



Professor Ferenc Gécseg

Preface

This issue of *Acta Cybernetica* contains 15 papers dedicated to Professor Ferenc Gécseg on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Professor Gécseg has been a very active researcher. His scientific work includes papers on universal algebra, automata, and formal languages. In automata theory, he was mainly interested in various kinds of composition operations on automata. In particular, he introduced a hierarchy of products between the cascade composition and the Glushkov-product, which has extensively been studied by himself and several of his former students and other researchers. More recently, he has extended these investigations to tree automata. His papers and three books (*Algebraic Theory of Automata*, coauthored by István Peák, *Tree Automata*, coauthored by Magnus Steinby, and *Products of Automata*) have greatly influenced the research in automata theory.

Professor Gécseg has contributed a great deal of time to the computer science community by his work as an editor and by organizing several conferences: the automata theory mini-conferences in Szeged in the 1970's, the FCT conference in 1981 and 1989, and the ICALP in 1995. He is the member of the editorial board of several journals, and for almost two decades he was the Editor in Chief of *Acta Cybernetica*. For several years, Professor Gécseg has been Vice-President

of the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science. He has received the highest scientific recognition in Hungary. He is a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences.

As a teacher, he has been greatly admired by students for his clear presentation of the material. Several of us in Hungary now doing research in theoretical computer science feel very privileged to have been his former students. We wish Professor Gécseg much success and happiness in the years to come.

Szeged, December 1998.

János Csirik

Zoltán Ésik

Zoltán Fülöp

Balázs Imreh