

Mathematical research in Portugal: trends, organization and perspectives

Debate - International Center for Mathematics

Coimbra, December 1997

The assessment of Portuguese research units carried out last year, with immediate effects on their respective grants, yields a good opportunity to reopen the debate on the orientation of research activities and policies in Portugal.

The abovementioned assessment had novel characteristics and, without challenging the quality of the evaluation panel nor the relevancy of its comments, it's undisputable that this process raises broad questions to which the Portuguese mathematical community, unless it forfeits its very right to existence, can and should give thought.

CIM organizes the present debate with this inten-

tion in mind. It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that these issues are considered. But the discussion is useful in itself, and contact in some depth with the problems and the diversity of perspectives will make the Portuguese mathematical community more responsible and better prepared.

The debate will be established around dichotomies or "tensions" assumed to be present in the Portuguese mathematical community, or even in each individual mathematician. This does not aim at resolving these tensions, but rather at using them as points of departure for the debate.

NEWS

The CIM Scientific Committee had its first ordinary meeting on the 22nd March 1997. All the european members were present. The members from America (Richard Brualdi, Jacob Palis and Efim Zelmanov) were unable to come to Coimbra.

In this meeting Professor Hugo Beirão da Veiga was elected President of the Scientific Committee and Professor Paula Oliveira was elected Secretary.

The Scientific Committee discussed the activity plan submitted by the Directors. ▽

The CIM congratulates Professor José Luiz Fiadeiro on his being awarded the IBM 96 Prize for his work *Emergência em Sistemas de Software Complexos*.

Professor Fiadeiro gained his Ph.D in 1989 from the Instituto Superior Técnico, under the supervision of Professor Amílcar Sernadas and he is Associate Professor at the Departamento de Informática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. ▽

On the 25th and 26th March 1997 a cycle of talks on **Convex Bodies** by Prof. S. A. Robertson took place. These talks are the subject of Publication n° 3 of CIM – **Three talks on convex bodies**, already available. ▽

Prof. J. A. Green delivered a talk entitled **One hundred years of Group Representations** on the 5th May 1997. The text of this talk will be published by the CIM. ▽