

M I S C E L L A N E A

– List of Mathematicians and Computer Scientists of Romanian extraction residing outside Romania

– Obituary: George Isac (1940–2009)

– Ion Plăciñteanu (1893–1960): In memoriam

– Doctoral Degrees Obtained Abroad by Romanian Students (2008–2009)

– Award: Sorin Popa

– From the bookshelves

– Authors of volume XXX

– Our octogenarian honorees (2010)

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MATHEMATICIANS AND COMPUTER SCIENTISTS OF ROMANIAN EXTRACTION RESIDING OUTSIDE ROMANIA

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OBITUARY

George Isac (1940–2009)

IN MEMORIAM

George Isac was born in the town of Filipești, on April 1, 1940. He attended the University of Bucharest, getting his Diploma in Mathematics from the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics in 1963. He obtained his Ph. D. in Mathematics from the Romanian Academy in 1973 and occupied several teaching and research positions in Bucharest, during the period 1963-1974 (Assistant and Assistant Professor with the University of Bucharest, as well as that of Mathematician specialist, with the Computer Center of that university). During the period 1974-1977, he was Chairman and Professor at the Department of Mathematics with the National University of Zaire. Next positions were: University of Sherbrooke, Royal Military College of Saint-Jean, and since 1994 he was a Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario. Then, Distinguished Professor.

During his outstanding career in higher educational institutions, George Isac has taught a large variety of courses, with special regard to Linear Algebra and Calculus (all levels), and Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems, Optimization Theory, Mathematical Optimization, Numerical Analysis, Functional Analysis and Complex Analysis.

The research interests of George Isac also embrace a wide range of topics, with main contributions in Nonlinear Analysis, Convexity, Optimization, Complementarity Theory, Bifurcation Theory, Optimal Control, Dynamical systems, Numerical Methods, Nonlinear Analyses in Cones, Stochastic Processes and other.

George Isac has been a Visiting Professor, for short periods of time, lecturing in the Colloquium Programs or invited speaker in different Departments of Mathematics, Institutes of Mathematics with the Academies, in 20 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

The list of publications of George Isac contains over 200 entries, including 15 books in such Publishing Co. like Springer, Kluwer, Birkhauser, World Scientific, Romanian Academy Press a.o. Some titles of the books he authored or co-authored will be listed at the end of this obituary.

George Isac is known also as a poet, with several books written in Romanian, and appeared in publishing houses from Braila and Constantza (Romania). One title of a book he has published in 1999, at ENOS, Braila, is "Calator spre Infinit" (in English, "Traveler to Infinity"). In the Preface to this book, there is a moving testimony of the author, about his own life: "In these pages we are trying to present to the reader a few reflections of a simple man, who became a mathematician, after a long and painful struggle with his profound

dream to be a poet." The poems included in this volume are showing his formation as a mathematician.

Professor Gheorghe Lupascu, a member of the Union of Writers of Romania, has called George Isac "A poet of universal nostalgies". We quote here, in English translation, but not in verses, a short poem entitled "Decadence", with pessimistic and socially critical notes: "In this World where we live/ There are so much riches!/ But the soul of so many/ Is hiding so much poverty./ O, people thinking only money/ And in amassing riches/ Do you understand/ You are a victim of the Century's disease?/ The poets, today, aren't born/ 'Cause they have nothing to sell/ Are you sensing how, on us/ The decadence wave is coming?/ Interesting and poetically reflected is the struggle of the poet with the "infinity".

