

M I S C E L L A N E A

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

– Obituaries: Julius Bogdan Borcea (1968–2009), Radu Theodorescu (1933–2007)

– Doctoral Degrees Obtained Abroad by Romanian Students (2007–2008)

– From the bookshelves

– Conferences, Congresses

– Invitation

– LIBERTAS MATHEMATICA (publication policy, subscription, exchanges)

– Authors of volume XXIX

– Contents of volume XXIX

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OBITUARIES

Julius Bogdan Borcea (1968–2009)

IN MEMORIAM

Born on June 8, 1968 in the city of Bacău, Romania, in a family of intellectuals with wide experience in several countries (Romania, Morocco, Sweden), Julius Bogdan Borcea completed his education started in Romania, in his natal town Bacău, by attending schools and universities in Morocco (Licée Descartes, Rabat), Paris (Licée Louis le Grand), Copenhagen (Licée Français, obtaining the Baccalaureate title), Lund (the University, Bachelor degree in Mathematics and Ph. D. degree under guidance of Anne Meurman, in 1998).

Julius' mother, Georgeta Borcea, taught Mathematics at high-school level in Romania, Morocco and Sweden. She graduated in 1968 from the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iași, and instilled in her son's intellect the beauty of Mathematics. Julius' father is also an user of Mathematics, being a professional engineer, with wide international expertise.

After the graduation from Lund University with Ph. D. degree, Julius Bogdan Borcea spent one semester at the famous Mittag-Leffler Institute, with the University of Stockholm. From 1999-2001, he held a post-doctoral position at the University of Strassbourg, at the Institut de Recherche Mathématique Avancée. As a result of this period, Julius Bogdan Borcea obtained the academic degree of Doctor Docent in Mathematics.

Back to Sweden in 2001, Julius is associated with the University of Stockholm as a researcher. Due to his successful research activity in several fields of modern mathematics, he becomes a Professor with Stockholm University on July 4, 2008. Unfortunately, his life came to an end, unexpectedly, on April 8, 2009.

The mathematicians of Romanian Diaspora (over 400 persons) are joining Bogdan's family in their mourning, for the irreparable loss they suffered and convey to them their heartfelt condolences.

These are a few highlights from his short but outstanding career.

1998: Ph. D. Lund University. Dissertation topic, Dualities, affine vertex operator algebras and Geometry of complex polynomials.

2004: Julius Bogdan Borcea is awarded the prestigious Wallenberg Prize.

2008: Special Prize awarded for research in Mathematics, and outstanding results (The King Gustav XVI-th of Sweden handed the Prize at Ceremony).

1998-2008: Numerous scientific visits to various prestigious institutions and congresses, conferences, including University of Cambridge and other prestigious institutions. He cooperated with many distinguished mathematicians, as seen from the attached list of publications.

Constantin Corduneanu, University of Texas at Arlington

List of publications of Julius Bogdan Borcea

1. *On the Sendov conjecture for polynomials with at most six distinct root*, J. Math. Anal. Appl. 200 (1996), 182-206.
2. *The Sendov conjecture for polynomials with at most seven distinct zeros*, Analysis 16 (1996), 137-159.
3. *Two approaches to Sendov's conjecture*, Arch. Math. (Basel) 71 (1998), 46-54.
4. *Annihilating fields of standard modules for affine Lie algebras*, Math. Z. 237 (2001), 301-319.
5. *Dualities and vertex operator algebras of affine type*, J. Algebra 258 (2002), 389-441.
6. *Hyperbolic polynomials and spectral order* (with B. Shapiro), C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Paris 337 (2003), 693-698.
7. *Classifying real polynomial pencils* (with B. Shapiro), Int. Math. Res. Not. 2004, 3689-3708.
8. *On rational approximation of algebraic functions* (with R. Bogvad, B. Shapiro), Adv. Math. 204 (2006), 448-480.
9. *Maximal and linearly inextensible polynomials*, Math. Scand. 99 (2006), 53-75.
10. *Spectral order and isotonic differential operators of Laguerre-Pólya type*, Ark. Math. 44 (2006), 211-240.
11. *Equilibrium points of logarithmic potentials induced by positive charge distributions. I. Generalized de Bruijn-Springer relations*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 359 (2007) 3209-3237 (electronic).
12. *Choquet order for spectra of higher Lamé operators and orthogonal polynomials*, J. Approx. Theory 151 (2008), 164-180.
13. *Applications of stable polynomials to mixed determinants: Johnson's conjectures, unimodality and symmetrized Fischer products* (with P. Brändén), Duke Math. J. 143 (2008), 2005-223.
14. *Convexity properties of twisted root maps*, Rocky Mountain J. Math. 38 (2008), 809-833.
15. *Root asymptotics of spectral polynomials for the Lamé operator*, Comm. Math. Phys. 282 (2008), 323-337.
16. *Lee-Yang problems and the geometry of multivariate polynomials*, Lett. Math. Phys. 86 (2008), 53-61.
17. *Negative dependence and the geometry of polynomials*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. 22 (2009), 521-567.

