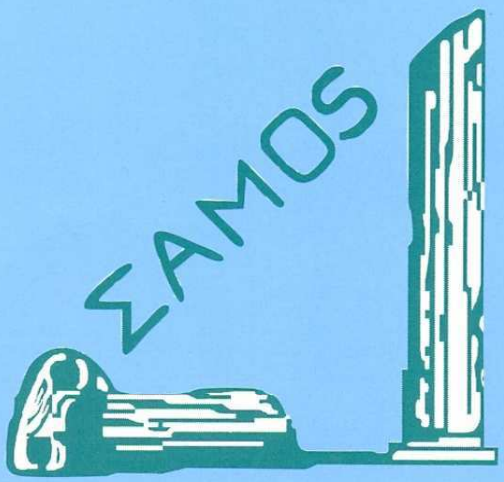
International Conference on the Teaching of Mathematics

University of the Aegean

Samos, Greece
July 3-6, 1998



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

University of the Aegean
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Contents

Forward xiii

Research in Computational Mathematics Using MAPLE: A Capstone Course 1
REZA O. ABBASIAN

Innovative Methods in the Teaching of Calculus: A Case Study 4
MAY ABBOUD and SAMER HABRE

An Overview of Teaching and Learning Research with Classroom Communication Systems (CCSs) 7
A. LOUIS ABRAHAMSON

Modelling Mathematical Knowledge Using Hypermedia 10
HEATHER AINSLEY, CLAUDE GHAOUI, and KEITH WHITELEY

The Great Ideas of Mathematics Taught with the Aid of *Mathematica* 13
ALKIVIADIS G. AKRITAS and ZAMIR BAVEL

An Intelligent Computer Algebra System for the World Wide Web — MathsWeb 16
DHIYA AL-JUMEILY *and* PAUL STRICKLAND

Definitions in University Students' Perceptions of Structure 19
LARA ALCOCK and ADRIAN SIMPSON

About Teaching Geometry at Universities 22
KELDIBAY ALYMKULOV and GULBADAN MATIEVA

Problem of Teaching Mathematics 24
KELDIBAY ALYMKULOV and GULBADAN MATIEVA

A Comparative Study on Pupils' Achievement and Common Mistakes in Solving Word Problems Related to Directed Numbers 26
HALIL ARDANHAN and YASAR ERSOY

Teaching Integrals with the TI–92: A Chance of Making a Complex Mathematical Concept Elementary 29
KLAUS ASPETSBERGER

Technology Preparation for Inservice Mathematics Teachers Through a Short–Term Inservice Course 32
ADNAN BAKI and YAŞAR ERSOY

Assessing Calculus Reform at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire 35
A. BALAS, B. BANSENAUER, J. CLAY, M. GOULET, and A. SMITH

Experts Tutoring Maths 38
D. BALBONTIN and P. MARIN

Managing Change with New Technologies: An Evolving Mathematics Program for Scientists and Engineers 41
CHRISTOPHER BARLING

Mathematical NetBooks 44
VLADIMIR BATAGELJ and MATJAŽ ZAVERŠNIK

Mathematics at Work: Cases Out of the Real World 47
FRANS A. J. BIRRER and SHEILA TOBIAS

Nonlinear Mathematics Using Maple in First Year 50
BILL BLYTH and JOHN SHEPHERD

On Proof in Some Dynamic Geometry Systems 53
FRANCISCO BOTANA and JOSÉ VALCARCE

The Three R's: Reading, Writing and Calculus Reform 56
LYNN BOWIE and JURIE CONRADIE

MATHEIS (MATHematical Electronic Interactive System):
An Agent–Based Distance Educational System for Learning Mathematics 59
VANCO CABUKOVSKI and DANCO DAVCEV

Relevant Factors Affecting the Pupils' Math Study Habits 62
MEHMET ÇAĞLAR and YAŞAR ERSOY

A Uniform Computer–Supported Approach to Analysis: Process, Concept and
Proofs 65
IVAN CNOP

Operations Research as a Paradigm for the Teaching of Undergraduate Mathematics 68
GAVIN E. COLE

Web-Based Learning Materials: Design, Usage, and Resources 71
MICHAEL R. COLVIN, LESTER N. COYLE, LAWRENCE C. MOORE, DONALD HARTIG, WILLIAM J. MUELLER, CHARLES PATTON, DAVID A. SMITH, and FRANKLIN A. WATTENBERG

