



Preface

An International Conference and Humboldt Kolleg honouring the seventieth anniversary of Professor Șerban Basarab was held in Constanța, Romania, from 14 to 18 April, 2010. The topic of the conference was *Fundamental Structures of Algebra*. The conference was organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Ovidius University, Constanța, in association with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, "Simion Stoilow" the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, and the Romanian Mathematical Society.

The conference brought together high level experts in Algebra and related fields (Number Theory, Algebraic Geometry, Model-theoretic Algebra, Topology, Group Theory). It also intended to introduce young researchers to actual directions of research in the main fields covered by the conference program and to enable them to receive the required knowledge for doing significant research. A very fruitful exchange of ideas and scientific information between the Romanian alumni of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowships and the researchers from Germany and other countries was envisaged and accomplished. There were twenty seven talks delivered by the participants with a special emphasis on the Professor Basarab's contributions and open discussions on the presented subjects.

The organizers would like to thank Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for providing the main financial support. We owe special thanks to Miss Dine Hayat for her patient and kind guidance in carrying out the Humboldt Kolleg. We are very grateful to Professor Toma Albu for his initiative to apply to the Humboldt Foundation and to all the other Humboldtians for supporting our conference.

We would also like to thank all the other institutions which offered financial support for this event, namely Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Ovidius University, and Softwin Group, Bucharest, and to all the contributors to this volume dedicated to Professor Basarab.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,
Viviana Ene and Denis Ibadula

