

IN MEMORIAM
Professor Dr. Jürgen Herzberger
(17.12.1940–22.11.2009)



The sad occasion of the premature death of dr Jürgen Herzberger, the Full Professor of the University of Oldenburg and a member of the Editorial Board of Novi Sad Journal of Mathematics, has motivated this short note, with the intention to remember some of the most important details of his life and work.

Professor Jürgen Herzberger was born on December 17, 1940 in Berlin and grew up in Munich. He received his diploma in Mathematics from the Technical University of Munich in 1966, where he spent one year as a teaching assistant. The following year he got a position of a researcher at the University of Karlsruhe with Professor Ulrich Kulisch as the supervisor of his Ph. D. thesis. His primary field of investigation was interval mathematics, which Professor Kulisch was developing and promoted at the time. Herzberger obtained his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics in 1968 with the dissertation entitled "*Metric properties of set systems and some applications.*" From 1974 to 1975, he spent a sabbatical year at the University of California, Berkeley, California. In 1975 he took the chair at the Technical University of Karlsruhe as a Research Councilor and Professor. In the same year he received full professorship at the University of Oldenburg and held this position until his retirement in March 2009. Professor J. Herzberger died in Oldenburg on November 22nd, 2009 of an insidious disease, which attacked him shortly after his retirement.

Professor Herzberger devoted his scientific work to the field of computational and applied mathematics, particularly to interval numerical computation in linear algebra problems and, in recent years, to the problems of mathematics of finance. Until shortly before his death, he was very active in the field of his work, where he made many important contributions that were published in eminent scientific journals. He enjoyed the highest reputation among colleagues

at home and abroad. He is the co-author, together with Professor Götz Alefeld, of a prestigious book on interval numerical analysis "*Introduction to Interval Computation.*" This book was a revised and expanded version of the original German text "*Einführung in die Intervallrechnung* (Bibliographisches Institut AG, Mannheim 1974). The English translation, launched in 1983 by Academic Press, has been cited up to now more than 2000 times. Professor Herzberger also published many text books for the courses he held during his carrier.

Professor Herzberger put a lot of effort in organizing a number of scientific meetings with international participation at the University of Oldenburg and other places, where many valuable results on numerical and interval mathematics were presented and subsequently published in the conference proceedings. The thematic books and proceedings of the conferences held in 1991, 1993, 1995, 2000 and 2003 are of particular scientific importance.

Our personal acquaintance with Professor Jürgen Herzberger dates from the GAMM Conference, held in 1985 in Dubrovnik, although we have known of him years before, through his work in the field of interval mathematics. A substantial advance in our communication was made after he attended the International Symposium on Numerical Methods and Approximation Theory, held at the University of Niš in 1987. Soon afterwards we got his invitation to spend a summer semester of 1989 at the Department of Mathematics of the University of Oldenburg as visiting professors under the grant of DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). This visit resulted in several joint papers, published in the journals as Computing, Applied Numerical Mathematics and ZAMM. Our collaboration continued all the subsequent years through our participation at all the meetings that he organized as well our several visits to the University of Oldenburg in the capacity of visiting scientists funded by DAAD. In the course of time our scientific collaboration developed into a nice friendship.

Jürgen Herzberger was filled with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, he was interested in many fields, virtually encyclopedic educated. In particular, he was a passionate photographer. As a person he was modest, with a refined sense of humor and self-irony. Behind the grumpy appearance, he was an essentially very good and kind person, willing to help. On the other hand, he could be intolerant to laziness, stupidity, narrow-mindedness and similar human flaws. J. Herzberger also had his little eccentricities, like not accepting new technologies. He stubbornly resisted the use of computers and e-mail for communication so we were in contact by letters or by phone.

Jürgen will be missed in particular by those who knew him personally. He left behind him a considerable contribution in mathematics, but also what he treasured most - his dear daughter Alexandra.

*Ljiljana Petković, Miodrag Petković
University of Niš, Serbia*