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Irinel Drăgan on his 80-th Birthday

Professor Irinel Dragan, currently an Emeritus Professor with the University of Texas at Arlington, will celebrate his 80-th Birthday on July 8-th, 2011. He was born in Iasi (Romania), where he completed all levels of education: elementary, secondary and college.

He served his Alma Matter Universitas Jassiensis between 1962 and 1980, after a doctoral and research position with the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy (1955–1962). During the academic year 1980–1981, he held a Visiting Professorship with the University of Pisa (Italy), and starting in Fall 1981, he joined the faculty at his present position. He retired in 2007, but continues the teaching (Operations Research, Game Theory, Combinatorics) and currently is still active in classroom. A true record!

Dr. Dragan obtained his Ph.D. in Mathematics (Partial Differential Equations) in 1960 under guidance of Acad. Professor Mendel Haimovici (a former student of Levi-Civita in Rome), who advised him to get a new research orientation in Operations Research. He took this advice, and started immediately his preparation for this new field.

In 1962, he joined the faculty of the University "Al.I. Cuza" in Iasi, as an Assistant Professor, and in 1969 he is appointed a Professor of Mathematics.

In 1980, after teaching a Summer course in Kassel (Germany), he went to his visiting position at the University of Pisa, decided to find a professorial position in the West. In the Fall of 1981, he won a professorship at the current location, where he remained thereafter. So, he is celebrating in 2011 the 30-th year with the University of Texas at Arlington.

A chance to get deeper in the field of Operations Research came in 1970, when CORE (Center of Operations Research) in Belgium invited him as an Associate Research Fellow for a period of 9 months. There, he has taken contact with some of the best known (worldwide) specialists in the field. He remained attached to this field for the rest of his career, both in teaching the subject and in research.

He published over 70 journal papers and three books (*Linear Programming, Game Theory* and a *Course of Higher Mathematics for Business students*).

Dr. Dragan has participated at a large number of meetings dedicated to Game Theory, Optimization and other related subjects, visiting more than 30 countries, deploying varied activities of academic nature: research, short courses, taught, meetings where he presented papers etc.

During his career, Dr. Dragan held several administrative positions. He served as a Vice-Dean the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics at the University "Al.I. Cuza" of Iasi, and Chairman of the Department of Mathematics with the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at the same university (1968–1980; intermittently). He is credited for building up this teaching/research unit at the University of Iasi, where he contributed to the training of at least six current professors working in Operations Research and Computer Sciences at that school or elsewhere.

As a faculty at the University of Texas he entertained research cooperation with colleges and schools from Europe, North, Central and South America, participating as a lecturer at the Latino-American Summer School in Vina del Mar, Chile (2001), organized by the University of Santiago de Chile, as well as another school on Game Theory, in San Jose, Costa Rica, organized by University of Costa Rica (2010), being a permanent member of the group of researchers in Game Theory at SUNY Stony Brook, New York, and SING (Spain-Italy-Netherlands Games). Other participations included meetings in China, Japan, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Romania, Greece, Czech Republic, Russia, etc.

Dr. Dragan has been awarded different honors, including the prizes from Academy of Science Romania (1966), and the Academy of Romanian Scientists (2002), Honorary professorship of University Petre Andrei, Iasi (2006), Teacher of the Year at University of Texas at Arlington (2004). He is a member of several learned institutions, including American Mathematical Society, the Institute of Operations Research and Management Sciences, the International Society of Game Theory, International Society of Public Economics, etc.

Dr. Dragan had 12 Ph.D. students in Romania and the United States, most of them holding professorial positions at universities around the world, like Dan Butnariu (Haifa, Israel), Gh. Grigoras, C. Croitoru, C. Smadici (University of Iasi), A. Alidaee (University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS), A. Potter (Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Texas), P. Reyes (Baylor University, Waco, Texas). Many of the former students in his mathematics courses in the School of Business of the University of Iasi, are full professors in that school.

Dr. Dragan had several hobbies and outside mathematics preoccupations during his life: he was Junior Tennis Champion of the City of Iasi, and is fairly advanced as a piano player. He likes very much to travel, and almost always joined by his wife Maria, he visited (also for entertainment) over 30 countries.

On his 80-th Birthday, the colleagues and members of the Romanian Mathematical Community are congratulating Professor Irinel Dragan for his academic achievements, including the fact of being on the Fall schedule 2011, University of Texas at Arlington, with a course on Optimization.

Viorel Barbu on his 70-th Birthday

Professor Viorel Barbu, with the University "Al.I. Cuza" of Iasi, a member of the Romanian Academy, is becoming a septuagenarian on June 14, 2011.

