



## In Memoriam Stefan Dodunekov (1945–2012)



The President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Stefan Dodunekov passed away on August 5, 2012, after a short illness at the age of 66.

Stefan Dodunekov was a distinguished expert the field of coding theory. His results in the characterization of the optimal binary linear codes of dimension 7 and 8 established him as one of the leading scientists in the field. His later results on near-MDS codes, spherical codes and designs, self-dual codes, were much acknowledged by the coding theory community and fueled the research of many young scientists. Stefan Dodunekov was also one of the pioneers in using computer algebra in the research.

Stefan Dodunekov was born in 1945 in Kilifarevo and graduated from Sofia University in 1968 with a degree in “Mathematics”. He was Doctor of Mathematics

(PhD) since 1975, Doctor of Sciences (DSci) since 1986, Professor since 1990 and Academician (Full Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) since 2008. He was Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences since 1999 and was elected President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on 11.06.2012. He had over 35 years of lecturing experience in Bulgarian and foreign universities. He is author of of three books and 12 textbooks in mathematics for secondary schools.

Stefan Dodunekov was Chairman of the Union of the Bulgarian Mathematicians since 2001 and President of the Mathematical Society of South-Eastern Europe (MASSEE) for two mandates. He was member of the Information Theory Society, American Mathematical Society, Combinatorial Society of China.

Stefan Dodunekov was twice Chairman of the international Conferences on Mathematical methods and Models in Biosciences (Biomath 2011 and Biomath 2012). He actively participated in the meetings and projects of the Biomathematics departments of the the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, to mention the SCOPES project funded by the Swiss National Science Fund. He highly supported the research in the field of mathematical modeling in biology in Bulgaria.

For the people who had the privilege of knowing Stefan Dodunekov, he was a friend who was always ready to help. On August 8, 2012, hundreds of colleagues and friends of Stefan Dodunekov said to him “Last farewell” in the Big Hall of the main building of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Academician Blagovest Sendov’s farewell speech at this meeting is included next in this volume.