

PROF. DR. TRAJKO ANGELOV
(1945–2026)

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SUMMARY: This contribution is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Trajko Angelov, retired professor of the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade, who suddenly passed away on March 18, 2026. It aims to present the professor's biography and bibliography, as well as to emphasize his role in development and teaching of astronomy in our country.

Key words. Miscellaneous – Obituaries, biographies



Prof. Dr. Trajko Angelov

Trajko Angelov was born on August 9, 1945, in Veles, in present-day North Macedonia. He completed primary and secondary education in his home town of Veles. In 1964, he enrolled in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade, Astronomy program, and graduated in Astrophysics in

1969. He began his professional career as a research assistant at the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade in 1969, but soon, as early as 1970, he moved to the then Institute, now the Department of Astronomy of the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade, where he remained until retirement. At the Institute, he was elected to position of teaching assistant and immediately enrolled in the postgraduate program in Astrophysics, which he completed in 1972 after defending his master's thesis entitled "Contribution to the Study of Stellar Models at the Hydrogen Burning Stage".

During 1977/78, he spent 10 months at the Ondřejov Astronomical Observatory in then Czechoslovakia, working on his doctoral dissertation entitled "Contribution to the Theory of Stellar Envelopes". He completed the dissertation in 1980 and defended it in 1981. The same year, he was elected assistant professor for the courses Stellar Astronomy and Stellar Structure and Evolution. He was re-elected as assistant professor in 1986, elected as associate professor in 1991, re-elected to the same position in 1996, and, in the same year, elected full professor. During this period, Trajko Angelov educated generations and generations of our astronomers and astrophysicists, generously sharing his knowledge. As a teaching assistant, he held exercises for the courses General Astronomy, General Astrophysics, and Theoretical Astrophysics. Exercises in this last course,

introduced by Prof. Mirjana Vukićević-Karabin, and the course Stellar Structure and Evolution were introduced with the election of Trajko Angelov as a teaching assistant and later as a professor at the Department of Astronomy. For the course Stellar Astronomy he wrote a textbook of the same title (published in 2013). In addition to these undergraduate courses, at the Faculty of Mathematics he taught postgraduate level courses (Stellar Physics and Galactic Spiral Structure), as well as the undergraduate course Basics of Astrophysics for the Faculty of Physics students. For a short time, he taught astronomy at the 5th Belgrade Gymnasium.

His scientific work was in the areas of his teaching: the structure and evolution of stars and stellar astronomy. Although his scientific work was not extensive, if you were to ask students which lectures they found most engaging, or the local community which of our astronomers and astrophysicists they respect the most and consider the most knowledgeable, Prof. Angelov would undoubtedly be at the top of the list. Along with his master's thesis and doctoral dissertation, he published 22 scientific papers (including papers in journals and proceedings), 8 professional papers, and gave 11 lectures at scientific meetings. He published the vast majority of his papers as the sole author. At the beginning of his scientific career, as can be seen from his bibliography, Prof. Angelov dealt with the mass-luminosity relation, main-sequence stellar models, and the structure of stellar envelopes. In the field of stellar astronomy, he worked on the structure of the Galaxy – disk stability, and spiral density waves. His later works on the empirical mass-luminosity relation (Angelov 1993a) and visual binaries (Angelov 1993b) particularly stand out, resulting in a method for determining the dynamical parallax and masses of components of visual binary stars, colloquially called the Angelov method. He was a member of committees for defense of several MSc and PhD theses, and was the supervisor of four master's theses:

1. Djurašević, Gojko: 1983, Contribution to the Investigation of Critical Surfaces of Close Binary Systems, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
2. Petrović, Jelena: 2001, Influence of Rotation on the Structure of Zero-Age Main Sequence Stars, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics
3. Čuljić, Aleksandar: 2001, Influence of Stellar Chemical Composition on the Mass-Luminosity Relation, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics
4. Kuzmanovska, Olgica: 2005, On the Energy Transfer through the Interior of Rotating Stars, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics

He was a lecturer at the Petnica Science Center and engaged in popularization of astronomy (participated in scientific panels, held popular lectures at the Kolarac Public University, etc). He had been a member of the International Astronomical Union since 1982 (Commission 33 for the stellar structure

and evolution), the Society of Astronomers of Serbia, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Serbian Astronomical Journal (previously Bulletin Astronomique de Belgrade). In two mandates, he was a member of the Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and the head of the Institute of Astronomy from 1992 to 1996. He was the head of the Department of Astronomy from 2003 to 2005 and briefly in 2007.

Although he retired in 2010, he remained active at the Department of Astronomy, continuing to attend the Department's meetings on the occasion of Prof. dr Zaharije Brkić Award ceremony, to participate in seminars, to serve as a member of the Serbian Astronomical Journal's Editorial Board, and to work on his problem book in the stellar structure and evolution, practically until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019 when, for understandable reasons, his visits to the Department became less frequent. In 2025 Prof. Trajko Angelov turned 80 years, but the organization of a small conference on this occasion was prevented by his illness. Prof. Angelov passed away suddenly on March 18, 2026. He will be dearly missed by his students, friends, colleagues and the entire former Yugoslav and Serbian astronomical community. May he rest in peace, among the stars.

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**ПРОФ. ДР ТРАЈКО АНГЕЛОВ
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У спомен

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његова кратка биографија и библиографија, и посебно истакнута улога коју је професор имао у развоју наставе астрономије у нашој земљи.