SHIZUO KAKUTANI

Professor Emeritus
Yale University
will deliver the
LEONIDAS ALAOGLU MEMORIAL LECTURE
The Role of Weak Topology in Functional Analysis

Tuesday, February 23, 1988, 4:15 p.m.
22 Parsons Gates
California Institute of Technology

SHIZUO KAKUTANI

Shizuo Kakutani was an undergraduate at Tôhoku University and a graduate student at Osaka University, where he received the equivalent of a Ph. D. in 1941.

He began his professional career with a faculty appointment at Osaka University and two research appointments at the Institute for Advanced Study. In 1949 he joined the mathematics faculty at Yale University and has served there with distinction ever since. In 1982 he became Professor Emeritus. On that occasion a special four-day conference was held in his honor at Yale. It was attended by nearly 150 mathematicians, 26 of whom traveled from other countries. The conference focused on three major areas representing Professor Kakutani’s research interests: functional analysis, probability theory, and ergodic theory. Most of the talks dealt with problems pioneered by Professor Kakutani, including questions on Brownian motion, induced transformations, representations of $M$-spaces, and fixed point theorems.

Professor Kakutani’s international reputation as a leader in modern analysis is well documented by his many achievements. For example, his brilliant generalization of the Brouwer Fixed Point Theorem, now universally referred to as the Kakutani Fixed Point Theorem, has become the cornerstone of much of the contemporary work in mathematical economics.

Professor Kakutani has also earned a reputation as a skilled teacher. In 1968 the undergraduate membership of Phi Beta Kappa at Yale presented him with the William Clyde DeVane Award in recognition of his excellence in teaching.

The Caltech Mathematics Faculty is pleased to welcome him as Leon Alaoglu Lecturer for 1988.
The Leonidas Alaoglu Memorial Lecture was established by friends and family of the late Leonidas Alaoglu in recognition of his great talents, his distinguished contributions to mathematics, and his long friendship with Caltech. The Institute is privileged to honor his memory with a lecture each year by an outstanding mathematician.