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NEWS and NOTICES

NATIONAL PRIZE OF THE CZECH SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AWARDED TO PROFESSOR ALOIS KUFNER

Presidium of the Czech National Council, acting on the proposal of the Government of the Czech Socialist Republic, has granted the National Prize of the CSR to Professor Alois Kufner, DrSc., director of the Mathematical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, for his outstanding results in the theory of function spaces, in particular of the weight spaces of Sobolev type, and for applications of this theory in the theory of linear and nonlinear elliptic differential equations.

Prof. Kufner is one of Czechoslovak prominent specialists in the theory of function spaces. Already in 1977, his monograph *Function Spaces* (Academia, Praha — Noordhoff, Leyden) written with co-authors S. Fučík and O. John attracted attention of the international mathematical public. The interest of A. Kufner in the theory of function spaces is focused on the Sobolev spaces with weights. These spaces make it possible to avoid difficulties which often arise when solving boundary value problems for differential equations as a result of "bad" behaviour either of the coefficients of the corresponding differential operator or of the right-hand sides or the boundary conditions. The results of Kufner's systematic investigation are collected in his monograph *Weighted Sobolev Spaces* (Teubner, Leipzig 1980), which has become a starting point for a number of further publications and has had continuous impact on the work of the seminar led by himself. Another field of interest of A. Kufner are both linear and nonlinear partial differential equations.

A significant contribution to the difficult nonlinear problems is the book *Nonlinear Differential Equations* (Elsevier, 1980) written by A. Kufner and the late S. Fučík. A number of favourable reviews, as well as the fact that a Russian version of the book is being prepared by the publishing house Nauka, Moscow, gives evidence of the extraordinary import of the book. It has an original organization: it starts with concrete problems, using them to illustrate applications of modern methods. It includes original results of the present research but is understandable not only for specialists but also for research workers in engineering and technology. The readers who have met with Kufner's books intended for students and general public recognize and appreciate his fresh and readable style.

We congratulate Prof. A. Kufner on the recent distinction and wish him many further successes in all his manysided activities.

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