

**In memoriam Dmitri Arkadieвич Viattchenin  
(1972–2018)**

Dmitri Viattchenin passed away in Spring this year. This was not only sad news, but utterly unexpected. Actually, Dmitri (Dima for most of us here at the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences) was not only barely 46 years old, but working intensively, with his associates in Belarus and with collaborators in several places outside of the country, on new ideas and new applications. At least some of these, I am told, will be finished by his younger colleagues in Minsk.

We have come to know Dima in the middle of 1990s, soon after He graduated from the Belarusian State University in Applied Mathematics (specialising in Mathematical Modelling). I met Him at a data science conference in Minsk. He was enthusiastic about the use of fuzzy sets and fuzzy logic in data analysis and this marked the beginning of our acquaintance, followed by close cooperation. Soon afterwards He defended His doctoral (candidate) dissertation, at that time formally in Philosophy of Sciences and Technology, at the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. He was already very actively working on the algorithms, based on fuzzy precepts, meant for cluster analysis, pattern recognition, decision making etc. He was also, over time, involved in numerous applied projects, where he managed to prove the practical utility of the methods developed by him in several complex real-life problems.

The places He worked at include, in chronological order, Department of Philosophy and Logic of the Minsk State Linguistic University, Department of Logic and Methodology of Scientific Cognition at the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Faculty of Business and Information Technologies of the Belarusian State University, Laboratory of Mathematical Cybernetics at the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Intelligent Information Technologies Department at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-Electronics, or Laboratory of Remote Observation of the Earth within the GIS Research and Engineering Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. During his stays in Warsaw he also actively worked at our Institute.

In 2013 He was formally nominated docent (Associate Professor) by the State Commission in the domain of Computer Science and Computational Methods.

Simultaneously, He started to work towards the Doctor of Science degree at the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The very first steps towards this were actually accomplished, following his seminar at the Institute in 2014.

Dima worked very hard, even too hard, and most possibly this had also contributed to His so early death. His work, however, and collaboration with many people, brought substantial output. Numerous articles, several books, many successfully accomplished research and applied projects are the proofs of both His outstanding capacities and devotion to science. Some of His ideas were not just novel, but, indeed, very original and challenging in intellectual terms. For quite a number of us at the Systems Research Institute Dima was a constant friend and collaborator. Recognising the achievements of Professors Janusz Kacprzyk, Eulalia Szmidt and Przemysław Grzegorzewski, He frequently asked them for advice and invited to writing joint papers. As a consequence, several joint papers, with contributions of myself, Janusz Kacprzyk and Eulalia Szmidt, have been published. We have also come to know His junior associates from Belarus, who visited the Institute and worked with us together on some projects. Many employees of the Institute remember His characteristic tall and thin figure, His efforts to speak Polish, and His exceptional gentleness.

As a sign of recognition of His place in our lives, and of His important scientific contributions, we include in this issue of Control & Cybernetics one of his texts, to which some of us have also somehow contributed. The memory of Dima shall definitely stay with us.

Jan W. Owsiański