SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO IGOR VAJDA

Editorial by František Matúš and Tomáš Hobza

This issue of Kybernetika is dedicated to the memory of Igor Vajda (1942 – 2010). The contributions were submitted by his friends, co-authors, followers and former students and most of them were presented at the *Colloquium in Memory of Igor Vajda*, held in Prague, November 12–13, 2010,[1] that attracted dozens of distinguished researchers from the international scientific community.

Igor Vajda was born on October 20, 1942, in Martin, Czechoslovakia, a town in today's Slovakia. He graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague in 1965 and received his CSc. degree (PhD level) from the Charles University in Prague in 1968, under the supervision of RNDr. Albert Perez, DrSc. From 1965 till his premature passing away he was affiliated with the Institute of Information Theory and Automation, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and undoubtedly became one of the internationally most recognized researchers of this Institute in its history. Before 1989 his professional freedom and activities were curbed by the existing organization of scientific research in the Academy. However, this did not prevent him from publishing abroad and building a wide network of professional connections. After the political changeover he received DrSc. degree from the Charles University in Prague in 1990, and his personal collaborations and joint international projects got a new momentum that brought wide international recognition to his research achievements.

The mathematical activities of Igor Vajda were mainly focused on the field of information-theoretic statistical inference and were reviewed thoroughly in at least two obituaries[2]. Apart from that, he was the author or co-author of four monographs and more than 100 journal articles[3], and was awarded, among other honors, the Jacob Wolfowitz Prize and the Bolzano Medal in memoriam. Out of these papers the unbelievable number of 34 ones were published in Kybernetika, which means that almost every volume of this journal held one of them. This very issue features additional 3 articles proving his ideas are still alive in the work of researchers who interacted with him and are now following the research directions initiated by him. Additionally, he served as Editor of *Kybernetika* in the years 1983-2010 leaving behind tremendous influence on the journal's profile. This was, of course, only part of his editorial work which extended also to journals Problems of Control and Information Theory, Applications of Mathematics,

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[1] http://simu0292.utia.cas.cz/workshop10/
[2] *Bernoulli News*, Vol. 18, May 2011, and *IEEE Inf. Theory Soc. Newsletter*, Vol. 61, June 2011
[3] http://www.utia.cas.cz/node/467/Vajda/Igor

Statistics and Decisions, Revista Matematica Complutense, and others.

Igor was not only a talented and highly productive mathematician with a profusion of new ideas but also a versatile person with craftsman skills covering the maintenance of house and garden, and with broad and profound knowledge of animals, nature, history and politics. This, together with the fact that he was always a curious, sharp-witted man and careful listener, made him an excellent conversation partner, with whom you could discuss any topic. It used to be really inspiring to enjoy professional interactions with him as his student or colleague, as well as to spend nice time with him as his close friend. He gave us a lot and will be badly missed as a scientist and even more as a truly lovable man. We are very grateful that we can present this issue of *Kybernetika* to honor such an exceptional personality.

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