

## IN MEMORIAM

### Prof. dr Mališa Žižović (1948–2024)

Colleagues and friends bid farewell with sorrow to Prof. dr Mališa Žižović, a full professor at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Čačak. Professor Žižović passed away on September 19, 2024, at the age of 76.

Prof. dr Mališa Žižović, a distinguished mathematician and professor, was born in 1948 in Stragari, Serbia. He completed Technical School in Čačak and graduated in mathematics in 1972 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade, where he was awarded the October Prize as the best student and served as the president of the faculty's student organization. He earned his master's degree in 1975 with a thesis on "Topologies on ordered sets" and completed his doctorate in 1980 with the dissertation "Contribution to the study of the relationship between topological structures and algebraic systems."



After finishing his third year of studies, he began teaching mathematics at the First Metal Processing School in Belgrade. Following his graduation, from 1972, he worked as an assistant at the Department of Mathematics at the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, and from 1975, at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad. Since 1977, he taught mathematics at the Higher Technical School in Čačak. From 1980, he worked at the Pedagogical-Technical Faculty in Čačak (later the Technical Faculty, now the Faculty of Technical Sciences), where in 1981 he was appointed as a docent (assistant professor), in 1984 as an associate professor, and from 1989 until his retirement, he served as a full professor in the field of mathematical sciences.

He was the head of the Department of Mathematics and Physics, the Department of Mathematics and Informatics, and later the Department of Mathematics. He served multiple terms as vice dean and was the dean of the Technical Faculty in Čačak from 2000 to 2001. From 2008, he held a joint appointment at Singidunum University in Belgrade and the Technical Faculty in Čačak. Professor Žižović also worked at the University of Priština, the Higher School of Business Studies in Blace, and the Faculty of Agronomy in Čačak.

The scientific work of Prof. dr Mališa Žižović can be classified into three areas: topology and algebraic structures (topological  $n$ -groups, topological quasigroups, lattices and topology), topology and analysis (Karamata theory, exponents of convergence, double sequences, selection principles and games in Karamata theory), and the application of mathematical methods, along with the development of optimization techniques (such as multi-criteria analysis, decision-making processes, and applications to real-world processes in management, engineering, production etc.). He left behind a vast professional, pedagogical, and scientific legacy, having published hundreds of research papers in top international scientific journals and presented at numerous conferences.

Professor Mališa Žižović made a significant contribution to the foundation of the scientific journal *Mathematica Moravica*, where he served as editor-in-chief since 1997. During his career, he collaborated with numerous world-renowned experts who participated in the editing and working activities of the journal. Additionally, he was an editor for many domestic and international scientific publications, including the prestigious journal *Abstract and Applied Analysis*, through which he enhanced the international promotion of Serbian mathematics.

Professor Žižović was one of the organizers of several international conferences in mathematics. Under his leadership, the ATA conferences attracted many of our, as well as prominent global, mathematicians. These conferences became important venues for exchanging ideas, developing scientific collaboration, and promoting new research in various branches of mathematics.

Prof. Žižović's contributions were recognized at prestigious universities worldwide, enabling him to expand his academic and scientific influence beyond Serbia. He spent two study visits in the United States, in 1990 and 1997, which significantly impacted his professional development and allowed him to connect with leading global researchers and professors. His participation in academic events also extended to countries such as Brazil, Iran, and India, where he took part in significant conferences and collaborated with local scientific communities.

Professor Žižović dedicated his life to supporting younger colleagues and students by actively collaborating on numerous research projects and mentoring theses, master's, and doctoral dissertations.

In the mathematical community, Professor Žižović's name was always held in great respect. His ideas and solutions served as examples of the highest expertise in academic discussions, while in informal conversations, his name carried the weight of experience, wisdom, and integrity. Professor Žižović was a true pillar and inspiration for younger colleagues and friends at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Čačak, providing not only professional guidance but also advice, support, and help in all life situations with empathy and understanding. This made him not only an exceptional professional but also a great man.

The memory of Prof. dr Mališa Žižović will continue to live on through his family, friends, colleagues, students, and the academic community which he profoundly enriched through his presence.

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