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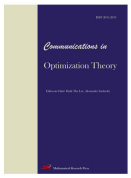

PREFACE
A SPECIAL ISSUE ON NONLINEAR ANALYSIS AND OPTIMIZATION DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR RAM U. VERMA

Ram U. Verma was an American mathematician who made numerous contributions to Nonlinear Analysis and Optimization. He is an author of 3 books and more than 580 research papers. In addition to his intensive research activity, Professor Verma contributed to our scientific community by establishing and handling a number of research journals in the area of Nonlinear Analysis. During the last several years he organized special sessions in the Annual Meetings of the AMS which attracted many researchers.

In this special issue we present papers authored by a selected group of experts in the areas of optimization and nonlinear analysis. Most of the papers collected here have been contributed by colleagues of Ram Verma, who were influenced by his scientific work. The special issue contains ten papers contributed by researchers from China, Greece, India, Israel, Poland, Taiwan, and the USA.

These papers cover a wide spectrum of important problems and topics of current research interest.

Therefore, we feel that this special issue will be highly important for many mathematicians, who are interested in recent developments in Optimization and Nonlinear Analysis, as well as in their numerous applications.

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