

Preface

The *Workshop on Real and Complex Singularities* is a series of biennial workshops organized by the singularity group at the Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação, of the Universidade de São Paulo, São Carlos (ICMC-USP, São Carlos), Brazil. Its main purpose is to bring together specialists in the vanguard of singularities and its applications. Initiated in 1990, it became a key international event for people working in the field.

For the first time not in São Carlos, “The 8th workshop on real and complex singularities” took place at the Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques, Luminy, France, from 19 to 23 of July, 2004. A total of 94 mathematicians from 19 countries (Brazil, France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, U.S.) participated in this very successful event, among these, 24 from Brazil.

The workshop program consisted of 14 plenary sessions, 44 ordinary sessions, and 2 mini-courses given by Maxim Kazarian on “Calculations on Thom polynomials”, and Victor Goryunov on “Lagrangian and Legendrian Singularities”.

We could not have organized the workshop without the help of many people and institutions. We start by thanking the members of the Scientific Committee: Jose Manuel Aroca, Jim Damon, Gert Martin Greuel, Abramo Hefez, Heisuke Hironaka, Alcides Lins Neto, Marcio Soares, Bernard Teissier, Terry Wall for their support for the event. The workshop was funded by Institutions from Brasil: FAPESP, CNPq, CAPES, USP, and from France: Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche, Université de la Méditerranée, CNRS (Délégation Régionale Provence, FRUMAM, IML, LATP), Conseil Général des Bouches-du-Rhône, Ville de Marseille. Their support we gratefully acknowledge. We are also very grateful to the staff of the IML and the CIRM for their help to organize the event.

It is a pleasure to thank the speakers and the participants whose presence was the real success of the 8th *Workshop*.

Marseille, São Carlos

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