

Janusz Jerzy Charatonik (1934 – 2004)

By Paweł Krupski

*Translated from Polish¹
by Ewa Charatonik
and Włodzimierz J. Charatonik*

Janusz Jerzy Charatonik was born on the 24th of May, 1934, in Przemyśl, Poland. His father, Włodzimierz, and mother, Maria Wojdyła, were both post office employees. After the war, the family moved to Lower Silesia, initially settling in Świdnica, where Janusz completed his elementary education. In 1948 they moved to Wrocław where Janusz attended the 5th High School of Wrocław, from which he graduated in 1951. According to his reminiscences, he first became interested in mathematics as a 12 year old, prompted and encouraged by his father. He participated in the first two Polish Mathematical Olympiads, in the second of which, in 1951, he was awarded. The same year he began his mathematical studies at the University of Wrocław, graduating in 1955 with a master's thesis *On estimates of some coefficients of power series of analytical functions with a pole* supervised by W. Wolibner. Immediately after completing the degree, Janusz was directed to take a one-year teaching position at the Technical High School of Finances in Opole.

Upon his return to Wrocław in 1956, he began working for the University of Wrocław, committing himself to a life-long cooperation with the Mathematical Institute. His first position was that of an assistant, initially at Professor Hartman's Department of Mathematical Analysis, and a year later in the Department of Geometry lead by Professor B. Knaster. It was at this time that Janusz began topological research. Under the supervision of Knaster, he completed his Ph.D. thesis entitled *On dendroids*. The work was defended in 1965. Five years later he got the habilitation degree for *Research in acyclic curve theory*. In 1978 he was given the title of "extraordinary professor", and 10 years later – "ordinary professor". Parallel to the achievements of academic titles and degrees, he was gradually promoted, finally becoming a full professor. In 1969 he was hired to be the director of the Department of Topology in the Institute of Mathematics, and fulfilled the duty until 1997. Between 1973 and 1975 he was vice-dean Of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, later, in 1978 taking the post of vice-director of the Mathematical Institute. Outside the University, he worked for in the Institute for Teacher Training and Educational Research (1975-1981) and for the Pedagogical University of Opole (1981-1992).

J. J. Charatonik was an active member of two scientific societies: The Polish Mathematical Society (PTM) and in The Wrocław Scientific Society (since 1970). He joined the PTM in 1961, was secretary of the Wrocław branch for 2 years (63-65) and in 1975 became a member of the management board, working in the committee for history and higher education. In addition to The American Mathematical Society, Mexican Mathematical Society and New York Science Academy, he was also a member of various other significant commissions and committees, such as the committee for terminology at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Janusz J. Charatonik enjoyed travel: the number of both domestic and foreign conference trips well exceeds 100. The first significant position held abroad was in the U.S.A, as a visiting professor during the academic year of 1967/68, in 2 universities: University of

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Kentucky, Lexington and University of Notre Dame. During this stay he established many important contacts with American topologists. Among other significant international experiences were his stays in Sicily, at the University of Catania (1986 and 1991) and Messina (1988 and 1991), which resulted in the publication of several articles written in cooperation with the Sicilian mathematicians.

In the early 90's, a group of Mexican topologists (A. Illanes, S. Macías, I. Puga) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico initiated a cooperation with Professor Charatonik. Upon their invitation in 1995, J. J. Charatonik, with his wife and son Włodzimierz, moved to Mexico, where Janusz stayed for the rest of his life. His knowledge and open-mind were highly valued by his Mexican colleagues. It was in Mexico that he found a suitable environment for further professional development. Freed from the often burdensome organizational issues and too many teaching obligations, he was able to dedicate his time to intense research. The result of this was the completion of over 150 publications. Other activities at UNAM included: conducting a seminar in continuum theory, giving monographic lectures, advising MSc candidates and his last doctoral student. Often invited to lectures and conferences in Mexico and in the United States, he remained actively involved in the organization of international events - the last one of which, a large session during the meeting of AMS in Texas, took place 2 months before his death.