His secondary education has been achieved at the National College "C. Negruzzi" in Iasi, a school whose alumni reached prominent positions in Romanian culture, and at his Alma Mater (1959–1964). Since 1959, Viorel Barbu has been associated with the University "Al.I. Cuza", as a student, Assistant, Associate Professor, Professor, Dean of Mathematics Faculty and Rector (President) of the university. He obtained the doctoral degree there in 1969, under Professor A. Haimovici supervision. For over half a century, Viorel Barbu has been a prominent figure, representing brilliantly his Alma Mater in Romania and abroad.

He started his research activity while being a student, at Master level, his results on Integral Equations being presented in the seminar on "Qualitative Theory of Differential and Integral Equations" which held weekly meetings since 1957, for over twenty years. These results have been included in publications with worldwide circulation, and they have been quickly followed by some results on PDEs, inserted in mathematical journals with established standard and reputation.

In 1964, after acquaintance with Hörmander's contributions to PDEs, Viorel Barbu started his consistent research work in this field. Also, besides usual problems as existence of solutions, their regularity or asymptotic behavior (e.g., almost periodicity), Viorel Barbu started conducting fruitful research work in Optimal Control Theory.

Starting in 1965, Viorel Barbu organized, within the Faculty of Mathematics of "Al.I. Cuza" University, the Seminar on PDEs and Control Theory. This research collective is still in existence, and under his guidance a group of young scholars with the University "Al.I. Cuza" or the Mathematical Institute "O. Mayer" of the Romanian Academy, have reached their maturity and recognition in the international mathematical community. I will mention here the names of Ioan Vrabie, Ovidiu Cârjă, Aurel Răşcanu, Sebastian Aniţa, Robert Vescan, Viorel Arnăutu, Gh. Moroşanu, Daniel Tataru, Cătălin Popa, T. Havârneanu.

The colleagues mentioned above have authored a conspicuous number of journal papers and monographs/books, establishing research connections with mathematicians from Italy, France and other European countries. They continue their activities within the Faculty of Mathematics at their Alma Mater, and have recently organized the Centennial Conference of the Mathematical Seminar "A. Myller" – the cradle of several generations of mathematicians from Romania and other countries (Russia, United States of America, France, Argentina, Canada).

Professor Viorel Barbu had the leading role in organizing and scientifically guiding the members of the group mentioned above, rising the prestige of the Mathematical School of Iasi at a respectable level, within the international mathematical community.

The academic career of Viorel Barbu extends on almost half a century, period in which he has been engaged in various positions with administrative profile. He served, or is currently serving, on the following positions:

- Dean of the Mathematics Faculty with the University "Al.I. Cuza" of Iasi (1976–1981)
- Rector (President) of the same university (1981–1989)
- Director of the Mathematical Institute "O. Mayer" with the Romanian Academy (1990–present)
- Vice President of Romanian Academy (1998–2002)
- President of Iasi Branch of Romanian Academy (2001–present)

During his career, Professor Viorel Barbu has been invited on visiting positions at several prestigious institutions of higher learning, for periods extended up to an academic year. We will mention here Purdue University, University of Cincinnati, Concordia University of Montreal, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, University of Bologna, University of Paris VI, University of Wuhan (China), University of Virginia, Ohio University, University of Trento, University of Rome (through CNR), INRIA of Rocquencourt (France).

Due to his successes as a researcher in the field of PDEs and Control Theory, Professor Viorel Barbu has been invited to be on the Editorial Board of several journals, from many countries with high mathematical standards. We will list only a few of them.

- Numerical Functional Analysis and Optimization, M. Dekker, New York
- Journal of Differential and Integral Equations, Khayam Publications (USA)
- Communications on Applied Analysis, USA
- Nonlinear Functional Analysis, South Korea
- Advances in Differential Equations (USA)
- Revue Roumaine Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées (Romania)
- Abstract and Applied Analysis (USA)
- Set-Valued and Variational Analysis
- Theory and Applications (Springer-Verlag)
- Abstract Analysis (USA)
- Analele Științifice ale Universității "Al.I. Cuza" Iași, Romania
- PanAmerican Mathematical Journal (USA)

Professor V. Barbu has won recognition, as distinguished researcher, from the part of many institutions of higher learning or academies. A short list which honored him contains the Romanian Academy (Prize, 1972); Moldovan Academy of Science (Chișinău), Honorary Membership; the Universities of Nebraska, of Craiova, Galati, Pitesti (Romania) – the Doctor Honoris Causa degree.

