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Jiří V. Outrata, sailing analyst, becomes sixty

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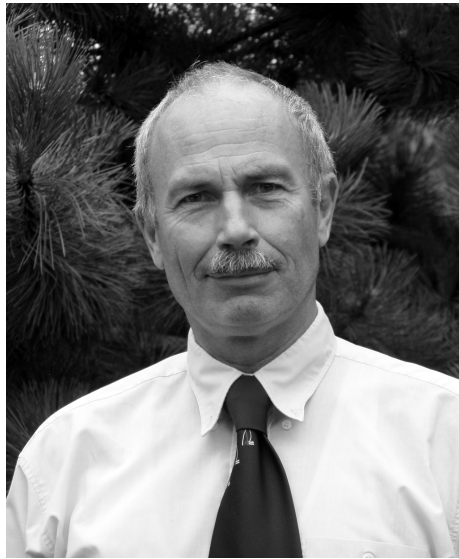
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JIŘÍ V. OUTRATA, SAILING ANALYST, BECOMES SIXTY



Doc. Ing. Jiří Vladimír Outrata, DrSc., a leading expert in nonsmooth variational analysis, celebrates his 60th birthday this year. He was born in June 1947 in Prague, in a widely branched family, some of whose members became famed in the public life.¹

Jiří graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague in 1971. He then pursued his PhD-studies at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1976 he received the degree of Candidate of Sciences in Technical Cybernetics for the thesis “Optimal control of discrete time systems”. Then he obtained a research position at the Institute of Information Theory and Automation of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences where he has been working ever

¹ In particular, his father, Ing. Jiří Outrata, wrote a number of monographs, technical publications and textbooks devoted to machinery, some of which were translated into several languages. His uncle, JUDr. Ing. Edvard Outrata, became Finance Minister and Foreign Trade Minister in the Czechoslovak London Exile Government during 1940–1942, and his cousin Ing. Edvard Outrata served, after spending years in Canadian exile, as a senator and vice-chair of the Senate of the Czech Republic.

since. His main research interest lies in theory of optimization, in particular optimal control, duality theory, convex and nonsmooth analysis, and numerical optimization methods. In 1981 he was awarded the Prize for Young Scientists by the Academy of Sciences. At this time he also wrote the book on duality theory [2], developing further his previous work [1].

The fall of the communist regime in 1989 brought new opportunities also to Jiří. He accomplished Doctor of Science degree (1991) and habilitated at Charles University (1997), both in mathematics. He started extensive activities abroad, mainly in Germany and France. During 1991–1994, he worked at the Mathematical Institute of the Bayreuth University and in 1998 and 2001 at the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, where he participated in both research and teaching, and where the monograph [3] originated. His teaching activities continue by regular lectures on Nonsmooth Optimization at Charles University in Prague.

Over the years he has become an internationally recognized expert in nonsmooth analysis. His professional activities have a wide range. He is an associate editor of *Kybernetika* and *SIAM J. Optimization*, the leading journal in the field. He is a member of the IFIP TC7 Committee, the Mathematical Programming Society and the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists. In 2007, he was awarded The Bernard Bolzano Honorary Medal for Merit in the Mathematical Sciences by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

His activities, though, are not limited to mathematics by far. Jiří devoted a great part of his life to top sailing, in particular to racing with the olympic single-handed dinghy Finn. In the 70s and 80s he participated at several World and European



Championships, became the Czechoslovak Champion and won several times the Czechoslovak Finn Trophy. Since 1987 he has been participating at Finn World Masters,



the world championships for skippers above 40. In this competition he became three times the World Champion and won a number of other top rankings. For a couple of years he also worked as assistant trainer of the Czech National Olympic Team and nowadays he takes care of juniors in the Finn class. Not enough, beside windy lakes and the sea, he also loves snowy mountains: until 1990 he participated regularly in national alpine ski contest and international combined ski/yachting regattas.

Back to science: this special issue of Applications of Mathematics is composed of articles covering Jiří Outrata's active research fields, namely non-smooth variational analysis both on the abstract and the applied level. These contributions were written by selected Jiří's co-authors, see [1], [4]–[16].

Jiří has celebrated his anniversary in a full scientific and sporting strength. On behalf of his numerous colleagues, we wish him a long-lasting enthusiasm and continuing success in the whole range of his activities.

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