Professor Charatonik received a number of important awards for his academic achievements, among which were three from the ministry of education, and also the "Sierpiński" award granted by the Polish Mathematical Society.

Janusz J. Charatonik was very hard working: he was able to combine both research and didactics, always finding time for his students and offering them a variety of intriguing problems. Under his supervision an "uncountable" number of Master's theses (> 200) have been written - some of them quite significant. Many of their authors successfully pursued academic careers, not only in the field of topology. In the years between 1972-1990 Professor Charatonik had 10 PhD students, the last one, in Mexico, defended her thesis in 2002. Although not officially, he was the actual advisor of another two doctoral candidates, who received their degrees in Athens and in North Korea.

J. J. Charatonik was married since 1956 to Marianna Kalota, a mathematics teacher. Their children: Włodzimierz, Janusz, Witold, Aleksandra and Tomasz are all mathematicians or computer scientists, graduates of the University of Wrocław. His oldest son, Włodzimierz, decided to follow his father's career path - becoming coauthor of over 60 papers. He is currently a professor at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Since the late 80's Professor Charatonik had been experiencing heart problems. Although he suffered from 3 heart attacks, he remained very active - this is well visible in the rapidly growing number of works published in the last years of his life. He died from heart attack in his apartment in Mexico on the 11th of July 2004, only a few days before a planned trip to Poland. His ashes were laid at the Grabiszyński cemetery in Wrocław.

RESEARCH

The list of publications here enclosed is impressive - yet still incomplete. Thus only some achievements shall be discussed here.

Mathematical interests of JJC² strengthened at the legendary topology seminar of Bronisław Knaster. To understand the influence which Knaster had on the participants and the general atmosphere present during the meetings, one should become familiar with a couple of

² The initials JJC were used by Janusz J. Charatonik himself and by his near circle of mathematicians.

articles from “Wiadomości Matematyczne”³. Other invaluable sources are historical protocols, which had been kept during the entire duration of the seminars. They are currently to be found in the Topology Department.

JJC first attended Knaster's seminar on the 3rd of October 1956 and was a regular participant ever since taking over leadership after Knaster's death in 1980. One of the main objectives for the meetings in that period was to take up systematic research on acyclic curves. A *curve* is a one-dimensional metric continuum, and acyclicity was understood by Knaster as *hereditary unicoherence*, i.e. non containing two subcontinua with not connected intersection; more descriptively, we can say that every two points can be joined by only one *irreducible* curve (i.e. a minimal continuum containing them)⁴. The simplest, well investigated, but still rich in their topological structures acyclic curves are locally connected ones, that is dendrites. Knaster very accurately proposed investigating more general objects: curves in which arcs are the only irreducible continua joining points; he called them *dendroids*, and then λ -*dendroids* in which such irreducible continua are of type λ ⁵ (a continuum is of type λ if every its indecomposable⁶ subcontinuum has empty interior). Importance of the class of dendroids was confirmed by the fixed point property proved by K. Borsuk in 1954. It is not hard to show that all dendrites are dendroids, and all dendroids are λ -dendroids. In [7] a nice characterization of λ -dendroids, as hereditarily decomposable and hereditarily unicoherent continua, is proved. Later it turned out⁷ that the class of λ -dendroids is contained in another, very important in geometrical topology, class of curves with trivial shape, i.e. tree-like continua⁸.

Four notions. In papers [2]-[4], that formed JJC's Ph.D. dissertation, the name *dendroid* was first used and there are defined four new, and soon proved to be very important for continuum theory, notions: degree of non local connectedness, uniform arcwise connectedness, smoothness, and confluent mappings. All four of them were first considered for dendroids only, but then were generalized for arbitrary continua and were investigated by many topologists; now they are frequently used in continuum theory.

