

M I S C E L L A N E A

– List of Mathematicians and Computer Scientists of Romanian extraction residing outside Romania

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FROM THE BOOKSHELVES

CĂTĂLINA NIȚESCU: *Fonctions de variable complexe*. CERMI Publ. House, Iasi 2005, ISBN 973-667-128-3, iii + 175 pp.

This is a textbook for the students in the 2nd year, covering a part of the course of *Special Mathematics*. It was given by the author to the students attending the French Programme of the Faculty of Civil Engineering - Technical Univ. of Iasi since 1993. The contents of the book includes the main concepts related to the functions of a complex variable: Ch.1 - Complex Numbers; Ch.2 - The Derivative of a Function of a Complex Variable; Ch.3 - Integration over the Complex Domain; Ch.4 - Series of Holomorphic Functions; Ch.5 - Residues and Their Applications. Hence, the contents is structured with the aim of giving the reader the mathematical instruments needed for approaching any scientific field that employs methods of the Complex Analysis. The basic notions are presented in a simple way, and certain details that are not essential for understanding them were omitted. The algebra and the geometry of complex numbers are presented in the first chapter. The conformal mappings are included in Ch.2, while the Taylor and Laurent series are the topics of the 2nd and (respectively) 5th sections of Ch.4. The last chapter offers the theory of residues and its applications in calculating integrals. In order to be as accessible as possible, the author also included a significant number of applications (exercises) that are entirely solved. A reference list closes the textbook. Several clear figures can help the reader to understand certain notions that are representable in the complex plane.

ALEXANDRU CĂRĂUȘU: *Vector Algebra, Analytic & Differential Geometry*. PIM Publ. House, Iasi 2003, ISBN 973-8490-92-8, viii + 521 pp.

This textbook covers the subject matter of the course of Linear Algebra, Analytic and Differential Geometry given by the author (in the second semester) to the students of the Faculty of Civil Engineering – Technical University of Iasi since 1991, when the English teaching programme was introduced at this faculty. Certainly, it could be equally useful to the students in other fields of engineering. The contents is structured into three large chapters. In Ch.1 – Vector Algebra – the (fixed and free) vectors in plane and space are defined and the linear operations with vectors are presented. Collinear and coplanar vectors are also defined and characterized. This chapter is conceived as an interface between the Linear Algebra, that is taught in the first semester, and the Analytic & Differential Geometry. Ch.2 - Notions of Analytic Geometry – starts with an introductory section presenting reference systems in the 3D and 2D spaces and the corresponding Cartesian coordinates; the polar coordinates in the plane are also mentioned. The planes in space, defined by specific sets of geometric conditions and characterized by corresponding analytic equations are then presented. This Section 2.1 also discusses the possible relative positions

of two or more planes in space, metric problems involving planes, etc. The lines in space are presented next, also by sets of geometric conditions and corresponding systems of two linear equations. Metric problems with lines (like angles, relative positions of two lines, distances) are also included. The line in the plane, with the various versions of its equation in (standard) Cartesian coordinates and also in polar coordinates, is the topic of the next section. The equations of the conics in standard positions are deduced, and the study of conics in general positions is presented in Section 2.4. Conics and lines (the tangent(s) to a conic, conjugate diameter, principal directions) are presented in Section 2.5. Next, the "main" quadric surfaces in standard positions are given by their equations, and their shapes are studied. Chapter 3 – Notions of Differential Geometry – starts with an introductory Section 3.0 giving elements of vector calculus. Differential geometry of space curves is the subject matter of Section 3.1, including the tangent and the normal plane, the osculating plane and the principal normal, the binormal and Frenet's mobile trihedron, the elementary arc length, curvature and torsion. The main definitions and results related to the plane curves follow in Section 3.2, including multiple points, asymptotes, contact points of two curves etc. Notions of differential geometry of surfaces follow in Section 3.3, starting with generation of surfaces (cones, cylinders, rotation surfaces) and continuing with curves on surfaces, the tangent plane and the normal, the elementary area, the angle between two curves on a surface, the first and the second fundamental forms. Each section or pairs of sections is / are closed by statements of problems - exercises. The answers will follow in the second volume of this textbook. A list of Main Notations is given as a front matter while Appendix 1 - References and Bibliographical Notes, and Appendix 2 - Index close this textbook.

P. L. ANTONELLI (Editor) *Handbook of Finsler geometry, vol. I and II*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht. Hardbound Set only. ISBN 1-4020-1557-7, 2003, 1472 pp. (CD-Rom included)

The present Handbook of Finsler geometry was realized due to the initiative and efforts of its editor, Prof. Dr. P.L.Antonelli from the Alberta University, Edmonton, Canada, with the contributions of fourteen specialists in the field (in alphabetical order): T. Aikou, M. Anastasiei, P.L.Antonelli, I.Bucataru, D.Hrimiuc, L.Kozma, B.Lakey, M.Matsumoto, R. Miron, R.Portugal, S.F. Rutz, H.Shimada, J.Szilasi, T.Zastawniak. Three of them are Romanians: Prof. Dr. Radu Miron, a member of the Romanian Academy, Prof. Dr. Mihai Anastasiei and Dr. Ioan Bucataru. We underline their contributions, only.

