



Mátyás Arató

(1931–2015)

Mátyás Arató was born on January 21, 1931, in Elek, a town in the south-east part of Hungary, and attended school there up to the age of 10. Then his family moved to Makó and Mátyás graduated in the local high school. From 1949 to 1951 he studied mathematics and physics at the University of Szeged. Among his teachers were professors László Kalmár, László Rédei and Béla Szőkefalvi-Nagy. From 1951 he continued his studies at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest (ELTE), where he obtained a diploma in Applied Mathematics in 1954.

He started to work at the Probability Theory Section of the Mathematical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The Institute was led at the time by professor Alfréd Rényi. From 1958 to 1962 he studied at the Moscow State University, supervised by A. N. Kolmogorov. He defended his Candidate's Thesis there in 1962. Returning to Hungary, he worked in various firms and research institutes as applied mathematician. In 1971 he was appointed to be a part-time professor at ELTE. He spent the academic year 1981–82 at UCLA

as a guest professor. In 1981 he was appointed a full professor at the University of Debrecen and became a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Publicationes Mathematicae* (Debrecen). In addition to this, he was an editor of six other international journals. He published more than 200 scientific articles mainly on the theory of stochastic processes and their applications. His book entitled “Linear stochastic systems with constant coefficients: a statistical approach” was published by Springer Verlag in 1982, in the lecture note series on *Control and Information Sciences*. This book was later translated to Russian. From 2001 he was a professor emeritus of the University of Debrecen.

During his years in Debrecen he did his best to advance the researches on applied mathematics and computer science, and to establish the Faculty of Informatics. Many of his students became leaders, professors of various Hungarian institutes, universities working in the area of computer science and applied mathematics. He was very active in organizing and participating international conferences, and had very good connections with leading researchers in the East and the West.

His work was recognized by the Hungarian State in 1994 by awarding him the Széchenyi Prize (the highest state award for scientific achievements). In 2007 he received Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the Eötvös Loránd University. He obtained the Academic Prize and the Eötvös Wreath from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Mátyás Arató died on June 2, 2015, after a serious, long illness.

The Editorial Board of *Publicationes Mathematicae* (Debrecen) bid farewell to Mátyás Arató, an excellent mathematician, good colleague and friend. We preserve his memory.

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