Jean Mawhin; Jindřich Nečas; Břetislav Novák News and Notices. In memoriam Professor Svatopluk Fučík

Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal, Vol. 30 (1980), No. 1, 153-162

Persistent URL: http://dml.cz/dmlcz/101665

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NEWS and NOTICES

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR SVATOPLUK FUČÍK

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On Friday, May 18, 1979, both the Czechoslovak and the world's Mathematics suffered a severe loss. In the early hours of the day, RNDr. SVATOPLUK FUČÍK CSc., Professor of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, succumbed to a heavy and insidious illness. The following lines are intended to recall to those who knew Professor Fučík the immense work he accomplished during his life time, and to offer an account of his personality and activities to those for whom it is no more possible to meet him.

Svatopluk Fučík was born on October 21, 1944 in Prague. He attended elementary and secondary schools in Hradec Králové and studied then mathematical analysis at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University at Prague in the years 1962–1967. The title of his diploma thesis was *Local Degree of Mappings*. The subject of this work led him to further investigations resulting in two papers A[1], A[2] on the basis of which he received his RNDr. degree in 1969. During the years 1967–1969 he was research student (aspirant) in the Department of Mathematical Analysis. This period resulted in his thesis *Solution of Nonlinear Operator Equations*. The beginnings as well as the whole first period of Fučík's more than ten years long scientific career are connected with the name of Professor J. Nečas DrSc. who was his teacher, adviser and collaborator.

Since 1969 till his death Fučík was member of the Department of Mathematical Analysis of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer. He wrote and defended his habilitation thesis in 1973; in 1977 he was appointed Reader in Mathematics.

Fučík's activity was not restricted merely to his work at University. He collaborated closely with the Mathematical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and participated in several projects of the National Program of Basic Research. Since 1971 Fučík held various important offices in the Society of Czechoslovak Mathematicians and Physicists. Last but not least, it was thanks to him that, under the modest cover of the Information Bulletin of the Mathematical Scientific Section, the reader could find modern and interesting texts with clear traces of his individual humour.

Let us now give a brief survey of Fučík's scientific work.

It was at the very start of his dazzling scientific career that Professor Fučík manifested his interest in nonlinear functional analysis. In his diploma thesis he deals with a fundamental notion concerning nonlinear mappings in \mathbb{R}^n , the degree of the mapping, and he adapts the definition due to E. Heinz. Fučík's interpretation of the degree appears then in the book D[1] which is the result of joint efforts of himself,



J. Nečas, J. Souček and V. Souček. As mentioned above, three other works are concerned with this problem, namely A[1], A[2], A[3]. In A[1] Fučík generalizes Rothe's theorem on fixed point. Paper A[2] deals also with the existence of a fixed point for the mapping T = B + C, where B is of contraction type while C has roughly the properties of a totally continuous mapping. Fučík's basic assertion represents a generalization of Kačurovskiĭ-Krasnoselskiĭ-Zabreiko's theorem. The last one of this series, A[3] concerns surjectivity of the operator h = I + H when the norm of H is in a certain sense less than one.

The next period of Fučík's research work covers Fredholm Alternative for the nonlinear operator $\lambda T - S$. Fučík, unlike S. I. Pochožaiev who had introduced this concept into nonlinear functional analysis together with J. Nečas, investigates operators T and S that map a Banach space X into an arbitrary Banach space Y and not only into X^* . He assumes that T is a (K, L, a)-homeomorphism of X onto Y:

$$L \|x\|_{X}^{a} \leq \|T(x)\|_{Y} \leq K \|x\|_{X}^{a}$$
.

One of Fučík's versions of Fredholm Alternative reads: Let T be a a-homogeneous operator, which is a (K, L, a)-homeomorphism, let S be odd, a-homogeneous, totally continuous mapping. Then $\lambda T - S$ is regularly surjective (i.e., the inverse mapping is bounded) if and only if λ is not an eigenvalue of the pair (T, S).

This subject is studied also in Fučík's papers A[5], A[6] and the results are included also in the book D[1].

Later on, Fučík's scientific activity expanded in many directions. Perhaps the most important research of this period is that concerning spectrum of the operator $\lambda f' - g'$ where f and g are two even functionals. Fučík together with J. Nečas generalized Lyusternik-Schnirelmann's theory of the existence of critical values and eigenvalues, see A[10]. The generalization concerns smoothness of the functionals f and g, so that the abstract theory can be applied also to spaces of the type L^p , 1 . Theprincipal idea was that of replacing the homotopic deformations obtained the solutionof the abstract differential equation by their approximation. Its main result (obtainedwith J. Nečas, J. Souček and V. Souček) is the assertion on denumerability of criticalvalues of the functional g with respect to the manifold <math>f(x) = r for real analytic functionals f and g. The assertion is based on the work of J. and V. Souček on Morse's theorem for real analytic functions. The results just described as well as those of Fučík's paper A[9], A[11], A[12], A[13], A[15], A[18], A[19] were partially included in the book D[1].

