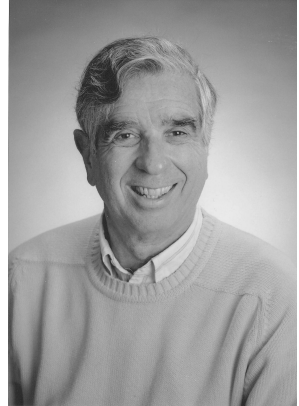




## Herbert S. Wilf (June 13, 1931 – January 7, 2012)

Professor Herbert Wilf was an outstanding mathematician, an excellent teacher, and a spirited writer. He started in numerical analysis, went on to complex analysis, and finally to his greatest love, combinatorics. He is known for the Fine-Wilf theorem on periodic functions; the Szekeres-Wilf number of a graph; Wilf's bound on the chromatic number of a graph; the Calkin-Wilf tree; the Wilf-Zeilberger pair; the WZ-method for proving combinatorial identities; and more. Together with Doron Zeilberger, he was awarded the 1998 *Leroy P. Steele Prize of the AMS for a Seminal Contribution to Research*. With Donald Knuth he founded *Journal of Algorithms* in 1980; served as Editor of *The American Mathematical Monthly* 1987–1991; founded *The Electronic Journal of Combinatorics* with Neil Calkin in 1994, and served as its Editor-In-Chief until 2001. Besides over 160 journal papers, he published several well-known books, such as: *Mathematics for the Physical Sciences* in 1962; *Combinatorial Algorithms* with Albert Nijenhuis in 1975; *Algorithms and Complexity* in 1986; *generatingfunctionology* in 1990; and *A = B* with Doron Zeilberger and Marko Petkovšek in 1996. All of these he made freely available for downloading from his web page. Together with his loving wife Ruth Tumen Wilf, he visited Slovenia twice: in June 1995, he participated at the 3rd Slovenian International Graph Theory Conference at Lake Bled; and in June 2010, at the Symbolic Computation and its Applications Conference in Maribor. His next-but-last paper (with Vittorio Addona and Stan Wagon) appeared in *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* in 2011.



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