

Preface

This volume contains plenary lectures and contributed talks given during the international conference on Constructive Theory of Functions which took place in Varna on June 19–23, 2002. The conference was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Professor Blagovest Sendov, the founder of the Bulgarian school in Approximation Theory.

The scope of the conference was the whole spectrum of the theory of approximation. The satellite workshop, organized by O. Kounchev, and sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, features the applications.

Over the years of cold war and isolation, Varna conferences on Constructive Theory of Functions gained a recognition as a unique place for professional meetings of specialists in Approximation Theory from all over the world. The series of conferences in 1970, 1977, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1991 organized in Bulgaria, together with similar activities in other countries of East Europe, marked a period of intensive research and progress in Approximation Theory. In the last decade, due to the economic and legislative transformations in East Europe this fine tradition of active professional relations was interrupted. Varna 2002 is an indication of our strong desire to renew the series of Varna conferences. We thank all the colleagues and friends for their advice and encouragement to meet this challenge. We are grateful to all the speakers for their enthusiastic response to our invitation to participate. Finally, we express our appreciation to the 130 participants who joined us to celebrate in Varna the 70th anniversary of Professor Blagovest Sendov.

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