# Chapter Highlights

Charles University in Prague Chapter of SIAM

June 18, 2013

#### SIAM SC Seminar

In the academic year 2012/2013 our Chapter held many events for students. Among them, there is one important activity of our Chapter that spans the whole academic year. It is a student seminar which is held in two-weeks interval. Although there are many seminars at our faculty, we managed to find our place and slowly attract more people from different departments either as speakers or attendees. The reason behind it is the format of talks that differs from other seminars. In comparison with the year 2011/2012 we decided to open the seminar to both graduate and undergraduate students. This led to the change of the seminar name - *SIAM SC seminar* instead of *Ph.D. seminar*.

Since the seminar is mainly for students, we require of a speaker the clarity of their talk and educational approach rather than list of their latest achievements. It is not that we discourage them from presenting their latest discoveries, however, we prefer the introduction in the problem and the help to get an insight. Since there are people from different fields it is more beneficial to concentrate on a big picture and important ideas rather than a particular result. So far this approach has been appreciated by all participants.

At the end of every talk there is a time for filling in an exam sheet. Usually, the exam sheet is brought by the speaker and it contains questions about their talk. It is very interesting to see whether people in the audience got the ideas from the talk and are able to answer all questions. Moreover, the speaker



is given a form with overall evaluation of their talk. Thus, the speaker knows what quality their presentation was and how to improve it.

Because of the evaluation of speaker's skills, some students come to our seminar to rehearse their talk before a conference or a thesis defence. In particular, the very last seminar in this academic year featured three such events, during which students rehearsed their thesis defence. The list of all talks from the academic year 2012/2013 is below.

- Marek Netušil 1D model of Fluid-tube Interaction
- Pavel Klavík Graphs Drawing and the Visualization of Data
- · Jan Kuřátko Falsification of Hybrid Dynamical Systems
- Martin Pilát Evolutionary Algorithms for Continuous Optimization
- Ivan Soukup Weak Solutions for a Class of Nonlinear Integrodifferential Equations
- Václav Kučera Discontinuous Galerkin Method for Solving PDEs
- Petr Petráček Good, Bad and Ugly Functions
- Peter Franek Introduction to the Computational Topology
- Tomáš Gergelits Under the Hood of Conjugate Gradients
- Karel Vostruha Counterexamples in PDEs
- Stefan Ratschan Toward the Automatized Mathematician
- Vít Orava, Tomáš Zajíc, Jan Hodic rehearsals for thesis defence

## Excursion to the car factory ŠKODA AUTO

In order to promote our Chapter and increase the awareness of its activities among students, we decided to hold an event that would attract a wide range of participants. Thanks to financial support from the Academic Senate of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics we were able to pay for the bus transport from Prague to Mladá Boleslav (approximately 50 km far from Prague) and organise the excursion to the leading car producer in the Czech Republic ŠKODA AUTO on November 8th.

During the excursion participants visited the provisional museum (the building of the museum was being reconstructed) with an incredible exhibition of cars produced in one-hundred-year history of the company. Afterwards participants were allowed to entry one part of ŠKODA AUTO factory and examine the assembly line for gear units, engines and



hydraulic-press lines. The size of the factory hall and the machinery really impressed everybody. In the meantime the guides informed us about the average daily production, material and energy consumption, salaries of workers, etc.

The excursion, which is not allowed for individual visitors, attracted 51 participants (13 females, 3 University staff), both undergraduate and graduate students of mathematics, physics and computer science. We believe that they were all really excited. The photograph of participants is attached.



## Meeting with alumni - From the Diary of a Professional Cryptologist



Resuming the series of meetings with Alumni of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, we organised the lecture of Tomáš Rosa on November 15th. Presently, Tomáš Rosa works as a senior cryptologist in Raiffeisenbank. The lecture titled "From the Diary of a Professional Cryptologist" attracted many students from various departments. We do not exaggerate by using the word "many" because one of the largest lecture theatres at our faculty was almost full of students.

The talk itself was very entertaining and yet interesting. Tomáš Rosa did not give us a technical hard-to-understand presentation from the field of cryptology. The central theme of his talk was the daily life of a cryptologist and difficulties one en-

counters while working with people who do not know anything about security, but who need it in their work or private activities (such as electronic banking). Tomáš Rosa was very kind and showed us several flaws in security of mobile devices. He also demonstrated why it is difficult to develop a reliable application for managing your bank account which you can use in your smart phone. He illustrated all his points on a prepared application so we could see, e.g., how the "hacking" of a mobile phone works.

The lecture finished late in the afternoon. Still, nobody was sleepy.



#### Excursion to a nuclear reactor



Charles University in Prague Chapter of SIAM organised an excursion to a nuclear reactor for students and members of the Chapter. The reactor is located in one building of our faculty and it is mainly used for training students from other universities. The event took place on April 16th and attracted more than twenty people. The majority of the people attending the excursion were undergraduate students, however, there were also graduate students and Josef Málek, the advisor of the Chapter.

During the excursion we have learned a lot about nuclear energy, fission reaction, radiation and safety procedures in nuclear power-plants. It was very interesting to learn how very strict limits for everything there were. In our opinion, the most exciting part was when we got to the nuclear reactor

and could see what was inside. The construction of the academic nuclear reactor is special. It is open on the top which allows anyone to have a look inside and observe the fission reaction. Of course there is nothing to see except the uranium rods, control rods and plenty of special water, which shields us from radiation and serves as a coolant. The only visible sign indicating the fission reaction was on, was a digital display showing the amount of generated energy. We were also allowed to enter the control room and study the process of control of the nuclear reactor. The staff explained the whole process to us and demonstrated the stopping of the fission reaction by pushing down the control rods. Unfortunately, they were not allowed to show us any emergency stopping of the fission reaction.

We think this event was a great success. We were told by attendants how good it was compared to other trips to nuclear power-plants, where you are only allowed to visit a conference room. At the end, Josef Málek pointed out that he had been there for the first time even though he had worked at the University for so many years.

### Posters





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Přijďte si Marcelu Vitkovou poslechnout a sami se zeptejte na to, co vás zajímá!

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