The list of publications of Professor Viorel Barbu counts over 150 journal papers and books/monographs. These publications have been quoted in thousands of papers and books published by an impressive number of authors, from many countries.

Books and Monographs authored by Viorel Barbu

1. *Nonlinear Semigroups and Differential Equations in Banach Spaces*, Noordhoff, Leyden, 1975.
2. *Convexity and Optimization in Banach Spaces* (joint with T. Precupanu), Sijthoff & Noordhoff, Leyden, 1978; second edition D. Reidel, Dordrecht, 1986.
3. *Hamilton–Jacobi Equations in Hilbert Spaces* (joint with G. Da Prato), Pitman Research Notes in Mathematics 86, London-Boston, 1983.
4. *Optimal Control of Variational Inequalities*, Pitman Research Notes in Mathematics 100, London-Boston, 1984.
5. *Differential Equations* (Romanian), Junimea, Iasi, 1985.
6. *Analysis and Control of Nonlinear Infinite Dimensional Systems*, Academic Press, Boston, New York, 1993.
7. *Boundary Value Problems for Partial Differential Equations* (in Romanian), Editura Academiei, Bucharest, 1994.
8. *Mathematical Methods in Optimization of Differential Systems*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1994.
9. *Partial Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1998.
10. *Handbook of Differential Equations*, vol. 2, pp. 1-7, Eds. A. Canada et al., Elsevier, North-Holland, 2005
11. *Tangential Boundary Stabilization of Navier–Stokes Equations*, Memoires AMS, 852, 2006 (Joint with I. Lasiecka, R. Triggiani).
12. *Nonlinear Differential Equations of Monotone Type in Banach Spaces*, Springer, Berlin, New York, 2010.
13. *Stabilization of Navier–Stokes Flows*, Springer, Berlin, London, 2010.

Proceedings

1. *Differential Equations and Control Theory*, V. Barbu ed., Longman Scientific and Technical, London-New York, 1992.
2. *Optimization, Optimal Control and partial Differential Equations*, V. Barbu, F. Bonnas, D. Tiba eds., Birkhäuser, Basel-Boston-Berlin, 1992.
3. *Proceedings IFIP Conference on Control 2002*, Birkhäuser, Basel-Boston, 2002.

On his 70-th Birthday, the colleagues and members of the Romanian Mathematical Community are congratulating Professor Viorel Barbu for his academic achievements.

FROM THE BOOKSHELVES

IOAN GOTTLIEB: *A Fractal Model of the Universe*. Editura Ars Longa, Iași, Romania, 2011, pp. XIX+170.

The structure of this book is as follows: the first part contains the translation (in English) of the Romanian original "Universuri suprapuse", Technica Publ. House, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova (1995); the second part contains seven original papers of the author, published after the book mentioned above, but closely related to it. The model presented by the author is based on the hypothesis, according to which the matter is structured, at all levels, in clusters of different orders. We shall denote by K_1 = the celestial bodies, by K_2 the galaxies and so on. One assumes $K_{n-1} \subset K_n$. This model is presented in detail in the seventh paper in the second part of the book.

For the macrostructure of the Universe, this model is known as the "hierarchical model" of Lambert-Charlier.

The hypothesis has a dual form, according to which the particles of the matter form a descending chain of clusters. This dual form is described in detail in an early paper of the author (1955), also included in the second part of the book.

The sequence of clusters $\{K_n; n > 0\}$ will be called a *point*. One realizes that each cluster has a structure as suggested by the famous "Cantor's discontinuum" – a classical model of *fractal*. This explains the title of the book.

The book is dedicated to presentations of the multiple consequences of this hypothesis. For instance, each cluster has the power of continuum (as a set), it is open and closed simultaneously, has no boundaries, it is a perfect set, does not cover the whole space but it is dense in it etc. The mathematical support is offered in the book itself (set theory, elements of topology, Cantor's set a.o.).

The author offers the book on line, free to interested persons, if they access the site gottlieb1929@uaic.ro

C. Corduneanu

JOHN WILLIAMSON: *In Defence of Objective Bayesianism*, Oxford University Press, 2010.

