Matsumoto's legacy.
The life and work of Professor Makoto Matsumoto

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§1. Prologue

There is no mathematician in the world nowadays studying Finsler geometry without knowing the name of Professor Makoto Matsumoto. His lifelong work started with the study of Riemannian geometry and culminated with the foundation of the geometry of Finsler spaces, an important generalization of Riemannian geometry mentioned by B. Riemann himself.

Professor Makoto Matsumoto was born on August 1, 1920 in the old capital of Japan, the beautiful city of Kyoto, where he spent all his 85 years long life, until he passed away on January 23, 2005.

Living his youth in a Japan engaged in the Second World War, he graduated from Kyoto Daisan High school, and then entered Kyoto Imperial University (Kyoto University today), Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics, graduating in 1944. Because of the war situation he had no choice but to work as Assistant Engineer at Fujikoshi Steel Company for one year.

Professor Makoto Matsumoto started his career in education as Assistant Professor at Doshisha Technical College in 1945, and moved to the Faculty of Engineering in Doshisha University in 1949. He was appointed as Assistant Professor at the Yoshida College of Kyoto University in 1950 and then at Faculty of Science of the same university in 1953. Further in his career he got promoted to full Professor and was appointed at the Yoshida College of Kyoto University again in 1964. He retired in 1984 and got awarded the "Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University" title. He became a professor at Gifu College of Education between 1984–1987, and then Professor at Setsunan University, Department of Engineering in the period 1987–1992.

He received the title of Doctor in Science from Kyoto University, Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics in 1954. He was awarded