

**Volume 30 (2023), Numbers 2, 3 & 4,
are dedicated to Roger J-B Wets
on the occasion of his 85th birthday.**

Distinguished Research Professor Roger J-B Wets, Department of Mathematics, University of California at Davis, has played a leading role in stochastic optimization, variational analysis, and statistics. His contributions include a fundamental result about convergence and distances between convex cones as well as between their polars and the first results on uniform approximations of sets and the convergence of measurable selections (both with G. Salinetti). He developed an Arzelà-Ascoli theorem for set-valued mappings (with A. Bagh), and a quantitative theory for epi-convergence (with H. Attouch). In fact, Professor Wets coined the term “epi-convergence” in 1980, which is now accepted as the “right” notion for approximating minimization problems; it ensures the convergence of optimal solutions and optimal values under the mildest possible assumptions. His strong law of large numbers (developed with H. Attouch, Z. Artstein, and L. Korf) gave a versatile consistency theory for M-estimators. Professor Wets has had a strong interest in computational methods as well. With R. van Slyke, he developed the L-shaped method for two-stage stochastic optimization problems. He developed the progressive hedging algorithm for multi-stage stochastic programs (with R. T. Rockafellar). He introduced the term nonanticipativity constraints in multi-stage stochastic optimization problems to describe the constraints that enforce the necessity of making decisions based only on the information available at the time of the decision. This breakthrough led to two papers (with R. T. Rockafellar) that established duality theory for stochastic programs and fundamental insight about the price of information. Many of Professor Wets’ contributions are summarized and expanded in the seminal treatise entitled *Variational Analysis* (with Rockafellar in 1998). In 2021, he published (with J. O. Royset) the textbook *An Optimization Primer*. Professor Wets’ influence on the field of stochastic optimization has been nothing less than seminal; and with a new interest in stochastic optimization during this age of machine learning and data science, the impact of the foundational concepts he established will only cement his pivotal role as a trailblazer.

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