
REMEMBERING VOLODYMYR VASILYOVICH SHARKO

We lost Volodymyr Vasilyovich Sharko who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 65 on October 07, 2014 in Kiev. V. Sharko was the Deputy Director on Scientific Works at the Institute of Mathematics and a corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

I first met V.V. Sharko in 2012 in Toruń (Poland) when I attended the first Brazilian-Polish Topology Meeting organized by the Department of Mathematics of UNESP–Univ Estadual Paulista in Rio Claro-SP (Brazil), the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland), and the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (Poland). We were greatly indebted to V. Sharko for his assistance in publishing the proceedings of the meeting in a special volume of the Proceedings of the Ukrainian Mathematical Society.

I was immediately impressed with Volodya’s personal warmth and his enthusiasm for mathematics. He was very interested in what I was doing and gave me some good mathematical advice. Over the next two years I looked forward to seeing him each time he came to visit my Department in Rio Claro-SP (Brazil). During his last visit in August 2014, we started our second joint paper.

Not only was Volodya a towering figure in his field, he also played a crucial role in making the algebraic and differential topology community one of the friendliest in all of mathematics. I remember one day after I thanked him for his help, Volodya said: “*Alice, this is my world and I am very happy to help you*”. He was one of the reasons why mathematics is a fun subject. My friend from Toruń, Marek Golasiński, told me that he once asked Volodya: “*what is*

the most important contribution in writing mathematical papers?" After some thoughts, Volodya replied: *"a great Soviet and then Russian mathematician and physicist, Vladimir Igorevich Arnold said that the most important contribution in mathematics is the formulation of a deep theorem because its proof could be given by others"*. Volodya had a way with people!

Volodya was always encouraging and supportive and I felt fortunate to have him as a friend and colleague. I can think of nothing that would honor Volodya memory more than cherishing his friendship and celebrating his mathematical achievements. We will miss him very much. The memory of Volodymyr Vasilyovich Sharko will forever remain in the hearts of his colleagues, friends and students, as well as everyone who knew and admired this wonderful man.

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