Degree of non local connectedness is an ordinal number that is equal 0 for locally connected continua, ∞ for continua without points of local connectedness, and for all other continua, intuitively speaking, it is the length of a maximal decreasing sequence of subcontinua recursively created in the following way: take all points of non local connectedness of the previous continuum and consider the irreducible continuum containing all of them. This degree cannot increase while taking continuous transformation, and thanks to it was possible to construct in [3] arbitrary large finite families of dendroids that are incomparable by continuous transformations⁹, and later in [189] an uncountable family of continua homeomorphic to their hyperspaces of subcontinua.

An arcwise connected space X is *uniformly arcwise connected* if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a positive integer k such that each arc in X can be divided into k subarcs of diameter less

³ Compare articles by W. Nitka in *Wiadomości Matematyczne* 19 (1975), and by R. Duda and J. Mioduszewski in *Wiadomości Matematyczne* 25 (1983)

⁴ Now acyclicity means that there is no essential (i.e. not homotopic to a constant) mapping onto a circle. Acyclic curves are hereditarily unicoherent, and for *hereditarily decomposable* continua, i.e. for which each nondegenerate subcontinuum is the union of two proper subcontinua, the two notions are equivalent. It is also known that hereditary decomposability of continua implies their one dimensionality.

⁵ The terminology is connected to the Kuratowski theory of upper semi continuous monotone decompositions of irreducible continua onto an arc.

⁶ A continuum is *indecomposable* if it is not the union of two proper subcontinua.

⁷ H. Cook, 1970.

⁸ A continuum is *tree-like* if it is an inverse limit of trees (= one dimensional connected, acyclic polygons) with continuous bonding mappings. Tree-like continua are acyclic.

⁹ It is still not known if such uncountable families exist.

then \mathcal{E} . This notion was generalized ten years later by W. Kuperberg to *uniform pathwise connectedness* and such continua were characterized as continuous images of the Cantor fan¹⁰. For uniquely arcwise connected continua, in particular for dendroids, arcwise and pathwise uniform connectedness are equivalent.

A dendroid (a continuum) X is *smooth at* $p \in X$ if for every sequence of points x_n converging to x the arcs (continua) px_n converge to Px . One of the main results of [9] is the proof that Cantor fan is universal¹¹ in the class of all smooth fans. Smooth dendroids were then considered the simplest ones, but even they may have very surprisingly interesting properties. The cylinder of the Cantor step function onto an arc is a dendroid that has the set of its ramification points¹² being homeomorphic to an interval. In [2] an example of a smooth dendroid is constructed that is homeomorphic to the set of its ramification points, and in [54] a smooth dendroid is constructed that has only ramification points and end points.

A *confluent mapping* is probably the most important notion introduced into topology by Janusz J. Charatonik. It is a mapping $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between compact spaces such that each component of the preimage $f^{-1}(K)$ of an arbitrary continuum $K \subset Y$ is mapped onto the whole K . Open mappings and monotone ones between compact spaces are confluent. In [4] JJC proved that confluent image of a dendroid is a dendroid and of a λ -dendroid is a λ -dendroid; later, in 1972 T. B. McLean showed that confluent image of a tree-like continuum is a tree-like continuum. Investigation of properties of confluent mappings, their numerous generalizations and variations has been done by many Polish and American topologists. In the later part of the article we will see that those mappings are very important in continuum theory.

Monotone decompositions and the fixed point property. One of the most important classical results in continuum theory is Kuratowski theorem on the existence of minimal monotone upper semi continuous decomposition of an irreducible continuum onto an arc. In other words there is a continuous monotone function f of such continuum X onto an interval I such that layers of any continuous monotone map of X onto I are unions of layers of the mapping f . In articles [7] and [17] Charatonik showed the existence of such minimal decompositions for λ -dendroids, and later for arbitrary continua; the decomposition spaces are dendroids (for arbitrary continua they are hereditarily arcwise connected). He has also constructed a λ -dendroid that has only one layer.

