Tatra Mt. Math. Publ. **27** (2003), 1–6

TATRA MOUNTAINS
Mathematical Publications

PROFESSOR JÁN JAKUBÍK OCTOGENARIAN—DOYEN OF SLOVAK MATHEMATICIANS

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The theory of MV-algebras started getting popularity in Slovakia in the nineties. There are many directions that lead to MV-algebras. For example, one of these directions is that connected with the study of quantum structures and fuzzy sets. Another approach was that taken by the most prominent Slovak mathematician of today, Prof. Ján Jakubík. He viewed MV-algebras from the perspective of partially ordered groups, particularly lattice ordered ones.[1]

Ján Jakubík was born in Dudince (central Slovakia) on Oct. 8, 1923. After attending the High School in Banská Štiavnica, he started studying medicine, but despite of his excellent performance, after two years he decided to abandon the course. His passion for exact sciences brought him to the study mathematics and physics at the Slovak University in Bratislava (now Comenius University). He graduated in 1949, and became an Assistant Professor at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. In 1952 he moved to Eastern Slovakia, Košice, to the newly established Technical University. There, in 1956, he became an Associate Professor and later, in 1963, he was appointed a University Professor. In the same year he obtained the degree of Doctor of Sciences (DrSc.). In 1964, he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and in 1977, he was awarded the title of an Academician. Since 1978 he has been the external head of the newly established Branch of the Mathematical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice, and since 1985 he has been its internal head.

Prof. Jakubík is one of the most outstanding Slovak mathematicians. He belongs to the first and very successful generation of Slovak mathematicians, who entered mathematics during and after the Second World War, and who finished their study in Bratislava (Profs. M. Greguš, M. Kolibiar, L. Mišík, M. Švec, A. Kotzig).

His scientific activity in universal algebra and ordered structures is very extensive and produced many profound results. The main research fields of Jakubík

[1] His previous mathematical results are described in [a], [b], [c], [d].

are ordered groups and lattice ordered groups, of which he is a great master. He solved many open problems and formulated many new questions which inspired the whole generation of mathematicians studying his field in Czecho-Slovakia as well as abroad. When MV-algebras became more popular in Slovakia, and when he observed that due to the famous result of Mundici, MV-algebras are in a one-to-one correspondence with intervals in unital Abelian ℓ-groups, in the last decade he started contributing to this new field. Here he was able to capitalize his great experience with ℓ-groups. With the same juvenile effort he attacked also theory of pseudo MV-algebras where there is also a similar correspondence with intervals in unital not necessarily Abelian ℓ-groups.

Along with his very active research, J. Jakubík did a great deal of pedagogical work at the Technical University in Košice. He was a supervisor of many PhD-students. As a member of several editorial boards and committees for PhD- and DrSc-dissertations, he participated significantly in organizing the mathematical life of the whole Czecho-Slovakia. In addition, his personal life is very mathematical: his late spouse was a mathematician, his older daughter and her husband are mathematicians too (his younger daughter is a physicist), and his granddaughter is studying mathematics at a university. Moreover, both his grandsons attend mathematical classes in schools. Besides mathematics, his hobby is poetry, Slovak folk-songs, and Slovak history.

Nowadays, Professor Jakubík can be regarded as a doyen of Slovak mathematicians. Despite of his high age, he is still active as the head of Košice Branch of the Mathematical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Every year, he publishes many mathematical papers: in the last decade he published around 100 papers out of his 238 papers. But the most important feature of Prof. Jakubík is his goodwill to help his colleagues, especially young mathematicians. (In the beginning of Fifties, monasteries in Czecho-Slovakia were dissolved, and monks and nuns were sent to labour camps. Among them there was also Dr. V. Kumorovitz, a Jesuit who had been an assistant to Prof. J. Hronec (Hronec was one of the first ante-war Slovak mathematicians). Dr. Kumorovitz decided to organize in honour of the May Day, Labour Day, a mathematical lecture in the camp. Knowing this, Prof. Jakubík sent him a French mathematical book which Dr. Kumorovitz needed for his lecture.)

The 80th birthday of Prof. J. Jakubík encountered him in a full creativity. The author of these lines seizes the opportunity to thank him in the name of the whole Slovak mathematical community for his considerable contribution to the development of lattice ordered groups, ordered structures and MV-algebras.

Dear Professor Jakubík, we wish you good health, happiness in your family circle, and we look forward to your new interesting mathematical results and inspiring ideas.

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