CURRICULUM VITAE

Şerban A. Basarab

A) **General data.**

I am graduate of the Faculty of Electronics of the Technical University of Bucharest in 1961 and of the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Bucharest in 1969. In 1977 I defended the PhD thesis with the title *Arithmetic and model theory* at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Bucharest under the supervision of Acad. Octav Onicescu, who replaced Prof. Ionel Bucur after his premature death.

During the period 1962–1970, I worked succesively in the Institute for Automatics(IPA) and the Institute for Computer Technique(ITC) in Bucharest. In the period 1970–1975 I worked as researcher at the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy. Since the Institute of Mathematics was dissolved in April 1975 by the communist regime, I was forced to continue my activity at the Institute of Informatics (ICI) till 1985, when I moved to INCREST, Section of Mathematics. In 1990, when the Institute of Mathematics was refounded, I became a member of this prestigious research institute. Scientific Secretary (1991–1999), Director(1999-2004), and head of the Algebra workgroup (2004–2010). Named Honorary member of I.M.A.R. in May 2010. Professor at the University Ovidius–Constanţa(1998–2006).

During the period 1979-1982, with some interruptions, I activated as visiting professor at the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Heidelberg thanks to a two years fellowship granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. As a member of the research group of Algebra and Number Theory, I have been deeply influenced by the personality of my academic mentor Prof. Peter Roquette.

In 1983 I obtained a four months fellowship to visit the Universities of Firenze and Camerino-Italy, but unfortunatelly I was prevented from honouring the invitation by the communist authorities.

In 1993 I visited the Universities of Wales-Bangor, Queen Marry-London, and Oxford Mathematical Institute under a three months fellowship granted by the European Communities.

In 1998 I obtained from the the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation a three months fellowship for research stages at the Universities of Heidelberg, Konstanz and MPIM-Bonn.

Beginning with 1990 I was accepted as superviser of doctorands. 3 of my students defended the PhD thesis, while one is now preparing his thesis.

I am a member of the editorial board of the *Revue Roumaine de Mathematiques Pures et Appliquees* and of *Analele Ştiinţifice ale Univ. Ovidius-Constanţa.* I am also a reviewer to *Mathematical Reviews* and *Zentralblatt fur Mathematik und ihre Grenzgebiete.*

In 1991 I received the *Gheorghe Lazar* prize for Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, and in 2005 I became *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the University Ovidius–Constanţa.

B) **The research activity.**

The results of my scientific activity are contained in over 50 papers published in the following mathematical journals: *Journal of Algebra, Journal fur reine und angewandte Mathematik, Annals of pure and applied Logic, Journal of Symbolic Logic, Journal of pure and applied Algebra, Communications in Algebra, Journal of Algebra and its Applications, Comptes Rendus Acad.Sci.Paris, Manuscripta Mathematica, Results of Mathematics, Fundamenta Informaticae, Revue Roumaine de Mathematiques pures et appliquees, Serdica Math. Journal, Studii si cercetari matematice (Mathematical reports)*, etc.

Some of my results are cited in papers and books of several authors, e. g., P. Roquette, J. Ershov, A. Macintyre, T.Y. Lam, G. Karpilovsky, A. Prestel, W. Hodges, D. Popescu, M. Jarden, U. Felgner, E. Becker, F. Pop, T. Albu, V. Weispfenning, L. Belair, T. Scanlon, E. Hrushovski, D. Kazdhan, R. Cluckers, F. Loeser, C. Bennett, P. Shalen, C. Druţu. I. Chatterji, F. Haglund, F.V. Kuhlmann, D. Haran, F. Delon, Z. Chatzidakis, C.P. Bahls, S. Priess-Crampe, I. Chiswell, E. Koudela, T. Müller, I. Herzog, P. Rothmaler, G. Georgescu, M. Roller, R. Transier, G. Leloup, D. Zhang, R. Farre, A. Solian, etc.