Island Algebra (Algebra for Teachers) 74
JURIE CONRADIE and JOHN FRITH

Use of Computer Based Instruction in Mathematics Classrooms in Mozambique 77
GENEROSA COSSA and JOHANN ENGELBRECHT

Utilising Technology to Maximise Student Learning: A Case Study 80
PETER F. COUTIS and LEIGH N. WOOD

Enhancing Achievement using Technology? Feedback is Effective 83
PATRICIA CRETCHLEY

The Effect of Quantifiers on Reading Comprehension of Mathematical Texts 86
HAMUTAL DAVID and NITSA MOVSHOVITZ–HADAR

Using Microsoft's New HTML Help System to Construct an Active Book for
Introductory Mathematics Courses in Engineering and Science 89
P. DOYLE, R. S. FERGUSON, and D. SPREVAK

Teaching Mathematics with Electronic Teaching Supports 92
MARIE–CLAUDE DUBAN, GHISLAINE JOLY–BLANCHARD, and NICOLAS SALZMANN

Aspects and Problems of Including Mathematical Modelling in Mathematics Examinations 95
WOLFRAM EID

Use of New Information Technologies in Pre–Service Education of Mathematics Teachers in Turkey 98
YASAR ERSOY

Peer Tutoring in First Year Undergraduate Mathematics 101
WARWICK EVAN, JEAN FLOWER, and DEREK HOLTON

Mathematics for Computer Science — and Conversely 104
DESMOND FEARNLEY–SANDER

Creating Dynamic Teaching Tools for Mathematics 107
JEAN FLOWER and ADRIAN OLDKNOW

Undergraduate Mathematics: A Time for Change 110
MILTON FULLER and MARGARET FLANDERS

Hypermedia: A New Scenario for Facing the Problems of Classroom Practice 113
FULVIA FURINGHETTI and DOMINGO PAOLA

The Sydney Experience with Mathematics Clubs 116
TERRY GAGEN

Experimenting Drawing Periodic Geometric Designs with the Package Tort–Decó 119
MARTIN GARBAYO–MORENO, EUGENIO ROANES–LOZANO, and EUGENIO ROANES–MACIAS

Exploring Prospective Primary School Teachers' Understanding of Mathematics Through the Development of their Pedagogical Knowledge 122
BARBARA GEORGIADOU and DESPINA POTARI

Some Experiences in the Use of Software Packages for the Teaching of Differential Geometry 125
MIGUEL ANGEL GONZÁLEZ, GERARDO RODRÍGUEZ, AGUSTÍN DE LA VILLA, and ISABEL VISUS

Functioning in the World of Business Mathematics 128
FLORENCE S. GORDON

Functioning in the Real World: A Reform Precalculus Experience 131
SHELDON P. GORDON

Student Use of the Graphics Calculator: Tool or Crutch? 134
J. HANNAH

Towards a Psychology of Advanced Mathematical Thinking: A Methodological Tool for Analysing Undergraduates' Metacognitive Thinking in Calculus Problem–Solving 137
STEPHEN J. HEGEDUS

Pilotproject Mobile Classroom 140
HANS–WOLFGANG HENN

A Mathematical Software Environment for Teaching Algebra, Logic and Term Rewriting 143
PHILIPP HEUBERGER

Investigating Linear Transformations with Cabri 146
JOEL HILLEL, ANNA SIERPINSKA, and TOMMY DREYFUS

Incorporating Modeling into Undergraduate Courses 149
HOLLY P. HIRST and JEFFRY L. HIRST

Insights into Geometry: Creative Teaching and Creative Learning 152
MEIRA HOCKMAN

Embedding Core Skills in Undergraduate Mathematics Courses 155
S KENNETH HOUSTON

An Integrative Approach to Instruction 158
OLEG A. IVANOV

Two Educational *WWW* Presentations and Their Phylosophy 161
SLAVIK V. JABLAN

Learning Through a Great Variety of Learning and Assessment Methods 164
OWE KÅGESTEN

A *Mathematica* Based Calculus III Course and its Effects on the Traditional, Calculus Based Physics Courses 167
STELIOS KAPRANIDIS

"New" Visualization and Experimental Mathematics with THALES 170
HERMANN KAUTSCHITSCH

