATICAL
SOCIETY

Comité National de Mathématique CNM

C W M
N

NCW Nationaal Comité voor Wiskunde



**BMS-NCM NEWS: the Newsletter of
the Belgian Mathematical Society and
the National Committee for
Mathematics**

Campus Plaine c.p. 218/01,
Bld du Triomphe, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Website <http://bms.ulb.ac.be>
Newsletter F.Bastin@ulg.ac.be
Tel. F. Bastin, ULg,(32)(4) 366 94 74
Fax F. Bastin, ULg,(32)(4) 366 95 47



BMS-NCM NEWS

—
No 50, November 15, 2004

1 Meetings, seminars, conferences

1.1 November, 2004

The Scientific Research Network
“Advanced numerical methods for mathematical modelling”
organises a symposium on
SOFTWARE ENVIRONMENTS FOR NUMERICAL PROBLEMS
November 17 - 18, 2004
 Ghent University, Belgium

Aim: a lot of your researchers are developing environments for the numerical solution of mathematical problems. At traditional conferences and symposia, most of the talks are dedicated to the mathematical principles with which the problems are being solved, and often there is not enough time in the programme to present and/or to demonstrate the software part.

This symposium however will be focussed on the software part and not on the mathematical part of the research. During their talks, (preferably young) researchers will have the opportunity to demonstrate the computer tools that they have developed. Also, the organisers intend to organise a session during which the participants can try out the tools that are presented.

Apart from these talks, the programme will also contain contributions of experts in the field of numerical software. We are proud to announce three invited speakers:

- Ron Boisvert, NIST, A Handbook of Special Functions for the Digital Age
- Sven Hammarling, NAG, An Introduction to the Quality of Computed Solutions
- Tim Hopkins, University of Kent, Software Testing and Quality Metrics

More information about this symposium is available at <http://www.wogsymposium.ugent.be/>

If you are interested in participating at this symposium, please fill in the form that is available at the registration part of the web page.

For further information please contact M. Van Daele

1.2 January, 2005

ORBEL19
19th Conference on Quantitative Methods for Decision Making
January 27-28 2005
 Louvain-la-Neuve

ORBEL is the annual conference of the SOGESCI-BVWB, the Belgian Operations Research Society. The conference is a meeting place for researchers, users and potential users of Operations Research, and will provide an unique opportunity to exchange information on quantitative techniques for decision making.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is December 3rd, 2004. Further information is available on the web page <http://www.poms.ucl.ac.be/orbel19>. The prize for the best student thesis in operations research will also be awarded during the conference.

1.3 March, 2005

Gesellschaft fuer Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik
GAMM 2005 , March 28 - April 1
 Luxembourg

Dear Colleague,

We like to draw your attention to the 76th Annual Meeting of the

Gesellschaft fuer Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik
 GAMM 2005 in Luxembourg, March 28 - April 1

(Society of Applied Mathematics and Mechancis, http://www.gamm-ev.de/english/Gamm_eng/gamm.htm),
 General information and online registration are available at <http://www.uni.lu/GAMM2005>. Do not forget to reserve a hotel room soon, since hotels will be booked out quickly because of the European presidency of Luxembourg in 2005. Please note that the first deadlines for hotel reservations at reduced prices are currently late October.

We look forward to meeting you in Luxembourg!

Kind regards,

Carine Molitor-Braun
 (President of the Société Mathématique du Luxembourg and
 member of the local organising committee of GAMM 2005)

1.4 May, 2005

JOINT BeNeLuxFra CONFERENCE in MATHEMATICS

JOINT MEETING OF THE BELGIAN (BMS), DUTCH (KWG), LUXEMBOURG (SML) AND FRENCH (SMF) MATHEMATICAL SOCIETIES

May 20-22, 2005

University of Gent, Belgium

See the first announcement at the end of this Newsletter.

ADVANCED COURSE ON POLYTOPE CONSTRUCTIONS

Monday to Friday, May 23-27, 2005

U.L.B.

A one-week, advanced course will be delivered in Brussels, during next May.

