

## Trajectories of Language Theory

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*Alexandru Mateescu* passed away on January 23, 2005, at the age of 52 years. This very special issue *Trajectories of Language Theory of Fundamenta Informaticae* commemorates his work. Most of the contributions are on an invitational basis but have been refereed in the usual way.

Sandu Mateescu was a devoted mathematician and computer scientist. His contributions range from two-level grammars and pattern languages to languages associated with DNA and PCP, as well as from subword occurrences (he invented the so-called Parikh matrices) to shuffle by trajectories. The title of this special issue reflects his diversified work on trajectories.

Mateescu did not always live under lucky stars. A big part of his adult activities took place under awkward political conditions, and his last years were darkened by sickness and other adversities. In spite of all obstacles, Mateescu succeeded in creating a remarkable scientific career.

The editors wish to express their gratitude to the contributors and referees for their good and timely cooperation.

**Gheorghe Păun** (Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy)

**Grzegorz Rozenberg** (LIACS, University of Leiden)

**Arto Salomaa** (Turku Centre for Computer Science)

Sandu Mateescu worked for almost ten years in my research group in Turku, and we became very close personal friends. Sandu also prevented me from suffocating: without his strong and fast action in November 1996, I probably would not be writing these lines. A few additional words are therefore appropriate.

Sandu wrote many papers together with me. They appeared in many of the best journals, some of the papers were presented also in leading European conferences. As research partners we complemented each other very well: Sandu wanted to push matters towards algebraic generalities, I myself towards specific details and examples.

Our close friendship was extended to our families. Sandu's daughter Iris calls me *Äijä*, the grandfather. Sandu helped me with many things in my sauna, for instance, the stove. He organized many of my trips in Romania. I liked to travel with Sandu also elsewhere; he was always ready to assist. Sandu liked to call himself as my "shadow". He always supported me on slippery roads.

It was much too soon when our roads parted. Thanks for everything, Sandu.

*Sit tibi terra levis.*

*Odihnește-te în pace. Chiar de dincolo de mormânt ne înveți să avem curajul să trăim.*

*Arto Salomaa (Äijä)*