18. *Piecewise harmonic subharmonic functions and positive Cauchy transforms* (with R. Bogvad), Pacific J. Math. (to appear).

19. *Classifications of linear operators preserving elliptic, positive and non-negative polynomials*, J. Reine Angew. Math. (Crelle) (to appear).

20. *The Lee-Yang and Pólya-Schur Programs. I. Linear Operators Preserving Stability* (with P. Brändén), Inventiones Mathematicae (to appear).

21. *The Lee-Yang and Pólya-Schur Programs. II. Theory of Stable Polynomials and Applications* (with P. Brändén).

22. *Homogenized spectral problems for exactly solvable operators: asymptotics of polynomial eigenfunctions* (with R. Bogvad, B. Shapiro), Proc. Res. Inst. Math. Sci. (PRIMS) (to appear).

23. *Pólya-Schur master theorems for circular domains and their boundaries* (with P. Brändén), Ann. of Math. (to appear).

Radu Theodorescu (1933–2007)

IN MEMORIAM

Radu Theodorescu was born in Bucharest from parents Dan Theodorescu - a reputed physician and Ortensia Butoianu. He graduated with a Diploma in Mathematics in 1954, from the University of Bucharest, and in 1958 he obtained the Ph. D. in Mathematics from the Romanian Academy. After his graduation from the university, Radu Theodorescu has been a Research Fellow with the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, and in 1957 he has been promoted to the rank of Senior Research Fellow with the same institute. In 1964, R.T. became the Head of the Division of Industrial Statistics at the newly created Centre of Statistics of the Romanian Academy. a research unit which has been inspired and headed by the Academicians Octav Onicescu and Gheorghe Mihoc. Meantime, R.T. taught Statistics courses at the Bucharest University, as a part time associate. From 1969 on, until 1999 when he retired from teaching, R.T. has been a Professor with the University of Laval, Canada. The academic year 1973-1974 has been spent at the University of Ottawa, on leave from the University of Laval.

In 2000, R.T. has been awarded the title of Professor Emeritus by the University of Laval. Radu Theodorescu has deployed many academic activities, in parallel to his teaching and research. While in Romania, he has been a member of a division of the National Research Council. During the period 1966-1969 he served as a board member of the European Organization for Quality Control. He has also been associated with the Econometric Society and hold the position of Vice-President of the Statistical Science Association of Canada (1972-1973). He held several other positions while active, such as Member of the Council of the Canadian Mathematical Society, Director of the Summer Research Institute of the Canadian Mathematical Congress, editor with several professional publications in Canada.

His membership in professional societies included American Mathematical Society, Institute of Mathematical Statistics and similar organizations from Canada and Romania. He held several honorary memberships from Canada and Romania. In 1960, when R.T. was a young researcher, he has been awarded a Prize by the Romanian Academy, for his work in Probability and Mathematical Statistics.

Radu Theodorescu traveled extensively and presented invited lectures in over 30 countries and four continents, visiting such important centres as Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Rome, Washington, D.C., Montreal, Sankt Petersburg, Budapest, London, Stockholm, Warsaw and Prague.

