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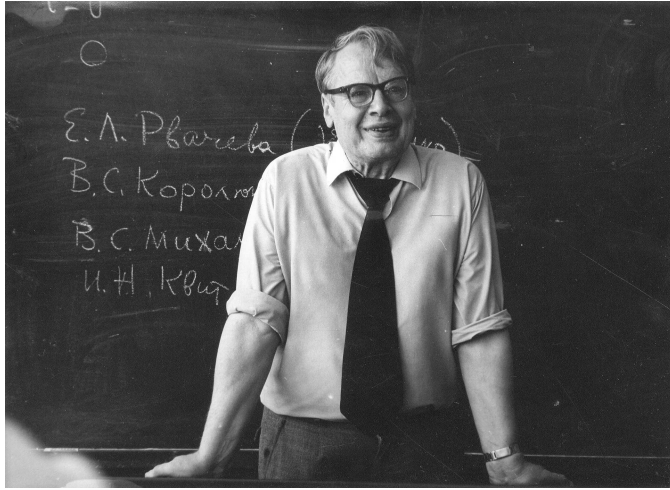
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Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of B. V. Gnedenko
(1.I.1912 – 27.XII.1995)



Lecture in Bulgaria (1977)

Boris Vladimirovich Gnedenko was one of the prominent leaders in the field of Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics during the last century. He had started his scientific career as a PhD student of Khinchin and then of Kolmogorov. In 1949 he published a famous book, jointly with Kolmogorov, *Limit Distributions for Sums of Independent Random Variables*. Another one of Gnedenko's most famous books is *A Course in the Theory of Probability* which first appeared in 1950. It has gone through six Russian editions and has been translated into English, German, Polish and Arabic. In his early work Gnedenko had been interested in Probability and Statistics as an abstract topic. It is worth to point out his remarkable results on summation and extreme value theory. However, in his later work his interests turned also towards applications to areas such as reliability, queuing theory and quality control. He wrote an important text *Mathematical Methods of Reliability* in 1965 with Belyaev and Solov'yev. In 1966, with Kovalenko, he published *Introduction to Queuing Theory*. His excellent books on the methodology of mathematics and on the history of mathematics play an important role in modern education. He was a supervisor of more than 70 PhD students.

It is worth to point out Gnedenko's influence on the Bulgarian stochastic community as a teacher and a friend. He was not only a great mathematician but also a remarkable person whom we admired and would keep in our memory.

PREFACE

The following joint events took place in the town of Pomorie (Black Sea coast, Bulgaria) from 23 through 30 June, 2012:

- XVth International Summer Conference on Probability and Statistics;
- Seminar on Statistical Data Analysis;
- Workshop on Branching Processes and Applications.

For the participants, science program, abstracts and other details one can see in the web site: <http://stochastics.fmi.uni-sofia.bg/>

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to thank once again to all participants for the interesting talks and discussions and also for the nice atmosphere in the conference.

As usually the Conference, the Seminar and the Workshop were organized by the

- Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences;
- Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”;
- Bulgarian Statistical Society.

Some of the talks are submitted in this volume as review papers or research investigations. All articles are published after an international refereeing and on behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to thank to all referees for their effort to improve the Proceedings. It is my pleasure to thank to all authors for submitting the papers and for their support during the publication process.

Many thanks should be directed to all members of the Organizing Committee and especially to the secretaries E. Stoimenova, R. Krachunov and M. Bojkova, the site administrator D. Atanasov and the financial administrator N. Naceva.

The Organizing Committee is very grateful to T. Parhomenko for the excellent work on the final design of the papers for the Proceedings.

As usually the conferences take place every two years and the next one will provide in the last week of June, 2014. Further information will appear in the web site of the Conference.

Nikolay M. Yanev,
Editor and Chairman of the Organizing Committee