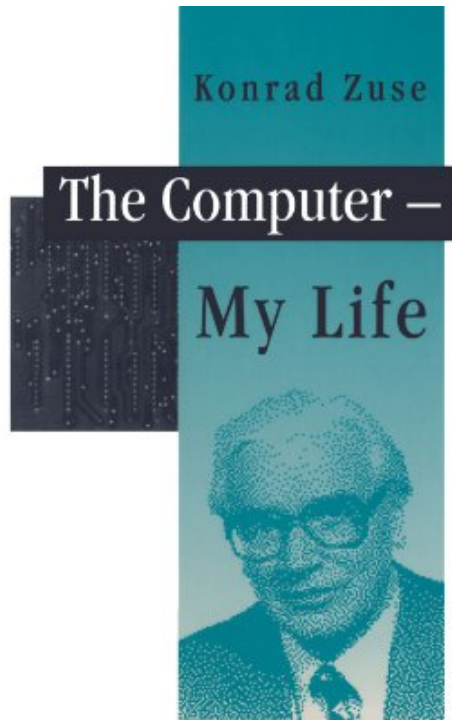


# THE COMPUTER - MY LIFE BY KONRAD ZUSE



 Springer-Verlag

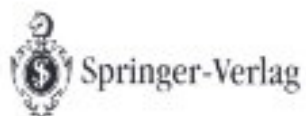
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## Amazon.com Review

Personal computers didn't appear until the 1970s, but as early as 1941, the first automated, program-controlled, and freely programmable computer was up and running. The Computer-- My Life is the story of Konrad Zuse and his revolutionary invention--the computer (or mechanical brain as he liked to call it), which Zuse built in his parents' living room. Zuse writes his autobiography simply and directly to be accessible to a wide audience of non-technophiles and includes hand-drawn diagrams of computer functions, as well as cartoons from his younger years when he dreamed of becoming an artist. The book also includes appendices with detailed technical information for the more technical reader.

## Review

From the reviews:

“The book tells the story of an inventor and an entrepreneur. It is refreshing because it allows one to see things outside of the box, beyond the more traditional story, so that he or she can better appreciate key aspects of computing and computation. Furthermore, the book tells the story of a father, a hard worker, and a recognized inventor, including pictures and plenty of anecdotes. ... The book is probably the only reliable source about Konrad Zuse’s life and contributions to the world.” (Hector Zenil, ACM Computing Reviews, November, 2011)

## Language Notes

Text: German

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# THE COMPUTER - MY LIFE BY KONRAD ZUSE PDF

Konrad Zuse is one of the great pioneers of the computer age. He created the first fully automated, program controlled, freely programmable computer using binary floating-point calculation. It was operational in 1941. He built his first machines in Berlin during the Second World War, with bombs falling all around, and after the war he built up a company that was taken over by Siemens in 1967. Zuse was an inventor in the traditional style, full of phantastic ideas, but also gifted with a powerful analytical mind. Single-handedly, he developed one of the first programming languages, the Plan Calculus, including features copied only decades later in other languages. He wrote numerous books and articles and won many honors and awards. This is his autobiography, written in an engagingly lively and pleasant style, full of anecdotes, reminiscences, and philosophical asides. It traces his life from his childhood in East Prussia, through tense wartime experiences and hard times building up his business after the war, to a ripe old age and well-earned celebrity.

- Sales Rank: #4164219 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Springer
- Published on: 2010-02-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .60" w x 6.00" l, .82 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 246 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Outstanding & Only Autobiography By First Generation Computer Pioneer

By Ira Laefsky

This autobiography, the only one by a first generation computer constructor is fascinating in several respects. First, Konrad Zuse working in almost total intellectual isolation (from the mainstream US and UK efforts in calculator/computer development) between 1936 and 1945 developed one of the most sophisticated and Turing-complete computers prior to ENIAC and most other US efforts (the only other comparable binary computer--of more limited capacity--at the time was the Antanasoff-Berry Computer at Iowa State University). Secondly, unlike other computer pioneers of that era he was an artist and mechanical/civil engineer rather than a physicist, mathematician or electrical engineer, and his artistic and mechanical studies strongly influenced this development. Also, we have no autobiography of Mauchly, Eckert, Antanasoff, Turing, or Aiken giving their personal reminiscences of that pioneering era in computation. Finally, beside being a pioneer in computer construction he, Zuse, formally specified the first higher-level computer language the Plankalkul between 1941 and 1945. This specification although theoretical was sufficiently complete that the Free University of Berlin implemented it in 2000. Zuse is also known as a pioneer in suggesting later in 1967 that the universe is a computational process occurring in physical space, a theory later espoused by Edward Fredkin and Stephen Wolfram.

The personal and technical story of a long and productive life is fascinatingly told in this outstanding autobiography.

---Ira Laefsky, MSE/MBA

Information Technology Consultant formerly on the Senior Staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc. and Digital Equipment Corporation

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

One of the few important biographies of the 20th century.

By A Customer

This book and its author are just amazing. Konrad Zuse is definitely a unique character and so is his story of the invention of the FIRST computer during World War II in Berlin.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Critical for an understanding of the hist. of computers

By A Customer

Zuse explains how and why he built the world's first computer. Easy to understand, but not belittling. This book is essential for anyone interested in the history of CS.

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