

Dear Mrs. Iotova, Vice President
of the Republic of Bulgaria,
Dear Professor Dimov, Deputy Minister
of Education and Science,
Dear Academician Revalski, President
of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
Dear Academicians and Corresponding Members
of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
Dear Colleagues, Guests, and Friends,

As all you know, the Second International Conference “Mathematics Days in Sofia” is organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) in cooperation with the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridki” and the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians.

It is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics which we shall celebrate in the autumn of this year.



The Institute of Mathematics and Informatics was created shortly after the end of WWII by the effort and high professionalism of a generation of Bulgarian mathematicians whom we now thankfully style the pivots of Bulgarian mathematics.

The date 27 October 1947 is rightly considered the birth date of the IMI. On this day the Executive Council (EC) of the BAS confirmed the plan of the scientific activity in 1947/1948. The section devoted to the mathematical sciences included the work of three commissions:

- Commission for demographic studies (Acad. K Popov)
- Commission for mathematical studies of the representative method in statistics (Acad. N Obrechhoff)
- Commission for financial mathematical research of state bonds and external bonds guaranteed by the state (Acad. K Popov) The scientific plan contained also detailed individual plans by the mathematicians
 - Acad. Ivan Tzenov,
 - Acad. Ljubomir Tchakalov,
 - Acad. Nikola Obrechhoff
 - Acad. Kiril Popov:

This was the beginning of the implementation of the idea, discussed by the EC of the BAS already in 1945 (Protocol #14/01.08.1945), to create a branch for Natural Science and Mathematics within the Academy and develop research institutes for individual areas of science, including an institute for mathematics.

Fully in line with the dynamics of the time and the development of research in mathematical sciences, the organisation changed its name several times. In 1949 the Mathematical Institute (MI) was established at the Physical and Mathematical Branch of the Academy and Acad. L Tchakalov was appointed as its head (Dnevnik 490/24.03.1949).

The MI was renamed Mathematical Institute with Computing Centre (MI with CC) in 1961,

Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics with Computing Centre (IMM with CC) in 1972,

and Institute of Mathematics (IM) in 1994.

The current name, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, goes back to 1995.

The Directors of the Institute were:

- 1947-1950 Acad. Lyubomir Chakalov
- 1951-1963 Acad. Nikola Obrechhoff
- 1964-1988 Acad. Lyubomir Iliev
- 1988-1993 Acad. Peter Kenderov
- 1993-1999 Prof. Nikolay Yanev
- 1999-2012 Acad. Stefan Dodunekov
- 2012-2016 Acad. Julian Revalski
- 2017- Acad. Vesselin Drensky



The first six Directors of IMI



Acad. Julian Revalski

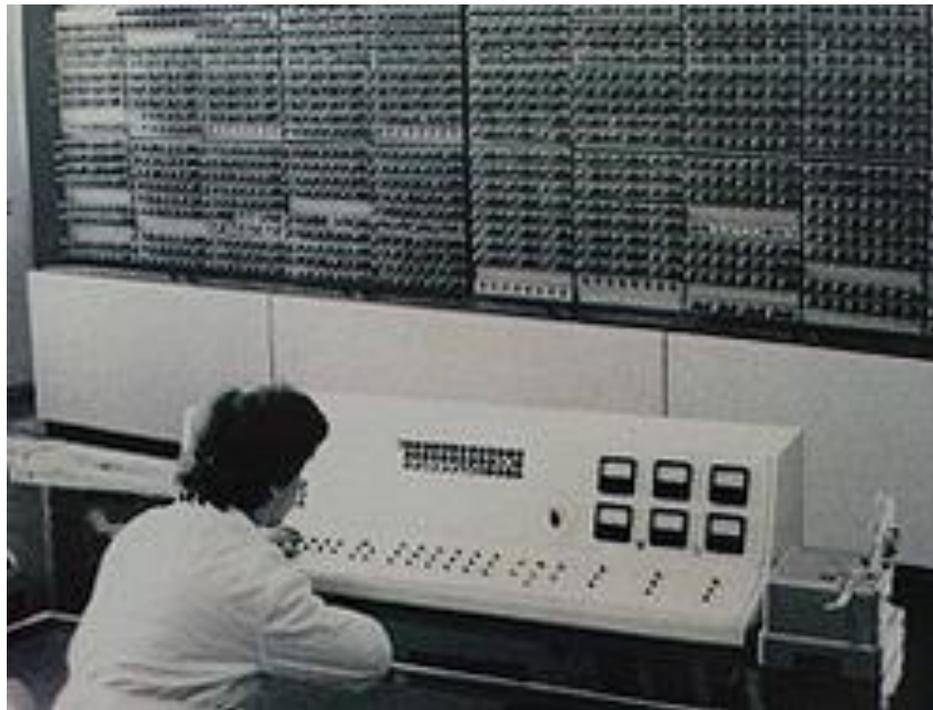


Acad. Vesselin Drensky

Since its very beginning in 1947 the IMI has been the leading Bulgarian centre for research and training of highly qualified specialists and exercising an efficient, long-range, consistent policy related to the fundamental trends in the development of mathematics, computer science, and information technologies.

