



Personal Recollections of Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt

Ilias S. Kotsireas

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I first met Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt (on several occasions) during ACA conferences in the late nineties and early 2000s. He immediately made a lasting impression on me, with his friendly and welcoming attitude and smiling face. I feel that, in large part, I owe my subsequent involvement at ACA conferences to him, along with other colleagues. He made people (and particularly students and young researchers) feel at ease, through interesting and very enjoyable conversations. While he was an internationally recognized scholar, he knew how to not impose, and instead, he knew how to create an inclusive environment for all participants.

I first collaborated, in some official role, with Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt in the context of the CASC 2005 conference that I co-organized during September 12–16, 2005 in Kalamata, Greece. I was one of the three conference chairs and also served as the conference treasurer. He handed me a list of FSU¹ participants, whose travel and local expenses had to be reimbursed from the conference budget. I made sure that this was the case, partly due to the generous sponsorships we had received from the Kalamata Municipality, and the Region of Messinia.

Ten years later Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt would participate at the ACA 2015 conference that I organized during July 20–24, 2015 in Kalamata, Greece. He was the lead organizer of the first session, entitled “Computer algebra in quantum computing and quantum information theory”. The session was received very well and he was instrumental into bringing together researchers from the quantum and the computer algebra worlds. He realized that there are a lot of interesting problems in the realm of quantum science, that can be tackled effectively with computer algebra methods.

Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt was one of the main invitees during the inauguration of the SMS² in Nanning, Guangxi province in China, see also the memory note by Dongming Wang.

I met Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt for the last time in July 2019 at the SMS in Nanning. I attended his talk, see Fig. 1, which was very well received by Faculty and Students alike. Figure 2 shows Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt giving another presentation in Nanning on another occasion.

I. S. Kotsireas (✉)
CARGO Lab, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada
e-mail: ikotsire@wlu.ca

¹ Former Soviet Union.

² Scientist Mobility Station.

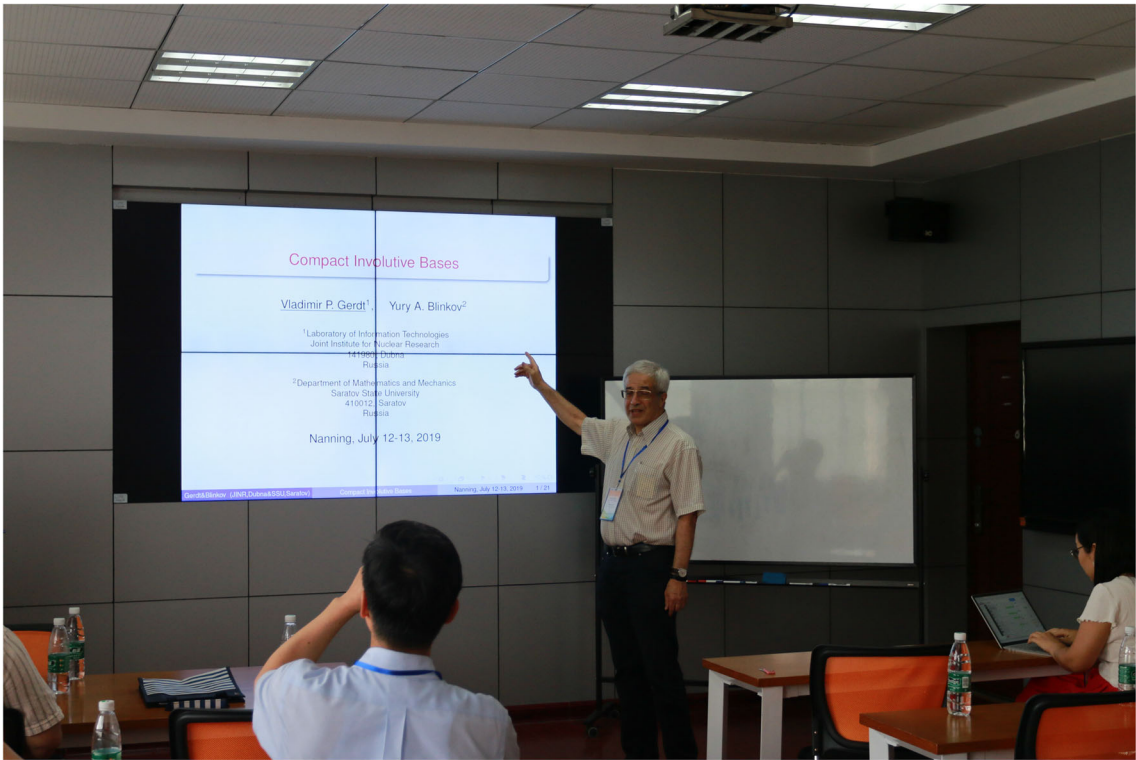


Fig. 1 ISSE 2019, Nanning, P. R. China

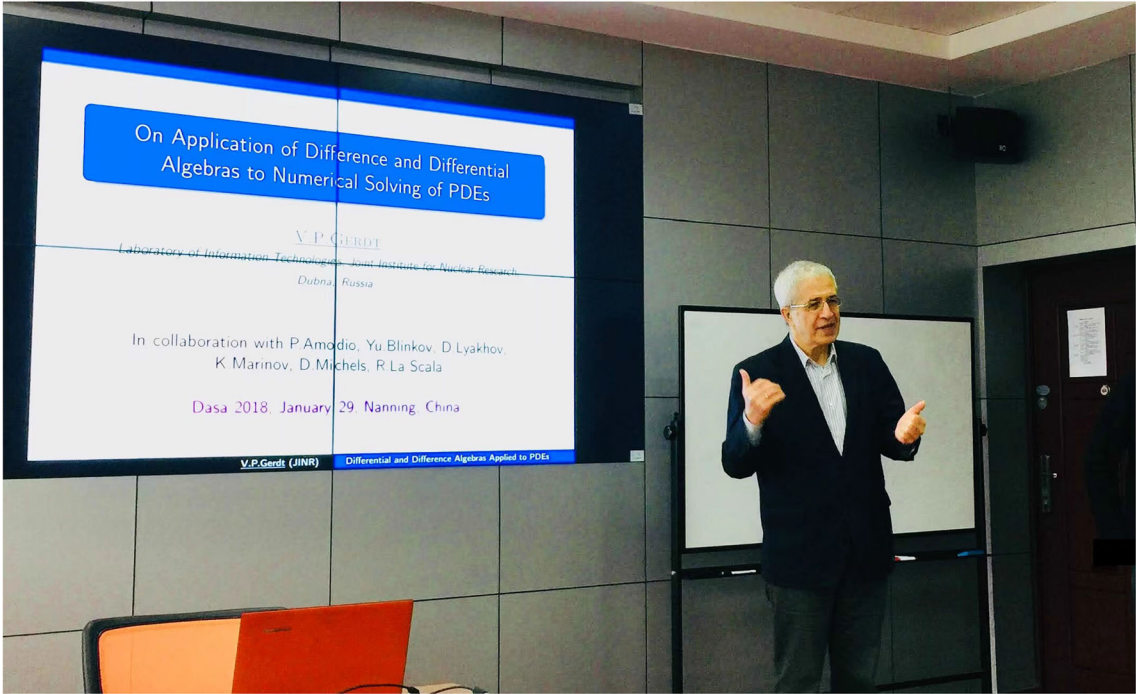


Fig. 2 DASA 2018, Nanning, P. R. China

Prof. Vladimir P. Gerdt will remain in my thoughts for the rest of my life and I feel that the Computer Algebra and Symbolic Computation community lost one of its very important members.

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