

Mathematics Studies **3**

Proceedings of the
International Conference on

**Semigroups, Acts and Categories
with Applications to Graphs**

*to celebrate the 65th birthdays of
Mati Kilp and Ulrich Knauer*

University of Tartu, June 27–30, 2007

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Estonian Mathematical Society
Tartu 2008

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J. Liivi 2, 50409 Tartu, Estonia

ISBN 978-9985-9644-2-2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Participants	6
João Araújo, Janusz Konieczny , The monoid of holomorphic endomorphisms of a group and its automorphisms	7
Richard N. Ball, Jaroslav Nešetřil, Aleš Pultr , Finite dualities, in particular in full homomorphisms	14
Sydney Bulman-Fleming , Flatness properties of S -posets: an overview	28
Victoria Gould , Axiomatisability of free, projective and flat S -acts	41
Roland Kaschek , More on unretractive graphs	57
Yefim Katsov , On subpullback and pullback flat, and subflat S -posets	67
Kolja B. Knauer , Distributive lattices on graph orientations	79
Mark V. Lawson , Semigroups related to subshifts of graphs	92
Peeter Normak , Absolutely equationally compact monoids	108
Sergey Solovyov , On coproducts of quantale algebras	115
Lauri Tart , Convexity and coconvexity of S -posets	127
Apirat Wanichsombat , Endo-completely-regular split graphs	136
Somnuek Worawiset , On endomorphisms of Clifford semigroups	143
Xia Zhang , Clifford semigroups with genus zero	151



From the left: J. Kyppö, S. Bulman-Fleming, L. Shaheen, A. Pultr, V. Gould, J. Fountain, J. Araújo, M. Kilp, Chr. Hollings, K. Kaarli, B. Langfeld, Y. Katsov, J. Cīrulis, L. Márki, A. Heinze, A. Yamamura, M. Lawson, U. Knauer, J. Knauer, S. Solovjovs, M. Steinby, P. Normak, E. Redi, K. Knauer, V. Laan, A. Wanichsombat, R. Kaschek, A. Golchin, S. Worawiset, Sr. Arworn, A. Gilmour, L. Tart, M. Mahmoudi, A. Karimi Feizabadi, L. Shahbaz, X. Zhang. Photo: Andres Tennus (University of Tartu).

FOREWORD

The *Conference on Semigroups, Acts and Categories, with Applications to Graphs* took place in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Tartu, from June 27 to June 30, 2007. As well as bringing together scholars working in the subject areas listed in the conference title, giving them an opportunity to present and discuss current research with each other in a friendly and intimate setting, an equally important purpose of the conference was to pay tribute to Professors Mati Kilp and Ulrich Knauer on the occasion of their 65th birthdays for the inspiring leadership they have shown and the major contributions they have made in these areas.

The main speakers at the conference were Victoria Gould (University of York, UK), Mark Lawson (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK) and Aleš Pultr (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic). There were 38 conference participants altogether, ranging from beginning graduate students to seasoned researchers, from 15 different countries, and 30 talks were presented. The 14 papers included in these *Proceedings* are generally based on the talks given at the conference, and include both survey articles and reports on recent new research. In reviewing the articles, a blind refereeing process was employed, and the conference organizers listed below acted as editors.

In addition to the academic sessions, conference participants enjoyed a guided walking tour of Tartu, a bus trip to the resort town of Pärnu (on the Baltic Sea), and a wonderful conference dinner in the Museum of Tartu University History. At the latter event, many individuals offered warm and often moving reminiscences of their association with Mati and Ulrich and their families over the years.

The organizers would like to thank the sponsors of this highly successful conference, namely, the Estonian Mathematical Society, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Tartu, the Institute of Mathematics of Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg (Germany), and Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada). We hope that these Proceedings will serve to introduce readers to several vibrant (and perhaps not yet quite mainstream) areas of pure and applied mathematics that are represented here.

Tartu, July 2008

Syd Bulman-Fleming
Roland Kaschek
Valdis Laan

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