

The text that appear on the session dedicated to the memory of Professor Zdzisław Pawlak

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Against all appearances, it is not simply to talk about the man, who I knew for over 40 years and who properly formed all my professional and scientific life.

In my short speech I am not going to tell about the Professor Pawlak's work and his scientific achievements.

There are more competent people here, who would describe these achievements much better.

I Being one of the multitude of his students I am going to focus on more private observations.

The first time I met Professor Pawlak at the beginning of sixties last century I was a student and at A.J Blikle's instigation (who was an Assistant Professor) I started to participate in Professor Pawlak's seminars in Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. There, for the first time I met with issue (mainly theoretical) applying for working of mathematical machines (computers were used to be called so). Thus I met with the issue applying for programming and languages of programming, theory of algorithms, automata theory, theory of grammar and formal languages.

Then Professor Pawlak was promotor of my Master and PhD thesis.

Thanks to him I was rewarded with Fulbright scholarship and I could spend one year in California University in Los Angeles (UCLA). My residence there determined direction of my scientific interests to a large extent. As You can see I remained under his influence and cooperation with him was very important not only for me but for everyone, in various area of our life, not only scientific life area. It was said (probably by Professor Łoś) that "Professor Pawlak is Your guru and You are members of his sect". So it was seemed to be like that, and that stressed "You" - applied to young people then (we are professors all now). In 1971 we came from various institutions (University, Institute of Mathematics, Institute of Mathematical Machines) after Professor Pawlak to Computing Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences where Professor Pawlak became deputy manager of science.

As all, who were born quite long time ago, remember the beginning of seventies last century and later was not good time for development of native computer technology. In such situation prof. Pawlak decided that we should focus our attention on these areas, which allow us quickly to achieve significant results, not only in native community. Such area seemed to be the theoretical (mathematical) foundations of computer science. People from Computing Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences and others gathered around Professor Pawlak were prepared to do it. Mathematical profession of those people, tools and mathematical language seems to be natural for this kind of research work. It turned out that this choice was correct.

Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science began to form scientific profile of the Computing Center, which in 1976 evolved into Institute of Foundations of Computer Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It can be said that Professor Pawlak was authentic founder of this Institute and he was main power of our research work.

He was concerned about possibility of presentation results of research in international forum and he stimulated us to organize in 1972 Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science (MFCS) conference. It took place every year interchangeably in Poland and in Czechoslovakia (since 1989 interchangeably in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia). Then MFCS was the one and only and unusual scientific event in this domain. There was a meeting

of scientists from both sides so-called the Iron Curtain. The conference up to now didn't lose its prestigious meaning.

Professor Pawlak with Professor Rasiowa were also initiators of the *Fundamenta Informaticae* periodical issue. It quickly attained high famous status in international community and as a result of this it is high score item in ISI Master Journal List.

Although I imposed limitations to myself at the beginning of this speech, I should mention about the most important ideas, which Professor Pawlak proposed. These ideas began research directions, which were inspiration for wide audience of scientists from all over the world.

Starting from so-called "Pawlak's machine", which was for a long time the ground for defining abstract model and working various computational devices.

The next step it was to propose simple model of data storage system, which led to develop smart search information theory.

At last, in the early eighties last century Professor Pawlak brought the notion of rough sets, which except for their simplicity, began wide theoretical research. Results of them have applications in many seemingly distant domains.

Except for these outstanding scientific achievements Professor Pawlak was always modest person, which e.g. often began his speech with the words "I am not sure, if it is significant, but ...".

At the end I would like to say that Professor Pawlak had wide area of interests and had many talents, e.g. he sang very well and he knew probably all operetta arias by heart. As we know at the end of his life he was painting a lot and here we can see also his superior abilities. His paintings could compete with professional painters painting. For fun He was fond of requirements of confirmation of his various achievements, not only scientific one. E.g. he got from my wife – professional dancer – certificate about His high dance skills. Similarly, in famous „Szkoła Orłąt” school in Dęblin, he asked commanding officer of the school – Gen. Olszewski to give him confirmation of status jet aeroplane test pilot, after his flight with General.

Professor Pawlak - outstanding scientist and form tutor - such rich in various talents person.