

## PRESENTATION

This volume of *Extracta Mathematicae* contains the proceedings of the meeting **Set-Theoretic Techniques in Banach Spaces**, held in Castro Urdiales (Cantabria, Spain) from 21 to 24 February 2011. This meeting was the eighth edition of the Banach space courses organized by the University of Cantabria. Previous meetings took place in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2010 and proceedings of two of those editions appeared in *Extracta Mathematicae* vols. 17-3 (2002) and 19-1 (2004).

The main topic of the meeting was the application of set-theoretic techniques and combinatorics to the study of Banach spaces. The meeting was sponsored by the Centro Internacional de Encuentros Matemáticos (C.I.E.M.), project i-math, the University of Cantabria and the City Council of Castro Urdiales. The main speakers

- Antonio Avilés (Universidad de Murcia)
- Valentin Ferenczi (Universidade de São Paulo)
- Piotr Koszmider (Polish Academy of Sciences/Tech. University of Łódź)
- Wiesław Kubiś (Czech Academy of Sciences)
- Jordi López Abad (Instituto de Ciencias Matemáticas)
- Stevo Todorčević (University of Toronto)

delivered each a two-hours mini-course. In addition to this, there were a number of shorter conferences, a few informal problem sessions, some late night more or less mathematical dinners, and several last-minute dis-organized excursions to either Guggenheim museum, Santillana del Mar or other exceptionally beautiful places around Castro Urdiales. More information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.ciem.unican.es/encuentros/banach2011/>

We like small meetings, we like meetings where people can attend (let alone understand) conferences, discuss mathematics before during or after the conferences, and enjoy the time between. We still keep in our minds the five minutes walk from the hotel to the conference center; windy, rainy or sunny as it corresponds to the unpredictable weather in the north.

Probably for that reason we will keep organizing Castro Urdiales Banach meetings for a while.

<http://www.ciem.unican.es/encuentros/banach/2012/>

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