In memoriam of Professor Ştefan Staicu (1940-2019)
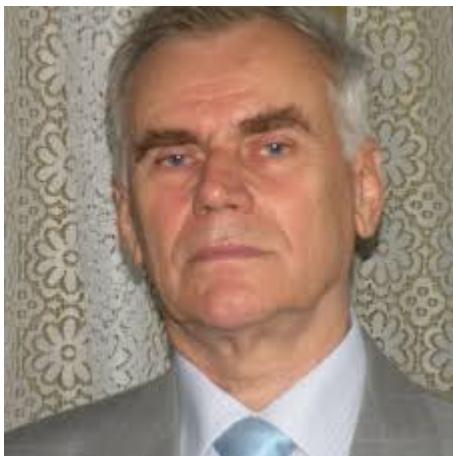
On June 18, 2019, professor emeritus Ştefan Staicu died. He was a professor and, since year 2010 at the Department of Mechanics in the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest. He was a correspondent member of the Romanian Academy, within the Department of Technical Sciences. Professor Staicu was also a Series Editor at the *Scientific Bulletin*, Series D, *Mechanical Engineering*.

Professor Ştefan Staicu was born on April 29, 1940, in Goicea – Popoviceni village, Dolj, Romania, where he attended the primary school and the courses of the second cycle. From 1954 to 1957 he was a student of the National College "Fraţii Buzeşti", in Craiova.

In 1963 he obtained the title of diploma engineer at the Faculty of Mechanics, section of Aviation Constructions, in the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest and in 1969 a PhD title with a specialization in aerodynamics, with the thesis *Contributions to the theory of wings in supersonic regime with separation of the current at the leading edges*, at the Institute of Fluid Mechanics "Traian Vuia" of the Romanian Academy. The PhD scientific advisor was academician Elie Carafoli.

Between 1963 and 2010, he went through all the academic degrees, from assistant professor, to professor, at the University "Politehnica" of Bucharest. From 2010 he continued as a consulting professor and from 2012 as an emeritus professor. Between 1976 and 1979 he worked as a "maître assistant" (assistant professor) and later "maitre de conferences" (lecturer), at the *Institut des Sciences Exactes* (*Departement de Physique*), *Université d'Oran*, Algeria.

Professor Ştefan Staicu is well-known for his research and works published in prestigious international journals, in the fields of aerodynamics and robot mechanics, on the flow phenomena around carrier systems used in supersonic flight, delta wings and cruciform tail assemblies, dynamics of space flight, theoretical and applied mechanics, as well as development of dynamic models for systems schematized in

space through kinematic chains with connex architecture. For parallel robots he introduced a matrix form of the kinematic model of the connectivity conditions and he proposed a compact shape for the fundamental equations of dynamics. The Recursive Matrix Method (RMM) is applied for the dynamic modeling of a hybrid topology robot manipulator with various degrees of mobility.

Professor Staicu is the author of numerous monographs, such as: *Applications of matrix calculation in solid mechanics* (The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1986), recognized as the first Romanian work in which the theoretical mechanics is modeled entirely in matrix form; *Theoretical Mechanics* (Ed. Didactică şi Pedagogică, 1998); *Dynamics of parallel robots* (Springer Publishing, 2019).

He was awarded the *Aurel Vlaicu Prize* of the Romanian Academy in 2010 and was appointed as a member of the Romanian-American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Romanian engineering community is addressing a farewell to Professor Ştefan Staicu, who, during a brilliant teaching career at the University "Politehnica" of Bucharest, has prepared and educated numerous generations of engineers.

May he rest in peace!

Professor Andrei Craifaleanu, Head of the Department of Mechanics, University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest
Professor Ioan Magheţi, Department of Mechanics, University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest