BELGIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Comité National de Mathématique   CNM

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NCW   Nationaal Comite voor Wiskunde

BMS-NCM NEWS
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No 73, May 15, 2009

Letter from the editor

Welcome

to the May 15, 2009- Issue of our Newsletter

Have a nice day, and a nice Summer!
Our next Newsletter is scheduled on September 15, 2009

See you next September
Regards,
Françoise

Contents

1   Meetings, Conferences, Lectures

1.1   June 2009

FNRS Functional Analysis Group
June 4-5, 2009, Esneux (domaine du Rond-Chêne)

Following the tradition, the FNRS group "Functional Analysis" will meet next June (Thursday 4, Friday 5). The meeting will take place in the small town of Esneux, in the "Domaine du Rond-Chêne".

The following speakers have confirmed their participation (alphabetical order):

- J. BONET (U. Pol. Valencia):   *Non-commutative locally convex measures*

- A. DURAND (U. Paris Sud): *Sets with large intersection in multifractal analysis*

- S. GRIVAUX (U. Lille): *Some properties of Read's type operators*

- P. SEVILLA-PERIS (U. Pol. Valencia): *Spectra of algebras of holomorphic functions*

- D. SIEG (U. Trier): *Higher Ext-functors for spaces of distributions*

- Z.A. WEGNER (U. Paderborn): *Weighted PLB-spaces of holomorphic functions*

The meeting will start on Thursday June 4, at 13:00, for lunch. It will end on Friday June 5, after lunch.

More details? Please contact : F.Bastin@ulg.ac.be

ULg, June 2009
CANT'09 and AutoMathA

- 1-5 June 2009: CANT'09, International school on Combinatorics, Automata and Number Theory.

    http://www.cant.ulg.ac.be/cant2009/index.html

- 8-12 June 2009: International Conference, AutoMathA : from Mathematics to Applications.

    http://www.cant.ulg.ac.be/automatha/index.html

1.2   July 2009

26th Journées Arithmétiques

July 6-10, 2009 in Saint-Etienne, France

See the page http://ja2009.univ-st-etienne.fr/
Early registration: February, 1, to April, 30, 2009

Plenary Speakers:
Matthew Baker (Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta)
Laurent Berger (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon)
Yann Bugeaud (Université de Strasbourg)
Alain Connes (Collège de France, Paris)
Jean-Marie De Koninck (Université Laval, Québec)
Manfred Einsiedler (Ohio State University, Colombus)
Jerzy Kaczorowski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan)
Laurent Lafforgue (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, Paris)
Jeffrey C. Lagarias (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
Joseph H. Silverman (Brown University, Providence)
Michael Stoll (Universität Bayreuth)
Jean-Pierre Wintenberger (Université de Strasbourg)

Scientific committee:
Shigeki Akiyama (Université de Niigata, Japon)
Francesco Amoroso (Université de Caen, France)
Kevin Buzzard (Imperial College London, Royaume Uni)
Brian Conrad, (Stanford, USA)
Katia Consani, (Johns Hopkins, USA)
Pierre Liardet, (Université de Provence, France) [Chair]
Richard Pink, (ETH Zürich, Suisse)
Paula Tretkoff (née Cohen), (Texas A&M, USA)
Jerzy Urbanowicz, (IMPAN, Pologne)
Gerard Van der Geer, (Université d'Amsterdam, Hollande)

Organizing Committee:
D. Essouabri, F. Foucault, G. Grekos, F. Hennecart, F. Pellarin, O. Robert

Email: ja2009@univ-st-etienne.fr

1.3   September 2009

Workshop in Nonlinear Elliptic PDEs,

a celebration of Jean-Pierre Gossez's 65th birthday,

September 2, 3 and 4 2009

The meeting will take place at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in the Amphitheater Solvay from Wednesday morning to Friday noon.

Please visit the website of the workshop at http://wnpde09.ulb.ac.be

Mail address of the workshop : WNPDE09 - ULB CP214 - Boulevard du Triomphe, 1050 Bruxelles - Belgium

1.4   2010

ICM 2010

At the end of the Newsletter, you will find the first announcement of the ICM 2010 in Hyderabad, issued by the ICM 2010 Organizing Committee.