Lecturers

- Prof. Günter M. Ziegler (TU Berlin), <http://www.math.tu-berlin.de/~ziegler/>
- Prof. Michael Joswig (TU Darmstadt), <http://www.math.tu-berlin.de/~joswig/>

Location

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Campus de la Plaine, <http://www.ulb.ac.be/docs/campus/plaine.html>

More information on the course contents is provided below.

The course is open to all people interested, although preliminary registration will be mandatory. To manifest your possible interest in future registration, please send a (short) e-mail to pleroy@ulb.ac.be

There will be no charge (except for tea and coffee breaks, and for possible course material), but no support is available.

The second announcement will be sent in January to people having replied to this first announcement, will contain more practical details and will announce a deadline for registration.

Jean-Paul Doignon,
 Département de Mathématiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles
doignon@ulb.ac.be

More information

- Schedule:

two morning lectures of 75 min starting at 9:30am. In the afternoon, exercise and problem sessions (including an introduction to the POLYMAKE software project) are conducted by Nikolaus Witte and/or Thilo Schröder (TU Berlin).

- Topics:
 - 3-dimensional polytopes, circle packings, proofs of Steinitz' Theorem.
 - Deformed products and long paths.
 - f-vectors of four-polytopes. Projected products of polytopes.
 - Convex hull algorithms. Constructions of bad examples.
 - Polytope propagation: an inductive construction of polytopes.
 - Application to statistical models.
- Abstract:

Polytopes are concrete geometric objects. Interesting examples abound, which can and should be constructed, analyzed, visualized, and modified explicitly, "by hand", or with computer support (via the POLYMAKE system).

This course is intended as a "hands-on" introduction to polytopes. We will look at various interesting and new constructions, at examples they produce, and at methods and tools for analysis and visualization. Topics will include a construction of 3-dimensional polytopes via circle packings, the visualization of polytopes via Schlegel diagrams, and the generation of "extremal" polytopes via subtle variations of the standard product construction. The final two lectures are devoted to algorithmic aspects.

1.5 June 2005

**4th Kortrijk Conference on
Discrete Groups and Geometric Structures, with Applications
May 31 - June 3, 2005
Oostende, Belgium**

The conference site will be at Hotel Royal Astrid, <http://www.royalastrid.com/>

The following main speakers will give a one hour talk:

- Oliver Baues (Univ. Karlsruhe),
- Yves Benoist (ENS, Paris),
- Martin Bridson (Imperial College, London),
- Benson Farb (University of Chicago)
- Oscar Garcia-Prada (Univ. Comp. Madrid)
- Etienne Ghys (ENS, Lyon)
- Domingo Toledo (Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City)

Scientific Committee

- Yves Felix (U.C.Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve)
- William Goldman (Univ. of Maryland, College Park)
- Fritz Grunewald (H.Heine Univ., Duesseldorf)
- Paul Igodt (K.U.Leuven / Kortrijk)
- Kyung Bai Lee (Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman)

Organisers: Karel Dekimpe, Yves Felix, Paul Igodt, Hannes Pouseele

All further information (programme, registration, abstract proposal, poster-session, short talks, proceedings, ...) is found at the conference website: <http://www.kulak.ac.be/workshop>

“Fejér Riesz Conference”
Eger, Hungary, June 8 - 14, 2005
 Preliminary Announcement

Dear Colleagues,

The János Bolyai Mathematical Society, in cooperation with the Eszterházy Károly College of Eger (Institute of Mathematics and Informatics) is organizing a conference to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of two outstanding Hungarian mathematicians: Lipót Fejér and Frigyes Riesz. The scientific activity of this conference will be centered on the main areas of their fields classical, harmonic and functional analysis. The conference will be held in the charming town of Eger, Hungary, capitol of a historic wine district (home of the famous red wine "Bull's Blood"). We will send more detailed information (invited speakers, registration fee, accommodation, etc) in November.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting,
 Yours sincerely,
 The Organizing Committee

1.6 September 2005

IVth International Workshop on Functional Analysis
September 5-9, 2005
 Esneux, Belgium

The IVth International Workshop on Functional Analysis will take place on September 5-9, 2005, Esneux, Belgium, in honour of the 65th birthday of Professor Jean Schmets (University of Liège). The second announcement will be sent before the end of 2004.

