

Preface

Published online: 20 February 2009
© Springer Science + Business Media B.V. 2009

The Tenth International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics was held on January 2–4, 2008, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. One of its highlights was the symposium’s special session celebrating the 65th birthday of Victor W. Marek. The session was held on January 3–4. It consisted of thirteen talks and concluded with a general discussion.

This volume is meant to serve as the record of that event. It opens with the invited paper by Jeff Remmel summarizing Victor’s influence on and contributions to the fields of nonmonotonic logic and answer set programming, followed by a short personal reminiscence of Mirek Truszczyński.

The major, scientific part of this volume comprises eleven papers that went through the customary journal reviewing. We thank the authors for their contributions. We are also grateful to the reviewers for their dedicated and timely work. Eight of the papers have been presented at the symposium. The remaining three were contributed by Victor’s friends, collaborators, and colleagues who were unable to attend the event.

Victor W. Marek was born on March 22, 1943. In 1960, he started his mathematical education at the Warsaw University. He received M.Sc. in Mathematics in 1964, and started his Ph.D. studies under the supervision and mentorship of Andrzej Mostowski. He was also given then his first teaching assignments. Victor received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the Warsaw University in 1968. That was followed in 1970/71 by a postdoc position at Utrecht University, Holland, with Dirk van Dalen. Based in large degree on the results he obtained there, Victor received the D.Sc.

M. Kaminski (✉)
Department of Computer Science, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology,
Haifa 32000, Israel
e-mail: kaminski@cs.technion.ac.il

M. Truszczyński
Department of Computer Science, University of Kentucky,
Lexington, KY 40506-0046, USA
e-mail: mirek@cs.uky.edu

degree in Mathematics in 1972, also from the Warsaw University, being only 29 years old—an unprecedented accomplishment.

Victor was one of the principal collaborators of Mostowski at the Warsaw University until Mostowski's death in 1975. In 1978/79 and in 1982/83 Victor was a researcher at Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Studies. In 1980–1982 Victor was the head of the Section of Foundations of Mathematics at the Mathematical Institute of Warsaw University.

In 1983 Victor moved to the Computer Science Department of the University of Kentucky. In 1989/90 Victor was a visitor at the Mathematical Sciences Institute at Cornell University, and in 2001/2002 at the Department of Mathematics, University of California, San Diego.

As of today, Victor gave more than 25 invited talks at international conferences and symposia, coauthored five books, published near 200 research papers, and supervised 15 Ph.D students.

Scientific interests of Victor evolved in time significantly, but were always related to foundational issues. Victor has started his career as a pure “classical” logician with particular interest in combinatorial set theory, metamathematics of set theories, generalized recursion theory, and model theory of second-order arithmetic. In the 1970s, he moved into foundational issues of Computer Science. He studied information systems, rough set theory, and especially nonmonotonic knowledge representation formalisms with applications in Artificial Intelligence and Logic Programming. This second stream of research, whose development he has shaped and influenced so much, continues today.

Victor is active in research community having co-organized numerous meetings. In particular, he was one of the initiators of the Logic Programming and Non-monotonic Reasoning conference series and edited several volumes of conference proceedings of this and other meetings.

The occasion of Victor's 65th birthday provided an excellent pretext to celebrate his accomplishments. We feel honored to have had a chance to know and work with Victor. Co-organizing the special session and co-editing that volume allowed us on the one hand to acknowledge Victor's scientific contributions and, on the other, to thank him for his advice, mentorship, and friendship. This was a pleasure not a chore, and the response of Victor's students, collaborators and friends, critical for the overall success of both initiatives, made it easy. Thanks to all, and one more time, happy birthday, Victor.

Michael Kaminski
Mirosław Truszczyński



Victor W. Marek