It was known that dendroids have the fixed point property for continuous transformations, and thus a natural question arrived in the Knaster seminar if λ -dendroids have the property, too. JJC applied the minimal decompositions to obtain some theorems about fixed points, for example for λ -dendroids not containing one-layer subcontinua, or for monotone functions as well as for some multivalued functions. He commented the results as follows: *“Even if I did not obtain the final results in the area by myself, introducing this subject turned out to be fruitful and successful: Roman Mańka proved the fixed point property for continuum-valued functions of a λ -dendroid into itself”*¹³.

¹⁰ Fan is a dendroid with only one ramification point.

¹¹ A space X belonging to some class of spaces is *universal* in the class if every space from the class can be embedded in X ; universal smooth dendroids were constructed by J. Grispolakis and E. D. Tymchatyn in 1978, by W. J. Charatonik in 1984, and by L. Mohler and J. Nikiel in 1986.

¹² A point $x \in X$ is a ramification point if it is a common end point of at least three arcs in X disjoint out of x ; x is an end point in X if it is an end point of every arc in X that contain the point x ; x is an ordinary point if it is not an end point nor a ramification point.

¹³ R. Mańka published his theorem in 1974 in *Fundamenta Mathematicae*. It was his PH.D. dissertation started under supervision of JJC (the final supervisor was Professor Knaster). The fixed point property for λ -dendroids is now recognized as one of the most important achievements of Knaster seminar.

Papers [6], [7], [8], [10], and [11] on the decompositions and fixed points formed a habilitation dissertation of JJC.

Planarity, contractibility, selectibility and means. In 1959 B. Knaster posed a problem of characterizing (using internal, structural conditions) plane dendroids. JJC devoted several of his papers to investigate the subject of planarity of continua, in particular of dendroids. The problem is hard and still open. Results worth mentioning are the following: there is no countable family of dendroids determining nonplanarity of smooth dendroids [25] (it is known that there are four curves such that a locally connected curve is not planar if and only if it contains a copy of one of them¹⁴); moreover planar dendroids must have ordinary points [88].

A space is *contractible* if there is a homotopy joining identity with a constant mapping. Dendroids appear naturally in investigating contractibility: it is easy to observe that contractible curves must be dendroids, but it is an open and hard problem of an internal characterization of contractible dendroids. JJC discovered some obstacles of contractibility; those are, among others, non uniform arcwise connectedness [14], or containing specially approximated arc, called an R-arc, in the dendroid [29]. The notion of smoothness was also useful in the research, namely smoothness implies contractibility, even hereditary contractibility (i.e. each subcontinuum is contractible) of dendroids [29].

The problems of contractibility of dendroids were investigated by students of Charatonik and many topologists in the USA. There are many modifications and interesting new notions that extend the list of obstacles of contractibility (see review articles [97], [115])¹⁵.

Another property of dendroids is their *selectibility*, i.e. the existence of a mapping $s: C(X) \rightarrow X$ defined on the hyperspace of subcontinua of a continuum X (with the Hausdorff metric) and assigning a point $s(A) \in A$ for every $A \in C(X)$. A continuum X is called *selective* if such selection exists. It was observed by S. B. Nadler and L. E. Ward in 1970 that each selective continuum is a dendroid. We can also consider a selection on the hyperspace 2^X of closed subsets of X , but then X must be an arc¹⁶. Because $C(X)$ is a continuous image of the Cantor fan, it is easy to see that each selectable dendroid is uniformly arcwise connected.

Which dendroids are selective? What are the connections between selectibility and contractibility? This non trivial and not finally answered questions were posed by JJC and become inspirational for his students.