S. Dierolf, J. Wengenroth (University of Trier)
 F. Bastin (University of Liège)
 Contact: F.Bastin@ulg.ac.be

1.7 November 2005

Mathematical Analysis Day
November 10, 2005
 Ghent University

At the occasion of his retirement and his 65th birthday, the Clifford Research Group of Ghent University will honour its founder Richard Delanghe by a one day symposium "Mathematical Analysis Day".

Date: Thursday the 10th of November, 2005

Venue: "Het Pand", Onderbergen, 9000 Gent

Speakers: Christiane Carton-Lebrun, Simone Gutt, Jean Schmets, Walter Van Assche, Jan Van Casteren, Frank Sommen

Welcome coffee at 09:30, Lunch at 13:00, Closing reception at 17:00

You are all cordially invited to attending (free of charge). Please register by sending an email to nds@cage.ugent.be with subject line: MAD-registration

The organizers
 Fred Brackx, Hennie De Schepper, Frank Sommen
 Ghent University, Department Mathematical Analysis
 Clifford Research Group
 Galglaan 2, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

1.8 2006

**International Congress of Mathematicians
22–30 August 2006
Madrid, Spain**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF MATHEMATICS

Dear colleague,

As you know we have already crossed the border of -2 years till the celebration of the ICM 2006 in Madrid. All the up-to-date information about this event can be found in the Web page

<http://www.icm2006.org>

Very soon we will start distributing relevant information concerning the organization y registration for the ICM among all pre-registered people. The pre-registration process is open and we want to invite you to pre-register through the web page to keep timely informed about the ICM. We want to make the ICM a big success and we cannot do it without the participation of as many mathematicians as possible. Thus we invite you to pre-register now for the ICM.

Looking forward seeing you in the ICM,

Manuel de Leon, President of the Organizing Committee of ICM
Carlos Andradas, Vicepresident
Facultad de Matematicas, Univ. Complutense, 28040 Madrid
tfno. +34 913 944 937; fax +34 913 945 027

2 Miscellaneous

2.1 About De Vlaamse Vereniging van Wiskundeleraars (VVWL)

De Vlaamse Vereniging van Wiskundeleraars stelt zich tot doel de wiskundige vorming van de leerlingen - zoals die bepaald wordt door de belangrijke plaats van de wiskunde in de huidige maatschappij - te bevorderen en te verdedigen, en dit op alle onderwijsniveaus.

Daartoe beoogt ze:

- de leraars te informeren over het eigentijds aanbrenge en verwerven van wiskundige vaardigheden;
- de wiskundeleraars de gelegenheid te geven hun onderwiskundige vorming te verruimen;
- informatie te brengen over vernieuwingen in binnen- en buitenland zowel op onderwiskundig als op wiskundig gebied;
- omstandigheden te creëren die het de wiskundeleraar mogelijk maken doeltreffend mee te werken aan de planning en realisering van veranderingen in het onderwijs;
- inspraak van het lerarenkorps bij het invoeren van nieuwe programma's;
- participatie van leraars aan het onderwiskonderzoek;
- de contacten te bevorderen tussen de wiskundeleraars enerzijds en van de wiskundeleraars met andere geledingen van het onderwijsbestel anderzijds zoals daar zijn: de inspecteur, mensen van het onderwijsbeleid, leraars van andere vakgroepen, studenten;
- betrekkingen aan te knopen met Belgische en buitenlandse verenigingen en met internationale organisaties die analoge doelstellingen nastreven.

(Uit "Wiskunde en Onderwijs" nummer 2)

De oprichtingsvergadering van de VVWL had plaats in de aula van de UIA op 1 februari 1975. Na de welkomstgroet van Kris De Munter werden de doelstellingen van de nieuwe vereniging aan de Algemene Vergadering voorgelegd door wijlen Dhr Fred Vermandel, namens een stuurgroep die de oprichtingsvergadering had voorbereid. Na twee voordrachten door Prof. Dr. J. E. Hueting (hoogleraar in de experimentele psychologie aan de VUB) en Dhr Dirk Janssens (assistent bij het Departement Wiskunde aan de KUL) werd het bestuur verkozen en een zevenkoppige redactieraad aangesteld.