2   Miscellaneous

2.1   Paul Libois

Le Groupe de contact *Histoire comparée des sciences*du F.N.R.S.
Le Centre d'Histoire des sciences et des techniques de l'ULB (ALTAÏR)
Le Centre des Archives communistes en Belgique (CARCOB)

UNE JOURNEE SUR PAUL LIBOIS
Le samedi 10 octobre 2009, à l'ULB

Paul Libois (1906-1991) fut professeur à l'ULB et eut une importance concrète dans la recherche en mathématiques: plusieurs de ses idées furent à l'origine de résultats et de théories importantes. Parmi celles-ci la théorie des immeubles de Jacques Tits, Prix Abel 2008, qui est l'un de ses élèves. Il s'investit fort dans des questions de l'enseignement mathématique. En particulier il eut des liens étroits avec l'Ecole Decroly à Bruxelles. Il fut aussi connu pour son activité politique : après un rôle significatif dans la Résistance (seconde guerre mondiale), il devint un des principaux dirigeants du Parti Communiste de Belgique, jusqu'en 1954.

La réunion sera une occasion de fêter le vingtième anniversaire de la création d'ALTAÏR, dont Libois fut un des promoteurs.
La réunion aura lieu à l'ULB, au Campus de la Plaine, dans l'auditoire F du Forum (face à la cafeteria), Boulevard du Triomphe à 1050 Bruxelles :
− accès 4 au Campus, il y a un parking,
− près de la station Delta du métro.

Programme

9h00	:	Accueil
9h15	:	Présentation de la journée : Jean Doyen (prof. à l'ULB)
		et Paul van Praag (prof. émérite à l'UMons)
9h30-10h30	:	Franz Bingen (prof. émérite à la VUB)
		sur Paul Libois mathématicien
10h45-11h45	:	Pierre-Emmanuel Caprace (UCL - chercheur qualifié du F.N.R.S.)
		sur la théorie des immeubles
14h00-14h30	:	Simone Trompler (prof. retraitée à l'Ecole Decroly)
		sur Paul Libois et l'enseignement mathÈématique
14h35-15h35	:	José Gotovitch (prof. honoraire à l'ULB)
		sur Paul Libois et le PCB
16h00-16h45	:	Témoignages sur Paul Libois et les communistes à l'ULB :
		Jacques Moins, Jean Reignier et Louis Van Geyt
17h00	:	Discussion et clôture de la journée

Contacts:	Paul van Praag, paul.vanpraag@umh.ac.be (Groupe de contacts)
	Jean Doyen, jdoyen@ulb.ac.be (ALTAœR)
	Milou Rikir, mrikir.carcob@skynet.be (CARCOB)

Tout le monde est le bienvenu. Les frais de déplacement des membres des universités de la Communauté française de Belgique seront remboursés par le FNRS.
Un repas (sandwiches avec café) au restaurant de l'Union des Anciens Etudiants de l'ULB (à côté du Forum) sera prévu pour celles et ceux qui auront versé, avant le 5 octobre 2009, la somme de 14,90 euros au compte 210-0572971-44 de *Paul van Praag - FNRS* avec la mention *repas du 10 octobre.*

2.2 From VUB

From Prof. Marc Despontin

Beste,

Ben je geïnteresseerd in onderwijs en onderzoek? Ben je geïnteresseerd in een boeiende job? Zou je graag een doctoraat behalen?

Omdat drie van onze assistenten dit jaar hun doctoraat behaalden en daarenboven een mooie job aangeboden kregen, is MOSI tegen volgend academiejaar (ingangsdatum 16/9/09) op zoek naar vijf nieuwe voltijdse assistenten: twee in het domein van de toegepaste statistiek, twee in de toegepaste wiskunde en één in het operationeel onderzoek/logistiek.

MOSI is verantwoordelijk voor het onderwijs en het onderzoek in de toegepaste statistiek, wiskunde, operationeel onderzoek en informatica in de Faculteit Economische, Sociale, Politieke Wetenschappen en Business School Solvay van de Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Heb je interesse?

Laten we dan een afspraak maken. Stuur een mailtje naar marc.despontin@vub.ac.be met je telefoonnummer zodat wij je kunnen bereiken om af te spreken.

Met vriendelijke groeten, Prof. Marc Despontin Voorzitter MOSI Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Vacancy

Professorship in Applied Statistics
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

The Faculty of Sciences and Bio-Engineering Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) announces an open tenure track position in **statistics** (full time) at the Department of Mathematics.

Tasks:

• Teaching: in the Bachelor and Master program of the Department of Mathematics (in particular for the specialization "stochastics and financial mathematics") and possibly some service teaching for other departments and faculties. The candidate should be an excellent teacher. He/she should also supervise projects in the bachelor program and theses in the master program of the department.

