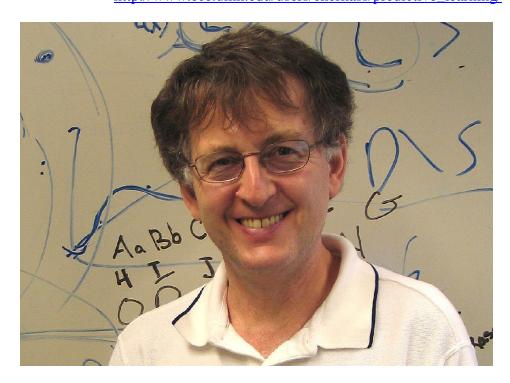
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Technical Bio: Vladimir Cherkassky is Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He received MS in Operations Research from Moscow Aviation Institute in 1976 and PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985. He has worked on theory and applications of statistical learning since late 1980's and co-authored the monograph *Learning from Data*, Wiley-Interscience, now in its second edition. He is also the author of a new textbook *Predictive Learning - see* www.VCtextbook.com

He has served on editorial boards of IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks (TNN), Neural Networks, Natural Computing, and Neural Processing Letters. He was a Guest Editor of the IEEE TNN Special Issue on *VC Learning Theory and Its Applications* in 1999. Dr. Cherkassky was Director of NATO Advanced Study Institute (ASI) *From Statistics to Neural Networks: Theory and Pattern Recognition Applications* held in France in 1993. He received the IBM Faculty Partnership Award in 1996 and 1997 for his work on learning methods for data mining. In 2007, he became Fellow of IEEE for 'contributions and leadership in statistical learning'. In 2008, he received the A. Richard Newton Breakthrough Award from Microsoft Research for 'development of new methodologies for predictive learning'.