U wordt lid van VVWL door uw lidgeld te storten op postrekening 000-1116247-68 (voor België) of girorekening 1044667 (voor Nederland) van VVWL, C. Huysmanslaan 60/Bus 4, 2020 Antwerpen, België.

Het tijdschrift “Wiskunde en Onderwijs” wordt u dan toegestuurd, alsook het mededelingenblad. U wordt ook uitgenodigd op de congressen en studiedagen van de VVWL.

Het lidgeld is betaalbaar per kalenderjaar en loopt van 1 januari tot en met 31 december. Wie voor het lopende jaar lid wordt krijgt alle reeds verschenen nummers van de huidige jaargang van “Wiskunde en Onderwijs” toegestuurd.

Voor meer informatie raadpleeg <http://users.pandora.be/beatrijs.versichel1/>.

2.2 About La sbpmef

La Société Belge des Professeurs de Mathématique d’expression française (SBPMef) oeuvre pour la promotion des mathématiques ainsi que pour en améliorer l’enseignement.

Pour atteindre ses objectifs, le SBPMef a mis sur pieds divers moyens.

- Elle publie des revues destinées aux élèves de l’enseignement secondaire, “Math-Jeunes-Junior”, accessible à tous, et “Math-jeunes”, actuellement tournée vers les élèves ayant choisi le cours à 6 périodes hebdomadaires. Ces revues paraissent trois fois par an.
- Elle organise l’Olympiade Mathématique Belge, épreuve qui se décline en trois catégories correspondant aux trois degrés de l’enseignement secondaire et comporte trois épreuves : une éliminatoire, une demi-finale et une finale. Aux deux premiers stades, trente petits problèmes sont proposés aux élèves, sous forme de QCM pour la plupart. Lors de la finale, les concurrents doivent résoudre quatre problèmes nettement plus ardues pour lesquels ils doivent rédiger une solution en l’argumentant convenablement.
- Pour les professeurs, elle édite une revue, “Mathématique et Pédagogie”, à raison de cinq numéros par an, qui, sur quelque cent pages par numéro, offre des articles des fonds, relate des expériences pédagogiques, propose des problèmes et diverses autres rubriques.
- Par l’entremise de sa commission pédagogique, elle édite aussi des dossiers pédagogiques qui abordent certains points de matière à enseigner sous des angles originaux ou apportent des compléments de connaissances en relation avec les concepts mathématiques au programme de l’enseignement secondaire.
- Elle organise au profit de ses membres un congrès annuel de trois jours, généralement programmé à la fin du mois d’août.
- Elle tient ses affiliés au courant de toute l’activité mathématique qui a lieu en Communauté Française (pour autant qu’elle en soit elle-même informée), conférences, expositions, formations, ... , via sa revue “SBPM-Infor”.

Pour devenir membre de la SBPMef, pour savoir comment les élèves peuvent se procurer les revues ou comment les professeurs peuvent acquérir les dossiers pédagogiques ou encore pour recevoir plus d’information, il suffit de contacter le secrétariat de la SBPMef, ouvert tous les jours ouvrables, matin et après-midi, sauf le mercredi après-midi. La SBPMef dispose aussi d’un site Internet.

Siège social : 15, rue de la Halle, 7000 Mons
Téléphone-Fax : 00-32-(0)65-37.37.29, Site : sbpm.be

2.3 From EMS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EMS SUMMER SCHOOLS IN FUNDAMENTAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY MATHEMATICS

Following the success of its first E.U. application (which allows the funding of eight Summer Schools or Conferences in 2004-2005, see below), the European Mathematical Society is launching a new call for proposals for such Schools and Conferences for 2006, 2007 and 2008. The deadline for this call is January 12, 2005, by e-mail at the address: llemaire@ulb.ac.be.

