
Introduction

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Georges Matheron died in August 2000, after an exceptionally rich scientific career. We, a small group of his friends, colleagues and former students, would like to pay a tribute to a man whose broad interests and penetrating insights have greatly enriched our research topics.

Although Georges Matheron's written work spans more than 12,000 pages, most of it only exists as technical notes from the Ecole des Mines. His work has become known through his students and through a few important papers and books that he published. In addition to being one of the founding fathers of both geostatistics and mathematical morphology, he is internationally recognised for his outstanding contribution to the theory of random sets.

Whether he was seeking to describe mining orebodies, meteorological fields, or biological, petrographic or metallurgical samples, Georges Matheron succeeded in capturing the key aspects of the natural phenomenon under study. His innate physical sense gave him the ability to select the most appropriate mathematical models to represent these phenomena, and his outstanding capacity for mathematics allowed him to solve the problems neatly and efficiently. This is why his work remains as pertinent today as it was when it was first written.

In this volume we have attempted to provide an overview of his work, not from a historical point of view or as a lecturer would, but rather from our vantage view as researchers who have used his work as the basis for developing original ideas. The authors who have been invited to contribute to this volume were chosen for the quality of their work in the three main domains that Matheron worked in: geostatistics, random sets and mathematical morphology. We hope that you will enjoy reading the book and discovering unexpected links between such apparently different fields as physics and random sets, or morphological filters and multimedia.

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Fields of Geostatistics, Random Sets and Mathematical
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