

Obituary for Nelly Nikitina (1939 – 2020)



On June 27, 2020, a renowned scientist in the field of theoretical mechanics and chaotic dynamics, doctor of physical and mathematical sciences Nikitina Nelly Vladimirovna died of chronic heart failure at the age of 81.

She was born on March 5, 1939, in the city of Tambov in the family of a career military man. In 1962, she graduated from the Saratov Polytechnic Institute, and for a few years she worked at several engineering enterprises of the former USSR. During 1973 – 1976, she was doing postgraduate studies at the Institute of Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR (currently the S.P. Timoshenko Institute of Mechanics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), and in 1977, she defended a PhD thesis in Physical and Mathematical Sciences (under the supervision of academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR N.A. Kilchevsky).

Since 1983, Nikitina hold an appointment as a senior researcher at the Stability of Processes Department of the Institute of Mechanics of the NAS of Ukraine. In 2000, Nikitina defended her habilitational thesis for the degree of Doctor of Science in Physics and Mathematics (dissertation adviser academician of the NAS of Ukraine A.A. Martynyuk). From 2001 until the last days of her life, Nikitina worked as a leading researcher at the Stability of Processes Department of the Institute of Mechanics of the NAS of Ukraine.

The main scientific areas of her investigations were:

- stability of motion of nonlinear mechanical systems;
- analysis of motion of wheeled transport vehicles;
- analysis of complex vibrations of electromechanical systems under periodic effects;
- dynamic analysis of systems with chaotic behavior of trajectories.

For the time of her scientific activities, Nikitina published over 100 scientific papers in national and international journals. Some of her scientific results are summarized in

the monograph: N.V. Nikitina. *Nonlinear Systems with Complex and Chaotic Behavior of Trajectories*. Kiev: Phoenix, 2012, 236 p.

Along with the research activities, Nikitina took a great interest in working with postgraduate students of the Stability of Processes Department, being in the same breath a strict teacher and a friendly person.

In her free time, among other interests, Nikitina went in for tourism and oriental practices. Also, Dr. Nikitina was keenly interested in the issues of the world history and literature.

The bright memory of a renowned scientist and a pleasant conversationalist, Nelly Vladimirovna Nikitina, will be cherished by everyone who knew her and worked with her.

A.A. Martynyuk