The deadline will allow the EMS to present a coherent proposal of activities for EU funding, thereby allowing organisers of single meetings to be part of a series of events. EMS direct support being limited, the result of this application will make a major difference to the funding for the meetings selected by EMS. There will be similar calls every two or three years in the future.

This call for proposals concerns all Summer schools or Conferences that any group of mathematicians - pure or applied - would like to run in 2006, 7 or 8 in the EU or associated states.

The EU guidelines for these events must be followed strictly, in order to have a reasonable hope of funding (the success rate of EU being extremely low).

Thus, there must be a very strong component of training of young researchers (in the first 10 years of their career) by means of integrated courses and lectures at advanced level.

This can be supplemented by conference type research lectures, but the training component is needed.

Each course must aim at an international audience (no more than 30 % of participants should come from a single state, or the event is not eligible for funding).

The EMS will make a selection amongst the proposals received, taking into consideration the criteria applied by the EU, namely: -Scientific quality of the project (high quality, cutting edge subject, speakers of high calibre). -Quality of the research training activity (training provided to the young researchers, level of interaction between the main speakers and the young ones). -Quality of the host (quality of infrastructure, experience in running conferences, contact making opportunities). -Management and feasibility (organisation and management, plans for publicity, dissemination of the results by publications, web sites, any other means). -Relevance to the objectives of the EU action and added value to the EU (relevance of the themes in relation with European interests and achievements, measures taken in favour of gender balance, use for integration of less developed regions, plans to favour public understanding of science).

In the last two criteria, part of the value comes from the EMS organisation, and this will be added in the final application. However, any little point will count, and each organiser can help by stressing qualities.

Proposers are asked to present a project as detailed as possible, with (provisional!) lists of speakers, subjects, and addressing all questions above. They should also include an estimate of the number of eligible participants for each of three categories (EU or associated states and less than 4 years research experience, less than 10 years, no time limit but a researcher of EU or associated states living outside that zone). For these, no financial estimates should be given. They should give an estimate of "organisational" expenses, including all expenses of key speakers which are non eligible.

The proposers should be aware of the rules of funding by EU: the travel and living expenses of all eligible researchers can be covered, up to a rather generous maximum determined by the EU. If a fee is charged to all participants, the EU will reimburse the fees of eligible ones but then subtract this amount from the expenses below. The other expenses, including expenses of key speakers not eligible, will be covered for a proportion equal to the ratio eligible participants / all participants. The EU will pay a maximum of 80% in advance, the last 20% when all reports are in but maybe only a year later. Thus proposals must be accompanied by a statement of an organisation (university, conference centre) that it will cover the complement of organisational expenses, and also advance 20% of the funding until payment by EU.

Note that by a new rule, EU will not fund series of events in a single specific subject. In case of multiple proposals submitted one theme, the EMS will have to make a choice or determine if a merger between proposals makes sense.

To give an idea, for eight schools in the present project, we have a total of 140 participants of category 1, 155 of category 2, 20 of category 3, and their funding amounts to 366 000 euros, the organisational expenses of each events varies between 12000 and 17000, of which EU covers the prescribed percentage.

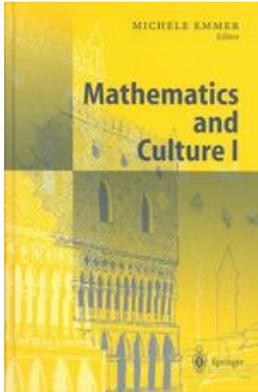
The schools supported with the present contract are:

- 1) Summer School on Evolution equations and applications, Cortona, Italy, 4 to 24 July 2004;
- 2) Analysis on metric measure spaces, Bedlewo, Poland, 15 to 23 July 2004;
- 3) Seminaire Europeen de Statistique: The Statistics of spatio-temporal systems, Munich, Germany, 12 to 19 December 2004;
- 4) Applications of braid groups and braid monodromy, Eilat, Israel, 5 to 13 February 2005;
- 5) Subdivision schemes in geometric modelling, theory and applications, Pontignano, Italy, 25 June to 2 July 2005;
- 6) European young statisticians training camp to the 25th European Meeting of Statisticians, Oslo, Norway, 17 to 23 July 2005;
- 7) Recent trends of combinatorics in the mathematical context, Barcelona, Spain, 13 to 23 September 2005;
- 8) Seminaire Europeen de Statistique: Statistics in genetics and molecular biology, Warwick, UK, 25 September to 2 October 2005.

