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Dominik Szynal – A Biography

Dominik Szynal was born in Stempina near Jasło (Southern Poland) on 4-th November, 1937. In 1945 his parents Bronisław and Sophie née Armata moved to Byczyna, a small town near Kluczbork in Silesia. Dominik attended the primary school at Byczyna and got his GCE from the high school at Kluczbork in 1956.

In the same year the family moved to Lublin, where Dominik joined the Maria Curie–Skłodowska University (UMCS) as a student of mathematics. He graduated in 1961 after submitting a master thesis written under supervision of Professor M. Olekiewicz and was subsequently teaching for two years as an assistant at the Lublin Agricultural College. From 1963 till now Dominik is affiliated with the UMCS. He received his doctorate from this university in 1965 after presenting the doctoral thesis entitled "Convergence problem for arithmetic means of independent random variables – almost sure and exponential convergence" written under Professor Olekiewicz's direction. Dominik's habilitation took place in 1969, in 1977 he was appointed associate professor and in 1986 full professor at UMCS.

Dominik Szynal may be viewed as the founder of the Lublin centre of research in probability. Under his direction 17 doctoral theses were written and three students of him (Zdzisław Rychlik, August Zapala and Wiesław Zięba) acquired habilitation – a prerequisite for professorship. He was also very successful as an academic teacher. Under his supervision over one hundred MA theses were written and his lectures on stochastic processes evoked research activity in this direction of several students, among them subsequent professors Krzysztof Burdzy, Wolfgang Freudenberg, Lukasz Stettner.

The research in probability done by Dominik Szynal and his collaborators focused on the following topics: limit theorems, in particular laws of large numbers, maximal inequalities, almost complete convergence in classical version and also for randomly indexed sequences, central limit theorems in classical and randomized version, relations between various types of convergence, characterization of continuous and more general probability distributions. Dominik was also acting in editorial committees of the journals: *Probability and Mathematical Statistics*, *Matematyka Stosowana* (Applied Mathematics). He was invited as a visiting professor to the University of South Australia at Adelaide and to Université de Montréal. Moreover, he performed various administrative duties such as acting chairman of the Institute of Mathematics at UMCS, chairman of the Probability Section within this Institute, chairman of the Lublin Branch of the Polish Mathematical Society.

The list of Dominik's research papers contains joint papers whose coauthors are mostly his students just starting research under his guidance.

The following persons received their doctorates under Dominik Szynal direction:

1. Zdzisław Rychlik
2. Wiesław Zięba
3. Sławomir Janicki
4. Lucyna Grzegórska
5. Halina Hebda-Grabowska
6. August Zapala
7. Zofia Grudzień
8. Mieczysław Polak
9. Stanisław Wędrychowicz
10. Anna Wolińska-Welcz
11. Antoni Szubarga
12. Krzysztof Kubacki
13. Barbara Bartmańska
14. Anna Kuczmaszewska
15. Aleksander Kowalski
16. Lech Gruszecki
17. Mariusz Startek