• Research: The research area of the candidate should be STATISTICS with a proven record of excellence in one of the following areas: applied statistics, stochastic processes and applications, risk theory, financial or actuarial mathematics. Strong candidates in related areas may be considered as well. The candidate should also supervise Ph. D. theses.

• Other Tasks: It is expected that the candidate further strengthens the cooperations with other units of the VUB and other universities and that he/she substantially contributes to the Master program in stochastics and mathematical finance via teaching and research. An interest in actuarial sciences is a plus. The candidate should also attract external funding for research projects. The candidate will be responsable for the coordination of the Master in Actuarial Sciences.

Starting date: October 1, 2009 or later depending on the constraints of the candidate.

Diploma: The candidate should have a Ph. D. degree in mathematics or statistics by the starting date.

Contact person: Mark Sioen (chairman of the Department of Mathematics) e-mail: msioen@vub.ac.be

Application procedure: Please send a formal application (including a CV, a list of publications and coordinates of three persons that would be willing to act as referee) to the Rector of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussel, Belgium and an email copy of the application to the Chairman of the Department of Mathematics. The application must be received no later than June 9, 2009.

3 History, maths and art, fiction, jokes, quotations...

3.1 IBM and maths

Have a look at **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-udGE8POcZk** which is an invitation to maths!

3.2 Automatic translation

Just to smile ... Have a look at the notice **http://www.encyclopediefrancaise.com/Don_Zagier.html** in a French Encyclopedia!

The solitude of prime numbers Paolo Giordano, Doubleday, 2009, 352 p., ISBN: 0385616244.

The author of this originally Italian book is Paolo Giordano, a physicist working on his doctoral thesis at the Dipartimento di Fisica Teorica, Universita di Torino. He is born in 1982.

The book has won five literary awards already, one of them being the Premio Stregia, the Italian equivalent of the Man Booker Prize. The English translation hasn't appeared yet, the publication date is the 4th of June.

You don't have to be a mathematician to read this novel. There aren't any formulas in it. One of the main characters is a mathematician, and as such has thoughts like the following one:

> *Mattia thought that he and Alice were like that, two twin primes, alone and lost, close but not close enough really to touch one another. He had never told her that. When he imagined confessing these things to her, the thin layer of sweat on his hands evaporated completely and for a good ten minutes he was no longer capable of touching anything.*

The book is the story of a boy, Mattia, and a girl, Alice. Both have a traumatic experience that will influence them for the rest of their lives. At seven Alice has a terrible skiing accident that leaves her crippled. Mattia feels responsible for the disappearance of his mentally-disabled twin sister at the age of eight. Both of them are 'damaged'. They meet at school and their destinies get intertwined.

The childhood tragedies have left scars. Alice is anorexic. Mattia feels a need to cut himself. Mattia thinks mathematics, and as you read this book, you sometimes get the impression that he is autistic. Giordano says in interviews that this was not his intention. He explains that mathematicians have a different way of looking at reality than other people.

Mattia and Alice get separated when Mattia receives a scholarship at some far away university. The choice between his love for Alice and his love for mathematics is a difficult one.

However, their story goes on, and we follow both characters until their thirties.

The book is written in a very 'lonely' style. It seems as if the reader experiences what Mattia and Alice go through. The feeling of being lost pervades the book.

It took me only one day to finish it.

Paul Levrie

GREETINGS from the Organisers of ICM 2010

As you may be aware, The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) of 2010 will take place during August 19 - 27 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, India. We urge you to participate in the Congress and help us make it a great success.

The preparations for the Congress are now underway. Some information about the city of Hyderabad, pre-registration, registration, some practical information about visiting India etc. can be found at our web-site

www.icm2010.org.in

A list of satellite conferences that are being planned is also available at the web-site.

Detailed instructions for registration, financial aid programs, as well as information on Hotel accommodation, list of invited speakers, lecture program, cultural program etc. will be put on the web-site as and when they get finalised.

On-line pre-registration will start on May 15, 2009 at the icm2010 web-site. It does not involve any payment. The pre-registered participants will be apprised of new developments by e-mail and will receive reminders of upcoming deadlines. Please do pre-register if you intend to participate: it will be of great help to us in our planning the event.

If you do not wish to receive any further announcements, please reply to this message with "unsubscribe" on the subject line.

We look forward to your participation at the ICM 2010 in Hyderabad.

Rajat Tandon
Secretary
Executive Organizing Committee
ICM 2010