ALEXANDAR BORISSOV YANOVSKI

OBITUARY

After a short illness, Bulgarian mathematical physicist Alexandar Borissov Yanovski passed away on October 27, 2023 at his home in Sofia.
The following are some of the personal reminiscences of Francesco G. Russo.

The Decade 2013–2023 of Alexandar B. Yanovski at the University of Cape Town

The Years 2013–2019

My first visit in South Africa was in 2013, but beginning from July 2014 I had the pleasure to be in close contact with Prof. Yanovski, because we taught together Real Analysis at the University of Cape Town. This was a course with almost two hundred students, so we lectured separately in classes of the same size.

Figure 1. Alexandar Yanovski.

It was my first undergraduate course in the country and we taught it together until 2017, sharing experiences, perspectives and opinions of didactical nature. Prof. Yanovski retired a few years later in 2019, so we shared the teaching experience of one of the largest undergraduate courses of the faculty of science.

For historical reasons and social factors, which is impossible to analyze properly here, it should be noted that it is very peculiar to teach undergraduate courses in South African universities. This is due to a highly inhomogeneous background of the students. One can find extremely talented students and others with poor scientific foundations in the same venue. There are systematically discussions at national level and debates concerning pure mathematics: most of the times these deal with appropriate prerequisites and background in scientific subjects at undergraduate level. It is in fact a delicate topic, which is impossible to describe here, and it is