

Dear Jacques, dear Julio, dear colleagues,

This is the first time in my life I'm not attending a conference where I have a talk scheduled. Moreover, I specially regret not to attend this particular meeting.

My personal situation is not easy. I live and teach in Madrid and my wife, Carmen, lives (with our 23 month-old baby, Pablo) in Badajoz (400 km from Madrid). I commute between Madrid and Badajoz every weekend, trying to spend as much time as possible with them. Sadly, Pablo is ill now, and I have had to take the decision not to leave this afternoon for La Rioja, as planned.

I met Jacques Calmet at AISMC-2 (Cambridge, 1994). I was then very surprised by two facts:

- he made interesting questions and suggestions and pointed out details (that no one else had realized) at almost every talk, making clear that he was a top expert in an incredible variety of topics,
- at the same time, his attitude was extremely friendly, willing to help and to give advise.

We have met again several times from them, and I felt really honored when at AISC'1998 he invited me to organize AISC'2000, where I had time to enjoy his conversation on extra-mathematical topics too.

To give an idea of his attitude, four years ago I was invited to teach a special Ph.D. course at the *School of Computer Science* of the *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*, together with someone “famous” I had to find. Despite the doubts expressed by some people there when I suggested Jacques Calmet (that someone so well-known was not going to come just to teach a Ph.D. course), Jacques immediately accepted and we only had to find a place in his busy agenda.

I don't want to bore you with a long letter, but wanted to explain why now I'm really sad not to share these days with you all in this tribute to Jacques. I'll just add: Thank you, Jacques!

Eugenio Roanes-Lozano  
Badajoz, February 27th 2008