This monograph presents a philosophical treatise of various models and interpretations regarding statistical inference based on Bayesian epistemology. The central theme is concerned with explaining the rationale and motivation behind the notion of *objective Bayesianism*, characterized by the following three norms: Probability (degree of belief), Calibration (empirical evidence), and Equivocation (in absence of evidence). The historical account and interpretation dates back to the early ideas of Jacob Bernoulli, followed by Bayes' statistical inference, Kolmogorov's axiomatic probability theory and the classical Shannon's information theory with its prototype entropy function which paved the way to a now widely accepted

maximum entropy principle – a key element of objectivism advocated by the author. Subjectivism beyond Bertrand's paradox is not being entirely dismissed in the sense that philosophy of statistics includes the following three paradigms: *the frequentist* (classical), *the subjectivist*, and *the objective Bayesian approach* (thought of as a hybrid of subjective methods combined with objective prior probabilities). The first three chapters (Introduction, Objective Bayesianism, Motivation) include basic terminology and concepts that set the stage for development in the next six chapters (Updating, Predicate Languages, Objective Bayesian Nets, Probabilistic Logic, Judgement Aggregation, Languages and Relativity) followed by the concluding chapter (Objective Bayesianism in Perspective). Aside from succinct summaries of Chapters 2-9, Chapter 10 offers a summary of established versus unsettled and subject to future research. Lucid, yet rigorous, writing style along with numerous references is a welcome up-to-date compendium on an important aspect of understanding what statistics is and what statistics is not (from the philosophical standpoint). Furthermore, applications to theory confirmation in modern science, notwithstanding intriguing new material for philosophers of statistics, makes this book a valuable source for those whose research relies on statistical methodology.

Andrzej Korzeniowski

A. RONTÓ and M. RONTÓ: *Successive Approximation Techniques in Nonlinear Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations* (in Handbook of Differential Equations, vol. IV, Elsevier, 2008).

This Chapter 5, in the Handbook edited by F. Battelli and M. Fečkan, is dedicated by the Authors to the investigation of nonlinear boundary value problems for systems of ordinary differential equations on compact intervals. The main concern of the authors is directed to the existence of solutions of this type of problems, as well as to their approximation (or, the construction of approximate solutions). One considers a parametrized sequence of approximates, taking into account the particularities of the system and involving a parameter. Then, the parameter can be determined by means of a certain system of algebraic or transcendental equations.

The text is divided into 10 sections. Sections 1 and 2 contain the notation used in what follows and provide a short introduction. In Section 3, the successive approximation techniques are treated for the investigation of periodic solutions of non-autonomous periodic systems. In Section 4, one applies the method for the study of the periodic solutions of autonomous systems by using the appropriate reduction to a non-autonomous ordinary system. In Section 5, one establishes conditions under which a system of non-linear non-autonomous ordinary differential equations has a family of solutions that are periodic, with a common period, and possess a certain symmetry property. Sections 6 and 7 deal with the investigation of non-linear two-point boundary value conditions by using a parametrisation that leads to a family of problems with linear two-point conditions, considered together with certain additional algebraic or transcendental equations with respect to parameters. In Section 8, one uses the parametrisation approach to study some three-point non-linear boundary value problem which, as a result, can be investigated through auxiliary two-point problems. Most of theoretical results are illustrated by examples. Section 9 contains some historical remarks concerning the development and application of the method. Finally, in

Section 10, one gives several exercises concerning the successive approximation technique under consideration.

C. Corduneanu

CONSTANTIN GHITĂ: *Mathematical Metallurgy* (Romanian). Editura Academiei Române, Bucharest, 1995, 373 pp.

This volume, whose title could also be *Mathematical Problems in Metallurgy*, contains a good amount of mathematical problems and methods of their solution, related to the treatment of physical phenomena encountered in Metallurgy. It starts with two sections, namely, a listing of problems arising in the mathematical or physical study of metallurgical processes, and a short review of topics (necessary in the text) from Functional Analysis (both linear and nonlinear). The vast material included in this book is divided in five chapters.

Chapter I deals with methods of nonlinear analysis in the study of processes like solidification, lubrication, convection, a.o. Chapter II is concerned with "Threephasic processes of solidification". Chapter III deals with "free boundary" in diffusion processes. Regularization method are used for better description of phenomena. Chapter IV contains results related to the approximation of solutions, by iterative methods, for variational or quasivariational approaches to flowing processes. Chapter V, the last one, is dedicated to the analysis of deformation processes during the mechanical actions on solids (elasticity, viscosity, plasticity).

The text contains other theoretical sections but it also includes results on the numerical approximation, providing in some cases useful algorithms.

The following is a citation from Authors's abstract: "Undoubtedly, with *Mathematical Metallurgy* we stand between two distinct directions of research: qualitative analysis of some processes in metallurgy and the mathematical modelling of the inner mechanism of changes/spreading of materials."

The volume concludes with a list of references counting 137 items, most of them from the mathematical field, but also related to the technological literature. It is primarily addressed to specialists in Continuum Mechanics, PDE, Applied Mathematics. Some topics are certainly interesting the applied engineering field.

C. Corduneanu

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