

IN MEMORIAM

MILAN MERKLE (1954-2024)

Professor Milan Merkle died on July 14, 2024, in Belgrade. Milan J. Merkle was born on February 21, 1954, in Belgrade. He attended the Mathematical Grammar School in Belgrade. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (1977) from the University of Belgrade, School of Electrical Engineering, a B.Sc. in Mathematics (1979) from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, an M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics (1981) from the University of Belgrade, School of Electrical Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Statistics (1984) from Michigan State University, Department of Statistics and Probability, USA (Thesis advisor: Prof. V. Mandrekar).

After graduation, he spent one year as a researcher at the Institute VTI, Belgrade. From September 1980, he had positions at the Department of Applied Mathematics, School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade: Assistant, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Full Professor (from July 1997).

As a teacher, his students, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, respected him. He was a taskmaster but had a good sense of humor, sound scholarship and the ability to lead his students to their best efforts in an uncompromising way by insisting on excellence. He taught courses in Mathematics and Probability theory at various levels (undergraduate and graduate).

Merkle was the author of research papers in Mathematical Analysis (convexity, special functions, infinitely dimensional spaces), Probability theory (stochastic processes, distributions, weak convergence of probability measures), Statistics and their applications. Also, the author of five textbooks in Mathematics and Probability and Statistics. Has participated in the realization of computer software for various applications in electrical engineering, acoustics, physics and meteorology. Served as a consultant in various applications of probability and statistics. User of TEX typesetting system, Mathematica and other standard mathematical software, with programming experience in Fortran and Visual Basic. He was the author of 45 scientific papers in journals and monographs, 29 of them as the sole author. He had 21 papers presented at international conferences and 31 papers at domestic conferences. According to Google Scholar, Milan Merkle has 728 citations and an h-index of H=15. He was also a visiting professor at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Johns Hopkins University (summer 1987), the Department of Statistics and Probability, Michigan State University (summer 1987), and the Center for Stochastic Processes, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (fall 1988 and spring 1990). He was fluent in English and had a working knowledge of French and Russian.

Milan Merkle organized the International Mathematical Conference - Topics in Mathematical Analysis and Graph Theory (MAGT) in Belgrade, 1-4 September, as a satellite conference of the World Congress of Mathematicians in Madrid, on the occasion of the golden jubilee (1956-2006) of the journal Publications of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering-series Mathematics. He was the first Editor-in-Chief (2006-2016) of the journal Applicable Analysis and Discrete Mathematics (AADM), which is the successor of Publikacije Elektrotehničkog fakulteta – Serija Matematika, founded in the year 1956 as Serija matematika i fizika, with D.S. Mitrinović as the founding editor-in-chief. Merkle's mathematical interests made him an ideal editor of this journal. He was always open to new ideas and new ways of applying mathematics. He managed the difficult art of keeping the journal interesting. It will be a challenge to continue his work.

NENAD P. ČAKIĆ