A fundamental part of Fučík's mathematical work is devoted to the study of the range of nonlinearly perturbed noninvertible linear operators in Banach spaces, and to its applications to differential equations. Although his results cover abstract, partial and ordinary differential equations, we shall restrict ourselves in their description, for the sake of simplicity, mostly to the case of ordinary differential equations. Those who knew Svatopluk Fučík and his sense of humour may remember him qualifying ordinary differential equations as partial differential equations of dimension less than $\pi/3$.

Combining the alternative method with Schauder's fixed point theorem, Landesman and Lazer were the first to find in 1970 conditions upon $f \in L^2(0, \pi)$, necessary and sufficient for the Dirichlet problem

(1)
$$u'' + n^2 u + g(u) = f(x), \quad u(0) = u(\pi) = 0$$

to have at least one solution, provided g is continuous and satisfies the assumption

(2)
$$-\infty < g(-\infty) < g(s) < g(+\infty) < +\infty, \quad s \in]-\infty, +\infty[$$

where $g(\pm \infty)$ denotes the limits

$$\lim_{s\to\pm\infty}g(s)\,,$$

which are assumed to exist. Motivated by these results and by a corresponding abstract version due to J. Nečas, Fučík applied a similar approach in a joint paper with M. Kučera and J. Nečas A[23] to the case where (2) is replaced by

(3)
$$-\infty < g(-\infty) \le g(s) \le g(+\infty) < +\infty, \quad s \in]-\infty, +\infty[, g(0) \neq g(\pm \infty),$$

and the case of $g(s) = |s|^p \operatorname{sign} s, p \in]0, 1[$. The basic abstract results of this paper deal with operator equations in a Hilbert space H which are of the form

$$(4) A(u) - S(u) = h$$

with $A: D(A) \subset H \to H$ linear, $h \in H$ and $S: H \to H$ satisfying a growth condition of the form

(5)
$$|S(u)| \leq \mu_1 + \mu_2 |u|^{\delta}, \quad \delta \in [0, 1[.$$

They are extended in A[21] to the case where $\delta = 1$ and μ_2 is sufficiently small. A systematization and many generalizations of the above results for (4) by a similar approach is given in A[22]. Continuing his investigations of cases left open by the above quoted papers, Fučík in A[20] initiated the use of the method of truncated equations for studying, in the special case if (1) with n = 1, the case when g is such that

$$g(+\infty)=g(-\infty)=0.$$

The corresponding problem for an arbitrary n is considered in A[33] and more general results, with applications to elliptic problems, are given in A[37] (with M. Krbec), where the useful concept of expansive function is introduced. Equations with expansive nonlinearities are further studied in A[40] (with A. Ambrosetti), where the notion of expansively periodic function is defined and used to prove, by the alternative method together with topological degree, the existence of infinitely many solutions for some equations of the type (4) with the null-space of A odddimensional and the Nemyckiĭ operator associated to an expansively periodic nonlinearity.

Because of the growth restriction on g, all the above mentioned results cover, in the special case of (1), boundary value problems of the form

(6)
$$u'' + h(u) = f(x), \quad u(0) = u(\pi) = 0,$$

where h is continuous and such that

$$\lim_{u\to+\infty}(h(u)/u)=\lim_{u\to-\infty}(h(u)/u)=n^2.$$

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In his fundamental paper A[31], Fučík called the function h non jumping if

$$\lim_{u \to +\infty} (h(u)/u) = \lim_{u \to -\infty} (h(u)/u)$$

and jumping if those two limits do not coincide. Thus the above mentioned works all deal with the case of non jumping nonlinearities. The jumping case where h does not jump over an eigenvalue of the associated problem linear, i.e. where

$$n^{2} < \lim_{u \to -\infty} (h(u)/u) \neq \lim_{u \to +\infty} (h(u)/u) < (n + 1)^{2}$$

has been well known and easy to treat while the case where h jumps from the first to the second eigenvalue of the associated linear problem, i.e.

$$\lim_{u\to-\infty} (h(u)/u) < 1 < \lim_{u\to+\infty} (h(u)/u) < 4$$

had been initiated by Ambrosetti and Prodi in 1973. In A[31] the existence problem is considered for the first time when the nonlinearity jumps over one arbitrary eigenvalue, or more than one eigenvalue, or from an eigenvalue to another one, and also when it jumps off an eigenvalue but not to another one. The treatment is based upon a clever use of the Leray-Schauder degree. In A[27] one can find a result of the Ambrosetti-Prodi type for weak solutions, based on the alternative method together with the Banach fixed point theorem, and an abstract treatment of problems with jumping nonlinearities is found is A[30].

As was noticed in 1977 by J. Mawhin, results of the above type hold not only for ordinary and elliptic partial differential equations but also for the time periodic solutions of partial differential equations of evolution type. Fučík immediately contributed to this area and the paper A[38] (with J. Mawhin) covered the case of nonlinear telegraph equations, the papers A[35] and A[42] (with V. Šťastnová) deal with nonlinear heat equations, and the case of nonlinear beam equation is studied in B[16]. One must notice that the "initial conditions" for the investigation of this type of problems in Prague were particularly favourable because of the outstanding work of O. Vejvoda and his group in the study of time-periodic solutions of weakly nonlinear evolution equations. Problems of this type are also considered in A[41] (with P. Hess), which generalizes and completes the results of A[33], A[37], A[38] and A[42].

When A is selfadjoint and S a potential operator, the variational approach gives better results than the topological method in the study of problems of the type (4), as had been shown for the first time in 1976 by Ahmad, Lazer and Paul. Their results were generalized substantially by Fučík in A[34] and A[39], where Fučík could fully manifest his familiarity with the variational methods he had learned in the group of J. Nečas.

Other papers of S. Fučík cover problems of the type (4) where S does not satisfy a growth condition of the type (5) with $\delta \in [0, 1]$. The corresponding abstract back-

ground is still far from being unified and many problems have remained open. In the case of ordinary differential equations, existence of periodic solutions of the equation

$$x'' + g(x) = f(t)$$

when $g(u)/u \to +\infty$ for $u \to \infty$ is considered in A[25] (with V. Lovicar) by means of the shooting method and Brouwer degree; existence of periodic solutions of higher order equations of the form

$$x^{(2k)} + \sum_{j=1}^{2k-1} a_j x^{(2k-j)} + g(x) + f(x) x' = f(t)$$

is treated in A[29] using the Schauder fixed point theorem and a corresponding vector equation is studied in A[26] (with J. Mawhin) via the coincidence degree. In the case of partial differential equations the resonance problem at the first eigenvalue

$$-\Delta u - \lambda_1 u + g(u) = f(x), \quad x \in \Omega,$$
$$u(x) = 0, \quad x \in \partial \Omega$$

is considered in A[36] provided g is superlinear, continuous and nondecreasing, by the alternative method combined with the theory of monotone operators.

Even the short description given above reveals that each Fučík's paper contains significant new results and contributes to this field of nonlinear functional analysis and differential equations by opening new prospects of research as well as by improving substantially former results. However, this is only one face of Fučík's basic contribution to this domain of mathematics. His personality and activity influenced considerably the work of the group of Prague mathematicians oriented in this direction and tens of mathematicians have continued his work, developing further his ideas and results.

In a number of survey papers (B[9], B[11], B[12]) based on lectures at various conferences, and especially D[5] which can be considered his scientific testament and whose final version was completed by Fučík in the hospital, he gave a beautiful account of the state of art in this field. He also listed many open problems, most of which have remained still unsolved, and traced in this way the main stream of research of the last years in the study of nonlinear problems at resonance. There is no doubt that Fučík's work will continue for a long time to be the best guide for everybody interested in the important unsolved problems in this area.

In his extensive and many-sided educational work Professor Fučík manifested his unceasing activity which had its source in his deep knowledge, in his oustanding teaching qualities and, last but not least, his organizing abilities. In the last period of his life Professor Fučík took an active part in all stages of education of students in mathematical analysis. By comparing the chronological course given by the list of Fučík's publications with his work as a teacher, we find out a remarkable unity of both scientific and educational work in all their aspects: optional lectures or seminars for graduated students transformed gradually into advanced research seminars, the whole process being permeated by the sense for team work which he always stimulated.

Both his extensive scientific and educational work was appreciated and awarded by the Faculty, The Society of Czechoslovak Mathematicians and Physicists, and in 1979 by the bestowal of the Prize of the Minister of Education.

The life work left to us by Svatopluk Fučík is unique and extraordinary. Even a brief account of his activity, compared with the short time granted to him by Nature, confirms the prominence of his personality. Everyone who met him knew his love for Mathematics, his devotion to his work and students. His students remember his high demands and exactness but, on the other hand, his understanding and tact. We all remember his frankness, his individual humour that helped to overcome many difficulties and to reach successful results. We cannot end the account of Fučík's career without emphasizing that, since 1973, he did know that his time is strictly limited. His reaction was the tremendous mathematical activity just described as well as a thirst for human contacts, revealed in particular by the number of joint papers he contributed and the number of meetings he attended.

During his life time Fučík delivered many beautiful lectures, by his life he gave us an unforgettable lesson. And everything was done in all sinylicity! His death is a severe loss for Mathematics and for the University which we realize at present but which we shall feel even more seriously in the future.

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