Among his major publications, in book form, we mention the following ones: Random Processes and Learning (jointly with Marius Iosifescu), 1969; Concentration Functions (jointly with Hengartner), 1973; Unimodality and Probability Measures (jointly with Bertin

and Cuculescu), 1997. More than 160 journal papers have been published in various publications from around the World, under his name.

Radu will be dearly missed by his family, wife Marie-Jose and sons Dan, Jr. (a Professor of Urology at the University of Virginia), Paul (A medical student) and daughter Anne (a student in veterinary medicine). The Romanian Mathematical Diaspora, as well as his many colleagues in Romania, are joining the family in the mourning of their husband and father.

Note. Details regarding the activity of Radu Theodorescu can be found on the following sites: www.theodorescu.ca/CV.pdf and www.theodorescu.ca/Publications.pdf

In the last moment we get the information about the passing away of Professor George Isac. An obituary will appear in the next volume of Libertas Mathematica.

DOCTORAL DEGREES OBTAINED ABROAD BY ROMANIAN STUDENTS (2007 – 2008)

1. Munteanu, Ovidiu, The structure of complete manifolds with positive spectrum. University of California, Irvine.
2. Bucicovschi, Orest, Simple Lie algebras, algebraic prolongations and contract structures. University of California, San Diego.
3. Giurcanu, Mihai, Biased bootstrap for semiparametric models. University of Florida.
4. Nastase, Esmeralda, Color critically and chromatic connectivity of graph. Emory University, Georgia.
5. Caprău, Carmen, An $sl(2)$ tangle homology and seamed cobordisms. University of Iowa, Iowa City.
6. Soare, Ana Maria, Variational problems in weighted Sobolev spaces with applications to computational fluid dynamics. University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
7. Busuioc, Cecilia, Eisenstein cohomology, Milnor K-theory and special values of L-functions. Massachusetts, Boston university, Boston.
8. Pogan, Alexandru Alin, Dichotomy theorems and applications. University of Missouri, Columbia.
9. Dediu, Simona, Analysis of frequency dependent attenuation in shallow water. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY.
10. Șerban, Mihaela, Derivative pricing under multivariate stochastic volatility models with application to equity options. Carnegie Melton University, Pittsburgh, PA.
11. Bogdan Pavelescu, Elena, Braids and open book decompositions. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
12. Rusu, Anamaria, Determining starlike bodies by their curvature integrals. University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
13. Badiu, Florin, Study of multiple impacts of a rigid body with a flat surface. University of Texas at Arlington.
14. Bociu, Lorena, Existence, uniqueness and blow-up of solutions to wave equations with supercritical boundary interior sources and damping. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

15. Mihaescu, Radu, Distance methods in phylogeny. University of California, Berkeley.
16. Iosif, Ana-Maria, Analysis of longitudinal random length data. University of Pittsburgh.
17. Oprisan, Adina, Large deviation principle for functional limit theorems. Barry University.

FROM THE BOOKSHELVES

VASILE BERINDE and EUGEN PALTANEA (cordinators): *Gazeta Matematica*; A bridge over three centuries. Societatea de Stiinte Matematice din Romania, Bucharest, 2004, 200 pp.

This book is the result of the participation of the first author to the International Congress of Mathematical Education, held in Copenhagen in July 2004. Both authors have deployed hard work in gathering the problems proposed by a large number of teachers at the gymnasial and secondary levels (according to the educational system in Romania these levels mean grades 5th to 12th, or age 12 to 18 years), mostly addressing students competing in various events organized for a long time under the auspices of the journal *Gazeta Matematica* (founded in 1895 by mathematicians, engineers, statisticians and actuaries, military persons from technical armies a.o.). Professors from higher education institutions have been often involved in organizing this competitions, aimed at rising the standard of the mathematical education in Romania. Besides the authors/contributors mentioned above, there are several other teachers or professors, whose contribution is acknowledged in the book. They are: Radu Paltanea, Emil Stoica, Marin Marin, Marius Paun and Ovidiu Munteanu from "Transylvania University" of Brasov, Madalina Berinde from the "Babes-Bolyai University" of Cluj-Napoca, and Gheorghe Boroica, Nicolae Musuroaia, Christian Heuberger, Dana Heuberger from the "Gheorghe Sincai" National College of Baia Mare. A large number of secondary teachers is credited for the contribution to the creation of the problems. The book constitutes a good and useful tool in the hands of any high-school student who is interested in Mathematics to a higher degree than the average student, particularly for those participating in the Olympiads or some local competitions organized by school districts. The coordinators and authors deserve congratulations for this volume, similar to other collections of problem, but distinguished by the fact that they have been addressed to mathematical competitors.