The most important generalization of Finsler geometry is presented in the Part 9 elaborated by R.Miron, M. Anastasiei and I. Bucataru with the title *The Geometry of Lagrange Spaces*. An overview on the tangent bundle is followed by an extensive exposition of the main results from Lagrange geometry including a theory of subspaces in Lagrange spaces and their applications to Relativity and Electromagnetism. The geometry of generalized Lagrange spaces is also presented in some details. The last chapter contains a geometrization of the Lagrangians which depend explicitly on time.

In a Finsler space the geodesics are solutions of a particular system of ordinary differential equations (SODE). The geometric invariants of the most general SODE have been obtained by Kosambi, Cartan and Chern. These generalize some invariants from Finsler

geometry. This fact explains why *The KCC theory of a SODE*, presented by P. L. Antonelli and I. Bucataru, was included as Part 2 in this Handbook. This Part contains some preliminaries on tangent bundles including Finsler connections, a global treatment of SODE with details on homogeneous case and a chapter on time dependent SODE, closing with an overview on Classical Projective Geometry of Paths in which several motivations for modern treatments are offered.

The Handbook contains eleven parts, each one encompassing an aspect from the evolution of Finsler geometry. The reader will not find in this Handbook an unitary treatment of all subjects from Finsler geometry. Instead he will be in contact with multiple facets of this topic as well as with the various points of view this topic was approached. Thus an interested reader will have the possibility to choose from this Handbook what is better fitted with his training and taste.

IOAN V. VRABIE, *Differential Equations; An Introduction to Basic Concepts, Results and Applications*, World Scientific, New Jersey - London - Singapore - Beijing - Shanghai - Hong Kong - Taipei - Chennai, 2004, xvii+401 pp., ISBN 981-238838-8

The book under review is addressed to a wide spectrum of readers ranging from sophomores, graduate students in mathematics, to engineers, chemists, physicists and biologists. It is divided into eight chapters: (1) Generalities, (2) The Cauchy Problem, (3) Approximation Methods, (4) Systems of Linear Equations, (5) Problems of Stability, (6) Prime Integrals, (7) Extensions and Generalizations, (8) Auxiliary Results and represents a modern introduction to the basic concepts, results and applications of ordinary differential equations in \mathbb{R}^n to various disciplines. It is almost self-contained and requires only some usual basic knowledge in algebra and analysis. It includes some topics usually not discussed in classical textbooks as: the exponential formula, conservation laws, generalized and Carathéodory solutions, differential inclusions, variational inequalities, viability, invariance, gradient systems. Moreover, it contains many illustrative examples, interesting mathematical models and a great number of completely solved exercises and problems.

Personalalia

NICOLAE DINCULEANU, with the University of Florida at Gainesville, becomes an octogenarian in 2005. He is a Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy, and he has been recently awarded the "Doctor Honoris Causa" degree by the University of Bucharest, his Alma Mater. He is warmly congratulated, in this occasion, by his colleagues and numerous students.

MORDECHAI EPSTEIN, an Emeritus Professor with the University of Tel Aviv, has celebrated the 80-th Birthday in 2004. He has been on the faculty of the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iasi, and of the Technical University "Gh. Asachi" of Iasi, before emigrating to Israel in the 1960's. He has been subject to persecution by the Romanian communist authorities, due to his desire to emigrate. For a period of time, before leaving Romania, he has been dismissed from his teaching position. He is warmly congratulated by his colleagues and friends.

VANGIPURAN LAKSHMIKANTHAN, with the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, has celebrated his 80-th Birthday in 2004. An international conference to be held in Melbourne from August 1 to August 5, 2005, will be dedicated to his achievements. A large number of mathematicians, from around the world, have announced their participation.

SOLOMON MARCUS, an emeritus Professor with the University of Bucharest, and a Member of the Romanian Academy, is celebrating his 80-th Birthday in 2005. He is known worldwide for his contributing to several fields including Real Analysis, Mathematical Linguistics, Mathematical Education a. o. Solomon Marcus is very active, including TV appearances, in showing the role of Mathematics in education and culture. Congratulations!

ELENA MOLDOVAN, with the University "Babes-Bolyai" in Cluj-Napoca, has been celebrated for her 80-th Birthday in 2004. An international mathematical conference has been organized by the University of Cluj-Napoca in August 2004, to mark the event. Elena Moldovan-Popoviciu is the surviving wife of the late professor Tiberiu Popoviciu, a member of the Romanian Academy and the founder of the "Institutul de Calcul" in Cluj, of the Romanian Academy. Elena Moldovan has dearly kept alive the memory of her late husband, and continued his preoccupations (like the organizations of the Itinerant Seminary on Functional Equations and Approximation Theory).

PETRU CARAMAN is celebrating his 75-th Birthday in 2005. He held a research position with the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy (Branch of Iasi), and has taught part time at the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iasi. Caraman belongs to the

School of Complex Analysis created by the late Simion Stoilow, a Member of the Romanian Academy. During the period 1996 - 2000, Petru Caraman was a member of the Romanian Senate, in which position he fought for the democratization of Romanian society, gravely affected by a half century of communist rule. Congratulations!

