

## PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ LASOTA (1932–2006)



Andrzej Lasota was born in Warsaw on January 11th 1932. At the beginning of World War II his family was evacuated to the East part of Poland and there they fell under Soviet occupation. Fortunately, they were able to escape back to Warsaw where they stayed until the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. Warsaw was destroyed and his family moved first to Kraków and next to Poznań. Here Andrzej Lasota graduated from secondary school in 1951 and then began to study physics at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków. Under the influence of Professor Tadeusz Ważewski he changed his major to mathematics. In 1955 Andrzej Lasota defended his MSc thesis at the Jagiellonian University and then in 1960 his PhD thesis at the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1964 he obtained the degree of habilitated doctor at the Jagiellonian University. He got the state titles of Professor extraordinary in 1972 and Professor ordinary in 1979.

He began his academic career still being a student in 1953 at the Jagiellonian University and worked there till 1975. He was the Dean of the Faculty in 1972–1975. Following that he became a professor at Silesian University in Katowice from 1975 till his death in 2006 with a short break in 1986–1988 when he worked at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin. He also had part-time positions at Jagiellonian University 1975–2005, and the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences 1956–1962, 1995–2006. He was the supervisor of 21 PhD students. Professor Lasota had

far-reaching international cooperation with a number of scientists, including Professors James Yorke, Michael Mackey, F.S. De Blasi, and S. N. Chow and visited numerous research centres. We only mention his long term visits at the Stiecklov Mathematical Institute in Moscow, University of Florence, University of Maryland, "Centratom" Trieste, McGill University in Montreal, University of Udine, Michigan State University, the University of Oxford and several shorter visits at the University of L'Aquila.

Professor Lasota contributed to many different areas of pure and applied mathematics. His best known results are:

- 1) the existence of invariant measures for piecewise monotonic transformations,
- 2) the generic properties of existence of solutions of differential equations in Banach space,
- 3) the lower bound technique for Markov operators,
- 4) the existence of probabilistic attractors for iterated function systems,
- 5) a model of red cell dynamics,
- 6) a model of drill motion.

He was a Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (corresponding member since 1983 and full member since 1994) and a Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (corresponding since 1997, active since 2001). The awards he was granted include the Scientific Prize of the Polish Academy of Sciences for research in mathematics in 1969, The Prize of the Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences for research in mathematics in 1974, the Scientific Prize of the Polish Academy of Sciences for research in medicine (with M. Ważewska) in 1977, Prize of the Minister of Education in 1994, Władysław Orlicz Prize in 2000, Doctor Honoris Causa, Silesian University in 2001, Waclaw Sierpiński Prize in 2002, and The Prize of the Prime Minister of Poland 2004.

Professor Andrzej Lasota died on December 28th 2006 in Katowice.

*Ryszard Rudnicki*