

PROFESSOR GHEORGHE COMAN AT HIS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTAVIAN AGRATINI AND PETRU BLAGA

Gheorghe Coman was born on January 24th 1936, in Grindeni, Mureș. He attended elementary school (1944-1948) in his home-village, secondary school (1948-1951) in the town of Luduș and high-school (1951-1956) in Cluj, a rich cultural and historical city located on the Someș river banks. From 1956 to 1961 he was a student at the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics (nowadays the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science), Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj. After graduation, he worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Numerical and Statistical Calculus. In this department, Gheorghe Coman has held a continuous academic career, being successively promoted to the positions of lecturer (1970), associate professor (1977) and full professor (1990).

In 1966 Gheorghe Coman married Mioara, a chemistry professor at the Medicine and Pharmacy University in Cluj-Napoca. They have two children: Dan, born in 1967, and Horia, born in 1970. Dan followed in his father's footsteps, becoming also a mathematician, while Horia is a medical doctor.

Under the guidance of the famous mathematician D.V. Ionescu (1901-1985), in 1970 Gheorghe Coman completed his doctoral thesis *Optimal quadrature and cubature formulas*. He also had the opportunity to participate in professional training modules abroad in Moskow (1968) and in the USA, University of Wisconsin, Madison (1973-1974).

In what follows, we briefly certify the outstanding scientific activity and teaching career of *Ghitza*, name under which professor Coman is known to those close to him. So far, twenty doctoral students have worked under his guidance: Călin Enăchescu, Sorin Pop (also supervised by professor W. Jaeger, Heidelberg), Daniela

Kacso (also supervised by professor H. Gonska, Duisburg), Andras Peter, Ioan Lazăr, Milena Solomon, Virginia Niculescu, Monica Vancea, Codruța Vancea, Daniela Roșca, Ioana Pop, Ion Cozac, Iulia Costin, Cătălin Mitran, Teodora Gulea, Cristina Mihoc, Ioan Todea, Marius Birou, Ildiko Kovacs, Alexandra Oprișan.

Professor Coman is editor-in-chief at the Romanian journals: *Seminar on Numerical and Statistical Calculus* and *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, Mathematica*. He is also included in the editorial board of the following journals edited by the Romanian Academy: *Mathematica* and *Revue d'Analyse Numerique et de Theorie de l'Approximation*. Since 1974 he has been member of the American Mathematical Society and reviewer for Mathematical Reviews.

Professor Coman has been invited to deliver talks at universities in France (Paris, 1994), Germany (Heidelberg, 1995; Duisburg, 1998), Hungary (Debrecen, 1991).

For many years, our colleague, a good organizer and honest judge, served the academic community of the Babeș-Bolyai University from the position of vicedean (1986-1989) and dean (1989-1996). A constant proof of his remarkable character is given by the fact that he was elected and re-elected dean, before and after 1989, the year of the Romanian Revolution.

A gifted teacher with a good understanding of students, a challenging partner for his colleagues, he succeeded in fascinating us with his spiritual youth, honesty in its purest form and, above all, his personal charm.

Coman's teaching and research activity is materialized in more than one hundred published papers and nine books (textbooks and monographs). The scientific work of professor Gheorghe Coman aims at Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory. Regarding these contributions, we mention the following research directions: numerical integration of functions, approximation of uni and multivariate functions, optimizations of numerical methods with respect to the error, complexity and efficiency of calculus.

At the end we list the most relevant works of professor Coman.

List of Scientific Papers

- [1] Agratini, O., Blaga, P., **Coman, Gh.**, *Lectures on wavelets, numerical methods and statistics*, Casa Cărții de știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2005. iv+196 pp. MR 2006h:42001.
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