IN MEMORY OF M. S. NIKULIN

Mikhail Stepanovich Nikulin was an active member of the POMI Laboratory of Statistical Methods for many years and a long-term editor of the Statistical Series of Proceedings of Scientific Seminars of POMI. He was born on April 29, 1944. In 1966, after graduating from the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics of Leningrad State University, he left to teach mathematics in the Congo. Returning in 1970, he entered the graduate school of the Moscow Institute of Academy of Sciences and in 1973 he defended his Ph.D. thesis, written under the supervision of L. N. Bolshev.

During this period, M. S. Nikulin became widely known for his work on the χ-square test. The essence of the idea realized in these works by M. S. Nikulin consisted in a suitable change of the quadratic form corresponding to the standard Pearson statistics constructed from grouped observations. In this case, the number of degrees of freedom of the limiting χ-square distribution did not depend on the dimension of the estimated parameter.

In 1974, Mikhail Stepanovich was invited to work at LOMI. Since 1977, together with I. A. Ibragimov, he has been editing the statistical series *Zapiski Nauchnuh Seminarov LOMI*. M. S. Nikulin performed this work for many years with his characteristic energy and conscientiousness, up to his departure first to Canada and then to France, where in 1992 he received a professorship at the University of Bordeaux 2.

At this time, his attention was focused on various problems of semiparameter estimation. The main feature of the statistical models studied by him at that time was the presence of an infinite-dimensional nuisance parameter, an unknown distribution of the censoring variable. In this case, the rate of convergence to the limiting distribution of the estimates chosen for the parameter of statistician's interest depended heavily on the distribution of the censoring variable. M. S. Nikulin proposed an approach in which the moment of termination of observations is related in a proper way to the empirical distribution of the nuisance parameter.

While working abroad, he did not interrupt his contacts with POMI. Every time he came to St. Petersburg, he made interesting talks and invited new authors to publish in *Zapiski Nauchnuh Seminarov POMI*. Mikhail Stepanovich was authored of eight monographs and more than eighty scientific papers. The circle of M. S. Nikulin's scientific contacts was extremely wide and it seemed that in every city of the old and new world there is a person who either was his co-author or repeatedly discussed with him the latest problems of mathematical statistics. In our memory, he will forever remain an attentive comrade and reliable friend.

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