Constantin Corduneanu, University of Texas at Arlington

Books authored or co-authored by George Isac (Selected)

1. G.Isac and Gh.Marinescu, *Analysis in Ultrametric Fields* (Romanian). Romanian Academy Press, Bucharest, 1976.
2. G.Isac, *Complementarity Problems*, Lecture Notes in Mathematics. No. 1528, Springer Verlag, 1992.
3. G.Isac and V.Postolica, *Best Approximation and Optimization in Locally Convex Spaces*. Verlag Peter Lang, Frankfurt/Main, 1993.
4. G.Isac, D.H.Hyers and Th.M.Rassias, *Topics in Nonlinear Analysis and Applications*. World Scientific, Singapore, 1997.
5. G.Isac, D.H.Hyers and Th.M.Rassias, *Stability of Functional Equations in Several Variables*. Birkhauser, Basel, 1998.
6. G.Isac, *Topological Methods in Complementarity Theory*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, 2000.
7. G.Isac, V.A.Bulavski and V.V.Kalashnikov, *Complementarity, Equilibrium, Efficiency and Economics*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, 2002.
8. G.Isac, *Leray-Schauder Type Alternatives: Complementarity Problems and Variational Inequalities*. Springer Verlag, 2006.
9. G.Isac and S.Z.Nemeth, *Scalar and Asymptotic Scalar Derivatives. Theory and Applications*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2008.

The following publication has been dedicated to George Isac:

Nonlinear Analysis and Variational Problems; In Honor of George Isac (Eds: P.M.Pardalos, Th.M.Rassias and Akhtar A.Khan). Springer, 2009.

Ion Placinteanu (1893–1960)

IN MEMORIAM

Ion Placinteanu, in some publications Ioan P., was a Professor of Physics and Theoretical Mechanics at the University of Iasi, from 1926, until 1945. Despite his outstanding academic records, he has been deprived of his position as Professor of Mechanics in 1945, when a process of "purification" has been imposed on the university by the political authorities of Romania.

After 1945 he did not return to Iasi, and held various temporary positions in Bucharest, among them that of Professor of Mathematics and Mechanics at the Military Academy of Bucharest. He has been arrested in 1959, without any reason related to his current activities, incarcerated at Gherla extermination prison, where he ended his life in 1960.

But who was Ion Placinteanu, in fact? He was born in the town of Dorohoi, in the North-Eastern province of Moldova, on February 2, 1893. He moved with his family in the city of Barlad, also in Moldova, where he obtained his secondary education, excepting the last year of studies when he moved to Iasi. He graduated in 1910 from the National Lyceum/College in Iasi, his name being listed on the honor roll of this institution, as the head of his class.

He went on to the University of Iasi as a Physics student and graduated just before the First World War became a reality. He has been enrolled in the Romanian Army and, as an officer with the rank of lieutenant, he took part at the campaign for the next four years. After the WWI, Placinteanu held some teaching positions and soon he went to Germany, at the University of Berlin first, and then at Goettingen. In Berlin he has taken courses with Einstein, at Goettingen with Max Born and Werner Heisenberg, the latter being also his thesis adviser.

It is worth mentioning the fact that his quality as a student of these renowned scientists is testified by the fact that his research publications appear in the Bibliography of each of those professors he had in Germany and with whom he cooperated. Moreover, his papers published while in Germany or after his return to the University of Iasi have been quoted by scientists from the USA, France and Germany (the internet easily provides these data). As a result of his remarkable success in Germany, Ion Placinteanu has been appointed in 1926, an Associate Professor at the Chair of Theoretical Optics from the Faculty of Science at the University of Iasi, simultaneously with that of Professor of Mathematical Physics. In 1935, Ion Placinteanu has become tenured Professor of Theoretical Mechanics at the Faculty of Science. He continued his research activities, publishes numerous papers mostly in authoritative scientific journals and several books that attract the attention of the academic world. It is significant the fact that an antiquary from Muenchen, and another from France, are listing Placinteanu's books in 2010 (also from internet).

It is a very sad story that several publications of the University of Iasi, covering its entire existence until 1985, do not make a single mention of the name or activity of Ion Placinteanu, while he was a student or a faculty member of this university. Of course, he is not alone in this category, and other distinguished faculty members of this university are missing from the "History of the University of Iasi" (four volumes, 1960-1986).

As a student at the University of Iasi, I had the chance to consult some books authored by Ion Placinteanu. They were in the library of the Seminar "A. Myller", but during that time (late 1940's or early 1950's), those books did not appear in the catalogue of the library (a sort of ban).