DAN PAPUC will celebrate his 75-th Birthday in 2005. He is an Emeritus Professor with the West University of Timisoara, where he has been appointed as a Professor in 1966. Papuc is an offspring of the School of Geometry in Iasi, created by the late Alexandru Myller - a former student of Felix Klein and David Hilbert in Gottingen. Recently, Papuc has published an impressive volume entitled "Mathematics in Universal Culture and Civilization" (Romanian), whose translation in a language of wide circulation is amply warranted. Congratulations!

ALEXANDRA BELLOW (known earlier as Ionescu Tulcea) will be 70 years old in 2005. She belongs to a distinguished family of Macedo-Romanians (Aromâni, by name Bagdasar), and has received her mathematical education at the University of Bucharest and Yale University. Since 1957 Alexandra lives and works in the United States of America. Her research activity is well known to the international mathematical community, particularly in Functional Analysis, Probability and Ergodic Theory. On this occasion, she is warmly congratulated by her colleagues and friends.

DAN PASCALI is 70 years old in 2005. After his activity in the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy (Bucharest), Dan Pascali emigrated to the United States of America, being associated as a researcher with Courant Institute at NYU. He is residing in Forest Hills, New York, and has taught for many years at the "Ovidius" University in Constanta (Romania). Dan Pascali is a steady contributor to *Libertas Mathematica*. We congratulate him on his 70-th Birthday.

SERGIU RUDEANU, with the University of Bucharest and the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy, is celebrating his 70-th Birthday in 2005. One of the brightest students of the late Grigore C. Moisil (1906 - 1973), Sergiu Rudeanu has been active in several research fields (Algebra, Operations Research, Mathematical Logic, a. o.). He has numerous successful students, some of them occupying teaching positions in the United States of America and other Western countries. He is warmly congratulated by his colleagues and friends.

APPEAL

The year 2010 will be the Centennial year of the Mathematical Seminar "A. Myller" of the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iasi.

All former and present members of this venerable institution are kindly invited to prepare their participation at the Conference dedicated to the Centennial Celebration, which will take place sometime during the year 2010 at the University of Iasi (jointly with the Romanian Academy, Branch of Iasi).

As a result of the Conference, one or several volumes will be published, containing the proceedings. The papers to be presented must be in Mathematics, both Pure and Applied.

Beside, over 100 members of the "Seminar" residing in Romania, a conspicuous number of former members are residing in France, Germany, England, the United States of America, Canada and other countries.

The editor has contacted the following persons, in the last category: Sergiu Aizicovici, Nicolae Pavel, Irinel Drăgan, Liviu Nicolaescu, Daniel Tătaru in the US; Mordechai Epstein, Izu Vaisman, Dan Butnariu, Sender Solomon, in Israel.

Prof. Radu Miron and Prof. Viorel Barbu, both members of the "Seminar" and of the Romanian Academy, have expressed their interest in celebrating this event.

Any ideas from the members, as well as from other colleagues, will be highly appreciated. Each coming volume of *Libertas Mathematica* will contain further information.

Libertas Mathematica after 25 years of publication

The volume XXV of the mathematical journal of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Science, the last published, has come out in July 2005. This is the seventh volume printed in Romania.

The first volume of *Libertas Mathematica* came out in 1981, and besides research papers, it contained a protest signed by 100 American mathematicians against Ceausescu's decision to abolish the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy. The Institute has been reestablished meantime, but still did not fully receive its building. Many researchers are residing abroad.

Each volume of *Libertas Mathematica* contains a number of research papers, a list of mathematicians of Romanian extraction who left Romania during the communist dictatorship and after, holding positions in the academic communities around the world (all five continents). Their number is presently at about 350, and it is ever growing. Besides, each volume contains various informations regarding the Romanian mathematical community (in Romania or in other countries).

During the first 25 years of publication, *Libertas Mathematica* has inserted about 100 research papers, which are reviewed by *Mathematical Reviews* and *Zentralblatt für Mathematik*. The authors are in greatest part Romanians, living abroad or in the country. About 100 authors are mathematicians who are not of Romanian extraction, living and working in such countries as the United States, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Morocco, Poland, Israel, a. o. Several volumes of *Libertas Mathematica* have been dedicated to some well known Romanian mathematicians. We are mentioning here Isaac Schoenberg, Miron Nicolescu, Tiberiu Popoviciu, Mendel Haimovici, Grigore Moisil, Radu Rosca-Rochas, Corneliu Constantinescu, Gheorghe Mihoc, Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, Octav Onicescu a. o.

Among the collaborators to *Libertas Mathematica* we are honored to count such scientists as Paul Samuelson, Nobel Laureate, Isaac Schoenberg, Ciprian Foias, Vasile-Mihai Popov, George Fix, Ion Paraschivoiu, Marian Kwapisz, B. G. Pachpatte, S. Zaidman a. o.

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