

## PREFACE

This volume contains 27 papers contributed by participants of the conference *Approximation and Probability* which was organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Professor Zbigniew Ciesielski. The conference was held at the Mathematical Conference Center in Będlewo, Poland, from September 20 to September 24, 2004.

Approximation Theory and Probability Theory are distinct areas of mathematics, but they are not unrelated. That is evident from the work of Professor Zbigniew Ciesielski who has obtained important results in both of them and found some deep interrelations between them. The conference whose proceedings are published in this volume brought together specialists from both areas. By providing opportunity to present current research results to that diverse audience, including results involving interesting interplay between the areas, the conference was meant to stimulate further study of both areas and of their interrelations.

The scientific program of the conference consisted of 15 invited lectures and 38 contributed talks delivered by participants. The main talks were given by: Borislav Bojanov, Carl de Boor, Wolfgang Dahmen, Ronald A. DeVore, Gegham G. Gevorkyan, Stephane Jaffard, Mikhail A. Lifshits, Konstantin I. Oskolkov, Giovanni Peccati, Allan Pinkus, Wiesław Pleśniak, Daniel W. Stroock, S. James Taylor, Vladimir N. Temlyakov and Henryk Woźniakowski. 84 mathematicians participating in the conference came from the following countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

The chief organizer of the conference was the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Its co-organizers included Institute of Mathematics of the Warsaw University, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Mathematics Physics and Informatics of the University of Gdańsk, the Gdańsk branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Committee on Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Stefan Banach International Mathematical Center, the latter also as a Centre of Excellence under Contract No. ICA1-CT-2000-70024. The conference also obtained financial assistance from Professor Przemysław Wojtaszczyk's grant from the Foundation for Polish Science.

Members of the Organizing Committee (Tomasz Bojdecki, T.F., A.K., Stanisław Kwapień and Jerzy Zabczyk) wish to thank warmly all those institutions and persons for their contribution. We owe special thanks to Dr. Karol Dziedziul and Dr. Barbara Wolnik for their immense help before and during the conference.

*Tadeusz Figiel and Anna Kamont*