

ILIJA LUKAČEVIĆ
1935–2020

Professor Ilija Lukačević was born on November 12, 1935 in Belgrade. After finishing high-school in 1954 he studied mechanics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade. After graduating and serving in the Army (which was obligatory at that time), Professor Lukačević became a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Mechanics at the same faculty in November 1961. He defended his master's thesis in December 1965. Professor Lukačević spent the school year 1966/1967 at the Collège de France under the supervision of Professor Lichnerowicz, one of the leading scientists in the field of theory of relativity at the time. In June 1968 Professor Lukačević defended his PhD thesis entitled *Alfvén Waves in Relativistic Magnetohydrodynamics* (Алфенови таласи у релативистичкој магнетохидродинамици). The thesis was done under the supervision of Academician Tatomir Andjelić. Professor Lukačević was appointed as Assistant Professor in 1970 and as Associate Professor in 1979. He became Full Professor in 1986. He retired on April 30, 2001. At the Faculty of Mathematics he taught the following courses: Relativity Theory, Magnetohydrodynamics, Rational Mechanics, Analytical Mechanics and Tensor Calculus. In 1980, on the basis of his lectures, he published the university textbook *Fundamentals of the Theory of Relativity*.



The main research areas of Professor Lukačević were theory of relativity and magnetohydrodynamics. He participated in many international and national conferences and gave invited lectures on several occasions, for example in Moscow, Paris and Budapest.

He was very honest and passionately devoted to his profession and extremely reluctant to accept honours. He touched many, not only professionally with his insightful contributions and helpful advice, but also personally with his kindness and thoughtful consideration. He was admired and respected for the clarity, precision and depth of his lectures in the very hard field of the theory of relativity.

Even after retirement, Professor Lukačević remained very active. He regularly visited the Faculty of Mathematics and its Departments of Mechanics and Astronomy. He was

one of the most active participants at the newly founded (in 2017) Seminar for Relativity Theory and Cosmological Models at the Mathematical Institute SANU and gave the first lecture at this seminar.

In October 2019, daily newspapers announced that Professor Ilija Lukačević together with his brother Stefan Lukačević had donated collections of medals of their ancestor Colonel Vojislav Andjelković to the Office for Medals of the Archive of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

On June 14, 2020 it was with great sadness that we heard that Professor Ilija Lukačević had suddenly passed away. He made indelible marks of value during his life both personally and professionally, and he will certainly be missed.

Borislav Gajić
Jovo Jarić