Among the international conferences to which I had the opportunity to participate giving lectures, I mention Oberwolfach sessions on Model Theory, Algebraic Number Theory, p–adic Analysis, Mathematical Logic, Field Arithmetic, Hannover 1979 International Congress on Logic, Philosophie and the Methodology of Science, Firenze 1982 Logic Colloquium, Easter Conferences of Model Theory–Humboldt University Berlin, AMS Conference on Logic, Local Fields and Subanalytic Sets–Amherst 1990, 1991 Banach Semester on Algebraic Methods in Logic and Applications in Informatics, NATO Advanced Study Institute on Semigroups, Formal Languages and Groups-York 1993, 1996 Banach minisemester in the memory of Helena Rasiowa, 1997 4'th Franco–Touranien Colloquium on Model Theory-Luminy, Saskatoon Conference on Valuation Theory–1999, Luminy Geometric Group Theory and Logic–2001, Ravello Conference on Model Theory and Applications–2002, Constantza EURROMMAT Conference on Algebraic Geometry, Commutative Algebra and Topology–2002, Antalya Algebra Days, Workshop on Model Theory Freiburg 2006, etc.

The main contributions are described in the following.

B 1) **Model theoretic Algebra.**

1.1) **Henselian valued fields.**

Having as point of departure the fundamental works of James Ax, Simon Kochen and Jurii Ershov from 1965-1966 concerning some diophantian problems over local fields, I developed in my PhD thesis and in a series of papers[4,12-15] a systematic model theoretic study of the Henselian valued fields of characteristic zero, positive residue characteristic and finite ramification index. The main results are model theoretic classification criteria (elementary equivalence, model-completeness, etc) for such valued fields in terms of some elementary invariants of the value groups and the residue rings. An application to the theory of integrally defined functions on valued fields is given in [15], where an interesting class of valued fields, called *prehenselian*, is introduced and investigated.

Using algebraic and model theoretic techniques, I proved in [37] a theorem on the *relative elimination of quantifiers* for Henselian valued fields of characteristic zero, extending the corresponding results of Angus Macintyre, and Prestel-Roquette for p-adically closed fields, as well as the results of primitive-recursive nature of V.Weispfenning. As a purely algebraic byproduct, I mention an isomorphism criterion for Henselian valued fields, algebraic over a common valued subfield, proved in the joint paper [41] with F.V. Kuhlmann.

Devoted to the same field of interest, the paper [31] extends a classical theorem of Abraham Robinson on quantifier elimination for algebraically closed valued fields as well as a result from 1973 of Lipshitz and Saracino, and Carson concerning the model completion of the elementary theory of regular (in the sense of von Neumann) commutative rings.

B 1.2) **Formally p–adic fields.**

The theory of formally p–adic fields was developed by Simon Kochen and Peter Roquette as a p–adic analogue of the classical theory of formally real fields initiated by Emil Artin and Schreier. An enlarged frame for this theory is provided in [17], where the main results of the paper "The Nullstellensatz over p–adically closed fields", Journal of the Mathematical Society of Japan, **32**(1980), by M.Jarden and P.Roquette, are proved in this more general context. In a prolongation of [17], the paper [18] investigates some situations when certain objects associated to a field extension F/K (places of F/K, the Kochen ring and the holomorphy ring of F/K for a p–adically closed base field K) are obtained by the contraction of the corresponding objects associated to a field extension N/K subject to $F \subset N$. As an application, the existence of some recursive bounds in the theory of fields and the theory of formally p–adic fields is proved.

Devoted to the same field of interest, the paper [21] provides a generalisation of the preorders of higher level introduced in 1979 by E. Becker to extend Artin–Schreier theory to arbitrary power sums in fields. Using Kadison–Dubois representation theorem for Archimedean partially ordered rings, an operator theoretic description of the t–preorders of level n is given, recovering an unpublished result of P. Roquette in the particular case $n = 2$.

B 1.3) **Nullstellensätze.**

The remarkable fact noticed by A. Robinson, namely the equivalence between Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and the model completeness of the elementary theory of algebraically closed fields opened the way for using specific model theoretic concepts and results in the approach of some problems of the algebraic geometry (in particular,the Nullstellensätze) over base fields which are not necessarily algebraically closed, but having suitable arithmetical and model theoretic properties. To this field of interest belong the papers [17, 23, 27, 30] devoted to extensions of some Nullstellensätze over ordered fields, p–adically closed fields, pseudoalgebraically closed fields due to D. Dubois, G. Stengle, M. Jarden–P. Roquette, B. Jacob, K. McKenna.