If we identify X with the subspace $F_1(X) \subset 2^X$ of the one point subsets of X , then the selection s can be seen as a special retraction from $C(X)$ or 2^X onto X . This leads to investigation of continua that are retracts of their hyperspaces. And again we are lead to dendroids: if X a curve which is a retract of $C(X)$ or 2^X , then it is a uniformly arcwise connected dendroid¹⁷. We can also consider retractions from some subspaces of 2^X , for example if there is a retraction $\mu: F_2(X) \rightarrow F_1(X) = X$, where $F_2(X)$ denotes the space of at most 2-point sets, then μ is called a 2-argument mean on X (equivalently, a 2-argument mean is a continuous operation on X that is symmetric and idempotent). JJC devoted much of his time to investigate means on continua, in particular on dendroids starting in the early 90s ([99], [105], [129], [146], [212]). He inspired some coauthors to this subject. In [149] it

¹⁴ Two Kuratowski graphs and two Kuratowski curves, Claytor Theorem, 1937.

¹⁵ Recently W. J. Charatonik has solved an old problem of characterization of hereditarily contractible continua as pointwise smooth dendroids, a variation of smoothness defined by S. T. Czuba.

¹⁶ K. Kuratowski, S. B. Nadler, Jr. And G. S. Young, 1970.

¹⁷ J. T. Goodykoontz, Jr., 1985.

was shown, among others, that smooth plane dendroids admit means, but there are smooth dendroids in \mathbb{R}^3 that do not [129].

Problems of contractibility, selectibility and existence of means have interested him for the rest of his life. He was interested in similar, but slightly different phenomena that appeared as obstacles for the properties. He was trying to discover their common core and interrelations (see an excellent article [218]). In many papers he investigated if those properties are preserved by some special mappings (monotone, open, confluent).

Dendrites. JJC has devoted much of his work to dendrites. The constructions worth mentioning include: strongly chaotic dendrites (i.e. such that no open subset is homeomorphic to any other open subset), that are also strongly rigid (i.e. the only homeomorphism into itself is the identity) [119], as well as chaotic and rigid with respect to open mappings, monotone and related. [174]. This kind of peculiar continua are still being discovered and have interesting applications.

In the extensive dissertation [112] written with W. J. Charatonik and J. R. Prajs the authors investigate the quasi order relation in the class of dendrites defined by the existence of a continuous surjective map from some class \mathbf{M} of mappings (for example open, monotone, etc) between dendrites. In recent years there has been interest in this kind of relations in various classes of continua (including dendrites) and their complexity in the sense of descriptive set theory¹⁸. This trend in investigation that joins methods of the two theories seems to be very promising.

In [224] dendrites were characterized as the only continua having the lifting property relative to confluent 0-dimensional mappings for arbitrary continuum Y : for every 0-dimensional map $f: Y \rightarrow f(Y)$ and for every map $g: X \rightarrow f(Y)$, if x and y satisfy $g(x) = f(y)$, then there is a map $g' : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $g = f \circ g'$ and $g'(x) = y$.

Generalized homogeneity. A space X is homogeneous with respect to a class \mathbf{M} of continuous transformations if for every $x, y \in X$ there is a surjection $f: X \rightarrow X$ such that $f \in \mathbf{M}$ and $f(x) = y$. If \mathbf{M} is the class of all homeomorphisms we get a classical definition of a homogeneous space. Homogeneous continua are one of the most interesting objects that continuum theory deals with from the beginning. The idea of investigating continua homogeneous with respect to some other classes of continua was attributed by JJC to D. P. Bellamy, but in the literature the notion of generalized homogeneity appeared for the first time in 1978 in [30] and [31]. One of the first results was a neat characterization of the pseudo-arc that showed the possibility of generalizing classical theorems on homogeneity: the pseudo-arc is the only chainable continuum¹⁹ that is openly homogeneous [30]. In [57] it was shown that the Sierpiński universal plane curve is homogeneous with respect to monotone mappings, and in [92], [121], [124] homogeneity of universal dendrites with different kinds of ramification points is investigated.

We need to mention a fundamental work [64] written with T. Makowiak, in which the authors have obtained some generalizations of the Effros Theorem about acting of a group of autohomeomorphisms of a compact space X to acting of Borel subgroups, the semigroup of open mappings as well as Borel subsets of the space of autosurjections. They later had essential applications to investigations of homogeneity with respect to open or confluent mappings, analogously as Effros Theorem was applied to investigate homogeneous continua.

