Nicholas Viktor Findler
1930–2013
A Life in AI

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One of the founders of AI
PhD: Technical University of Budapest, 1956
Left Hungary on the day soviet tanks rolled into Budapest
Left Australia because he couldn’t play poker upside-down
Settled in Arizona
Founder of GCSS (Group for Computational Studies of Strategies)–Now AI Lab
Formidable strategist in driving
Couldn’t convince any grad student to take up poker or Déjà vu
Visited METU in 1994
Survived by Cathy, Michelle and Mary Ann and long list of contributions
Nick believed that intelligence is multiple constraint satisfaction.

He called them strategies. Aka. sufficient mechanisms.

Designed poker machines, not to perform, but to understand.

Designed Déjà vu, Jamais vu machines (dreaming of a harem?)

That’s decision under uncertainty, inside and outside, and, surely, under multiple constraints.

Poor grad students tried to convert him to serial planning.

One of the last believers in old school: everything must come in levels, but in a single package, because that’s what appears to be happening in nature.