3 Fiction

Michelle Emmer (ed.) *Mathematics and culture*, Springer, Berlin, 2004 (360 p.) ISBN 3-540-01770-2.

Michelle Emmer, Mirella Manaresi (eds.) *Mathematics, art, technology and cinema*, Springer, Berlin, 2003 (253 p.) ISBN 3-540-00601-x.



The first book contains the English translations of the proceedings of a conference on *Mathematics and Culture* held in Venice in 1999. The original Italian version appeared as *Matematica e Cultura 2000*. This type of conferences takes place on a regular basis. The proceedings of the 2000, 2002 conferences are available in Italian only. The proceedings of the 2004 conference is announced in English.

That mathematics has a great impact on all aspects of society and vice versa, is obvious, but it is rarely seen that mathematicians lecture about social issues or that artists lecture about the impact of mathematics on their art. The first book gives a cross section of all this. Each of the 27 contributions, grouped in 11 chapters are warmly recommended reading.

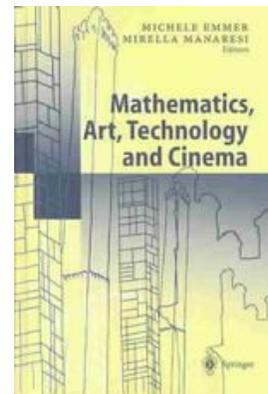
One may find a discussion of the tension between mathematics teaching and mathematics research, but also on the history and the importance of the mathematical development of linear and nonlinear programming and its impact. More historical are the contributions about the mathematical scenery under repressive political regimes, like fascism in Italy and Germany or the former Russian regime. Also the influence of mathematics on economy has direct consequences for the evolution of societies.

There is no Nobel price for mathematics, but nevertheless there are several mathematicians who won Nobel prizes in different areas. Very interesting is the parallel that is drawn between the historical evolution towards mathematical abstraction and the corresponding concepts that were governing the arts at the same time. My favorite chapter is the one on mathematics and cinema. There is a great analysis of the film *Moebius* made by students of the *Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires* in 1996, and Peter Greenaway uncovers the concepts that he used to make all his films, of which *Drowning by numbers* is just one step in the evolution. But the feast goes on and there is much more. What would be the concept of a mathematics museum? How to popularize mathematics? What relations are there between mathematics and literature and music? Furthermore, there is a chapter on mathematics in Venice (the conference place), on mathematics and technology (visualization, cryptography), on mathematics and medicine (diagnosis, risk analysis, Radon transform), etc.

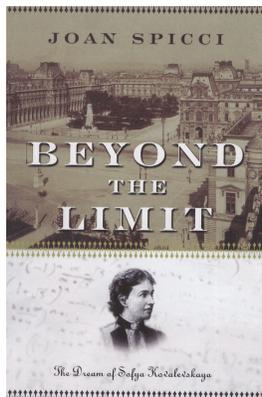
In summary: a delight to be read by any mathematician who is prepared to admit that he is part of the society and by anyone else who cares to admit that mathematics has a tremendous impact on the world he lives in. Buy it! Read it!

The second book was conceived as a contribution to the world mathematical year 2000. This is less “mathematical” and much more “cinema” but the idea is the same: it argues that the difference between the culture of science and the culture of humanism is a thing of the past. The book consists of two parts. The first one contains papers presented at the conference “Mathematics and Culture” and some of the papers in part 2 were presented in “Mathematics and cinema” both events were held in Bologna in the year 2000. They emerged from the facts that 2000 was the UNESCO World Mathematical Year, and that Bologna was then also Cultural city of Europe. Most of the papers deal with mathematics and vision in the broadest sense: the influence of mathematics on the work of sculptors, but also on CAD, visualization programs, the geometry of sight, cryptography, etc. The second part of the book is completely devoted to cinema. Several films that deal with some mathematical theme are discussed, analyzed, or an interview with a director is reproduced, or at least all the technical data are given. It is amazing how many films that became rather well known to a broader public deal with such themes. You will remember “A beautiful mind” about the life of John Nash, “Enigma”, “Good Will Hunting”, “Cube”, and “Fermat’s last tango”.

