



Joint International Meeting of the American, European and Portuguese Mathematical Societies, Porto, June 2015

by Samuel Lopes*

The Joint International Meeting of the American, European and Portuguese Mathematical Societies (AMS, EMS and SPM, respectively) took place in Porto on June 9–13, 2015. The idea to host a joint meeting of the Portuguese and the American Mathematical Societies arose in 2010, through informal conversations with Georgia Benkart. The Portuguese Mathematical Society welcomed the idea and made a formal proposition to the AMS to host this meeting in Portugal. In 2012 the EMS also showed an interest in joining this event, which resulted in the first and, as of yet, the only joint meeting of the American and the European Mathematical Societies. In 2015, the SPM celebrated its 75th anniversary, the EMS its 25th and the AMS its 126th. All information about

the conference, including the presentation slides, is accessible online at <http://aep-math2015.spm.pt>.

The Scientific Committee was chaired by Georgia Benkart (Univ. Wisconsin-Madison) and included also Jorge Almeida (Univ. Porto), Nils Dencker (Lunds Univ.), Gustavo Granja (Univ. Lisbon), Alexey Parshin (Steklov Inst. Moscow), Carlos Rocha (Univ. Lisbon), Jean Taylor (Courant Inst. New York Univ. and Rutgers Univ.), Susanna Terracini (Univ. degli Studi di Torino) and Luís Nunes Vicente (Univ. Coimbra).

The invited plenary speakers were: Marcus du Sautoy (Univ. Oxford), Rui Loja Fernandes (Univ. Illinois), Irene Fonseca (Carnegie Mellon Univ.), Annette Huber (Albert-

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Ludwigs Univ.), Mikhail Khovanov (Columbia Univ.), André Neves (Imperial College), Sylvia Serfaty (Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie Paris 6), Gigliola Staffilani (MIT) and Marcelo Viana (IMPA). Unfortunately due to unforeseen health problems, Mikhail Khovanov could not come to Porto. Sylvia Serfaty, winner of the 2012 Henri Poincaré prize and 2014 EMS Prize, delivered her lecture as the EMS Distinguished Speaker for 2015.

The general scientific standards of the conference were very high and included a Fields medalist and former MAA and SIAM presidents speaking in and organizing special sessions. One of the invited speakers was also a former SIAM president; another a former vice-president of the International Mathematical Union, current president of the Brazilian Mathematical Society (SBM) and first winner of the Ramanujan Prize; and yet another a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Three of the invited lecturers had spoken recently at an ICM. The presentation slides of the plenary talks can be downloaded at

<http://aep-math2015.spm.pt/IAprogram>

and some of the slides for the special sessions can also be viewed in <http://aep-math2015.spm.pt/ListOfSessions>, by selecting the corresponding session.

The conference generated great interest in the mathematical community worldwide. There were 831 abstracts submitted and the accepted papers were scheduled in one of the 53 Special Sessions approved by the Scientific Committee, or in one of the 7 Contributed Paper Sessions. More than 1 100 participants from 59 different countries attended the conference, filling the classrooms and corridors of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto (FCUP) as well as its surrounding garden areas.

Although there was an informal reception on June 9th, and the first talks started at 9am on June 10th, the official opening ceremony took place in the afternoon with words by Georgia Benkart (AMS Associate Secretary), Pavel Exner (EMS President), Fernando Pestana da Costa (SPM President), José Manuel Martins Ferreira (Vice Dean of the University of Porto) and Nuno Crato (Minister of Education and Science at the time of the meeting). Being unable to attend the conference, Robert Bryant (AMS President) welcomed all participants in a video which can be accessed through the meeting website at <http://tv.up.pt/premiums/80>. On that evening, Marcus du Sautoy delivered the public lecture *The Secret Mathematicians at Casa da Música*, followed by a concert by the Classical Orchestra of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, where du Sautoy joined the trumpet players.

There were three satellite meetings related to the meeting:

1. *Higgs Bundles and Character Varieties* — a workshop sponsored by the NSF GEAR (GEometric structures And Representation varieties) Network in conjunction with Special Session #27 — by the same title;
2. Workshop on *Groups and Semigroups* on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Mikhail Volkov in conjunction with Special Session #4 — Algebraic Theory of Semigroups and Applications;
3. *Summer School on Representation Theory* at the University of Coimbra in conjunction with Special Session #41 — New Trends in Representation Theory.