

In Memory of Professor Tadeusz Morzy

It is with profound sadness that we write this obituary for our dear friend and colleague, and founding member of the ADBIS Steering Committee, Professor Tadeusz Morzy. Tadeusz left us in January 2025, after a long and heroic fight with an illness.

The academic journey of Tadeusz Morzy started in Poznań, Poland, where he completed his secondary education at a leading school. He then earned a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Poznań University of Technology (PUT). After briefly working in the IT industry, Professor Morzy's dedication to research led him back to PUT, where he obtained his doctoral and post-doctoral degrees. His significant research contributions in the field of databases were recognized in 2005 with the conferral of the title of Professor by the President of Poland. For at least two decades, he was leading a research group at the Institute of Computing Science at PUT. The research interests of Tadeusz focused broadly on data processing technologies, with a strong focus on databases, data warehousing, transaction processing, data mining, and machine learning. His research acumen led to his appointment to the National Science Center as an expert evaluating research grants and a long-term membership in the Committee on Informatics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he led a database research group. The group, composed of 16 staff members, works steadily under a new chair. Four of Tadeusz's former Ph.D. students become university professors and work at PUT.

Professor Tadeusz Morzy's research career began with foundational work in concurrency control for databases, published in top-tier venues such as VLDB, ICDE, and IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, as well as in the book "Concurrency Control in Distributed Database Systems" (co-authored with Prof. W. Cellary and Prof. E. Gelenbe). Subsequently, his focus shifted to query optimization algorithms in relational databases, with key publications in EDBT, COMAD, and ICDT. His research interests then evolved to encompass data mining and machine learning, resulting in numerous contributions to leading conferences like KDD, PAKDD, and PKDD, as well as journals such as Information Systems, Information Systems Frontiers, Knowledge Information Systems, and Knowledge Engineering Review. These interests naturally intersected with data engineering and data warehousing, leading to further publications in journals like



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Information & Software Technology and inter alia international conferences ADVIS, CAiSE, DaWaK, DB&IS, DEXA, DOLAP, EDBT, ER, ICEIS, MEDES, SAC, and WIDM. Demonstrating his strong commitment to ADBIS, Tadeusz contributed 11 research papers and shaped 6 volumes of its proceedings.

Professor Morzy's impact extended beyond research - as a practitioner, he initiated the development of an information system for managing educational processes in universities. The system was deployed in multiple universities throughout the country.

Tadeusz's dedication to top-tier teaching was evident in his flagship courses: database technologies, data exploration, and data mining. His book in Polish entitled "Data exploration. Methods and algorithms" became an indispensable academic resource, serving as the de facto standard in most Polish universities and receiving prestigious recognition from the Polish Academy of Sciences. He also established and successfully managed two distinct post-graduate programs in Databases and Data Warehouses for several years.

Within the Poznań University of Technology, he held significant roles as a member of the Academic Senate, the Senate Committee for Research Staff Promotions, and the Director of the Doctoral Study Program.

Professor Morzy was deeply involved in international academic partnerships. His long-standing cooperation with Klagenfurt University (and Prof. Johann Eder) led to the establishment of a double Master's degree program, a likely early example in Poland. Furthermore, he initiated student and staff exchanges with Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and twice served as a Visiting Professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, USA.

In recognition of his significant contributions to research and higher education, he was honored with the Medal of the Commission of National Education (2002), the Gold Cross of Merit (2004), and the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2013).

Prof. Tadeusz Morzy was involved in the development of the ADBIS conference. Since the very beginning, he was a member of the ADBIS Steering Committee and hosted the conference twice in Poznań (1998, 2012). In addition, he served as Program Committee Chair several times and contributed as an advisor to several ADBIS Ph.D. workshops.

The 29th European Conference on Advances in Databases and Information Systems is dedicated to his memory.

ADBIS Steering Committee

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For me, Tadeusz was more than a colleague; he was a genuine Friend I could always rely on for insightful advice. He guided my academic journey as the supervisor of both my Master's and doctoral theses. Joining his research team in 1996 opened the door to the research world and, significantly, to the ADBIS community. His support was instrumental in my enriching experience at Loyola University (New Orleans) and my participation in numerous international conferences, building a network of colleagues and friends that remains strong today. Our relationship extended beyond the workplace, encompassing many personal meetings, even during his illness. Throughout his difficult time, Tadeusz's optimism and characteristic humor remained constant, filling our conversations with laughter.

We had hoped to share a meal before Christmas 2024, but his worsening condition made it impossible. Instead, I visited him at his home on December 27, 2024. Tragically, that was the last time I saw my dear Friend Tadeusz.

Dear Tadeusz, thank you for your invaluable guidance in both research and life, and for the joyful times we shared at numerous ADBIS conferences. My achievements in research are a direct reflection of your mentorship and support. See you on the other side of life.

May his soul rest in peace.

Robert Wrembel