This memorial article is written in the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death.

Constantin Corduneanu, University of Texas at Arlington

DOCTORAL DEGREES OBTAINED ABROAD BY ROMANIAN STUDENTS (2008 – 2009)

1. Chifan, Ionuț, University of California, Los Angeles, Deformation spectral gap rigidity in von Neumann algebras.
2. Ivănescu, Andrada, Florida State University, Revealing sparse signals in functional data.
3. Beceanu, Marius, University of Chicago, A critical centre-stable manifold for the semilinear Schrödinger equation.
4. Popa, Ana-Maria, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, On completely bounded multipliers of the Fourier algebras $A(G)$.
5. Stan, Florin, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Trace problems in algebraic number fields and applications to characters of finite groups.
6. Cibotaru, Daniel, University of Notre Dame, Localization formulae in odd K -theory.
7. Drignei, Mihaela Cristina, Iowa State University, Inverse Sturm-Liouville problems using multiple spectra.
8. Chirilla, Costel, University of Kentucky, Empirical processes and ROC curves with an application to linear combinations of diagnostic tests.
9. Țugurlan, Maria Cristina, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Fast marking methods – Parallel implementation and analysis.
10. Horneț, Ștefan Laurențiu, Harvard University, A generalization of a theorem of Ravel and Wilson.
11. Tarniță, Corina Elena, Harvard University, Evolutionary dynamics in structured populations.
12. Constantin, Gabriel, Harvard University, Expressiveness and optimization under incentive compatibility constraints in dynamic auctions.
13. Goia, Irina, Columbia University, Bessel and volatility-stabilized processes.
14. Moșinca, Natalia, Columbia University, Probability on graphs and groups: Theory and applications.

15. Murgescu, Radu, Cornell University, On the p -class groups of the pure number field $Q(N^{1/p})$ an its Galois closure $Q(N^{1/p}, \zeta_p)$.

16. Palsu-Andriescu, Emanuel, University of Rochester, Fourier integral operators on Colombeau spaces.

17. Aramă, Dănuț, Carnegie Mellon University, On a variational approach for Stokes conjectures in water waves.

18. Luca, Diana, Carnegie Mellon University, Genetic matching by ancestry in genome-wide association studies.

19. Tudorașcu, Dana, University of Pittsburgh, Partial least squares on data with missing covariates: A comparison approach.

20. Stănculescu, Iuliana, University of Pittsburgh, Turbulence modeling as an ill-posed problem.

21 Rus, George, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Finite element methods for control singular stochastic processes.

Sorin Popa

Professor of Mathematics
University of California, Los Angeles
Recipient of the Ostrowski Prize, 2009

AWARD

Professor Sorin Popa has obtained his Ph. D. degree in Mathematics, in 1983, from the University of Bucharest. Early in his career, he solved three of the problems posed by R.V. Kadison in a famous paper published in 1967, entitled "List of Problems". He has remarkable contribution in the theory of Von Neuman Algebras, Ergodic theory, he gave an answer to a conjecture known as Stone-Weierstrass'. These successes have allowed him to occupy a professorial position at the UCLA in 1988. He continued his series of achievements in various fields of contemporary research, bringing seminal contributions to the theory of deformation rigidity, providing a series of powerful techniques for the study of rigidity phenomena. This approach allowed him to solve another problem from Kadison's list, and made connections with the celebrated results and methods used by A. Connes. "Popa's new research direction, completely revolutionized the part of Von Neumann algebra theory, closely related to ergodic theory" (Quoted from the presentation signed Elaine Kehoe).

Ostrowski's Prize is awarded by the "Ostrowski Foundation", created by the late Alexander Ostrowski, a well-known mathematician who for a long period of his life was a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Basel, Switzerland. He has left to the Foundation his entire estate, with the clause to serve as funding a prize for outstanding research results in Pure Mathematics and Foundations of Numerical Analysis. The jury members were Christian Berg, Joram Lindenstrauss, David Masser, Lex Schrijver and Cameron Stewart. Past recipients of the Ostrowski's Prize include Louis de Branges, Jean Bourgain, Andrew Wiles and Terence Tao.

