

Nicholas Viktor Findler
1930–2013
A Life in AI

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March 22, 2013

Nick Findler 1930–2013



- 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.