¹⁸ R. Camerlo, U. Darji, A. Marcone, C. Rosendal.

¹⁹ A continuum is *chainable* if it is an inverse limit of arcs.

JJC has promoted generalized homogeneity in many of his review articles, problems and conference talks. This led to many interesting and deep results²⁰. It is still an open question, posed by JJC, if the pseudo-circle (i.e. hereditarily indecomposable²¹ plane continuum that is an inverse limit of circles with essential bonding mappings) is openly homogeneous.

Absolute retracts in some classes of continua. Continuum Y is an absolute retract in a class \mathcal{C} of continua ($Y \in AR(\mathcal{C})$) if embedded in an arbitrary continuum $X \in \mathcal{C}$ is a retract of X . If \mathcal{C} is the class of all metric continua, we get the classical notion of an absolute retract. For narrower classes of continua there were known, thanks to D. P. Bellamy and T. Maćkowiak, only a few examples of absolute retracts: the pseudo-arc in the class of hereditarily indecomposable continua, and the simplest Knaster indecomposable continuum²² and cones over 0-dimensional compact sets in the class \mathbf{HU} of hereditarily unicoherent continua.

In the series of articles [184], [191], [192], [219], [221], [227], [228], [239], [240], [246] that were written in recent years in common with W. J. Charatonik and J. R. Prajs a big progress has been made in investigating absolute retracts in some classes of continua, for example tree-like continua and \mathbf{HU} . The authors have developed new techniques: they introduced the notion of the arc property of Kelley²³, confluent tree-like continua²⁴ and discovered a new meaning of confluent mappings. Among other things it is shown that:

- if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a confluent ε -mapping from a continuum X onto a continuum with the arc property of Kelley (in particular onto a locally connected continuum), then X also has the arc property of Kelley;
- inverse limits of trees with confluent bonding mappings are in $AR(\mathbf{HU})$;
- elements of $AR(\mathbf{HU})$ have the arc property of Kelley and have ε -push property, that is, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ such that for every $x, y \in X$ that satisfy $\rho(x, y) < \delta$, there is a continuous transformation $f: X \rightarrow X$ satisfying $f(x) = y$ and for arbitrary $p \in X$ we have $\rho(p, f(p)) < \varepsilon$;
- each $X \in AR(\mathbf{HU})$ without simple triods is chainable and every its proper subcontinuum is an arc;
- if X is a dendroid, then $X \in AR(\mathbf{HU})$ if and only if X is homeomorphic to a retract of Mohler-Nikiel universal smooth dendroid;

²⁰ Among others, J. R. Prajs has proved in 1998 that the disc is openly homogeneous, and that Sierpinski carpet variants (for the Sierpiński carpet itself independently C. R. Seaquist, 1999) are homogeneous with respect to mappings that are open and monotone; in 1989 he has characterized solenoids as continua that are openly homogeneous and have arcs only as proper subcontinua.

²¹ Each subcontinuum is indecomposable.

²² That is an inverse limit of intervals $[0, 1]$ with bonding mappings $f(t) = \begin{cases} 2t, & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ 2 - 2t, & \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$.

²³ A continuum X has the property of Kelley if for every $p \in X$, for every subcontinuum $K \subset X$ containing p and for every sequence $p_n \in X$ converging to p there is a sequence of subcontinua $K_n \subset X$ containing the points p_n and converging to K ; if the continua K_n are additionally arcwise connected, we call the property arc property of Kelley.

²⁴ A continuum X is confluent tree-like if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a confluent ε -mapping (i.e. having point preimages of diameter less than ε) from X onto a tree.

- each absolute retract for the class of tree-like continua as well as each confluent tree-like continuum is an approximative absolute retract (AAR)²⁵; as a consequence such continua have the fixed point property (it is an important fact in investigating the question which tree-like continua have the fixed point property).