The Romanian Colleagues of Sorin Popa, from Romania and the Diaspora, warmly congratulate him for his outstanding achievements in mathematical research.

FROM THE BOOKSHELVES

MASSOPUST PETER: *Interpolation and Approximation with Splines and Fractals*. Oxford University Press, New York, 2010, XV + 319.

Written by a distinguished contributor to the theory of interpolation and approximation of functions/processes, this textbook represents the content of a course the author has given at the Mathematical Centre of the Technical University of Muenchen. The book represents a modern approach to the field it is dedicated, and contributions of many pioneers is emphasized (Schoenberg, Karlin, Runge, Mandelbrot, Daubechies, Besicovitch a.o). The following chapters constitute the book: 1. The general interpolation and approximation problem 2. Splines 3. Interpolation in the n -dimensional space 4. Fractals 5. Fractal functions 6. Fractal surfaces 7. Superfractals 8. Superfractal functions. The rest of the volume is occupied by Bibliography, Nomenclature and Index. It is a very valuable addition to the existing literature on the subject and the exposition takes the reader to very recent topics as Besov or Triebel-Lizorkin spaces, as well as their use in the theory of splines and fractals. Fourier Analysis is also used consistently. In this framework, facts and results from different mathematical branches find adequate place. An example is the theorem of Schoenberg-Whitney concerning the invertibility of matrices, which certainly belongs to Linear Algebra. The reviewer is somewhat surprised that Lothar Collatz is missing from Bibliography. His book on the applications of Functional Analysis to the Theory of Approximation is certainly a cornerstone in Numerical Analysis and modern theory of approximation. This volume constitutes a valuable addition to the literature on its subject, and is highly recommended for students or researchers working in applied fields who need to refresh their tools with current ones.

C. Corduneanu

MARTYNYUK-TCHERNIENKO Ju.A.: *Uncertain Dynamical Systems: Stability and Control* (Russian), Phoenix, Kiev, 2009, XIV +304 pp.

The book is a monograph containing a systematic presentation of recent results in Stability Theory of nonlinear dynamical systems with uncertain parameters, using the method based on differential inequalities and the Lyapunov functions. The following chapters are giving a good idea about the contents: 1. Introduction 2. The Lyapunov's direct method 3. Stability analysis of uncertain control systems 4. Stability analysis of quasilinear uncertain systems 5. Stability analysis of large scale uncertain systems 6. Integral and parametric stability of uncertain systems 7. Stability analysis of solutions of impulsive systems 8. Stability of solutions of dynamic equations on variable time-scale 9. The role of uncertain differential equations in the analysis of the stability of uncertain systems 10. Qualitative analysis of the solutions of sets of differential equations. A. Applications. Comments and bibliographic indications. References. The references embrace a good deal of publications from

the world's existing literature, and represents also a valuable contribution of the Kiev's school of Differential Equations. The translation of this book in English is warranted which will considerably enlarge the circle of readers.

C. Corduneanu

XIAOJIE HOW, XIA LU, ALAIN MIRANVILLE, JIANZHONG SU and JIANPING ZHU (Eds.): *Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations and Applications*. American Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), Springfield, MO, 2009, X + 878 pp.

This volume contains 96 papers presented by the authors who participated in the International Conference on Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations and Applications, the Seventh of the AIMS, organized by the University of Texas at Arlington, from 18 to 21 of May, 2008. The Conference has been attended by 658 researchers from 70 countries, among them Dr. Souchuan Hu, the Director of AIMS, and many well known specialists in the field. The volume is containing only some selected contributions submitted by the participants, after a peer reviewing process. The spectrum of the content is very wide, and besides certain "theoretical" contributions, there are many regarding the applications of Dynamical Systems or Differential Equations (ODE, PDE, Discrete Processes) in various domains.