Space–Age Projects for Multi–Variable Calculus 173
MATTHIAS KAWSKI

Learning Undergraduate Statistics: The Role of the Graphics Calculator 176
MARIAN KEMP, BARRY KISSANE, and JEN BRADLEY

Active and Research–Minded Attitudes Towards Mathematics: What Does It Mean in Mathematics Education? 179
NIKOS KLAOUDATOS

Subsidising Definitions in a Linear Algebra Course 182
ALKISTIS KLAPSINOU and EDDIE GRAY

Abstract Algebra: A Problems–Centred and Historically Focused Approach 185
ISRAEL KLEINER

Interacting with Students Via the World Wide Web 188
GENE KLOTZ, K. ANN RENNINGER, JUDY ANN BROWN, ANNIE FETTER, STEPHEN WEIMAR, and KENNETH WILLIAMS

Mathematical Project Work in Schools 191
NORBERT KUSOLITSCH and TIBOR NEMITZ

WeBBRS: A Web–Based Bayesian Reasoning System for Interactive Learning 194
EMMANUEL N. LAZARIDIS and HAROLD LEHMANN

Drawing Linear and Quadratic Graphs Without Using a Table of Values 197
BRENDA LEE

Scientific Notebook — An Interactive Approach in Teaching Mathematics 200
MIROSLAW MAJEWSKI

Assessing Visualisation Skills in Mathematics Education 203
I. MALABAR and D. C. POUNTNEY

A Computer Algebra Support in Lessons on Numerical Methods 206
ADAM MARLEWSKI and KAROL GAJDA

From Disciplinary to Interdisciplinary; Challenges in Teaching Applied Mathematics Courses to Environmental Sciences Majors 209
YIANNIS G. MATSINOS and GIORGOS D. KOKKORIS

Strategies for Computer Assisted Assessment in Mathematics 212
MICHAEL MCCABE

A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of the Harvard Calculus 215
DANIEL MCGEE, JR., RAFAEL MARTINEZ–PLANELL, and EDGAR ACUNA

Statistics Tables and Charts for Educators 218
MIRIAM LERNER MELAMED and MARIMAR M. STAHL

Transparent Pseudo–Proofs: A Bridge to Formal Proofs 221
NITSA MOVSHOVITZ–HADAR and ALIZA MALEK

Mapping Out the First–Year Mathematics Undergraduate's Difficulties with Abstraction in Advanced Mathematical Thinking: Didactical Observations Related to the Teaching of Advanced Mathematics from a Cross–Topical Study 224
ELENA NARDI

Can Calculator Usage Enhance Mathematical Understanding, Thereby Enhancing Physical Understanding? 227
MARSHA PAULUS NICOL

The Austrian TI–92 Project: Observation Windows at Age 16 230
ROBERT J. NOCKER

Linear Algebra at a Virtual University 233
ASUMAN OKTAÇ and HARTWIG STEIN

Enriching the World of Communications with New Conferencing Tools with Applications in Teaching Mathematics through Distance Learning in Real Time 236
ATHINODOROS PANAGIOTIDIS

Linear Algebra Activities on the TI–92 Plus 239
DENNIS D. PENCE

Mathematical Concepts and New Technology 242
WERNER PESCHEK

The Effects of Video–Based Materials on Mathematics Learning 245
PETER PETOCZ and LEIGH N. WOOD

Using Computers for Problem Solving Tests 248
REIN PRANK

The Effects of a Computer Algebra System on the Learning of, and Attitudes Towards, Mathematics Amongst Engineering Students in Papua, New Guinea 251
LEONARD L. RAJ

Integrating Mathematics and Science Teaching by Using Technology 254
BETTY RAMÍREZ and JULIO QUINTANA–DÍAZ

The Sophia Teaching Ideology: Constructing the Web Site "A Mathematical Journey Through Time" as Part of a History of Mathematics Course 257
FRANCES ROSAMOND

Functional Programming Languages: Tools for the Analysis of Mathematical Conjectures 260
BLAS C. RUIZ, FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ, and JOSÉ E. GALLARDO

New Technology: a New Chance for "Old" Didactic Ideas? 263
EDITH SCHNEIDER

Virtual Laboratories in Probability and Statistics 266
KYLE SIEGRIST

Examination Responses to Changes in Undergraduate Mathematics Assessment 269
GEOFF SMITH and LEIGH WOOD

