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Programs and Algorithms of Numerical Mathematics 13 in honor of Ivo Babuška's 80th birthday

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PROGRAMS AND ALGORITHMS OF  
NUMERICAL MATHEMATICS 13  
IN HONOR OF IVO BABUŠKA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

FOREWORD

This special issue comprises invited papers written on the occasion of the international conference Programs and Algorithms of Numerical Mathematics (PANM) held in Prague, Czech Republic, May 28–31, 2006, in honor of Ivo Babuška's 80th birthday.

The conference was organized by the Mathematical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) and continued the previous PANM biannual conferences traditionally held at various Jizera Mountains locations in 1983–2004.

The PANM conferences have always been a rather informal forum for presentation and discussion of advanced topics in numerical analysis, modeling, and applications of computational methods. Although limited to fifty or sixty participants, the conferences have been a popular and appreciated opportunity to see people from the field and to gather all the news among the Czech academic community of numerical analysts and modelers. Moreover, the participation of PhD students and young scientists has been strongly encouraged.

In 2006, the PANM conference was held on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Professor Ivo Babuška, who used to be a leading scientist of the Institute in the 1960s before he moved to the U.S.A. The profound influence that Ivo Babuška has had on numerical methods and computational modeling is widely known, appreciated, and admired.<sup>1</sup>

To make the participation of the guest of honor and other distinguished foreign guests easy, the conference exceptionally moved to the Prague premises of the Institute. All participants were pleased by the presence of Ivo Babuška, who spent three days and four nights in Prague during his 2006 Europe Tour focused on conferences organized in Prague, Zurich, and London to celebrate his birthday.

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<sup>1</sup> Interested readers might find useful a short article by K. Segeth: Professor Ivo Babuška is eighty, *Appl. Math. 51* (2006), 89–92. That issue also contains four scientific papers to honor Ivo Babuška.

We were happy to see Ivo and Renata, his wife, among their old friends from Prague, Vienna, or even overseas. We can also testify that Ivo has lost neither his ardor for mathematics and its applications nor his endurance to follow lectures and short communications, and that he is always ready to eruditely comment on what speakers are saying.

The conference was organized under the auspices of Professor Václav Pačes, the President of the ASCR, who, moreover, presented the Honorary Medal “De scientia et humanitate optime meritis” (the ASCR highest distinction) to Ivo Babuška at a closed meeting in the course of the conference.

More than eighty participants from the field took part in the conference. On the third day of the conference, they witnessed the presentation of the Honorary Medal of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports to Ivo Babuška.

It would not have been possible to organize the conference without the financial support of the Czech Science Foundation, the Grant Agency of the ASCR, and the ASCR.<sup>2</sup> This funding is greatly appreciated.

Besides this special issue of Applications of Mathematics, Proceedings of Programs and Algorithms of Numerical Mathematics 13 were published by the Institute. This book consists of more than thirty short, peer-reviewed articles, and its electronic version is freely available at <http://math.cas.cz/panm13>.

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<sup>2</sup>Project No. 201/04/1503, project No. A1019201, and Institutional Research Plan No. AV0Z10190503, respectively.