

Preface to the eighth Takagi Lectures

The Takagi Lectures are the first series of lectures in mathematics to be crowned with a Japanese mathematician's name.

The Mathematical Society of Japan (MSJ) inaugurated the Takagi Lectures as prestigious research survey lectures by the finest contemporary mathematicians [2]. The lectures are intended for a wide range of mathematicians, and are as a rule held twice a year. The first Takagi Lectures took place in November 2006 at RIMS, Kyoto. Since then Takagi Lectures have been delivered by the following distinguished mathematicians: S. Bloch, J.-P. Bourguignon, É. Ghys, M. Harris, M. Hopkins, U. Jannsen, C. Khare, M. Khovanov, M. Kontsevich, P.-L. Lions, J. Makino, P. Malliavin, D. McDuff, J. McKernan, K.-H. Neeb, N.A. Nekrasov, H. Ooguri, S. Smale, O. Viro, D.-V. Voiculescu, C. Voisin, and M. Yor.

The Takagi Lectures bear the name of the founder of Class Field Theory, Professor Teiji Takagi (1875–1960). In Japan, he is also known as the founder of the Japanese School of modern mathematics [1, 3]. Internationally, he served as one of the first Fields Medal Committee Members in 1936 together with G. D. Birkhoff, É. Cartan, C. Carathéodory, and F. Severi.

The eighth Takagi Lectures are to be held in cooperation with RIMS, Kyoto on November 23, 2010 with the distinguished lecturers A. Connes and S. Gukov.

The lecture notes of the Takagi Lectures are to be published by the *Japanese Journal of Mathematics* (JJM). It is the oldest continuously published mathematical journal in Japan (founded in 1924) and its third series was relaunched in 2006 as a mathematical journal of research survey articles of the highest scientific level in cooperation with Springer. The new editors of JJM, Y. Kawahigashi, H. Nakajima, K. Ono, T. Saito, and myself also serve as the organizers of the Takagi Lectures. The videos of the lectures will be available on the Internet.

This scheme of the Takagi Lectures is intended to support its mission to continue the advancement of mathematics, not only in Japan but throughout the world.

The Takagi Lectures are financially supported by the surplus from the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was held in Kyoto in 1990, with funding provided by the MSJ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished lecturers and all those who have supported our endeavors. I hope that the Takagi Lectures will gain the respect of a worldwide audience and will continue to promote future progress in mathematics.

Toshiyuki Kobayashi
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Teiji Takagi (1875–1960)

Biography of Teiji Takagi

- 1875.4.21 Born in Gifu Prefecture, Japan
 - 1894 Entered the Department of Mathematics, Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1897 Entered the Graduate School of the same university
 - 1898–1901 Studied in Berlin and Göttingen
 - 1903 Received the degree of Doctor of Science from the Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1904 Appointed Professor at the Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1920 Published his main paper on the class field theory
 - 1925 Elected Member of the Imperial Academy of Japan
 - 1936 Served on the 1st Fields Medal Committee
 - 1938 Published the book *A Course on Analysis* (in Japanese)
 - 1940 Received Culture Medal
 - 1960.2.28 Died at the Hospital of Tokyo University
- Decorated posthumously with the Order of the Rising Sun of the First Grade

References

- [1] S. Iyanaga, Chronological synopsis of the life of Teiji Takagi. In: *Teiji Takagi Collected Papers, Second Enlarged Edition*, Springer-Verlag Tokyo, 1990.
- [2] T. Kobayashi, On the establishment of the Takagi Lectures. *Japan. J. Math.*, **2** (2007), 145–148.
- [3] K. Miyake, Teiji Takagi, Founder of the Japanese School of Modern Mathematics. *Japan. J. Math.*, **2** (2007), 151–164.