Teaching of Concepts Using Mathematical Structures and Their Computer Realization 272
MEGAKLIS TH. SOTIROPOULOS

University Students' Models of Two Geometrical Problems 275
VASSILIKI SPILIOTOPOULOU

Potential Influences of Computer Notation on Mathematics Teaching 278
WALTER G SPUNDE

Algebraic Structure — Restricted Arithmetics 281
NAD'A STEHLÍKOVÁ

Undergraduate Students' Understanding of Solutions of Systems of Equations 284
DESPINA A. STYLIANOU

Constructive Mathematics for Beginners 287
RUDOLF TASCHNER

Integrated Use of Webpages, Spreadsheets and Textbooks to Create an Interactive Learning Environment in Higher Mathematics 290
FREYR THORARINSSON

Forces for Change in Undergraduate Mathematics 293
PATRICK TOBIN

Research and Teaching of Statistical Inference 296
ANGUSTIAS VALLECILLOS

Teaching Mathematics for the Agricultural and Environmental Studies: the Use of Mathematical Applications 299
ONNO A. VAN HERWAARDEN

A Course in Elementary Mathematics for Math–Major Students 302
DARKO VELJAN

The Lost Honour of the Proof 305
S. VERNIKOS, A. DIMOU, and M. CHIONIDOU–MOSKOFOGLOU

From Discrete to Continuous: A New Calculus Curriculum 308
RICHARD P. VITRAY and WILLIAM C. BAULDRY

Mathematics Reform and Introduction of Computer Aided Instruction in an International Liberal Arts College 311
P. VLACHOS and A. KEHAGIAS

Calculus Assessment at the University of Illinois 314
PAUL M. WEICHSEL

Research Methods Used to Study CAS Use in a Multivariable Calculus Course 317
RONALD H. WENGER

Introducing the Real Numbers and Infinitesimals in Elementary Analysis: Aspects of Standard and Nonstandard Analysis 320
KARI YLINEN

Blind Trust in Computer Algebra Systems and Mathematical Formula Tables in Mathematics Education 323
YANJIE ZHAO

Using Maple to Teach Introductory Numerical Analysis 326
YING ZHOU and WALTER GALL

Visual Methods of Teaching Applying to Mathematics 329
AFANASIEV V. V., GUSEV V. A., and SMIRNOV E. I.

Real Life and and Classroom Materials. A Challenge for Curriculum Development and Teacher's Training 332
MATTI HEILIÖ

The Module Principle in Trigonometry 335
HELMUT HEUGL

Test Control of Students' Knowledge in Teaching Mathematical and General Engineering Disciplines 338
SIMEON VASSILEV, PENKA GUEORGUIEVA, and VIOLETA KINOVA

Forward

Mathematics is central to our world. Without it, science would not progress, nor industry thrive, nor communications expand. Thus, the teaching of mathematics is a cornerstone of a country's educational health.

This conference provides a remarkable opportunity for mathematicians from around the world to learn from one another's teaching experience. As we look forward to the next century, we see how much there is to learn. Mathematics itself is advancing, and its use in other fields is expanding, drawing in a changing student body. Distance education and the increasing power of computers and calculators is altering the way mathematics is done and taught.

Because of the challenges facing all of us, we are delighted that this conference has attracted such a diverse group of participants. However, this diversity means that we are confronted by the different expectations for such conferences in different countries. Some are inclusive, aiming to include as many views as possible; some are selective, with only peer reviewed contributions. We have tried to steer a middle ground. As a result, most partipants will find the conference not exactly as they had expected. Indeed, it is our hope that all attendees meet people and cultures that are new to them, and come to understand some of the triumphs and struggles of different educational systems.

This collection of papers has the same purpose. The papers were contributed by many of the speakers giving short talks, and they provide a window onto the concerns and activities of a wide range of people. We hope they will lead the reader to a better understanding of the similar issues faced by instructors of mathematics across the globe, and that this understanding will lead to a higher level of international cooperation in the efforts to improve the teaching of mathematics.

We are very grateful to the conference sponsors for making such an event possible in the island of Pythagoras.

Ignatios Vakalis, Chair, *Capital University, USA*
Nicolas Hadjisavvas, Co-chair, *University of the Aegean, Greece*
Deborah Hughes-Hallett, Co-chair, *Harvard University, USA*