This book is written for a broader public, even for those who are not especially fond of mathematics. It suffices to be interested in film, or just be passionate about shape and images, and have an interest for the underlying (mathematical) blueprint.



Joan Spicci *Beyond the Limit: The Dream of Sofya Kovalevskaya*, Forge Books, New York 2002 (490p.) ISBN 0-765-30233-0.



This is a book about a mathematician. It takes the form of a biographical novel in which part of the life (1865-1874) of Sofya Kovalevskaya (1850-1891) is portrayed. The book is based on Kovalevskaya's own writings and on other sources.

There are a number of books written about Sofya Kovalevskaya. It is well known that she was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics. She is also much appreciated as a writer of novellas, plays, poems and essays.

Sofya Kovalevskaya's mathematical research was in analysis, more specifically the theory of partial differential equations. She is best known for her work on a problem that was called the Mathematical Mermaid "because of its fascinating and elusive character (JS)". Her paper on this subject: "On the Rotation of a Solid Body about a Fixed Point" won her the Prix Bordin of the French Academy of Science, a prestigious prize worth 5000 francs.

You won't find any mathematical formulas in this book, and although I personally like books with formulas, I nevertheless want to recommend this book to everyone. Joan Spicci tells an interesting story and she tells it in a captivating way.

Sofya Kovalevskaya was born in Russia in an aristocratic family. Her first contact with mathematics was when she was eight years old: her father's calculus notes were used as wallpaper in her nursery (Sofya's father was an artillery general and had attended lectures by Ostrogradsky on differential and integral calculus). At the age of fourteen she taught herself trigonometry, and she talked about mathematics with her uncle and a neighbour. They encouraged her. When she was 18, she had her own mathematics tutor, Aleksander Strannoliubsky. She met Chebyshev. She desperately wanted to go to university, but in Russia this was impossible. Hoping to be able to go abroad and be admitted to a foreign university, she arranged a marriage of convenience with Vladimir Kovalevsky. With him and with her sister Anyuta she went to Vienna and then to Heidelberg, where she tried to be admitted to the university (where Kirchhoff, Dubois-Reymond, Königsberger and Bunsen were teaching). She didn't succeed but got permission to attend lectures if the professors involved agreed. Some of them did, others didn't.

After her first term, she went with Vladimir to London, where she met Darwin, Cayley, Babbage and Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll). In 1870 Sofya decided that she wanted to pursue her studies with Karl Weierstrass in Berlin. He became her private tutor (the university didn't allow her to attend the lectures). After an episode in Paris where Sofya went to save her sister from the Paris Commune, the book ends in 1874 with Sofya receiving a doctorate from the university of Berlin.

Paul Levrie

REGISTRATION

Register and submit your abstract electronically on the web page www.poms.ucl.ac.be/orbel19/

More details and practical information (maps, accommodation) are available on the web page. For any further information, please contact orbel19@core.ucl.ac.be.

REGISTRATION FEES

SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. membership is mandatory for all conference participants.

Standard registration with 2005 membership fee	EUR 140
Standard registration without 2005 membership fee (only if you are already a 2005 member or if your membership is covered by an institutional 2005 membership)	EUR 85

Student registration including free 2005 membership fee	EUR 30
Registration for retired members with 2005 membership fee	EUR 115

All registration fees include two lunches, coffee breaks and the conference booklet.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Conference banquet at restaurant "La Cuisine des Champs" (will take place on the evening of Thursday, January 27, 2005)	EUR 50
Late registration fee (for any registration received after December 24, 2004)	EUR 25

SPONSORS

Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE, UCL)
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ORBEL 19

Louvain-la-Neuve, January 27-28, 2005

ORBEL is the annual conference
of the SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.,
the Belgian Operations Research society

JOINT BeNeLuxFra CONFERENCE in MATHEMATICS

JOINT MEETING OF THE BELGIAN (BMS), DUTCH (KWG), LUXEMBOURG (SML) AND FRENCH (SMF) MATHEMATICAL SOCIETIES

This meeting will take place on the Sterre Campus (Krijgslaan 281) of Ghent University (Belgium) from May 20 (Friday) to May 22 (Sunday), 2005.