We notice the presence of Romanian authors in three of the papers selected for the proceedings volume. Alphabetically, these are: Lorena Bociu and Petronela Radu, Existence of weak solutions to the Cauchy problem of a semilinear wave equation; Ovidiu Carja and Alina Lazu, On the minimal timenull controllability of the heat equation; Dan Stanescu and Benito Chen-Charpentier, Random coefficient differential equation models for monod kinetics.

The volume is addressed primarily to researchers in the field of Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations and their applications.

WILFRED S. KENDALL and ILYA MOLCHANOV, (Eds.): *New perspectives in Stochastic Geometry*, Oxford University Press, 2010, 585 pp., ISBN 978-0-19-923257-4.

This book is a compendium of 17 articles by leading researchers in Stochastic Geometry. It offers a comprehensive up to date survey on the subject matter along with a perspective for future development accompanied by useful hints to the literature. It begins with a historical account dating back to the celebrated 1777 Buffon's needle problem followed by four distinct in flavor and content chapters. The book addresses various aspects of geometry and randomness ranging from classical probability in reference to geometric properties of events, underlying probability distributions over convex bodies, limit theorems (such as Laws of Large Numbers, Central Limit Theorems, Large deviations, etc.), to their extensions covering random sets and measures. Chapter I (*New development in Classical Stochastic Geometry*) deals with random polytopes, random Palm-type measures, limiting behavior for random sets and properties of tessellations. Chapter II (*Stochastic Geometry and Modern Probability*) is devoted to modeling real world phenomena such as percolation, random graphs, networks and fractals. In Chapter III (*Statistics and Stochastic Geometry*) topics covered include statistical inference about random sets models, shape theory, set estimation and data depth geometry. The final Chapter IV (*Applications*) is concerned with a wide-ranging analyses including medical stereology (predicting shape via scanning of planar sections), physics of spatially structured materials, telecommunication networks, and the

role of random sets in finance and econometrics. This well written volume is a long awaited welcome, especially for a novice who desires to enter this fast growing interdisciplinary area, and a must have reference for researchers in the field.

A. Korzeniowski

NORMAN R. REILLY: *Introduction to Applied Algebraic Systems* by, Ph.D. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-536787-4.

The main objective of the author in this text is to introduce many algebraic concepts (groups, rings, etc) that are typical in a first and/or second course in abstract algebra, while motivating the concepts with various real-life current-day applications. The author believes that the presentation flows more naturally if rings are introduced before the topic of groups by way of number theory. The topics are discussed in a rigorous manner with a colloquial style that the reviewer found very enjoyable.

The algebra topics covered in the book are: modular arithmetic, rings and fields, groups and permutations, group homomorphisms and subgroups, polynomial rings and algebraic geometry (mainly elliptic curves). Each topic flows naturally from the preceding topic, with most chapters finishing with an application of the ideas recently presented. With attention paid to storing, securing, retrieving and communicating electronic information, the applications discussed are: bar codes, public-key cryptosystems, error-correcting codes, colorings, enumeration, the Enigma encryption machine and elliptic-curve cryptosystems.

The reviewer was particularly impressed with the flow and depth provided for each application, and found the discussions fascinating. For almost all the applications, the author presented the “big-picture idea” of the application first together with a need for the application, and then switched to discussing its details; this style promises to be very helpful to students. In some cases, a significant amount of history was provided to help place the application in context. The discussion on Fermat’s Last Theorem was very well presented, including a mathematical overview of Wiles’ proof, with references provided if more detail is desired.

The notion of a ring is introduced by describing it as a natural generalization of the concepts discussed in the previous chapter on modular arithmetic. This is skillfully and seamlessly achieved by the author, so that this deviation from standard algebra texts loses nothing by doing so.

The book is suitable for any student with a sound knowledge of linear algebra. Those students who additionally have some maturity with proofs should be very comfortable with the text. The reviewer found only three very minor typographical nonmathematical errors while reading the book, so students should be pleased with the typesetting. For instructors using the book in a class, there is a solutions manual available from the author for instructors. The author provides many resources for extra reading by providing references where applicable.

