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Preface

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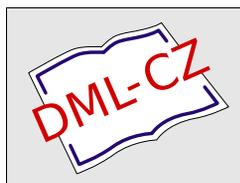
Preface

This book contains most papers presented at the international conference Programs and Algorithms of Numerical Mathematics (PANM) held in Prague, Czech Republic, May 28–31, 2006, in honor of Ivo Babuška's 80th birthday. It is the thirteenth volume in the series of the PANM proceedings.

The conference was organized by the Mathematical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) and continued the previous PANM seminars (conferences) held in Alšovice, Bratříkov, Janov nad Nisou, Kořenov, Lázně Libverda, and Dolní Maxov in the period 1983–2004. The objective of this series of seminars has been to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of advanced topics, new approaches, and applications of computational methods; moreover, the participation of PhD students and young scientists has been encouraged.

The conference was honored by the presence of Ivo Babuška, who spent three days and four nights in Prague during his 2006 Europe Tour focused on conferences organized in Prague, Zurich, and London to celebrate his birthday, and who used to be a leading scientist in the Institute in the 1960s.

This year, the conference left its traditional Jizera Mountains locations, and was held on the Prague premises of the Institute, to make the participation of distinguished foreign guests easier or even possible. To further emphasize the significance of the conference, it was organized under the auspices of Professor Václav Pačes, president of the ASCR, who, moreover, presented the Honorary Medal "De scientia et humanitate optime meritis" (the ASCR highest distinction) to Ivo Babuška during a closed meeting in the course of the conference.

It would not have been possible to organize the conference without the financial support of the Czech Science Foundation, the Grant Agency of the ASCR, and the ASCR (project no. 201/04/1503, project no. A1019201, and Institutional Research Plan no. AV0Z10190503, respectively). The Organizing Committee included Jan Chleboun, Michal Křížek, Petr Přikryl, Karel Segeth, Alena Šolcová, and Tomáš Vejchodský.

More than 80 participants from the field took part in the conference. Although most of them came from Czech universities and the institutes of the ASCR, foreign scholars were also present (Canada, China, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the U.S.A.). They witnessed the presentation of the Honorary Medal of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports to Ivo Babuška on the third day of the conference.

As regards the technical aspects of this book of proceedings, all the papers have been reproduced directly from materials submitted by the authors, but an attempt has been made to use a unified layout for each paper. We are indebted to Mrs. Hana Bílková for her effort in preparing the manuscripts for print and to Dr. Karel Horák and Mr. Ladislav Capanda for their technical help with printing the book.

The editors and organizers also wish to thank all scientists who peer reviewed the submitted manuscripts. In many cases, their comments and recommendations led to substantial improvements of the manuscripts.

Besides this PANM volume, a special issue of Applications of Mathematics (no. 3, 2007) consisting of selected papers presented at the conference will be published.

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