

Azriel Rosenfeld Dies at 73; Digital Image Analysis Expert

By PATRICIA SULLIVAN
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Azriel Rosenfeld, 73, whose research into computer image analysis is now used in the automotive, electronics and defense industries, died of cancer Feb. 22 at a hospice in Baltimore.

Dr. Rosenfeld, who was the first director of the Center for Automation Research at the University of Maryland, was the leading researcher in the field of computer image analysis. He wrote the first textbook in the field, was founding editor of its first journal and co-chairman of its first international conference. He also founded the subfield of fuzzy digital geometry.

His research into digital image analysis in the 1960s and 1970s formed the foundation for a generation of industrial vision inspection systems that are now widely used in the automotive and electronics industries. His research has been integrated into defense electronics, particularly in advanced reconnaissance, target recognition and guidance systems; remote sensing systems; and biomedical image analysis for automated diagnostic procedures.

Born in New York City, Dr. Rosenfeld received an ordination as a rabbi at Yeshiva University in 1952 and a doctorate in Hebrew literature in 1955. He also received a doctorate in mathematics from Columbia University in 1957.

After working in research and academic positions in New York,



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Dr. Rosenfeld moved to Silver Spring in 1964 to join the University of Maryland faculty. He became a research professor in 1966, director of the Center for Automation Research in 1983 and a distinguished university professor in 1995. He held affiliate professorships in the departments of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Psychology.

Dr. Rosenfeld published more than 30 books and more than 600 book chapters or journal articles.

He was a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, won its Emanuel R. Piore Award in 1985 and received its Third Millennium Medal in 2000. He was a founding fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and the Association for Computing Machinery. He was past president of the Association

of Orthodox Jewish Scientists. Among his many scientific and academic awards were three honorary doctoral degrees from Swedish, Finnish and Israeli universities.

He was Torah reader in Young Israel Shomrei Emunah Synagogue in Silver Spring for more than 30 years. Upon his retirement in 2001, Dr. Rosenfeld moved to Baltimore, where he was Torah reader at Agudath Israel Synagogue and was rabbinic adviser to torah.org, an Internet-based Jewish outreach organization.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Eve Rosenfeld, of Baltimore; three children, Elie Rosenfeld of Highland Park, N.J., David Rosenfeld of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, and Tova Menken of Baltimore; his father, Rabbi Abraham H. Rosenfeld of Baltimore; and 13 grandchildren.