In summary, the book is ideal for a thirty-week (that is, two-semester) course in abstract algebra, providing students with a sound background in algebra, while simultaneously teaching them many current-day uses of algebra in the real-world.

Michaela Vancliff, Math Dept, Univ of Texas at Arlington

NICOLAIE GEORGESCU, MIRCEA COSMA (Eds.): The 33rd Congress of the American Romanian Academy for Arts and Sciences, (3 volumes).

The theme of the 33rd congress was Modernism and Progress in Arts and Sciences.

The peer reviewed papers were selected to be presented in 8 parallel sections: Arts, History & Anthropology (21); Philosophy, Theology & Education (28); Law & Politics (50); Economy (143); Biology, Medicine & Environment (15); Linguistics & Literature (29); Engineering (43), Computer Sciences (29); Applied Mathematics (17); Physics & Chemistry (14), and have been published in the Proceedings. Among the papers selected to be presented at the Applied Mathematics section, one could mention:

Application of variational iteration method to a nonlinear partial differential system of equations (Letiția Ion, Dumitru Deleanu), *The complex of parallelepipeds and the 3-dimensional tree* (Sergiu Cataranciuc), *Computing special functions in MATLAB* (Eliodor Constantinescu, Bogdan Mihai), *The full set of Stackelberg equilibrium profiles in the multilevel dynamic games* (Boris Hancu), *Queuing system with Semi-Markov batch flow* (Iulia Griza), *Some results on linear approximation processes in Banach spaces* (Ligia-Adriana Sporis, Ali Beazit), *A test of concordance for nonparametric bramwell-holdsworth-pinton distribution* (Tiberiu Socaciu, Mirela Danubianu, Ioan Maxim, Cornel Iosif), *Principiile de trecere de la microtensiuni la macrotensiuni* (Vasile Marina, Viorica Marina), *Types of algebraic equations and methodological aspects* (Rodica-Ionela Ticu), *Algebre iterative lantiale de functii pseudo-Booleene 3-valente* (Mefodie Rata), *On archimedean (linearly) ordered power associative IP-loops* (Petru Scifos), *The study of multipliers on MTL-algebra* (Antoneta Jeflea), *Problema centrului absolut pe grafuri* (Dumitru Zambitchi), *An application of differential subordinations* (Anamaria Geanina Macovei), *Differential superordinations and sandwich theorem* (Anamaria Geanina Macovei), *MAPLE and MATLAB comparing methods for differential equations solving* (Bogdan Mihai, Eliodor Constantinescu), *Optimal control for nonlinear systems with small parameter in Bolza problems* (Mihai Popescu).

Ilie Talpasanu, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Our octogenarian honorees (2010)

Professor Nicolae Dinculeanu, Emeritus, with the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, is 85 years old in 2010. While in Romania, he was associated with the University of Bucharest and the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy, where he was a Deputy Director. He is a Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy.

Professor Solomon Marcus, Emeritus, with the University of Bucharest, is celebrating the 85th Birthday in 2010. He served as a faculty member of the University for over a half Century and had many graduate students under his supervision (spread around the World). He is an active member of the Romanian Academy.

Professor Dan Papuc, Emeritus, with the West University of Timisoara, will become an octogenarian in 2010. Before moving to Timisoara in 1966, he was associated with the University of Iasi, where he occupied the positions of Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. He was one of the Editors of the "Analele Stiintifice ale Universitatii Timisoara" and served as a member of the Romanian National Assembly (Parliament).

Dr. Petru Caraman, Emeritus, with the Mathematical Institute "O. Mayer" of the University of Iasi, will become an octogenarian in 2010. He occupied various positions as Researcher and Senior Researcher with the Institute, including that of Director Pro Tempore. He also taught Graduate Courses at the University of Iasi and served as a member of the Senate of Romania.

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This volume is published with the assistance of Professor Adrian Corduneanu and Assistant Professor Mircea Lupan from the Department of Mathematics at the "Gh. Asachi" Technical University in Iasi.

Manuscripts intended for insertion in *Libertas Mathematica* must be submitted as e-mail messages to the Editor

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