

Conference report

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From September 9th till the 14th, 2012, the third in a most successful series of Dolomites meetings (i.e. meetings in Alba di Canazei in the Dolomites) on approximation theory organised by Stefano De Marchi (University of Padua), Marco Vianello (University of Padua), Len Bos (University of Verona), Alvis Sommariva (University of Padua), Marco Caliarì (University of Verona), and the colleagues Alessandra De Rossi and Francesco Dell'Accio from Torino and Cosenza, respectively, took place. It was held in most wonderful surroundings in the Italian Dolomites, supported by mostly splendid weather which invited taking remarkable walks giving opportunities to think about mathematics in the outdoors. Indeed at this place, in Alba di Canazei to be precise, the University of Verona keeps a facility which is used for its summer schools etc., but also highly suitable for mathematics meetings (as many mathematicians love the mountains – remember the success of Oberwolfach in Germany, Luminy in France, near Marseille, or the Canadian Banff each with exceptional natural surroundings and other special places for mathematics conferences!).

At the meeting, methods, applications and theory of approximation theory and constructive approximation were the central themes which are also reflected by the major journals of the field, namely *Journal of Approximation Theory* and *Constructive Approximation*, into which the online *Journal of the Dolomites*, namely the *Dolomites Research Notes on Approximation*, joins in. In fact, the proceedings of this meeting will be published in this journal.

We had 7 invited talks, 94 (!) talks in total, 117 participants from 24 countries from 5 continents. The invitees gave excellent lectures on new results and summaries of research fields; each of them delivered a 45 minutes talk on topical subjects of approximation theory and applications.

In addition, there were, in two parallel sessions, numerous shorter, contributed talks and indeed we had a most enjoyable poster session with the additional benefit of Italian gelato. To add to the culinary experience, a walk or travel with cable car could be combined with a barbecue and of course we had a very good conference dinner.



Figure 1: The group of remaining participants on the last day of the meeting

As an additional perk, the company Enginsoft supported a 500 Euro prize which was delivered at the conference. Talking of the prize, other sponsors than Enginsoft should be mentioned, namely the Universities of Verona, Padua, Torino, INDAM (the National Institute of High Mathematics "F. Severi", Rome) and the town of Canazei.

Enginsoft sent several most welcome mathematical representatives who gave interesting lectures on applications which we added to the mini-symposium on kernel methods organized by Martin Buhmann and Wolfgang zu Castell (this was most suitable as they used radial basis functions).

This meeting was organised so that mathematicians could communicate and exchange ideas about their mathematical research. One excellent way to do this was to have four (!) types of communications: talks, invitees, mini-symposia and posters. And of course the direct interchange between colleagues and friends at all times of the conference.

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We are equally grateful to Stefano and his colleagues for the flawless organisation of the meeting; for one, this was not easy because it was held in that fairly remote place which is not so easy to reach. Nonetheless, no speaker was lost (not even in the excursions in the mountains!) and indeed there were hardly any cancellations. The latter is fairly unusual in mathematics meetings and it says highly positive things about what high importance the participants attributed to come to his meeting.

Thank you to our Italian colleagues! We are all looking forward to the next meeting after these three.

More details about the workshop, can also be found at the link <http://events.math.unipd.it/dwcaa2012/> (including the list of participants and the book of abstracts).