

I had the opportunity to follow two courses of Jindřich Nečas and I can still remember the first lecture of his course on nonlinear elliptic problems in the academic year 1979/1980. This was a period of planned economy and we had to fulfil so called five-year-plans which often had to be corrected. Jindřich Nečas started his talk with an outline of all the course (consisting of many points) and then he immediately mentioned that the outline would probably be like a plan which means that it would not be fulfilled . . . . Having said so he started to develop an entire theory of ill-posedness of planning and he continued smoothly with interesting observations and facts about the theory of cognition, Mao Tse Tung, Stalin, philosophy, philosophers and their relation to mathematicians (“philosophers consider notions which are not well defined; they often discuss tautologies but they are not aware of it . . . ”). After this entrée, J. Nečas started to present beautiful mathematics and he soon moved the young audience to enthusiasm. His abilities to forget about real life problems and to enjoy the beauty of mathematics were very infectious indeed and I would like to thank him once again for this infection.

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