the hypothesis about their possible dependence. Certainly, the method is not at all universal, and possesses sufficiently narrow application area. Therefore, some conclusive results or other can be deduced only by involving other dating methods. Meanwhile, two texts which are possibly dependent may be outwardly different: e.g., two versions of the same chronicle written in different countries, etc. It is important that we date a text on the basis of the study of its quantitative characteristics, and not its contents, which can be subjectively tinged. The described method was checked against medieval and texts already dated. The obtained results led to the same datings. We illustrate by two simple examples demonstrating the efficiency of the method.

Example 1. Let $Y = Dvinskoy\ letopisets$ (shorter version) describing the events in a 327-year interval [248]. Let us attempt to date these events with the use of the described method, i.e., proceeding only from the analysis of its quantitative characteristics, and not involving the contents. Going through the list of the *Complete Collection of Russian Chronicles*, we discover a text X whose volume graph exhibits splashes practically in the same years as that of Y. It turns out that $d(X, Y) = 2 \times 10^{-25}$. Therefore, we can conjecture that the texts are dependent, and, probably, describe the same epoch and region. In particular, we have dated the events described in Y. The text X discovered by us is a lengthy version of the *Dvinskaya Chronicle (Dvinskoy letopisets)* describing 1390–1717 A.D. The dating of Y obtained by us coincided with its standard one, which confirms the efficiency of the method.

Certainly, the answer was quite obvious in this elementary example, because we possess both versions of the *Dvinskaya Chronicle* (the shorter and complete one). However, we have demonstrated the possibility of dating an unknown text only on the basis of analysis of its formal quantitative characteristics. This method does not call for the investigation of the contents. On the one hand, this sharply narrows the area of application. On the other hand, the method permits us to substantially simplify many operations requiring the processing of large information samples. In particular, the method is applicable to texts written in a unintelligible language, e.g., texts which contain a large number of undecipherable abbreviations, notations, etc.

Example 2. Let $Y = Akademicheskaya\ letopis'$ [248]. Following the above procedure, we attempt to date the described events. Going through the Chronicles, and finding the volume functions, we discover the text $X =$ part of the *Suprasl'skaya letopis'* (see above) describing 1336–1374 A.D., whose volume graph shows splashes in the same years as that of Y. We find that $d(X, Y) = 10^{-14}$. We thereby date the events in Y with respect to the texts already dated. The dating obtained by us coincides with that usually given, and is generally known.

In 1980, I studied several dozen examples of the same kind, confirming the efficiency of the method in all the cases: The obtained datings coincided with those known earlier.

The suggested method is not at all universal. The most stable results are obtained for texts of large volume, describing sufficiently large time intervals, several decades or centuries long. The method's application to "short" texts should be done accurately.