

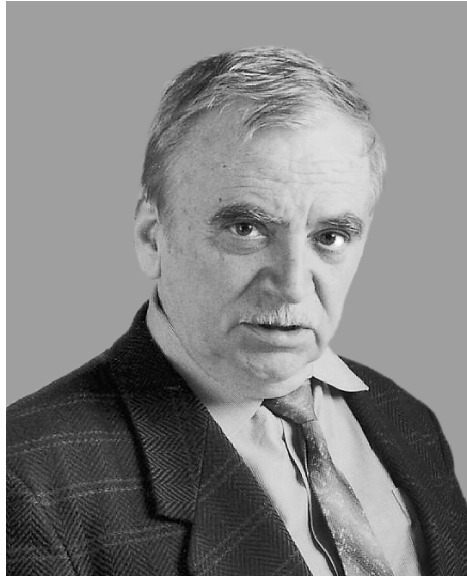
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## OBITUARY

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### **Shkurba Viktor Vasil'evich** July 10, 1935—June 11, 2011

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On June 11, 2011, we lost a distinguished scholar Viktor Vasil'evich Shkurba, Dr. Sci. (Phys.-Math.), Prof. He was a leading researcher in applied mathematics and operations research, scheduling theory, complex systems control, and automatic control systems. He was one of the founders of modern discrete optimization methods.

Viktor Vasil'evich was born on July 10, 1935, on the Popovka station in the Tosno district of the Leningrad region. In 1952 he graduated *summa cum laude* from a high school in Kiev and enrolled in the Schevchenko Kiev University. In 1954, he transferred to the Moscow State University, from which he graduated in 1958, majoring in mathematics.

He was assigned to work at the P.O. Box 989 company (NII-88) in Podlipki, the famous “Korolev’s company.” In 1959, due to family reasons he moved to Kiev and transferred to the Computational Center of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, soon restructured into the Institute of Cybernetics of the Ukrainian AS. He worked there under the supervision of Acad. V.M. Glushkov for about 25 years, rising from a lead engineer to department head (1965) and ACS branch head (1971). From 1974 to 1978, he was sent on a business trip to Bulgaria, where he served as a counselor for the Cabinet Council of Bulgaria, specializing on automatic control systems.

From 1984, V.V. Shkurba was a Vice Director of the Research and Engineering Institute NPO “Gorsistemotekhnika” of the Kiev municipal executive committee.

In 1987, he was invited to work in Moscow as a head of the department of modeling material flows at the Research Institute of Economics and Material Supply of the USSR State Logistics Committee. From 1992 to 1993 he was a Professor at the Chair of Computer Science at the Ordzhonikidze State Management Academy. In 1993–1994 he led the program-analytic center at the Committee of special underwater works at the Russian Cabinet. From 1994 and until his

demise, V.V. Shkurba was a Professor of the Chair of Information Systems at the Institute of Information Systems of the State Management University.

From 1994 to 2004 he also worked at the SJC “LUKoil-reserve-invest,” where he worked with his former students on the control over the financial flows of the company at the stock market. At different times, he served at the editorial boards of the “Cybernetics” and “Control Mechanization and Automation” journals.

He also worked at the University of Kiev (1960–1987), delivered lectures in Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, University of Donetsk, Odessa Polytechnical Institute, Sofia Institute of Machines and Power Systems, and at the School of Economic Executives affiliated with the Kiev Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

His major works in theoretical, economical, and biological cybernetics, control automation for industrial, city, and regional systems, research control, methodology of calendar planning, and scheduling theory have been published in more than 220 works, among them 11 books. Between research works and engineering design projects, he personally wrote more than 2000 printer’s sheets. His last work “Calendar Planning. Constructive Optimization. The Praxeotechnics Industry” was published at the *Automation and Remote Control* journal, no. 10, 2010 . . . .

Viktor Vasil’evich paid special attention to popularizing science. His book *The Problem of Three Machines* gave food for thought for many university and high school students. *Introduction to Scheduling Theory*, a joint work with V.S. Tanaev, laid out the foundation for the new discipline of scheduling theory in the USSR.

In 1964, he received his Ph.D. from his published works, and in 1970, he defended an Sc.D. thesis at the “Mathematical Cybernetics” specialty. Since 1972 he was a Professor in the “Application of Mathematical Methods in Economic Studies” specialty. He was the recipient of the Lenin Komsomol Prize (1967), State Prize of the Ukrainian Soviet Social Republic (1970), State Prize of the USSR (1981). His governmental awards include three USSR medals, a Russian medal, a Belarus medal, medals in the memory of S.P. Korolev and P.L. Kapitsa. Since 1991, V.S. Shkurba was a corresponding member, and since 1994, a full member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

Under his supervision 48 graduate students and doctoral candidates defended their Ph.D. theses; five of them went on to get an Sc.D. degree. His last works lay in the field of gnoseotechnics, systemology, and control praxeotechnics.

Viktor Vasil’evich was a learned, charming man, he loved and knew music. He was always perfectly civil, collected, calm, with a fine sense of humor,—an exemplary scientist and intellectual. This image will remain in the memory of all who have had the privilege to know him.