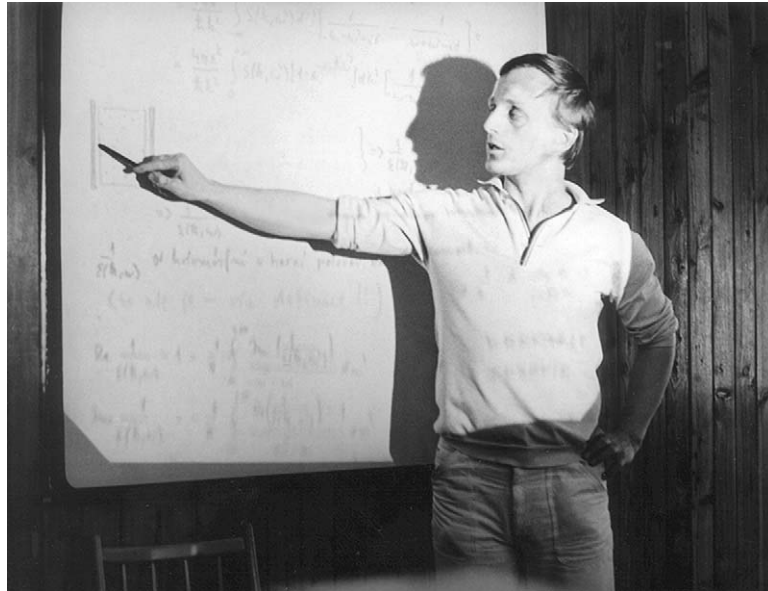


In memoriam: Vladislav Čápek (1943–2002)



Professor Vladislav Čápek, called Vlád'a by his numerous colleagues and friends, was born on January 7, 1943, in Prague. He graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in 1965. He received his Ph.D. in 1971 from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Soon after he finished his Ph.D. he joined V. L. Bonch-Bruевич for a post-doctoral stay at Moscow State University. After he returned from Moscow, he continued his work at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. He became full-professor of theoretical physics in 1994. Till his death, he worked there as head of the theoretical group of the Institute of Physics of Charles University.

Vlád'a was an excellent scientist as well as a teacher. He worked at many universities and institutes, e.g. he was guest professor at Humboldt University in Berlin, University of Stuttgart and University of Vienna. He was a regular visitor of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

Vlád'a worked in many areas of condensed matter physics. During his Ph.D. studies he worked with B. Velický and made important contributions to the theory of the Coherent Potential Approximation. In Moscow, he started his work on transport properties of amorphous semiconductors. Later on, he also dealt with the microscopic theory of magnetic semiconductors. His main scientific interests over many years were, however, mathematically rigorous methods of the quantum theory of open systems, non-equilibrium statistical physics, and theory of kinetic phenomena. He was author or co-author of over 170 published original papers in international scientific journals, a series of review papers, and co-author of five monographs. His last two papers were published *post mortem* in 2003. A monograph on Challenges to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which he wrote together with Daniel Sheehan, was published in 2005.

Vlád'a was very much involved in quantum thermodynamics during the last years of his life. In 2002, Vlád'a was one of the principal organizers of The First International Conference on Quantum Limits to the Second Law (August, 2002) in San Diego. Even though he was very seriously ill at that time, he still had the courage to participate at this conference. A week after he returned to Prague from San Diego, he went to

the hospital. Even in the hospital, he thought about the idea to organize in Prague a conference on quantum thermodynamics, as a sequel of the San Diego conference. Vlád'a died on October 28, 2002.

Vlád'a's effort to understand many problems of quantum thermodynamics and statistical physics essentially contributed to the existence of the FQMT'04 conference. It was really a pleasure for us to see Vlád'a's dream of organizing the conference about quantum thermodynamics in Prague to come true as the FQMT'04 conference. A special session on quantum thermodynamics was held to honour the memory of Vladislav Čápek on Monday afternoon (July 26, 2004) in the Wallenstein Palace within the FQMT'04 conference.

Vlád'a, as a teacher and a scientist, influenced many students and colleagues by his enthusiasm and devotion to science. He was known for his open-mindedness and courage to ask provoking deep questions about established theories. But Vlád'a was not only a scientist and a teacher. He was also a very good piano player. Many of his colleagues and friends knew about Vlád'a's love of history, art and music and will remember long and fascinating conversations with Vlád'a about those subjects. Vlád'a will remain in our memories as a scientist, a teacher and, above all, a friend and a good man.

Theo M. Nieuwenhuizen, Peter D. Keefe, Václav Špička