An important question is posed if each absolute retract in the class HU (without simple triods) must be tree-like (an inverse limit of arcs with open bonding mappings).

Other research. Some research worth mentioning is the one done in general topology in cooperation with Italian mathematicians that is connected with real function theory.

The article [91] has its root in so called Mazurkiewicz metric (the distance between points is measured as the greatest lower bound of diameters of locally connected continua containing those points). Let C be the family of all arcwise connected subsets of a topological space (X, τ) . Take the family of all components of sets open in τ as a base of a new, larger topology τ_C . Then the equivalence holds: (X, τ) is arcwise connected $\Leftrightarrow (X, \tau_C)$ is connected.

In [171] conditions concerning openness of real functions on topological spaces are investigated. It is shown that for metrizable locally compact spaces the openness of a function at a point is equivalent to the non existence of a local extremum at that point if and only if the domain is connected in the small at that point.

In [91] it is shown that the set of all continuous real functions on a complete space X that has dense sets of local maxima and local minima is residual in the space $C(X, Y)$ of all continuous functions with the topology of uniform convergence. In [86] the residuality and density in $C(X, Y)$ is shown of the set of continuous functions having nowhere dense layers if X is metrizable (or separable and $T_{3\frac{1}{2}}$) without isolated points, and Y is a normed space.

Many articles of JJC were written with cooperation with Mexican mathematicians (A. Illanes, G. Acosta, P. Pellicer-Covarrubias, R. Escobedo, S. Macías, I. Puga, H. Mendez). Some of them deal with favorite subjects of Charatonik (like dendrites or dendroids), some other are inspired by the hyperspace theory that Mexico is famous of. One of their speciality in hyperspace theory is investigating the hyperspace $C_n(X) \subset 2^X$ of all nonempty closed subsets of X that have at most n components. Induced mapping on hyperspaces²⁶ make an important subject. In [203] many facts that were known for induced maps between hyperspaces $C(X)$ were generalized for mappings between $C_n(X)$. Not all of them are obvious and not all facts true for $n=1$ are true for $n>1$. For example, if $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a “very nice” transformation i.e. the composition of a monotone and an open map, then the induced map $\hat{f}: C_n(X) \rightarrow C_n(Y)$ is also of this kind for $n \leq 2$, but not for $n > 2$. In the earlier work [135] some other connections between mappings and their induced mappings were discovered.

An interesting, and perhaps surprising result obtained together with his son Włodzimierz in [170] is the fact that there is no Whitney function defined on 2^X or $F_2(X)$ if X is a non metric continuum.

²⁵ $X \in AAR$ if embedded in any compact space X' , for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $f: X' \rightarrow X$ such that $\rho(x, f(x)) < \varepsilon$ for all $x \in X$.

²⁶ If $f: X \rightarrow Y$, then \hat{f} defined on respective hyperspaces by $\hat{f}(A) = f(A)$ is called a map induced by f .

One of his last papers written together with Włodzimierz is [255] in which they construct a continuum X with the property of Kelley such that the hyperspace $C(X)$, and the product $X \times [0,1]$ do not have that property. It is a counterexample answering a famous question by S. B. Nadler (1978) and H. Kato (1991).

Reviews. JJC wrote many review papers, many of exceptional value: among the most important ones are three historical-encyclopedic articles [123], [138], and [222]. Concerning specialized topics, it seems it would be hard to find better papers on acyclic curves than [97], [115], [141]. The still up-to-date articles containing open problems [125], [177], [218] are also worth recommending.

