

PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE IN MEMORY OF MIHNEA COLȚOIU

Mihnea Colțoiu was born in 1954 at Bucharest, a city dear to his soul. The glorious past of the metropolis, shattered by too many historical torments, reverberated in the mellow and witty daily attitude of Mihnea.



His passion for mathematics showed up early. During his high school years he obtained the Bronze Medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad. Between 1974 and 1979 he studied at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Bucharest where, under the influence of Martin Jurchescu, he discovered the depth and beauty of Function Theory of Several Complex Variables.

After graduation he joined the National Institute for Scientific and Technical Creation (INCREST), at that time the top research institute of the country in pure mathematics. He has defended a doctoral dissertation in 1985, under the supervision of Constantin Bănică. The topics of his Ph.D. thesis (Convexity in Complex Analysis) will mark his area of

expertise during his entire professional career. His collaboration with Klas Diederich marks one of the brilliant achievements of analytic pseudoconvexity theory at the turn of the century.

After 1990, the Mathematics Department of INCREST (re)became the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy (IMAR). Mihnea Colțoiu was a senior researcher and the leader of Complex Analysis and Potential Theory group at IMAR until the end of his life.

In 2006 he was elected a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy.

Mihnea Colțoiu is one of the few contemporary Romanian mathematicians who has created a school. He led, mentoring with diligence and unmatched insight, the research of: Nicolae Mihalache, Viorel Vâjăitu, Cezar Joița, Anca Popa, George Ioniță, Natalia Gașițoi, Ovidiu Preda.

If one would have to choose one word to characterise Mihnea Colțoiu's way of doing Mathematics, this would be elegance. He always favoured ideas over techniques and geometrical insight over formal manipulations.

Mihnea Colțoiu passed away in 2021 at the age of 67, survived by his wife and two children. This special issue of *Revue Roumaine de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées* is dedicated to his memory.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all contributors.

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Cezar Joiţa

*Simion Stoilow Institute of Mathematics
of the Romanian Academy
cezar.joita@imar.ro*

Mihai Putinar

*University of California at Santa Barbara
Department of Mathematics
mputinar@math.ucsb.edu*