FORTY YEARS OF A MATHEMATICAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

On November 3, 2025, at the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a major jubilee was celebrated - forty years since the publication of the first Bosnian and Herzegovinian mathematical scientific journal, *Radovi matematički*, which today is published under the title *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*.

The celebration of this jubilee began with the scientific lecture "Partial Differential Equations with Fractional Time Derivatives ", delivered by Academician Prof. Dr. Stevan Pilipović, a member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a long-standing member of the Editorial Board. This was followed by presentations on the history of the Journal, from its foundation to the present day, given by myself, as Editor-in-Chief, and by Prof. Dr. Mehmed Nurkanović, Managing Editor of the Journal.

Although scientific papers in mathematics, together with papers in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and other fields, had previously been published within

Radovi Privredno-tehničkog odjeljenja of the Scientific Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later within *Radovi Odjeljenja prirodnih i matematičkih nauka* of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and were already at that time indexed in the three oldest mathematical reviewing journals: *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* (Federal Republic of Germany, today EMIS), *Mathematical Reviews (USA)*, and *Referativnyi Zhurnal Matematika* (Academy of Sciences of the USSR)—the first independent scientific journal in mathematics, *Radovi matematički*, was published in 1985. The greatest credit for this achievement belongs to Academician Mahmut Bajraktarević and Prof. Dr. Naza Tanović-Miller.

Therefore, a question rightly arises: *is the fortieth anniversary the true measure of the existence of a mathematical scientific journal?*

Academician Mirjana Vuković talks about history of mathemathical scientific journals in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I may freely say that, as Editor-in-Chief of the *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*, I was entrusted with the great responsibility, but also with the honor of being a chronicler of the time when, alongside the accelerated development of higher education and science in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the first scientific journals were being launched. In addition to the content of the journal, the Editorial Board also considered its name and visual appearance. While they relatively quickly and easily agreed on the title *Radovi matematički*, the design of the cover posed a major challenge. In the end, it was decided that the covers would feature interesting reproductions from old mathematical manuscripts preserved in libraries and museums throughout the former Yugoslavia.

The first issue was particularly interesting because its cover featured a multiplication table in Arabic, accompanied by an inscription.
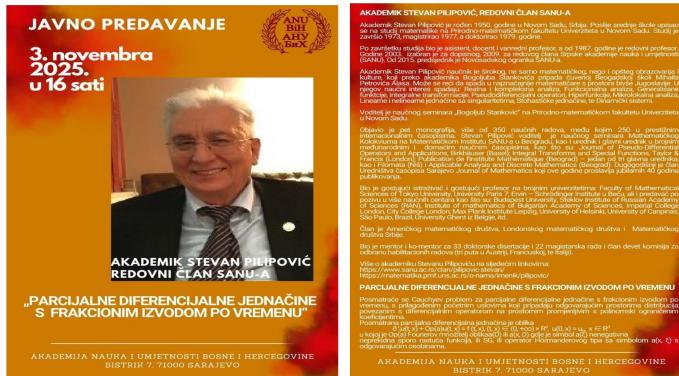
Academician Stevan Pilipović – about him and his lecture

If you wish to obtain, in an easier way, the product of numbers smaller than ten, adhere to this table. This was taken from a unique transcription of the manuscript Elements of Mathematics from the fourteenth century, brought to our region, dealing with elements of algebra and geometry, and preserved today in the Gazi Husrev-beg Library in Sarajevo. The journal *Radovi matematički* was published twice a year, from 1985 to 2005, with interruptions during the war years. Subsequently, at the initiative of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it changed both its appearance and name and has since been published as the *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*, recognizable by its yellow cover.


Table with exhibited old and new mathematical journals *Radovi matematički* and *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*