B 1.4) **Pseudoreal closed fields.**

In Ax's fundamental work from Annals of Mathematics (1968) devoted to the elementary theory of finite fields, an important class of fields, called later by G. Frey pseudoalgebraically closed (PAC) fields, is introduced and investigated. An order theoretic analogue of this concept was introduced and studied in [25]. Later A. Prestel extended this concept calling a field *pseudoreal closed* if it is existentially closed in any regular, totally real field extension; equivalently, in geometric terms, a field K is pseudoreal closed iff every absolutely irreducible affine variety defined over K has a rational point over K whenever it has a simple rational point over any real closure of K. In [24], an alternative proof using nonstandard arithmetic techniques is given for Prestel's result on the recursive axiomatizability of the class of pseudoreal closed fields.

The paper [26] is devoted to the algebraic and the model theoretic investigation of an important subclass of pseudoreal closed Hilbertian fields. A positive answer to a question raised in [26] is announced without proof by J. Ershov in a note from Dokladi Akad.Nauk SSSR(1982).

The papers [28] and [32] are devoted to the absolute Galois group of a pseudoreal closed field, while some model theoretic transfer principles for pseudoreal closed fields are proved in [33].

B 1.5) **Abelian groups.**

The models of the elementary theories of the classes of finite, resp. profinite, resp. torsion Abelian groups are characterized in [8] and [11] in terms of some specific elementary invariants. The paper [8] is the starting point–the Abelian case–of Felgner's works on pseudofinite groups, the group theoretic analogue of Ax's pseudofinite fields. In a recent paper, I.Herzog and Ph. Rothmaler mention the results of [8] and [11] in connection to the characterization of the cotorsion modules which are pure injective.

B 1.6) **Rings with approximation property.**

Using the model theoretic concept of existential completeness, certain types of good approximation in rings are introduced in the joint paper [19] with Dorin Popescu and Vasile Nica, and the general theory is applied to the particular case of rings with approximation property which play a basic role in commutative algebra and algebraic geometry.

B 1.7) **The p-adic spectrum of a commutative ring and compactification.**

By analogy with Zariski's spectrum and the real spectrum of a commutative ring, the concept of a p–adically closed field induces through a natural process of globalization the notion of a p–adic spectrum introduced and investigated in [36]. p–adic analogues of some results of the real algebraic geometry (as Artin–Lang theorem and the finiteness theorem conjectured by Brumfiel) are obtained. Finally these results together with Kuhlmann-Prestel density theorem (Crelle's Journal, 1984) provide a model theoretic unitary approach of the compactification procedure of the affine algebraic varieties defined over local fields of characteristic zero, introduced in 1984 by J.W. Morgan and P. Shalen in the complex and the real case, avoiding in this way the appeal to Hironaka's desingularization.

B 2) **Diophantian problems.**

In the paper "Zeros of polynomials over local fields. The Galois action", Journal of Algebra (1970), J. Ax introduced the "diameter of conjugates" as a measure of the "closeness to the base field" of an algebraic element over a given Henselian valued field. This concept is used in [6, 10] to study the "closeness to rationality" of the points of an elliptic curve defined over a local field of characteristic zero and positive residue characteristic.

Some questions concerning the torsion points on elliptic curves defined over local and global fields are discussed in [20], were some results of Demianenco and Hellegouach are extened.

The techniques of the nonstandard arithmetic are used in [7, 22] to investigate some questions concerning the class field theory and the diophantian approximation.

Barry Mazur's distributions are powerful tools in the study of some arithmetical problems on cyclotomic fields, modular functions and abelian extensions. A purely algebraic approach of the distributions defined on distributive lattices and profinite groups is developed in [35], where some results of Sinnott, Kubert and Lang are extended.

