PROCEEDINGS OF THE U.S.–WESTERN EUROPE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PADÉ APPROXIMANTS AND RELATED TOPICS

Introduction

The conference and its proceedings are dedicated to Professor Wolfgang J. Thron on the occasion of his 70th birthday (August 17, 1988). Professor Thron has been a central figure in the analytic theory of continued fractions, Padé approximants and related topics during almost five decades. A short biography and lists of his Ph.D. students and mathematical publications are included in the proceedings.

PROFESSOR W.J. THRON

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The present issue of the Rocky Mountain Journal of Mathematics contains the Proceedings of the U.S.–Western Europe Regional Conference on Padé Approximants and Related Topics, including continued fractions, moment theory, orthogonal polynomials, Gaussian quadrature and applications to digital signal processing. The conference took place at the University of Colorado in Boulder, June 21–25, 1988. It was held under the auspices of the U.S. National Science Foundation Cooperative Science Programs with Western Europe, with the purpose of promoting and supporting mutually beneficial scientific activities.

This conference was the fifteenth in a series of international conferences and workshops devoted to Padé approximants, continued fractions and related topics since 1972. One reason for the strong interest in the subject has been the advent of computers and the resulting importance of the algorithmic character of Padé approximants. Other reasons are the close connections to many other areas of mathematics and applications to theoretical physics and engineering.

We wish to thank the U.S. National Science Foundation and other scientific funding agencies as well as universities from Canada and several Western European Countries for financial support of this conference and its members. In particular, we gratefully acknowledge funding of the conference by Colorado State University and by the University of Colorado. Participants at the conference consisted of 40 mathematicians representing 11 different countries. The number of participants was kept limited so as to promote discussion among members with diverse backgrounds, in accordance with the aims of the U.S.–NSF Cooperative Science Programs with Western Europe. The organizing committee for the conference consisted of William B. Jones and Arne Magnus from the United States and Olav Njåstad and Haakon Waadeland from Norway. Valuable assistance was given to the committee by Sandra Clement Cooper and Nancy J. Wyshinski.

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