ELEANOR ROBSON and JACQUELINE STEDALL (Eds): *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Mathematics*. Oxford University Press, 2009, VII + 918 pp.

This impressive and ambitious volume is aimed at presenting a panorama of the history of Mathematics on a 5000 years span, across all significant mathematical cultures. Besides the editors of the volume, 36 more authors/coauthors are contributing to the 36 self-contained studies, divided in the following sections: Geographies and Cultures (Global, Regional, Local); People and Practices (Lives, Practices, Presentation); Interactions and Interpretations (Intellectual, Mathematical, Historical). The key mathematical cultures of North America, Europe, the Middle East, India and China are all present in the exposition. Also, present are those cultures that are not traditionally discussed: Russia, the Balkans, Vietnam and South America. As the editors point out in the Introduction, "A book of this kind depends on detailed research in disparate disciplines by a large number of people". Indeed, the group

of contributors is recruited from different backgrounds, such as philosophy, anthropology, archaeology, literature and art history. Certainly, the history of Mathematics in its traditional features plays an important role. It is stressed and illustrated that Mathematics is not always the same, that it is changing in time and is continuously interacting with other fields of activity. "More often, mathematical practices are ephemeral and transient. "Creators and users of Mathematics have included cloth weavers, accountants, instrument makers, princes, astrologers, musicians, missionaries, schoolchildren, teachers, theologians, surveyors, builders and artists".

The realm of Mathematics is certainly one of the most ancient and omnipresent in the universe. There are numerous illustrations in this comprehensive volume, taken from various places, schools and times. I have tried to find some names of scientists who have contributed substantially to the progress of Mathematics and the result was a long list of people from the ancient times to the present. One article is dedicated to the work known under the name of Nicolas Bourbaki (Leo Corry), Hilbert is in the list with Goettingen and its traditions. A lot of references to the Greek Mathematics, which are enlightening, but relatively few references to the Sanskrit (or ancient Indian) Mathematics. In this regard I will mention a book by V. Lakshmikantham and S. Leela, *The Origin of Mathematics*, University Press of America, Inc., 2000, in which the role of India is emphasized in the birth and development of mathematical ideas. Ulugh-Beg, a descendant of Tamerlane is also missing, and he constructed the Astronomical Observatory of Samarkand, in Central Asia, while dealing with difficult topics for his time (15th Century A.D.), such as solving third order algebraic equations by iteration (apparently, clearly using the method, for the first time). The observatory is now a tourist attraction.

Leonardo Pisano is summarily presented, despite his important role in bringing to the Medieval Europe the ancient Mathematics he has learnt from Arabs (Algeria). He is also considered one of the fathers of the Accounting, certainly one of the most important extensions of Mathematics in everyday's life. Pythagoras is briefly mentioned in the list. Neo-Pythagorean and Pythagorean tradition are in. The editors are warning the readers that the book does not represent a textbook or an encyclopedia of the history of Mathematics. Influence of political regimes on mathematical institutions and mathematicians is briefly discussed.

This book will constitute an interesting lecture for a wide readership and it is highly recommended.

