

## Isaiah Shavitt 1925-2012



Isaiah Shavitt, 87, one of the pioneers in computational chemistry and professor emeritus of chemistry at The Ohio State University, died on Dec. 8th after a courageous battle with cancer.

Shavitt, better known as “Shi” to his colleagues, made contributions to computational methodology in chemical theory that revolutionized the treatment of electron correlation. Shi published many landmark papers in computational chemistry as well as a book on many-body methods with Professor Rodney Bartlett.

Shi completed his B.Sc. in 1950 and Diploma in Engineering in 1951 at the Israel Institute of Technology (the Technion). He then enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Cambridge University, working with S. Francis Boys. Shi performed some of the first computational chemistry studies on an early computer, the EDSAC-I, often repeating calculations to ensure the results were correct. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1957.

Shi was awarded the Morley Medal of ACS’s Cleveland Section in 2000. He was a Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the American Physical Society and a member of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science. An international conference was held in his honor, and in memory of Boys, at Cambridge University in 1995.