



PREFACE

A SPECIAL ISSUE ON OPTIMIZATION, CONTROL AND NUMERICAL ANALYSIS, DEDICATED TO PROFESSOR ELIJAH LUCIEN POLAK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Elijah Polak is an outstanding American mathematician who was born in 1931, Bialystok, Poland. He received the B.S. degree in EE from the University of Melbourne, Australia, 1957, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in EE from the UC Berkeley, 1959 and 1961, respectively. Since 1961, he has been on the faculty of UC Berkeley, where he is, at present, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, as well as Professor in the Graduate School. Professor Polak is the author or co-author of over 200 papers, as well as four books. He had 22 PhD students. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1968 - 1969 at the Institut Blaise Pascal in Paris, France, and a United Kingdom Science Research Council Senior Postdoctoral Fellow at Imperial College, London, England, in 1972, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1985, 1988, and 1990. He is a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), a member of the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and a member of the Mathematical Programming Society.

In this special issue we present papers authored by a selected group of experts in the areas of Optimization, Control and Numerical Analysis. Most of the papers collected here have been contributed by former students, collaborators, friends and colleagues of Elijah Polak, who were influenced by his scientific work. The special issue contains ten papers contributed by researchers from Australia, Canada, China, France, Hong Kong, Israel and Vietnam. 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, Control and Numerical Analysis as well as in its numerous applications.

Liqun Qi
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
E-mail address: maqilq@polyu.edu.hk

Alexander Zaslavski
Technion–Israel Institute of Technology, Israel
E-mail address: ajzasl@technion.ac.il

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