C. CORDUNEANU: *Integral Equations and Applications*. Cambridge University Press, 2008, IX + 366 pp.

This volume represents a digitally printed paperback edition of the original book, first published in 1991 by CUP. It contains six chapters, Introduction, List of References and an Index. The first chapter is dedicated to a brief presentation of the classical theory of integral equations (Volterra and Fredholm), with a glimpse on Hammerstein equations. Second chapter contains auxiliary concepts, such as function spaces, operators and fixed point results. The third chapter treats the basic existence theory for Volterra equations, both integral and abstract (with causal operators). Chapter four contains various results concerning special classes of integral or integrodifferential equations. Priority is given to Hammerstein and Volterra-Hammerstein equations or integral inclusions. Asymptotic be-

havior, periodicity and almost periodicity of solutions are investigated, as well as some boundary value problems. The fifth chapter treats integral equations in abstract spaces (Banach and Hilbert). The case of unbounded operators is dealt with, and an introduction to application of semigroup theory is provided. The last chapter is dedicated to some applications of the theory of integral equations to such fields as Control Theory, Stability of Nuclear Reactors, the study of coagulation processes. A review of the first edition can be found in "The Mathematical Intelligencer", vol.16, No.1, 1994 (Springer-Verlag).

T.A.BURTON: *Liapunov Functionals for Integral Equations*. Trafford Publishing, 2008, 361 pp.

Since Liapunov noticed that an old result of Lagrange, concerning the energy of a system in the neighborhood of an equilibrium point, is capable of spectacular generalizations in regard to the stability (and instability) of dynamical systems, thus elaborating the famous Liapunov Method, a great deal of research in Stability Theory has been deployed. The Liapunov Method, based on the use of auxiliary functions in conjunction with differential inequalities, has been likely the main tool in studying the stability of solutions of various classes of differential equations. Names like those of Chetayev, Malkin, Persidskii, Massera, Krasovskii, Kurzweil, Matrosov are related to conspicuous contributions to the extension of Liapunov Method, mostly in the case of systems defined by ODE in finite or infinite dimensional systems. The method has been extended to PDE, without providing the same richness of results as in case of PDE. As far as the case of integral equations is concerned, the results on stability are available in the literature, but the degree of generality that is usually reached in the case of ODE does not seem to be present in the latter case. For this simple reason, the idea of the Author to come up with this book is highly laudable. The list of references to the book shows that Liapunov functions/functionals have been considered by several authors (R.Driver, J.Levin and J.Nohel, R.Bellman a.o.) in cases regarding integrodifferential equations or differential equations involving various operators, but the results remained somewhat sparse. The author has been concerned for a long period of time with integral and realted equations, and in particular with the construction of Liapunov functionals that serve in establishing stability properties or other types of behavior (like boundedness on a semi-axis or on the whole real axis). He has acquired a special experience in dealing with this method, obviously extending the classical Liapunov method to new classes of equations. Besides the skill the author displays in dealing with Liapunov functions, the book also emphasizes other tools and features of great use in the theory of differential and integral equations: Krasnoselskii-Schaefer fixed point theorem, infinite delays global existence results. Several open problems are stated. The book is a very useful and welcome addition to the existing literature dedicated to classes of equations which are not "purely" differential.

D. IESAN: *Classical and Generalized Models of Elastic Rods*, Chapman & Hall / CRC, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, London, New York, 2009

This volume is concerned with some basic problems of the deformation of elastic cylinders for three models of continua: classical elastic continuum, Cosserat elastic solid and porous elastic material. The deformation of elastic cylinders is a subject of interest both from the mathematical and the technical point of view. In classical elasticity the deforma-

tion of homogeneous bars has been studied from numerous aspects. In contrast, the case when the material is inhomogeneous has received relatively little attention. Recently, research activity on functionally graded materials has stimulated renewed interest in problems of inhomogeneous elasticity. The major part of this book is concerned with the study of inhomogeneous cylinders. Beginning with results where Saint-Venant's solutions are involved, the first chapter includes a proof of Saint-Venant's principle and a study of the plane strain problem. Subsequent two chapters cover the analysis of the loaded isotropic cylinders, both for homogeneous and inhomogeneous materials. The next chapter is devoted to the deformation of anisotropic cylinders. The book concludes with a study of Cosserat elastic cylinders and an analysis of the deformation of cylinders made of porous elastic materials.

On the whole, the subject matter is directed toward recent developments. Relevant examples and exercises which illustrate the theory are given throughout the text. The book should be of interest to specialists working in the theory of elasticity, mechanical engineers, researchers and students in solid mechanics.

