FOREWORD

The articles of Mikhail Menshikov and Pedro Alberto Morettin are extended versions of the talks presented by the authors in the meeting Stochastic Modeling and Statistical Analysis of Complex Systems, organized by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in May 15, 1997, at our Institute.

The issue is completed by an article of Claudio Landim, Stefano Olla and Sergio Volchan on a related subject.

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