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Mathematical Institute of the Academy—50 years

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NEWS AND NOTICES

MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE OF THE ACADEMY—50 YEARS

On November 11, 1952, the Mathematical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was established. Its predecessors were the Institute of Mathematics, founded in 1947 as a part of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Central Mathematical Institute, reorganized from the previous in 1950. The former served as an institution organizing lectures and seminars for university teachers, graduate students and others, including secondary school teachers. Let us remind that between 1939 and 1945 all Czech universities were closed and there was an obvious shortage in qualified people both at universities and in research.

The Central Mathematical Institute had already a wider scope of activity, employed about ten full-time scientific workers and started a systematic training of a group of graduate students. It also edited books and journals. Both these institutions were headed by Professor Eduard Čech, an internationally recognized specialist in topology and differential geometry. He also became the first director of the Mathematical Institute as soon as the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was established.

The first task of the Institute was to start and promote research in the mathematical fields where the most serious shortcomings were felt. These were differential equations, numerical analysis and mathematical statistics. In the sixties, more abstract branches, such as functional analysis, topology, and mathematical logic, followed.

In 1969, the Mathematical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was also established in Brno and Professor Otakar Borůvka (1899–1995), well known for his work in the theory of differential equations, algebra and graph theory, was appointed its director. Since 1972, this institute constitutes the Brno branch of the Mathematical Institute in Prague.

The Mathematical Institute is a part of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic since January 1, 1993 when the Czech Republic was established.

Professor Čech as director was followed in 1954–1972 by Vladimír Knichal (1908–1974), who worked in number theory and the theory of real functions, and in 1972–1974 by Josef Novák (1905–1999), a well known specialist in topology and mathematical statistics. In 1976–1978, the Institute was headed by Jiří Fábera (1930–1978), in 1978–1990 by Alois Kufner (born 1934) working in the theory of function spaces. The next director, in 1990–1996, was Jaroslav Kurzweil (born 1926), famous for his

work in the theory of integral. Since 1996, Karel Segeth (born 1943), a specialist in numerical analysis, holds this office.

Without any doubt, the Institute became a renowned institution, not only in the Czech Republic. It has organized numerous international meetings, as well as educated a large number of specialists many of which became internationally famous. We wish the Mathematical Institute many more successful years.

<div align="right">Miroslav Fiedler, Editor-in-Chief</div>