



Olli Tammi

* 24.12.1924 † 22.11.2022

Olli Tammi was born on 24 December 1924 in Helsinki and died on 22 November 2022 in Kauniainen at almost 98 years of age. He was Professor of Mathematics at the University of Helsinki from 1970 to 1992. He became a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in 1973.

Tammi's research in mathematics was related to the classic Finnish school of complex analysis. In 1952, he defended his doctoral thesis entitled *On the Minimalization of the Coefficients of Schlicht Functions*. His thesis advisor was Rolf Nevanlinna. The field of geometric function theory, particularly extremum problems concerning the coefficients of univalent functions, remained the main topic of Tammi's research throughout his career. The most famous hypothesis in the field, the Bieberbach conjecture, was proved by the American mathematician Louis de Branges in 1984. Tammi (and his then-students) focused on a more general problem, determining the ranges of multiple coefficients instead of the extremums of single coefficients. The last works on this topic Tammi published when he was already well past retirement age. Key research methods in this field have been the variational methods developed by Menahem Schiffer, and the equation by Charles Loewner. They both worked at Stanford University, where

Tammi and his family made several research visits. The Loewner equation, in particular, was also a key tool in the doctoral theses of both of the authors of this obituary. In addition to theoretical proofs, Olli Tammi would often verify and demonstrate results numerically and graphically – he used a programmable HP calculator already back in the 1970s. The graphical studies of the solutions to Loewner's equations also initiated us, later on, to move to study applied mathematics and numerical methods.

In addition to his own field, Tammi was particularly interested in descriptive geometry in his teaching. In this context, he was interested in stereo photography. He even obtained a camera for stereo photography, which he used to take numerous black-and-white travel photographs. He was also the first to photograph the flight of the Sputnik 1 satellite over Finland – the photo was published in the newspaper *Maakansa* on 17 October 1957.

We remember Olli as a good-humoured and calm advisor. As a researcher, he would provide clear reasons for his arguments and was always ready to listen the ideas of other people.

Olli Jokinen and Heikki Haario

Photo: Helsinki University Museum