

Dear Alan,

I remember when, while I was at my master studies in Belgrade, I encountered in our library and then read your book “The Computer Modelling of Mathematical Reasoning”. That was it, it was what I wanted to do and it is still what I find the best description of what I want to do. At that time, I still didn’t know that I was going to visit your group, to work with you and to be fortunate enough to have you guiding me to my PhD. I still didn’t know how much I was going to learn from you, both at the object and the meta-level. And last but not least, at that time I still didn’t know I was to become the DReaMer that made by far the greatest number of wrong and missing articles in English texts that you had to correct. While your knowledge and patience made me learn so many things, you failed in this: despite your numerous patient attempts (hints, examples, algorithms), English articles remained out of my understanding. For good or bad, you don’t have to correct them in this text.

I remember listening to your ideas and your dreams, your advices and your explanations of different issues, including political ones. I learnt how systematic thinking and your methodology apply to things in a way that many people could not easily guess.

I remember talking to you about my PhD research and all my fears facing the problems to be solved. I remember reading your comments to my notes and papers – your “interesting” (which actually meant that my ideas were not very good), and your “nice” which gave so much encouragement. Finally, after several years, I got one “really nice!” and that piece of work turned to be the main part of my PhD thesis.

Although I was only visiting the DReaM group (but spent there almost a year altogether), I always felt as one of the DReaMers. This is what I found in one novel written by, Portuguese Nobel prize laureate, Hose Saramago (“The History of the Siege of Lisbon”, Harcourt Brace, 1996): “... there are some people, the dreamers, who prefer doubt to certainty, who are much less interested in the object that in its traces, in the footprints in the sand rather than in the animal that left them behind...” ... and was reminded of DReaMers.

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