

Methods for Distributed and Concurrent Systems

Special Issue on the occasion of the 60th Birthday of Professor Gabriel Ciobanu

This special issue marks the 60th birthday of Professor Gabriel Ciobanu. It consists of 7 original contributions from colleagues who have accompanied Gabriel through his scientific life in one way or another, be it in joint projects, research articles, or even the writing of complete books. We would like to thank all the contributors to this special issue for their hard work and for their scientifically interesting articles.

The topics of this issue cover a broad spectrum of theoretical computer science reflecting the impressive range of research interests and contributions by Gabriel. Under the influence of his working period in the group of Robin Milner, he has advanced our understanding of several areas of mathematics and computer science: theory of programming (semantics, formal methods), distributed systems and concurrency (models and languages, process algebras, mobile agents, model checking); computational models inspired by biology (membrane computing and related process calculi); and logic in computer science (lambda calculus, reasoning about programs).

As a recognition of his research activity, Gabriel is a Senior Researcher/Leader of the Formal Methods Laboratory at the Institute of Computer Science, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch, Romania. Moreover, he is a PhD supervisor in the Romanian Academy doctoral system. His students have gone on to work in some of the finest universities in the world. He is also a Professor at the Faculty of Computer Science at Alexandru Ioan Cuza"University of Iasi, Romania (where he is Editor-in-chief of the Scientific Annals of Computer Science - www.info.uaic.ro/Annals), and a Visiting Professor at the School of Computing Science, Newcastle University, UK. Thanks to participating in many conferences, workshops and research meetings, he has an impressive number of international collaborators.

Gabriel has received many awards and fellowships, including: a Royal Society of London Joint International Project 2008-2010, the Romanian Academy "Octav Mayer" Award for Science 2004, the Romanian Academy "Grigore Moisil" Award for Computer Science 2000 and 2011, a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship 1995-1996, a DAAD Research Fellowship 1994, and a Royal Society of London Fellowship 1991-1992.

We all share research interests with Gabriel, have met and discussed with him in various settings and, in particular, Bogdan, Dorel, and Maciej, have worked intensively with him. Gabriel has always aimed at the highest academic standards, and would not accept a technical explanation until it was clear and crisp. As a result, interacting with him could take quite a while if an initial idea was not

fully understandable. However, by taking into account Gabriel's concerns and searching questions, the overall effect was a much deeper understanding of the idea and its consequences. He has always been supportive and energetic, and coming up with a wealth of new ideas and valuable insights.

We are grateful to all who contributed to the production of this special issue: the authors and also the reviewers. Each contribution has been carefully reviewed by two or three reviewers, which made excellent articles even better. The support provided by Fundamenta Informaticae and in particular its editor-in-chief, Damian Niwinski, is highly appreciated.

We feel privileged to have had an opportunity to edit this issue as a tribute as well as an expression of friendship, respect and admiration for an eminent scientist and friend.

Happy Birthday Gabriel!

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