B 3) **Arboreal group theory.**

In the last 25 years various extensions of the Bass–Serre theory of group actions on simplicial trees have been the subject of much investigation combining elementary geometric considerations with very sophisticated techniques. The variety of topics and applications of the field is well reflected in the proceedings "Arboreal Group Theory", ed. R.C. Alperin, Mathematical Sciences Research Publications **19**, Springer–Verlag, 1991, as well as in more recent papers.

Reading by chance the paper of J. Morgan and P. Shalen, "Valuations, trees and degenerations of hyperbolic structures.1", Annals of Mathematics, **120** (1984), I became interested in Λ–trees and the combinatorial group theoretic information carried by a group action on a Λ–tree. Stimulated by this paper and also by the paper of R.C.Alperin and H.Bass, "Length functions of group actions on Λ–trees", Annals of Mathematical Studies, **111**, Princeton University Press, 1987, I succeeded in [38] to extend to Λ–trees some basic constructions and results contained in the first chapter of Serre's book *Trees*, while some model theoretic transfer principles for Λ–trees have been established in [34].

The technique developed in [38] has two complementary aspects: a group theoretic one concerning actions on groupoids, and a metric one concerning Lyndon length functions on groupoids. The simultaneous approach of these two aspects introduced some complications in the logical line of the exposition in [38], so in [40], I considered more natural to treat them apart and eventually relate them. Moreover, a more general concept of tree, including distributive lattices, Λ–trees where Λ is a lattice ordered group, and Coxeter complexes as special cases, is introduced and investigated in [50], while the dual of the category of these general trees is described in [51] using a suitable extension of Stone's representation theorem for distributive lattices. To my surprise I learned later that this general concept of tree has been known already from 50's to lattice theorists under the name of *median algebra*, however almost unknown to group theorists. Thus, having as starting point of my research the geometric point of view of group actions, I rediscovered the significant concept of median algebra and some results concerning it. Fortunatelly, the geometric motivation of my approach permitted me to obtain also some new results. For instance, in [43] I considered two basic operators on the class of generalized trees assigning to a generalized tree T the generalized tree $\mathrm{Dir}(T)$ of the *directions* on T, resp. the directed generalized tree $\mathrm{Fold}(T)$ of the *foldings (retractions)* of T. The main results of [43] show that the two operators above commute, providing an interpretation of the composite operator $\mathrm{Fold} \circ \mathrm{Dir} = \mathrm{Dir} \circ \mathrm{Fold}$ in terms of the so called *quasidirections* on generalized trees.

In the last years I was mainly interested in applying the general concepts and results of the theory of generalized trees to some significant mathematical frameworks. Thus in [42], motivated by some difficult problems concerning the model theory of free groups and free profinite groups, I considered a class of groups called discrete hyperbolic arboreal groups, showing that given a discrete hyperbolic arboreal group G and a suitable family of Abelian discrete hyperbolic arboreal groups which are convex extensions of maximal abelian arboreal subgroups of G, the corresponding amalgamated sum has a canonical structure of discrete hyperbolic arboreal group. The works [44–46, 57] are devoted to a systematic study of the arboreal structure of a class of groups including the free groups, the free Abelian groups and the Coxeter groups whose relations involve only commuting generators, currently called right-angled Artin groups.

A natural generalisation of the combinatorial notion of graph of groups, called *median groupoid of groups* is introduced in [48, 49], where Theorems 11 and 12 from Chapter I of Serre's book *"Trees"* on the universal covering relative to a graph of groups are extended to this more general context. A procedure of deformation of simplicial trees into more sophisticated arboreal structures is developed in [58] in order to extend a very recent result of I. Chiswell and T. Müller concerning hyperbolic actions on Λ-trees to the more general context of strongly uniform actions on median sets.

Related with this topics and the relative elimination of quantifiers discussed in [37], the papers [47, 59] are devoted to systematic study of the *arithmetical–arboreal residue structure* of a Prüfer extension.

