

## Words of Thanks, Posidi, Halkidiki, 2024

Dear Tassos, Dear Friends and respected Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply thankful to you, Tassos, for the kind invitation to this remarkable School and Conference, as well as I am deeply grateful to the main organizers, Professors Dimitris Kugiumtzis and George Voyatzis. It is my great pleasure to be here, as it was my pleasure in the past, so many times, to visit Greece at so many wonderful events that Tassos has been organizing since 1986. Namely, in September 1986 Tassos organized his first conference on nonlinear dynamics, at the Philippon hotel in Thessaloniki, with many prominent invited speakers from around the world, such as Martin Kruskal, Mitchell Feigenbaum, Ian Percival, Giulio Casati, Edward Ott, Robert MacKay, and many others. Following this tremendous success, Tassos went on organizing his summer schools and conferences, almost every year, which always met the highest international standards.

I have met Tassos for the first time in Como, in 1983, at a conference organized by Giulio Casati, and then again in Trieste 1986, again organized by Giulio Casati and Martin Gutzwiller. In those years Tassos was working, among other things, also on the Painlevé properties of Hamiltonian systems to detect integrability, and my discussions with him on my problem were very enlightening and stimulating. It was about relativistic plasma waves, pulsar waves, mapped exactly onto the problem of a certain 2D nonlinear Hamiltonian system. In Trieste, Tassos invited me to the conference at Thessaloniki mentioned above, and it was my great pleasure to accept his kind invitation. At that period I was based in Bristol, England.

Thus our contacts, and friendship with Tassos, extend over more than 40 years. Tassos has invited me to so many schools and conferences in Greece, that it is impossible to list all of them, as they are more than a dozen. Each time I found the scientific level and atmosphere highly stimulating. This year is the 30th in the series, and there were other additional events organized by him over the past decades. Thus his work is highly impressive, this time thanks to the great efforts of Dimitris Kugiumtzis and George Voyatzis.

In addition, we have been working together on many other events that I have organized in Maribor and abroad. In particular, this includes international summer schools and conferences Let's Face Chaos through Nonlinear Dynamics (so far 9 of them, in a series), where Tassos was a member of the organizing committee. The honorary directors were Giulio Casati, Predrag Cvitanović, Theo Geisel, Siegfried Grossmann and Hermann Haken. (Unfortunately, Professor Hermann Haken passed away recently, on 14 August 2024, at age 97.) Furthermore, we have jointly organized the European Advanced Studies Conferences, together with Andreas Ruffing from TU Munich, at various places in Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Greece. It was in 2004 that one of these conferences was held at Ancient Olympia, under the leadership of Tassos. I have also a very long tradition, since 1999, in organizing the Japan-Slovenia Seminars on Nonlinear Science, in Maribor and

in Japan, at various places such as Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Nara. Due to the covid pandemic there was an interruption, but we held the 17th Japan-Slovenia Seminar online, on Zoom, in March 2022. As additional speakers I have invited Tassos, and also Giulio Casati and Hans-Jürgen Stöckmann from Marburg, Germany, as they are very strongly connected with the Slovenian researchers in this field, and also have contacts in Japan.

A few years ago, in September 2017, we again organized another school on complexity science, Let's face complexity, at Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, under the invitation and support of Giulio Casati, the founder and director of the Lake Como School of Advanced Studies. Co-organizers were Matjaž Perc and Siegfried Grossmann.

Finally, I should mention that Tassos was many times invited speaker at my Christmas Symposia of Physicists, in Maribor. This year it will be 21st in the series, and Tassos has already kindly accepted my invitation to come and deliver his lecture. We look forward to his visit and participation.

I also have other connections with Greece. Namely George Papamikos and Dimitris Andreas were two of my 9 PhD students, who successfully defended their theses at the University of Maribor. Previously, they were both students of applied mathematics at the University of Patras, and it was Tassos who sent them to me, at CAMTP in Maribor. George Papamikos is now permanently a lecturer at the University of Essex in England. Moreover, Thanos Manos was a postdoctoral researcher at my institute CAMTP, in the period 2011 - 2014, formally also associated with the University of Nova Gorica. We have been working together on problems in quantum chaos. After Maribor, he joined the group of Peter Tass at the research institute in Jülich, in Germany, and now he is as associate professor permanently at the Cergy Paris University.

I may conclude that I have very strong academic and scientific relationships with Greece, and all of them are based on my ties with Tassos. Therefore, I thank you Tassos, for sharing the friendship and mutual support over the past 40 years. And I thank again the organizers, especially Dimitris Kugiumtzis and George Voyatzis, for the kind invitation to this school and conference and for the hospitality. It is my honor and privilege to celebrate my 70th birthday here in Greece, with you.

Thank you very much indeed!

Marko Robnik, AUTH Camping, Posidi, Halkidiki, Thursday 29 August 2024