



In Memoriam

George Adomian (1922–1996)

I report, with a heavy heart, the untimely death of a personal friend and that of the Continuum, Dr. George Adomian who passed away in Athens, Georgia on June 18, 1996. He is survived by his wife, the former Corinne Hodgson; by his four children, Haig, Diane, and Aram of Los Angeles, and Laura David of Athens; by his four grandsons, James, David, Daniel, and Garrison; by his sister, Alese Marshall Stipicevich of Torrance, his brother Gerald of Los Angeles, and nieces and nephews; as well as by an impressive body of work that pushed back the frontiers of mathematics and quantum physics.

I first met George in March of 1976 when our mutual friend Dr. Bellman visited me in Atlanta on his way to deliver a keynote speech at the American Mathematical Society's meeting in Athens, Georgia. George was instrumental in arranging the lecture, as well as a subsequent appointment of Dr. Bellman as a Visiting Distinguished Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Georgia. We had since then shared numerous associations including service on the International Committee of the Bellman Continuum. George had attended all the meetings of the Continuum with the exception of the sixth when his ailment made it impossible for him to travel as far as Japan.

Dr. George Adomian was born March 21, 1922, in Buffalo, New York, the son of the late Haig and Vartouhi Adomian. He graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1944, and then served as chief radar officer on the U.S.S. Antietam. After the war, he completed his M.S. in Electrical Engineering at Michigan and entered industry, becoming a Senior Staff Physicist and Senior Scientist at Hughes Aircraft in Culver City. With a fellowship from Hughes, he earned his Ph.D. in Physics from UCLA in 1963. He joined the faculty of Pennsylvania State University as a full professor in 1964, and in 1966 was appointed the David Crenshaw Barrow Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Georgia, where he founded and directed the Center for Applied Mathematics until his retirement from the university in 1990.

Dr. Adomian was a prolific author having published more than 300 papers and seven books. His publications were widely dispersed including in this journal; they spanned an array of different fields. He is perhaps best known for his development of the decomposition method and its applications to the solution of nonlinear and stochastic equations occurring in physics and engineering. He was a member of many professional and honorary societies, and served on numerous editorial boards. He lectured in many countries including Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, and Thailand. In 1989, he was awarded the Richard Bellman Prize in Mathematics. His career also included consulting for industry and government as well as for the National Academy of Sciences.

In his death, the Bellman Continuum has lost another ardent supporter and energetic promoter of the works of our common bond, Richard Bellman. We have indeed been bereaved of a respected mathematician, physicist, gentleman, but above all, a true friend.

A. O. Esogbue
Guest Editor