

1106-01-1012 **Tom Altman*** (tom.altman@ucdenver.edu), 1380 Lawrence St. LW 814, Denver, CO 80204.
Journeys of a Mathematician – Mieczyslaw Altman's life story during and after World War II – and his quest to discover the methods that will find the optimal solution.

Mieczyslaw Altman was born in 1916 in Kutno, Poland. From 1937 until the outbreak of World War II, he studied mathematics at the University of Warsaw. In 1939 he crossed the green border and eventually enrolled at the Lwow University. There, he worked directly under the tutelage of Stefan Banach who, at the time, was the Dean and Chair of the Math Faculty. Under Banach's direction, he decided to focus on functional analysis as the primary area of his research. The influence of Banach, H. Steinhaus and S. Mazur (Altman formed a life-long friendship with the latter two), can be seen throughout Altman's work. While he did not complete his doctorate in Lwow, having barely escaped with his life after the attack on the USSR by Germany in 1941, his war journeys took him to Tashkent, where he finished his PhD.

He held several positions at the IMPAN (1949-69), where he served as the Director of the Numerical Analysis Department (1958-69) and vice-president of the Polish Mathematical Society (1962-1963). Professor Altman was awarded Poland's highest prize in mathematics, the Banach's Prize (1958). He took visiting positions at CalTech (1959-60), the Courant Institute (1960), and Rome (1969-70). In 1970, the Altman family immigrated to the USA. He was a Math Professor at LSU, until 1987. (Received September 09, 2014)