

FRENCH-POLISH COOPERATION IN APPROXIMATION THEORY AND REAL AND COMPLEX ANALYSIS

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There has always been a great tradition of academic exchange and contact between France and Kraków in the field of mathematics. The origin of the formal French-Polish cooperation between the Institute of Mathematics at the Jagiellonian University and French universities in the domain of approximation theory and real and complex analysis is almost anecdotic. During his stay at the Paul Sabatier University (Toulouse) in 1985, Prof. Wiesław Pleśniak learned that Prof. Jacek Gilewicz (Université de Toulon et du Var and Centre de Physique Théorique, Marseille-Luminy) and the physicists from the University of Warsaw had been intending to organize an international conference on rational approximation at the Castle of Łańcut, the home town of Pleśniak. This inspired Prof. Pleśniak to go to Marseille and meet Prof. Gilewicz. As a consequence of that meeting, Prof. Jacek Gilewicz was invited to the Institute of Mathematics at the



The participants of the 1992 conference in Niedzica Castle.

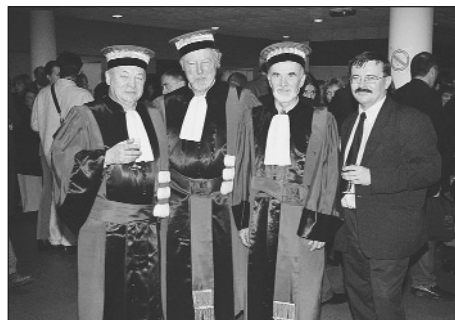
Jagiellonian University and spent two months there in 1986. During this visit, Prof. Gilewicz and Prof. Pleśniak had succeeded in attracting interest from the French Embassy in Warsaw. It ended in the cooperation that yielded a formal cooperation project under the ATP Programme (Action Thématique Programmée) supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish State Committee for Scientific Research. The French universities were represented by the Université de Toulon et du Var, Université Paul Sabatier (Toulouse), Université de Paris XI (Orsay), Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, and then the Centre International des Rencontres Mathématiques (Marseille-Luminy). The project was coordinated by Professor Jacek Gilewicz and then by Professor Jean-Paul Brasselet (Centre International des Rencontres Mathématiques) and the undersigned Wiesław

Pleśniak (Institute of Mathematics of the Jagiellonian University).

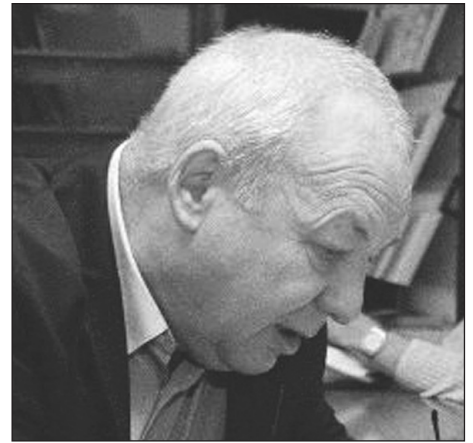
Thanks to the financial support from the French Embassy in Poland and the Institute of Mathematics of the Jagiellonian University, the coordinators had succeeded in organising a series of seven French-Polish meetings in Poland (Karniowice near Kraków, the Niedzica Castle, and then Krynica) under the common theme: *Le français des mathématiciens*. These meetings served as the permanent forum of the presentation of the progress of both Polish and French participants of the ATP Project in research concerning the subject of cooperation. The meetings were also opportunities of first contacts with French scientific language and French culture for young Polish mathematicians that were planning for invited stays in French universities.

First, we should make special note of an important French-Polish meeting at the Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Paris in November of 1995 that was organized by Prof. Jacek Gilewicz and Prof. Wiesław Pleśniak. At this meeting, the programme of future co-operation in the above mentioned subject was scheduled. The next important step was the common “Réseau-Formation-Recherche” project that was implemented 1995-1998 under the coordination of Prof. Anne-Marie Chollet (Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille) and Prof. Wiesław Pleśniak. Thanks to this project, Polish partners from the Jagiellonian University and the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań obtained 56 months of French Government fellowships for Polish doctorate students and globally, more than five hundred thousand French Francs for the exchange programme.

Other common projects included the work-



Ceremony at Toulon, 23 October 2003. Wiesław Pleśniak, Jacek Gilewicz, Józef Siciak, Mirosław Baran.



shop on Differential Analysis at the International Banach Center of Warsaw (September 2000), (organized by Prof. Anne-Marie Chollet, Prof. Krzysztof Kurdyka (Université de Savoie a Chambéry), and Prof. Wiesław Pleśniak. Moreover, the workshop on Approximation Theory (January 2002) was organised at the same International Banach Center (organised by Wiesław Pleśniak with the cooperation of Prof. Anne-Marie Chollet, Vincent Thilliez (Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille), and Jacques Chaumat (Université de Paris-Sud).

Since 1998, the cooperation continues under the “Polonium” Project “Real and Complex Analysis” coordinated by Anne-Marie Chollet and Wiesław Pleśniak which has been accepted by the French-Polish Government Commission for implementation in 2004.

Wiesław Pleśniak [plesniak@im.uj.edu.pl], born in 1944, is a professor of the Jagiellonian University at Kraków, Poland, where he holds the Chair in Approximation Theory at the Department of Mathematics. His main mathematical interest is approximation theory and complex analysis. He is a member of Editorial Boards of three journals: Annales Polonici Mathematici, Commentationes Mathematicae and East Journal on Approximation. For some years he served as the President of the Kraków branch of the Polish Mathematical Society; moreover, he was the Vice-Dean of the Faculty. Currently he is the Vice-President of the Mathematical Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Wiesław Pleśniak has received a doctorate honoris causa from the University of Toulon in France. He is a member of Société Royale des Sciences de Liège and of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Among other distinctions, he was awarded the Mazurkiewicz Great Prize and the Zaremba Great Prize of the Polish Mathematical Society (1977, 1989), and he has been awarded scientific prizes from the Polish Academy of Science three times.