

Extract from OP-SF NET

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Subject: Franz Peherstorfer 1950-2009

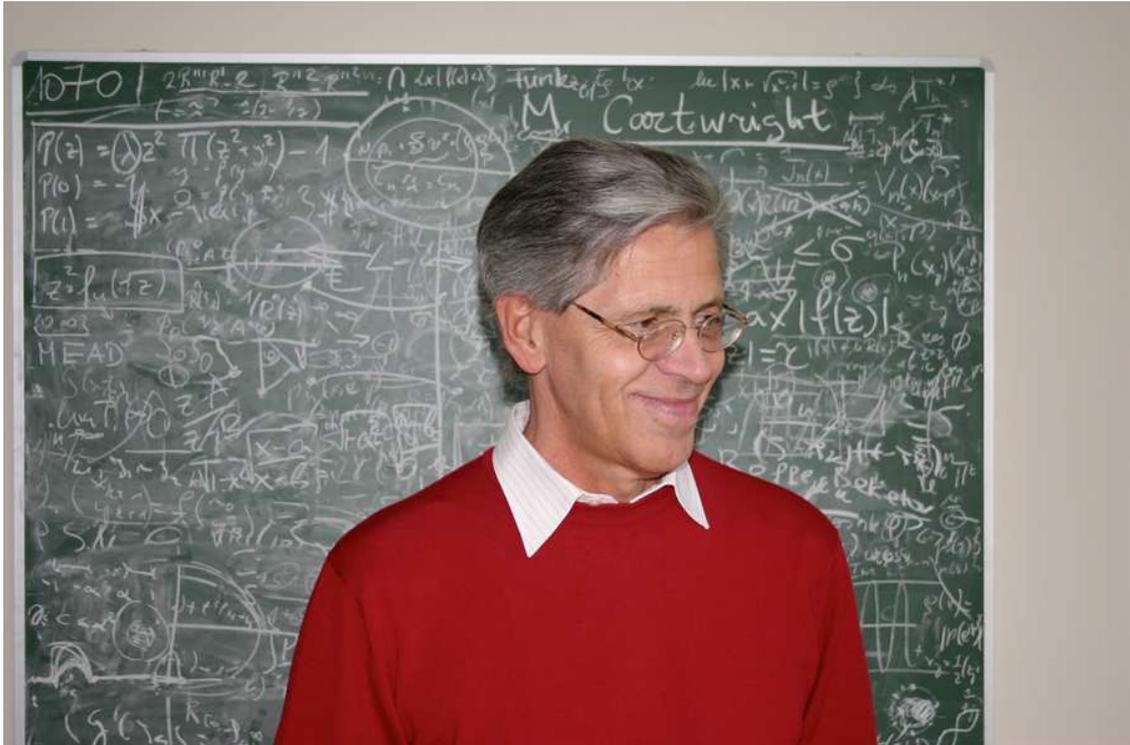
People in the orthogonal polynomials community were deeply shocked to learn that Franz Peherstorfer died on November 27, 2009. Franz died from lung cancer during chemotherapy in a hospital near Linz, Austria.

He was born in Zwettl an der Rodl, a village near Linz, on July 26, 1950. He obtained his university degrees at the Johannes Kepler Universität in Linz (Master 1975, Ph.D. 1977 with Paul Otto Runck as his advisor, Habilitation in 1982). Franz remained at Johannes Kepler Universität and was the head of the Group for Dynamical Systems and Approximation Theory. Franz had six Ph.D. students: Clemens Inninger, Ionela Moale, Klaus Schiefermayr, Werner Schwyhla, Robert Steinbauer, and Christoph Stroh.

His scientific interests were in orthogonal polynomials, interpolation and numerical integration, extremal problems of best approximation, Julia sets, Toda lattices and integrable systems. His work on orthogonal polynomials on several intervals and several arcs of the unit circle is quite impressive. He served as associate editor of *Journal of Approximation Theory*, *Computational Methods and Function Theory*, and *Kragujevac Journal of Mathematics*. More than 100 of his papers have been published and some of his last papers are on the arXiv: http://arxiv.org/find/math/1/au:+Peherstorfer_F/0/1/0/

Franz was one of the lecturers at the Summer School on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions in Coimbra, Portugal in 2003, where he gave a series of lectures on *Orthogonal and L_q -extremal polynomials on inverse images of polynomial mappings*. These lectures were published in the Coimbra Lecture Notes on Orthogonal Polynomials (A. Branquinho, A. Foulquié Moreno, eds., Nova Science Publishers, New York, 2008).

The last time I met him was at the 10th International Symposium on Orthogonal Polynomials, Special Functions and Applications in Leuven, Belgium (July 2009) where he gave a talk on *Orthogonal polynomials on several intervals: accumulation points of recurrence coefficients and zeros outside the spectrum*. Nothing indicated that only a few months later he would no longer be doing mathematics.



A conference *Complex Analysis, Operator and Approximation Theories*, dedicated to the memory of Franz Peherstorfer: will be held at Johannes Kepler Universität in Linz on July 24-28, 2011, the days surrounding his birthday (July 26). See <http://www.caot2011.jku.at/> for more information.

Some of this information was taken from a more extensive obituary which will appear in *Journal of Approximation Theory*.

[The editors thank Peter Yuditskii for permission to reproduce the above photo of Franz Peherstorfer.]