

主题: Remembering Professor Wu

I met Professor Wu at ISSAC in 2005, where he gave a plenary talk on symbolic computation methods in optimization (bilevel optimization, if I recall correctly e.g. max-min problems). His talk was at 14:00 (2 PM), right after a lunch where beer was served, and I was afraid I might fall asleep. There was nothing to fear-- his talk kept me fully alert. I was amazed that someone then in his late 80's could maintain such command of a the several subjects that came into play in his talk.

He began a line of research, into the theory and computation of characteristic sets, late in his career, and it blossomed into a very powerful tool in several areas of symbolic computation. This gives a sense of the importance of his contributions. I am glad he lived to see several of his students, and many of their students, carry forward the work his discoveries helped to enable.

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