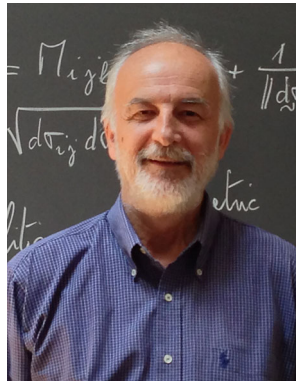


## PREFACE

# Preface

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Professor Félix Darve

Félix is one of the most outstanding scientists in the field of geomechanics, always interested to find imaginative solutions going far from the calm seaside and into open sea. Breaking with existing paradigms is, therefore, the first aspect I would like to point out.

He broke with that classical plasticity which was in fashion in the 80's, introduced the “incrementally non linear models” and succeeded in convincing, even the most reluctant finite element programmer to include it in his code.

Then, at the time when most researchers were concentrated on localized failure, he started exploring the diffuse failure and the instabilities it can create, proposing the idea of the second order work.

Last, he promoted the use of discrete elements, where simple contact laws were able to provide in a natural manner most of salient properties of soils. And, of course, second order work was put to work at this scale for a first time.

Félix believes in a new Geomechanics which embraces all geomaterials. Indeed, the very concept of geomaterials is due to him. And he convinced scientists and researchers all ages, both from France and abroad to associate with him in this adventure. ALERT Geomaterials was born. Many years later, ALERT enjoys an excellent health much as his founder-combining research and formation of young students.

Finally, I consider Félix as a friend with whom I have shared many good moments and not so. I have liked his commitment to administrative management as director of his faculty, being convinced that he was a researcher who, in some months or years, would return to his researcher office.

I have lost the account of walks to the Monolith in Sardières, to a forest close to his cottage, or exploring together the Moncloa campus in Madrid.

To finish, I would like to wish all of us to continue sharing with Félix his walks both in science and in life.  
Best amities, Félix.

Manuel Pastor