

The text that appear on the session dedicated to the memory
of Professor Zdzisław Pawlak
Stefan Węgrzyn
The Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics
of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Gliwice

Zdzisław Ignacy Pawlak was born on the 10th of November 1926 in Łódź, where he finished primary school in 1939.

During the Occupation, he was working at Siemens company. In 1946, he passed his matura examination without attending high school. He enrolled at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Technical University of Łódź in 1947 and, in 1949, he moved to the Faculty of Communication Engineering of the Warsaw University of Technology. In 1951, he earned his Master of Science and Engineer degrees. After the graduation till 1957 he worked as the assistant in the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academe of Sciences.

In the years 1957-1959, he worked at the Warsaw University of Technology, where, under his direction, one of the first computing machines in Poland was build. Then, in the years 1959-1963, he worked again at the Institute of Mathematics of PAN as an assistant professor. In the years 1963-1969, he had the second full-time position at the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Warsaw.

Since 1985, he worked at the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Gliwice. At the same time, in the years 1989-1996, he was the head of the Institute of Computer Sciences at the Warsaw University of Technology (the second full-time position).

Zdzisław I. Pawlak was engaged in research in theoretical informatics, for instance, he proposed a new class of parenthesis-free languages, which were a generalization of Łukasiewicz's parenthesis-free notation. These results were included into the fundamental monograph by Donald Knuth *The Art of Programming*.

He dealt with various aspects of theoretical informatics, for instance: mathematical linguistics, automata theory, automated theorem proving. He devoted many of his works to rough set theory, which he proposed in 1982, and which gained some popularity through the world. Over 2000 works were published so far on this subject, including several books (published by Springer-Verlag and Kluwer Academic Publishers); numerous international seminars and conferences devoted to this theory were held, mainly in the USA, Canada and Japan.

Zdzisław Pawlak received many honors and awards. Among other the State Prize of second degree (1973), Knight's Cross of the Order of Poland Reborn (1984), the Hugo Steinhaus Awards (1989), the Prize of the Minister of the National Education (1997) and Officer's Cross of the Order of Poland Reborn (1999).

He died in 2006 in Warsaw.