1. MAIN SPEAKERS

The plenary talks (of fifty minutes, in a large lecture hall) have been fixed. The following four speakers agreed to give these talks:

Frederic Campana (Université de Nancy)
Yves Benoist (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris)
Jan Willem Klop (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Francoise Point (FNRS and UMH)

The fifth plenary lecture will be given by the **Brouwer Medal Award Winner**, whose name is not yet to be revealed. This Medal is given by the KWG.

Furthermore, there are evening leisure-lectures by

Jean Doyen (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Burkard Polster (University of Monash, Melbourne)

2. SPECIAL SESSIONS

The following ten Special Sessions are fixed :

I. Geometry

- a. Differential Geometry
- b. Algebraic Geometry

II. Applied Mathematics

- a. Mathematical Statistics
- b. Coding Theory and Cryptography

III. Analysis

- a. Harmonic Analysis
- b. Partial Differential Equations

IV. Related

- a. Computer Science
- b. History of Mathematics

- a. Non Commutative Algebra
- b. Model Theory

The talks in the special sessions are given by people invited by the organizers of these sessions. These talks will be of 25 or 50 minutes. We regret that there are not enough funds for the travel expenses and for the accommodation of all speakers in the Special Sessions. The Special Sessions will take place in smaller lecture halls, for an audience of up to 50 people.

3. SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

The preliminary schedule of the meeting looks as follows.

Friday, May 20

- 11.30 h – 13.30 h Registration
- 13.45 h – 14.00 h Opening Ceremony
- 14.00 h – 15.00 h Plenary Lecture 1
- 15.15 h – 17.15 h Special Sessions a
- 17.30 h – 18.30 h Mathematics Show
- Coffee/Tea in the breaks

Saturday, May 21

- 08.00 h – 09.00 h Registration
- 09.00 h – 10.00 h Plenary Lecture 2
- 10.30 h – 12.30 h Special Sessions b
- 14.30 h – 16.00 h Special Sessions a
- 16.30 h – 17.45 h Brouwer Medal Ceremony/Lecture Award Winner
- 18.00 h – 19.00 h Mathematics Show
- 19.45 h: Conference Dinner.
- Coffee/Tea in the breaks

Sunday, May 22

- 09.00 h - 10.00 h Plenary Lecture 3
- 10.15 h - 11.45 h Special Sessions b
- 12.00 h - 13.00 h Plenary Lecture 4
- Coffee/Tea in the breaks

4. REGISTRATION FEE, PROCEEDINGS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

There will be a proceedings of the conference containing invited papers of the plenary speakers and some speakers in the special sessions. It will be a special issue of the **Bulletin of the Belgian Mathematical Society Simon Stevin**.

The registration fee for the conference, to be paid on arrival, is 15 EURO and covers the Coffe/Tea breaks. Non-members of the Belgian Mathematical Society will have the opportunity to order a copy of the Proceedings to a price yet to be fixed.

conference there will be opportunities to register and pay for this dinner.

If you want to receive the second announcement with more details and a registration form, please send an email to

`hvm@cage.ugent.be`

You may also wish to visit the homepage of the conference, which is

<http://cage.ugent.be/bnlf/>

and which will be updated from time to time.

5. SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

A. Hoogewijs (Ghent University), F. Loeser (Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris), C. Molitor-Braun (University of Luxembourg), H. te Riele (Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica, Amsterdam), H. Van Maldeghem (Ghent University)

6. LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

B. Hoogewijs and H. Van Maldeghem (both Ghent University)



Belgian Mathematical Society

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