

## **Boris Valerianovich Chirikov: to the memory**

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It was in 1966, when I have heard at the first time his name. I was a sophomore in the Mathematical Department of the Moscow University and was rushing to the appointment with Ya.G.Sinai. I found him discussing with V.I.Arnold. They seemingly could not figure out something and finally Arnold said: "We should ask Borya". Sinai answered: "Yes, we should ask Borya". Then Arnold left and I asked Sinai: "Who is Borya?" And the answer was: "Chirikov". Then in a few months B.V. came to give a talk in the seminar, and since that time I was fortunate to have with him numerous meetings and discussions. Here I'll share two memories.

In February 1986 I was defending a doctor dissertation in Kiev. (Perestroika came and it became possible, although not in Moscow). Boris Valerianovich was the main (out of three) referees (official opponents). When I saw him there then immediately noticed that his appearance had seemingly changed. He looked more relaxed, stronger, happier and even taller. I had no idea what happened and didn't ask because it'd be impolite on one hand, and on another hand it was even unclear to which question should be asked not to sound too weird. Finally I realized what happened. B.V. came with Olga Stepanovna, whom I never met before. It is because he was next to her he looked different, and it always was like that. They were such a wonderful couple. The last time I saw them in Toulouse at the conference on the occasion of B.V.'s 70th birthday. And again it was the same. They created around a warm field of kindness, intelligence and love.

Everybody who knew B.V.Chirikov well enough are aware of his elegant sense of humor. I'll recall here just one case. It was in Dubna in one of regular conferences on renormalization in Physics in the mid 80th. At that time the word "chaos" together with the "science of chaos" became very popular. B.V. (as many others) complained about a huge crowd which rushed into the area creating a chaos rather than learning it. One of the speakers at this meeting was given exactly this type of a talk. A general theory was presented and then (as "applications") some fundamental properties in hydrodynamics, turbulence and some other areas were "solved". Lots of people in the audience (including myself) became angry and were eager to destroy everything in this talk. But it was not so easy because in one question or comment seemed impossible to address all the issues mentioned in this talk. Therefore, when a chairman of the session said: "any questions?" there was a silence until Boris Valerianovich asked in his quiet low voice: "Are there any phenomena which your theory does not explain?". No more questions were asked.

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