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(*b*. Belaia Tserkov', Ukraine, Russia, 24 January 1915; *d*. Leningrad, U.S.S.R., 30 June 1972)

mathematics.

Linnik's parents, Vladimir Pavlovitch Linnik and Maria Abramovna Yakerina, were schoolteachers. His father later became a famous scientist in the field of optics and a member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. After graduation from secondary school in 1931, Linnik, having worked for a year as a laboratory assistant, entered Leningrad University, where he studied theoretical physics and mathematics. He graduated from the university in 1938 and received the doctorate in mathematics in 1940, joining the staff of the Leningrad branch of the V. A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. From 1944 he was simultaneously a professor in the Mathematics De partment of Leningrad University. Linnik organized the chair of probability theory and mathematical statistics and founded the Leningrad school of probability and statistics.

Linnik's principal fields of endeavor were number theory, probability theory, and mathematical statistics. A characteristic feature of his work was the use of very advanced analytical techniques. His early works were devoted to analytic number theory. He began with the problem of the representation of an integer by positive ternary quadratic forms. Linnik next developed a powerful new method of investigating similar problems, the so-called ergodic method in number theory. A short paper (1941) served as a beginning of another powerful method now known as the large sieve method. In the 1950's Linnik developed a new strong method of analytic number theory. This method made it possible to solve some problems of additive number theory that cannot be treated by earlier methods. This method, which also uses some ideas of probability theory, is known as the dispersion method in number theory.

In the late 1940's Linnik began to work in prob ability theory and statistics. He immediately became famous because of his papers on probability limit theorems. Most important here was his work on probability of large deviations, where he found a new understanding of the problem. In the 1950's Linnik advanced the arithmetic of probability dis tributions, which had ceased to develop at the end of the 1930's. He did very important research in mathematical statistics and was one of the first to use the powerful analytical apparatus of the modern function theory for the solution of statistical problems. In a sense he created analytical statistics. He solved such difficult problems of statistics and characterization problems, the Behrens-Fisher problem, and the minimax property of the Hotelling T^2 test. Linnik was elected a member of the U.S.S.R. Acad emy of Sciences in 1964. He was also a member of the Swedish Academy and of many other societies and held an honorary doctorate from the University of Paris. For many years he was president of the Leningrad Mathematical Society.

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I. A. Ibragimov