B 4) **Abstract coGalois theory.**

Roughly speaking, *coGalois theory* investigates field extensions which possess a coGalois correspondence. This theory with roots in classical works of

Mordell, Siegel, Kneser, Schinzel, is somewhat dual to the very classical *Galois theory* dealing with field extensions possesing a Galois correspondence. Since the profinite groups are precisely those topological groups which arise as Galois groups of Galois extensions, an *Abstract Galois theory* for arbitrary profinite groups was developed by Neukirch within the Abstract Class Field theory, so it was natural to try to develope an *Abstract coGalois theory* with the aim to investigate the group theoretic correspondents of the basic field theoretic notions of G–Kneser and G–coGalois field extensions, and use them to obtain new field theoretic results. The papers [54, 56] and the joint paper [53] with Toma Albu are devoted to this goal. Criterions for Kneser and Cogalois groups of cocycles, as well as for closed subgroups of the profinite group acting on a discrete quasicyclic group, are proved, and a complete classification of the so called *coGalois actions* and *strongly coGalois actions* is given. An isomorphism theorem proved in the joint paper [52] with Toma Albu is extended in [56] to this group theoretic framework. Some recent works in preparation are devoted to a significant extension of the framework of the coGalois theory, seen as the study of the natural Galois connections induced by continuous generating cocycles defined on profinite groups acting continuously on (not necessarily abelian) profinite groups.

B 5) **Other papers.**

Other papers concern nonabelian cohomology[3, 5], formal Moufang loops [9], logical design of switching circuits and technical applications [1, 2].

PUBLICATIONS

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(2) *The logical design of the control unit of the major cycle for a medium size computer*, (in Romanian) Probleme de Automatizare 6 (1969) 25-38.

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(4) *Some metamathematical aspects of the theory of Henselian fields*, (in Romanian) Studii si Cercetari Matematice 10 (1973) 1449-1559; MR52# 8104, Zbl295-12106.

(5) *Cohomologie des petites categories*, Revue Roumaine de Math. 5 (1974) 559-575; MR50# 7295, Zbl295.18006.

(6) *Closeness to rationality of the points of an elliptic curve defined over a local field*, (in Romanian) Studii si Cercetari Matematice 6 (1974) 783-792; MR53# 10806, Zbl294.14013, Zbl302.14007.

(7) *Some remarks concerning nonstandard admissible morphisms*, Revue Roumaine Sciences Sociales, Serie de Philosophie et Logique (1975) 205-210.

(8) *The models of the elementary theory of finite Abelian groups*, (in Romanian) Studii si Cercetari Matematice 4 (1975) 381-386; MR53# 7770, Zbl335.02036.

(9) *Commutative formal Moufang loops*, (in Romanian) Studii si Cercetari Matematice (1976) 259-265; MR53# 8074, Zbl336.20045.

(10) *Le diametre des conjugues des points des courbes elliptiques*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Math. 282 (1976) 787-788; MR53# 5612, Zbl332.14011.

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(12) *Some model theory for Henselian valued fields*, J.Algebra 55:2 (1978) 191-212;MR 82m:03046,Zbl424.03016.

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(15) *A model theoretic transfer theorem for Henselian valued fields*, J.Reine Angew.Math. 311/312 (1979) 1-30; MR81h:03071, Zbl409.12030.

(16) *The diameter of the conjugates of a point on an elliptic curve* (in Romanian) Studii si Cercetari Matematice 2 (1979) 139-158; MR81:14015, Zbl424.14014.

(17) *Towards a general theory of formally p-adic fields*, Manuscripta Math. 30 (1980) 279-327; MR81e:12028, Zbl451.12016.

(18) *Extension of places and contraction properties for function fields over p-adically closed fields*, J.Reine Angew.Math. 326 (1981) 54-78; MR82j:03040, Zbl491.12025.

(19) (with V.Nica and D.Popescu)*Approximation properties and existential completeness for ring morphisms*, Manuscripta Math. 33 (1981) 227-282;
MR82k:03047, Zbl472.13013.

(20) *Some remarks concerning the torsion points of elliptic curves*, Revue Roumaine Math. 6 (1982) 621-642; MR85b:14058, Zbl504.14023.

(21) *On a class of preorderings of higher level*, Manuscripta Math. 37 (1982) 163-210; MR83m:12033, Zbl537.12015.

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(29) *Diophantian problems in the perspective of the model theory* (in Romanian), in "Matematica in lumea de azi si de maine", Ed.Academiei Romane (1985) 22-25.

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