Roger (the name he went by) was born on December 9, 1924 in Ashley, Illinois, a small town in the far south of the state. He earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Mathematics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in February, 1948, August, 1948 and 1952 respectively. Roger’s area of research was topology, the study of malleable shapes in all dimensions. His Ph.D. thesis, titled *Extensions of the Notion of the Unicoherence with an Application to Mappings of Spheres*, was supervised by David Bourgin. He was an instructor at the University of Michigan from 1950-1956 and then joined Cornell as a research associate with Mathematics Professor Paul Olum, working on homotopy theory. He was rapidly promoted up the ranks, to assistant professor in 1958, associate professor in 1961 and full professor in 1965. From 1979-1981 he served as associate chair and director of undergraduate studies. He retired in 1997.

Much of Roger’s research centered on fixed-point-free finite order maps on manifolds. In 1960, he proved that every order 2 automorphism without fixed points of the 3-sphere is standard, namely after a re-parametrization, it is simply a combination of rotations or reflections. This work was published in the *Annals of Mathematics* and settled a question dating back decades, building on the work of P. Smith, R.H. Bing and Montgomery-Zippin. In 1963, Roger extended his theorem to show that order 2 automorphisms with 2 fixed points are also standard. The general case of automorphisms of order greater than 2 was only resolved 40 years later when G. Perelman proved Thurston’s Geometrization Conjecture in 2003.

Roger wrote a number of papers with fellow Cornell topologists and geometers, including Israel Berstein and David Henderson. He also wrote three papers with former Cornell Professor William Browder. One of these papers answered the following question affirmatively for odd $n$ bigger than 3: Given a fixed-point free involution $T$ of an $n+1$-manifold $M$, is there a smoothly
embedded n-sphere S in M such that T(S)=S?

Roger was an avid photographer and played the violin very well. He was also an outstanding tennis player, winning at the Tompkins Count Men’s Single Open tournament from (at least) 1957-1960, including a 1959 win over another Cornell Math Professor, Gilbert Hunt. In 1962, Roger competed in the U.S. Men’s Clay Court Championship in Chicago, Illinois, succumbing to legend Rod Laver 6-4, 6-3. He was particularly proud of his performance in this match with the superstar who was 14 years his junior.

He is survived by his wife Beverly of almost 70 years, his children Jonathan, Christopher, David, Jennifer and Elizabeth, his sister Elizabeth and 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Written by Ravi Ramakrishna (chair), Ken Brown, and Jason Manning