

PREFACE
A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JIN MA ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY



This special volume is dedicated to Professor Jin Ma for his 65th Birthday. As his former students, his collaborators, his colleagues, and his good friends, we have the luck to have benefitted tremendously in our professional developments and we have greatly enjoyed his friendship. It is our privilege to organize this special volume to celebrate Jin's birthday as well as his academic achievements. All the papers are from Jin's close collaborators and/or good friends, and we would like to thank all the authors for their support.

Jin Ma was born in 1956 in Shanghai, China. Due to the cultural revolution, he went to a factory after finishing high school. Jin passed the college entrance exam in 1977, the first one after the cultural revolution and he entered the Mathematics Department of Fudan University. He continued graduate study there under the supervision of Xunjing Li. In 1987, Jin Ma moved to the United States, and obtained his PhD degree under the supervision of Naresh Jain from the University of Minnesota in 1992. Jin was a faculty member at Purdue University from 1992 to 2007, where he enjoyed greatly the mentorship from Philip Protter in his early career. He joined the University of Southern California in 2007 and has been a professor there since then.

Jin Ma has been best known for his four step scheme for Forward Backward Stochastic Differential Equations, created jointly with Philip Protter and Jiongmin Yong. Together with his coauthors, Jin has studied systematically the theory, applications, and numerical methods for FBSDEs, as well as BSDEs. He has made

fundamental contributions for the development of this important field. His Springer book on FBSDEs, joint with Jiongmin Yong, has been a classic in the field.

Jin Ma has also made important contributions on stochastic analysis, in particular stochastic PDEs and backward stochastic PDEs, stochastic controls, and mathematical finance and insurance. He has served on six editorial boards in these fields and has been a committee member for numerous conferences. Jin has been in charge of the mathematical finance master program at Purdue and USC. Remarkably to date he has supervised a total of 26 PhD students. We wish Jin a Happy Birthday. We join our colleagues in looking forward to reading his future original research. We thank him for his service to the professional community, in particular his help and inspiration to junior people.

Finally, we would like to thank the journal NACO and all the reviewers for their support which made this special volume possible.

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