What has been said so far mainly refers to the pre-war period, when everything was largely regulated by law. We now say a few words about the post-war period

and the challenges we faced. Initially, thanks to the then President of the Academy, Academician Matić, who understood the importance of mathematics and the necessity of a mathematical scientific journal for every academic community and thus for the newly formed state of Bosnia and Herzegovina — we somehow managed to cope. Academician Matić used to say: "The mathematical journal is the most important one to me — I must not allow it to fail." Unfortunately, after his sudden passing, the situation changed — not only was little attention paid to our Journal, but it was often placed in an unequal position compared to other journals. There was little funding, but also insufficient understanding; those who do not use mathematics often do not know it either, and thus fail to recognize its importance.
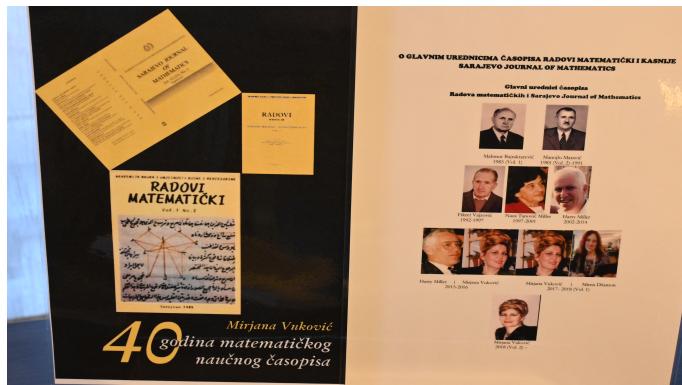
Publication covers: 40 years of publishing the mathematical scientific journals and the pictures of all editors-in-chief

The Journal was left to the Editorial Board, which fought courageously — through personal donations and volunteer work — and succeeded not only in ensuring its survival, but also in advancing it. Through the efforts of the Editorial Board, the Journal recently acquired a new, modern website, which serves as its best representation and mirror. In addition, alongside the already mentioned oldest databases *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* and *Mathematical Reviews*, in which it has been indexed since its inception, the Editorial Board succeeded in including it in EBSCO, Crossref, and DOAJ, and we hope that it will soon be included in Scopus as well.

A publication titled Forty Years of a Mathematical Scientific Journal, dedicated to this great jubilee, will soon be published. Its reviewer, V. Vladičić, states: "The manuscript not only fulfills the purpose of promoting mathematics, but also describes the historical development of mathematics in this region, which is, of course, of exceptional importance ..."
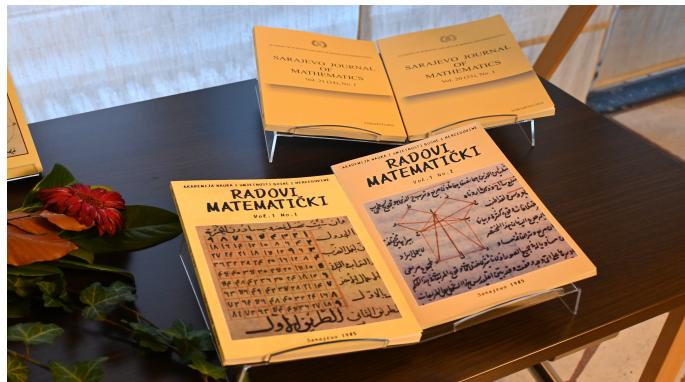
Old and new mathematical scientific journals, *Radovi matematički* and *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*

Panels of the edistors-in-chief: M. Bajraktarević, M. Maravić, F. Vajzović, and M. Vuković

Over four decades of publication, the *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics* has grown into an internationally recognized journal publishing papers from all areas of mathematics. Its longevity confirms its lasting role and significance in affirming domestic mathematicians and connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina with mathematicians around the world.

"The identity card of every mathematician consists of the works they have published, and accordingly, the history of a mathematical journal best describes the history of mathematics in a given region. A mathematical journal that inherits the tradition of the journal of the Department of Natural and Technical Sciences of the Scientific Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1955 bears strong witness to the development of mathematics in this region." (V. Vladičić)

Jubilee participants: Aldijana and Emina Elezović, Amra Fazlić–Alikadić, Aleksandra Kostić, Valentina Timotić, Vidan Govedarica, etc.

Although it is not customary, I will take this opportunity to express praise for the covers, which appropriately unite the history of the Journal by presenting the various cover designs, that have adorned it.

Jubilee participants: academicians Vlado Beus and Dejan Milošević, Mehmed and Zehra Nurkanović, etc.

Finally, let us say: the original initiators of the Journal — Mahmut Bajraktarević, Naza Tanović-Miller, Veselin Perić, and Fikret Vajzović — as well as we, the post-war members of the Editorial Board, who managed to overcome numerous hardships and not only preserve but also improve the Journal, deserve at least one magical human word — thank you!

Acad. Mirjana Vuković, Editor-in-Chief