Several facts of our history shall demonstrate the successful realisation of the IMI's mission:

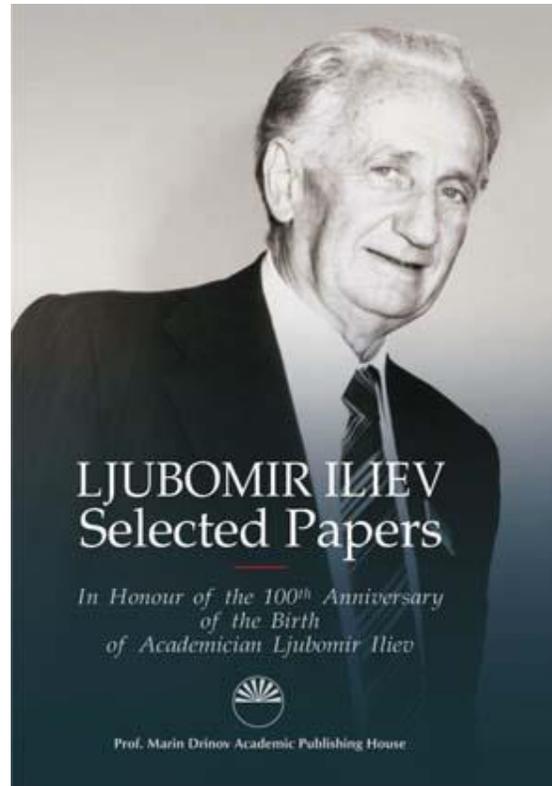
- In 1961 the first computing centre in Bulgaria was created on the MI's premises.
- In the period 1962-1964 the first Bulgarian digital computer Vitosha was created.



- In 1965 the first electronic calculator Elka 6521 was created.



- In 1966 the Central Institute for Computing Technology was set up as an offshoot of the MI with CC.
- From 1970 till 1988 the Institute and the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics of the Sofia University are integrated in the United Centre for Mathematics and Mechanics. It starts the three level of the university education in mathematics and informatics, the system which twenty years later is accepted in whole Europe.



● As a result of the efforts mainly of Acad. Iliev, Director of the Institute in that time, IMI continued its further development and became what it is now.

- In 1977 the Institute for Mechanics and Biomechanics was set up as an offshoot of the IMM with CC.
- Members of the IM with CC's staff formed the nucleus of the Coordinating Centre for Informatics and Computer Technology created in 1984 (currently the Institute for Information and Communication Technologies).

- In 2000 the IMI set up the School Students' Institute for Mathematics and Informatics jointly with the St Cyril and St Methodius Foundation, the Evrika Foundation and the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians.
- In 2006 the National Centre for Digitalisation of Scientific, Cultural and Historic Heritage was created on the IMI's premises.

A major part of the IMI's policy is participation in Bulgarian educational programmes on all levels, so that the stable development of the scientific potential in the areas of mathematics and computer science can be guaranteed.

Mission of IMI:

1. Development of fundamental and applied research in mathematics and informatics in compliance with the national and European priorities, integration of IMI into the European Research Area;
2. Scientific research in the fields of mathematical structures, mathematical modeling and mathematical informatics, enriching the theoretical foundations of mathematics and informatics and leading to innovative applications in other sciences, in information and communication technologies, industry and society;
3. Application of mathematics and informatics to the national educational programmes and educational processes at all levels in the country;
4. Establishing the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics as a leading research centre in Bulgaria in the field of mathematics and informatics.

On January 1, 2017 the scientific staff of the Institute consists of 46 professors, 45 associate professors, 13 chief assistants, 34 assistants. There are 33 doctors of sciences, 98 doctors, 2 academicians, and 3 corresponding members. The Institute works on more than 70 scientific topics, in projects financially supported by the budget of BAS, the National Science Fund, international, regional, and other programs.

IMI publishes or participates in the publishing of four scientific and scientific-methodical journals. Its scientists have results on the world level, publish about 400 research papers each year, and more than 200 of them are in estimated journals and proceedings of international conferences. Every year IMI organizes more than 15 scientific schools and conferences and more than 200 foreign scientists visit IMI.

IMI continues to work to keep its leading role as a national and international research and applied research centre in mathematics, informatics and their applications.

IMI also works successfully to improve the relations with the Bulgarian diaspora and for further extending of the cooperation with Bulgarians working in leading foreign research centres.

An expression of this line are the International Conferences “Mathematics Days in Sofia” whose realization three years ago was initiated by several Bulgarian scientists working in Bulgaria and abroad. Also three years ago, the IMI Mathematics Prize was set up, and in several minutes it will be awarded for the second time. It is given to a Bulgarian citizen up to 40 years of age with high achievements in the field of mathematics.