



V. M. Usenko (1951 – 2006)

Vitaliy Mikhaylovich Usenko was born on April 1, 1951 in the village Blagodatnoye of Donetsk region (Ukraine). In 1973 he graduated from the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of Kiev Taras Shevchenko University. After the graduation he worked at Donetsk Polytechnic Institute as an Assistant Professor.

Between 1979 and 1982 Vitaliy Usenko had a post-graduate study in Kharkov under the supervision of Professor L.M.Gluskin. In 1984 he defended the Ph.D. thesis "Semidirect products of monoids", where he described the congruences of the monoids of semilinear transformations (generalizing a well-known theorem of A.I.Malcev on congruences of matrix semigroups), introduced and studied a semidirect product of groups with a joined subgroup.

In 1985 Usenko moved to Slavyansk (Donetsk region) where he worked in Slavyansk State Pedagogical Institute first a Head of the Chair in Algebra and since 1994 as a Dean of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics. As a result of his initiative a post-graduate program in Algebra was open at Slavyansk State Pedagogical University.

In 1997, exclusively owing to his efforts, the 1st International Algebraic Conference in Ukraine in the memory of Prof. Gluskin was organized. Since then every two years such conferences take place in Ukraine (the last, 5th, was in 2005 in Odessa).

In 1990-1993 Usenko worked on his Doctor of Science thesis (habilitation) at Kiev Taras Shevchenko University, with Prof. V.V.Kirichenko as his scientific advisor. In 2000 he defended the thesis "Semigroups and near-rings of transformations" where he studied the category-theoretic characteristics of semigroup pairs, the semigroups and near-rings of endomorphisms of various kinds of groups.

In 2001 Vitaliy Usenko has moved to the city of Lugansk and began to work at Lugansk National Pedagogical University. This period was the most fruitful and intensive in his life. He had a rare talent as an organizer and dedicated it completely to Algebra. For remained to him five years he had time: – to found a Chair in Algebra and Discrete Mathematics, – to found a Laboratory of theoretical and applied mathematical problems, – to organize the edition of two(!) journals - Ukrainian Mathematical Bulletin and Algebra and Discrete Mathematics, which became international practically immediately, – to conduct the All-Ukrainian Conference "Algebraic methods in Discrete Mathematics" (2002).

Besides, Vitaliy Usenko devoted a lot of time to his students (six of them already defended the Ph.D. thesis) and finished the textbook "Numerical algebraic systems". This year he signed a contract with the University of Antioquia (Medellin, Colombia) and on January, 17 has flown to Colombia. On March 6 he suddenly died from the heart attack...

Vitaliy Mihaylovich Usenko had a bright personality, with a deep erudition in many fields. His optimistic attitude to all problems was a source of the inspiration for those, who were near him, and he always attracted the people to himself. This eager and tireless man planned a realization of many new scientific ideas, important research projects... All of us will feel his absence.

In the hearts of all relatives, friends, colleagues and students the memory will remain forever about selfless work, human dignity and fairness, purposefulness and decency of Vitaliy Usenko, a person of a big heart and a sensitive spirit. Let him be remembered forever.

*Artamonov V. A., Drozd Yu. A., Dymarsky Ya. M.,
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List of the articles of V. M. Usenko

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