

PREFACE

It is our great honor and pleasure to guest edit this special issue for Journal of Nonlinear and Variational Analysis dedicated to Professor Franco Giannessi on the occasion of his 90th birthday. This issue, which consists of two parts (Issue 4 and Issue 5, Volume 9), includes seventeen papers.

Professor Franco Giannessi obtained his PhD degree in Applied Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics of the University of Pisa, Italy on 1967 and he has been a Full Professor of Theory and Methods of Optimization since 1968 to 2009. Starting from 2009, he has been nominated as a Research Professor of Theory and Methods of Optimization at the same Department.

Professor Giannessi has been members of several committees of the Italian Ministry for University and of the Italian National Research Council. He has been served as Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications and editorial board members of numerous international journals. He was also served as member of the scientific councils of several Italian research institutions in applied mathematics and computer science. He is also one of the founders of University of Calabria at Reggio Calabria.

Since 1978, Professor Giannessi has been the Director of the International School of Mathematics "G. Stampacchia" of the "E. Majorana" Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture in Erice, Sicily. Professor Giannessi is also an Honour Professor (Ordine del Cherubino) of the University of Pisa since 1992 and won the Anassilaos 2000 prize for Mathematics patronized by the President of Italian Republic and by the President of Italian National Research Council. Professor Giannessi delivered talks, under invitation, also as Visiting Professor, at Universities, Research Institutions, International Meetings in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, France, East and West Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Taiwan, U.S.A., Vietnam.

Professor Giannessi published more than 130 scientific papers, and editor or author of 23 books. Research achievements of Professor Giannessi include the following but not limited to: Discovery of Bad Convex Functions; Discovery of the Envelope of a Variational Inequality;

Introduction of the Image Space Analysis in Constrained Extremum Problems; Elasto-plastic Behaviour of Complex Structures; Design of Aircraft Wings; Vector Equilibria; Discrete and Continuous Mathematical Structures; Calculus of Variations.

Professor Franco Giannessi has also been a great mentor and educator having supervised more than 20 degree candidates and several PhD students. We sincerely wish Professor Franco Giannessi staying healthy and active many other years guiding us on academic road. Finally, we thank all the authors and reviewers for this special issue which will not be successful without their great contribution.

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