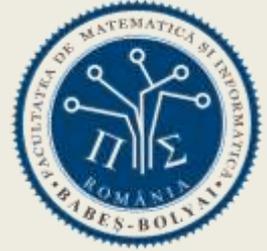




ROMÂNIA
UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI, CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTATEA DE MATEMATICĂ ŞI INFORMATICĂ

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Manifice Rector,
Honoured president of the University Senate,
Dear colleagues vice-rectors, deans, vice-deans,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I am very honoured to open a new important ceremony in our faculty. One of the great friends of our faculty, of our Department of Computer Science, Professor Wei Ngan Chin will be honoured today with the title of Professor Honoris Causa of the Babeş-Bolyai University.

As you probably know, our university and the mathematical studies of our university have a long history. I will do next

A short walk through the history of the university education in Cluj

On May 12, 1581 the prince Ştefan Bathory decided to set up at Cluj a college with three faculties: Theology, Philosophy and Law. This is the first official attestation of a higher education institution in our city.

After some climbing and descents and a contradictory evolution of the higher education in Cluj, on October 12, 1872 the emperor Ferenc Jozsef approves a decision of the Hungarian Parliament for setting up the University of Cluj. This Hungarian university have had four faculties: Law and State Sciences, Medicine, Philosophy, Letters and History and, the last one, Mathematics and Natural Sciences. During this period some pre-eminent mathematicians (such as Gyula Farkas, Lipot Fejer, Frigyes Riesz or Alfred Haar) have had essential contributions to the development of the Cluj mathematical school.

The great wish of the Romanian nation to have their own university with complete studies in Romanian was finally accomplish after the union of the province of Transylvania with the Romanian principality in 1918. On October 1st 1919, by a decree of the King Ferdinand of Romania, the Romanian University was set up under the same name as before, the University of Cluj. The faculties of the new university were: Letters and Philosophy, Sciences, Medicine and Law. The official opening of the new university took place on February 1-3, 1920 in the presence of King Ferdinand and Queen Mary. The University of Cluj starts its activity with 171 Professors and 2034 students enrolled in four faculties.

In 1919, in the moment of its founding, the Faculty of Science of the Romanian university of Cluj have had five sections: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Natural Sciences.

The Mathematics Section was also divided in several chairs: Analitical and Descriptive Geometry, General Mathematics, Mechanics, Function Theory, Mathematical Analysis, Algebra, Astronomy.

Between the Professors of the Mathematics Section of that years, let us mention some important names: Dimitrie Pompeiu, Gheorghe Nichifor, Aurel Angelescu, Gheorghe Bratu, Nicolae Abramescu, George Iuga, Theodor Angheluţă, Petre Sergescu, Dumitru V. Ionescu,

Gheorghe Călugăreanu. The Honorary Director of the Mathematical Seminar was Paul Montel (Paris), while the Director of the Astronomical Observatory was Gheorghe Bratu.

After the Second World War, starting with 1945, two universities coexist in Cluj: a Hungarian university, Bolyai University and a Romanian one, re-entitled King Ferdinand. In 1948, the Romanian university took its name after the great Romanian biologist Victor Babeş and, finally, in 1959, the two universities were unified in a Romanian-Hungarian university called as today Babeş-Bolyai University. The Faculty of Sciences was divided in four new faculties: Mathematics and Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Geography and, the last one, Natural Sciences. In 1962, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics is separated in two faculties, the Faculty of Mathematics-Mechanics and the Faculty of Physics. From 1973 our faculty was re-named the Faculty of Mathematics and, finally, from 1994 it is called the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The beginning of the Computer Science education and research in our city is related to some names of great mathematicians with vision, which have understood that the development of the algorithmic methods, of programming, of computation techniques and of fast communications are the challenges of the new century. I mention here the names of Tiberiu Popoviciu, Dimitrie D. Stancu și Emil Munteanu.

Starting with 1962, our faculty has a **Calculating Machines** section, while since 1971 a new study program entitled **Computer Science** has been set up. This specialization knew a continuous and fast development, today more than 1600 students are enrolled in four study programmes in Romanian, Hungarian, English and German.

Starting with 1996, due to the effort of the Computer Science Department, a new journal *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai, Informatica Series* is published, while from 2007 the International Conference on KNOWLEDGE ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES AND TECHNOLOGIES (KEPT) is organized every two years.

The unprecedented development of the Computer Science field in Cluj and in Romania, proved by the large number of software and IT companies working in our country and in Cluj is, partially, the result of the very good results obtained by our faculty staff in the laborious work with the students. Many excellent results in student competitions (like ACM International Contest or Imagine Cup) are solid arguments for the strong value of the Computer Science School from Babeş-Bolyai University.

These are in short some of the most important moments of the development of the Mathematics and Computer Science studies in our university, proving that our today's motto ***Tradition and Modernity***, is completely covered by facts and realities.

Coming back from history, we are very proud that an important personality, Professor Wei Ngan Chin (National University of Singapore) becomes today a new member of our academic community., the first Professor Honoris Causa of our university in the field of Computer Science.

I would like to thank Professor Chih for his wonderful speech, for the eulogistic words concerning our faculty, and, on this basis, we are looking forward, with high spirits, to a new era in the scientific cooperation between BBU and NUS and to relevant achievements for the research activities of our Department of Computer Science.

Professor Adrian Petruşel, Ph.D.