Students and Colleagues A major part of a scientist's success are his students and it is impossible to define how many mathematicians consider Professor Charatonik as their teacher. Generations of students have attended his seminars and lectures in Wrocław, Opole and Mexico. One will find some well-known names on the list of his 11 PhD students. Some of them have already promoted doctors of their own. I do not remember the first person on the list, he returned to his country immediately after obtaining the degree. Tadeusz Maćkowiak, one of the most talented students, is no longer with us: he died prematurely in 1986. Some currently work abroad: Zbigniew Piotrowski in Youngtown State University, USA; Jacek Nikiel in the American University of Beirut, Lebanon; Janusz R. Prajs in California State University, Sacramento, USA; Veronica Martinez de la Vega in UNAM. Stanislaw Milks had recently retired. Krzysztof Omiljanowski and I are still at the Mathematical Institute, University of Wrocław. Z. Rakowski and S.T. Czuba no longer work in the field of topology.

Tae Jin Lee from North Korea was forced to leave Poland in the time when his Thesis was finished: he is said to have obtained the degree in Korea. Panayotis Spyrou traveled from Athens to Wrocław many times to write his dissertation under Charatonik's supervision. The thesis was defended at the University in Athens (JJC was not the formal advisor).

One of Charatonik's traits was the ability to ask questions, often in the form of interesting research programs, which were a great source of motivation for his students. He was always careful to not omit any results, encouraging his coauthors and students to write down their findings. Whenever they faced trouble with doing so, or simply took too much time- Professor would do the work for them. Owing to his persistence many works were published. He had an ease of writing and found it enjoyable: thanks to his mentor –Knaster- he picked up the skill of scrupulous edition of all texts. Every paper had to be reader-friendly, thus uncommon abbreviations were avoided, while appropriate examples illustrating the validity of the hypotheses, discussions on inverse theorems, open questions and an extensive bibliography were always present.

JJC enjoyed cooperation and had a strong ability of working with others, he had 26 coauthors, from 7 countries: U.S.A, Poland, Greece, North Korea, Mexico and the Czech Republic. Most of the time he worked with his son Włodzimierz, completing over 60 common papers. Among the people who he worked most intensively with are: Stanisław Miklos, Krzysztof Omiljanowski, Janusz Prajs and Alejandro Illanes.

PH.D. STUDENTS ADVISED BY J. J. CHARATONIK

- (1) Bassam N. Nashif (Iraq) 1973: *Multi-valued functions, coincides and fixed points.*
- (2) Tadeusz Maćkowiak 1974: *Continuous functions on continua.*
- (3) Zbigniew M. Rakowski 1976: *On decompositions of continua.*

- (4) Zbigniew Piotrowski 1979: *A study of certain classes of almost continuous functions on topological spaces.*
- (5) Stanisław T. Czuba 1985: *On hereditarily contractible continua.*
- (6) Paweł Krupski 1985: *The property of Kelley in certain classes of continua.*
- (7) Jacek Nikiel 1985: *Topologies on acyclic partially ordered sets.*
- (8) Stanisław Miklos 1986: *Mappings of connected spaces.*
- (9) Krzysztof Omiljanowski 1988: *Investigations of openness of maps on connected spaces.*
- (10) Janusz J. Prajs 1990: *On homogeneous continua in Euclidean spaces.*
- (11) Verónica Martínez de la Vega y Mansilla (Mexico) 2002: *Studies of dendroids and compactifications.*

OTHER PH.D. DISSERTATIONS WRITTEN UNDER J. J. CHARATONIK'S
SUPERVISION

- (1) Panayotis Spyrou (Athens) 1981-1986: *Aposyndesis and depth of a continuum.*
- (2) Tae Jin Lee (North Korea) 1987-1991: *Investigations of contractibility and selectibility of curves.*

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2. J. J. Charatonik, *On ramification points in the classical sense*, Fund. Math. 51 (1962), 229-252. _
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11. J. J. Charatonik, *Concerning the fixed point property for λ -dendroids*, Fund. Math. 69 (1970), 55-62. _
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PROJECTS OF ARTICLES

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260. J. J. Charatonik and S. Macías, *Hairy graphs.*

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Institute of Mathematics, University of Wrocław, Pl. Grunwaldzki 2/4, 50-384 Wrocław, Poland.