<div style="text-align: center;">

✳ ✳ ✳

L. Beghin

</div>

I met Yakov Nikitin more than twenty years ago, one of the many times that he visited Rome, after 1990. At the time, I was starting my PhD under the supervision of prof. Enzo Orsingher, working on probabilistic inequalities related to maxima of Gaussian processes. Professor Nikitin gave a very successful course on the empirical process theory and, in some subsequent discussions, I learned from him that the topics I was studying could have applications in a mathematical statistics framework. He was then kind enough to agree to act as a co-supervisor, so that we could investigate together some statistical applications of my ongoing work. His supervision, which developed between Rome and Naples (another italian university which he visited often), was most useful and pleasant both from academic and personal perspective. I learned a lot from him, not only from a mathematical and statistical point of view. This collaboration resulted in a joint paper, which was one of my very first publications.

Over the following years we had many other occasions to meet, even with his wife and daughter, with whom we spent a lot of extremely pleasant gatherings. Our last meeting was in St. Petersburg, where he has also introduced me to his extremely beautiful city.

In my experience professor Nikitin was an example of a very warm and kind personality, who for nearly two decades has never failed to keep in touch and show interest and empathy on the personal and academic side. I will greatly miss such a nice and gentle presence.

Roma, 1997, at the end of the cours held by Yakov Nikitin in Università La Sapienza.
Left to right: ?, Mauro Scanu, Alessandra Nardi, Pierluigi Conti, Yakov Nikitin, Silvia Polettini,
Marco Scavino, Loredana di Consiglio, Luisa Beghin, Pierpaolo D'Urso, Fabio Cenci, ?