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EDITORIAL

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Preface for the special edition of optimization methods and software

It is with deep respect and admiration that we present this special edition of Optimization Methods and Software in honour of our esteemed colleague and former Editor-in-Chief, Oleg Burdakov, who passed away on June 1, 2021. Oleg's profound impact on the field of optimization and his exceptional leadership have left an indelible mark on our community.

Oleg dedicated a significant portion of his life to the advancement of this journal. His exceptional knowledge of optimization and his remarkable human qualities fostered a cohesive and highly engaged group of associate editors, transforming Optimization Methods and Software into a leading reference in the field. His collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to excellence ensured that the journal not only thrived but also set high standards for scientific rigour and innovation.

Throughout his career, Oleg made numerous important contributions to the domain of optimization, considering a wide variety of different problems. Notably, his work on optimization methods showcased his deep understanding and innovative approach in solving complex problems. Additionally, his research on dense initializations for limited-memory quasi-Newton methods demonstrated his ability to push the boundaries of computational optimization, enhancing efficiency in solving large-scale nonlinear problems.

In the last decade, Oleg worked with several colleagues on adaptations of optimization algorithms to various classes of applications. A good example is the article 'Length-constrained cycle partition with an application to UAV routing'. While this is a strictly discrete optimization problem, Oleg continued to work on large-scale continuous optimization, especially subspace decompositions and cylindrical-shaped trust regions in combination with limited-memory quasi-Newton methods. Until the very end, he was very excited about his work on variations of the Barzilai-Borwein method. Oleg won the International Implementation Challenge in Solving Steiner Tree Problems organized in 2014 by the US Centre for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science (DIMACS). He also won the Society for Mathematical Psychology award for the most outstanding paper published in the Journal of Mathematical Psychology in 2016–2019.

Beyond his professional achievements, Oleg was known for his ability to cultivate strong, lasting friendships and mentor many within our community. His kindness, generosity, and genuine interest in others created an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect that extended far beyond academic pursuits.

Oleg ensured that the journal would continue to flourish by entrusting it to capable hands, thereby preserving and enhancing the legacy of excellence he established. We are grateful to his successors, who continue to uphold the high standards he set and build upon his achievements.

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In dedicating this edition to Oleg Burdakov, we honour his memory and celebrate his extraordinary contributions to the field of optimization. His legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of researchers and practitioners.

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