

Biographical sketch

Ching-Zong Wei was born in 1949 in south Taiwan. He studied mathematics at National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan, where he earned a BS degree in 1971 and an MS degree in 1973. He went to the United States in 1976 to pursue advanced studies in statistics at Columbia University, where he earned a PhD degree in 1980. He then joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Maryland, College Park, as an Assistant Professor in 1980, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and Full Professor in 1988. In 1990 he returned to Taiwan, his beloved homeland, to join the Institute of Statistical Science at Academia Sinica, where he stayed as Research Fellow for the rest of his life, serving between 1993 and 1999 as Director of the Institute. He also held a joint appointment with the Department of Mathematics at National Taiwan University.

In addition to his research and administrative work at Academia Sinica, Ching-Zong also made important contributions to statistical education in Taiwan. To promote statistical thinking among the general public, he published in local newspapers and magazines articles on various topics of general interest such as lottery games and the Bible code. These articles, written in Chinese, introduced basic statistical and probabilistic concepts in a heuristic and reader-friendly manner via entertaining stories, without formal statistical jargon.

Ching-Zong made fundamental contributions to stochastic regression, adaptive control, nonstationary time series, model selection and sequential design. In particular, his pioneering works on (i) strong consistency of least squares estimates in stochastic regression models, (ii) asymptotic behavior of least squares estimates in unstable autoregressive models, and (iii) predictive least squares principles in model selection, have been influential in control engineering, econometrics and time series. A more detailed description of his work appears in the Bibliography. He was elected Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1989, and served as an Associate Editor of the *Annals of Statistics* (1987–1993) and *Statistic Sinica* (1991–1999). In 1999, when Ching-Zong was at the prime of his career, he was diagnosed with brain tumors. He recovered well after the first surgery and remained active in research and education. In 2002, he underwent a second surgery after recurrence of the tumors, which caused deterioration of his vision. He continued his work and courageous fight with brain tumors and passed away on November 18, 2004, after an unsuccessful third surgery. He was survived by his wife of close to 30 years, Mei, and a daughter. In recognition of his path-breaking contributions, Vol. 16 of *Statistica Sinica* contains a special memorial section dedicated to him.