OVIDIU COSTIN: *Asymptotics and Borel Summability*, CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group), Boca Raton, Florida, 2009, 256 pp.

The asymptotic methods in Mathematics have attracted the interest of many researchers and embrace a large number of fields: Number Theory, Series Summability, Functional Equations, to mention just a few of them. Names like Erdelyi, Erdos, Bogoliubov and many others are related to the asymptotic methods and studies, with conspicuous results.

According to the title chosen by the author, it appears that priority is given to the asymptotic methods in regard to series summability. He is considering this book as an introduction to the subject, but stresses on the rigor aspects related to asymptotic methods and results. The Publisher's catalog (no. C7031) is presenting this book in the following sentences: "This self-contained introduction to asymptotic analysis emphasizes topics not covered in traditional asymptotics book. The author explains basic ideas, concepts and methods of generalized Borel summability, transseries and exponential asymptotics. He provides complete mathematical rigor, while supplementing it with heuristic material and examples so that some proofs may be omitted by application-oriented readers".

Note. It is also mentioned the fact that this title is "a Chapman & Hall book".

American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences The 33rd ARA Annual Congress

Held from June 2nd to June 7th in Sibiu, organized by ARA and the Alma Mater University, the Congress was the main ARA event of the year.

The local organizing committee has been headed by Prof. Dr. Eng. Nicolaie Georgescu as Honorary Chairman, with Prof. Dr. Mircea Cosma, Chairman. Eleven faculty members from Alma Mater University, served as members of the local organizing committee, assuring the smooth and successful development of the Congress' works.

The President of ARA, Prof. Ion Paraschivoiu was present at the meeting, together with other members of the Executive Committee of ARA or senior members of the Academy: Dr. Marius Enichescu, representing also the Department of Education and Research; Dr. Radu Florescu; Dr. Paul Quinlan; Dr. Carmen Sabău; Dr. Corneliu Berbente; Dr. Ilie Talpașanu; Dr. Constantin Corduneanu, past ARA President; several rectors of Romanian or Moldavian Universities and higher learning instituting.

About 300 papers have been included in the program of the congress, organized in 25 sections. Mathematical papers, as well a Engineering and Computer Sciences contributions occupied the schedules of five sections, the number of papers with applied profile representing the majority. It is adequate mentioning the relatively large number of Contributions due to colleagues from Republic of Moldova – a large number of Romanian universities, both public and private, have sent their representatives at the congress.

The guest of honor was the former President of Romania, Prof. Emil Constantinescu.

The city of Sibiu is the birthplace of one of the founders of the Space Sciences, Hermann Oberth. Together with Konstantin Tsiolkovski of Russia and Robert Goddan of the United States, Hermann Oberth brought outstanding contributions to the modern development of rocketry and space flight. He studied and activated in Germany (Munche) and Romania (Cluj and Medias), and in the US (NASA). He was active in all three countries, and kept his Romanian citizenship until the end of WWII. Werner von Braun was one of his collaborators and credited him for the achievement of the engineering stage in space exploration and travel.

The local authorities, have been present at the opening session of the Congress, in the person of Mr. Martin Bottesch, the President of the Sibiu County Council.

Among the presenters in the applied Mathematics Section we mention M. Rață, P. Scifos, A. Jefeia, D. Zambîțki, A. G. Macovei, B. Mihai, E. Constantinescu, M. Popescu.

On June 7th, an excursion has been organized to the medieval city of Sighișoara. Also, point of interests were the Bruckenthal Museum, the History Museum and other cultural institutions from Sibiu.

INVITATION

The Faculty of Mathematics, with the University "Al. I. Cuza" of Iași, invites the alumni with degree in Mathematics, as well as any person interested in mathematical research, to attend the Centennial Conference organized from June 21st to June 26th 2010 in Iași.

The conference is dedicated to the Centenary of the Mathematical Seminar "A. Myller", the true cradle in which grew-up the Mathematical School of Iași, during the last Century (1910–2010).

Information available at www.uaic.ro.

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

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as attachment. The text must be in \LaTeX and accompanied by a pdf and dvi files. Confirmation of receipt will follow.