

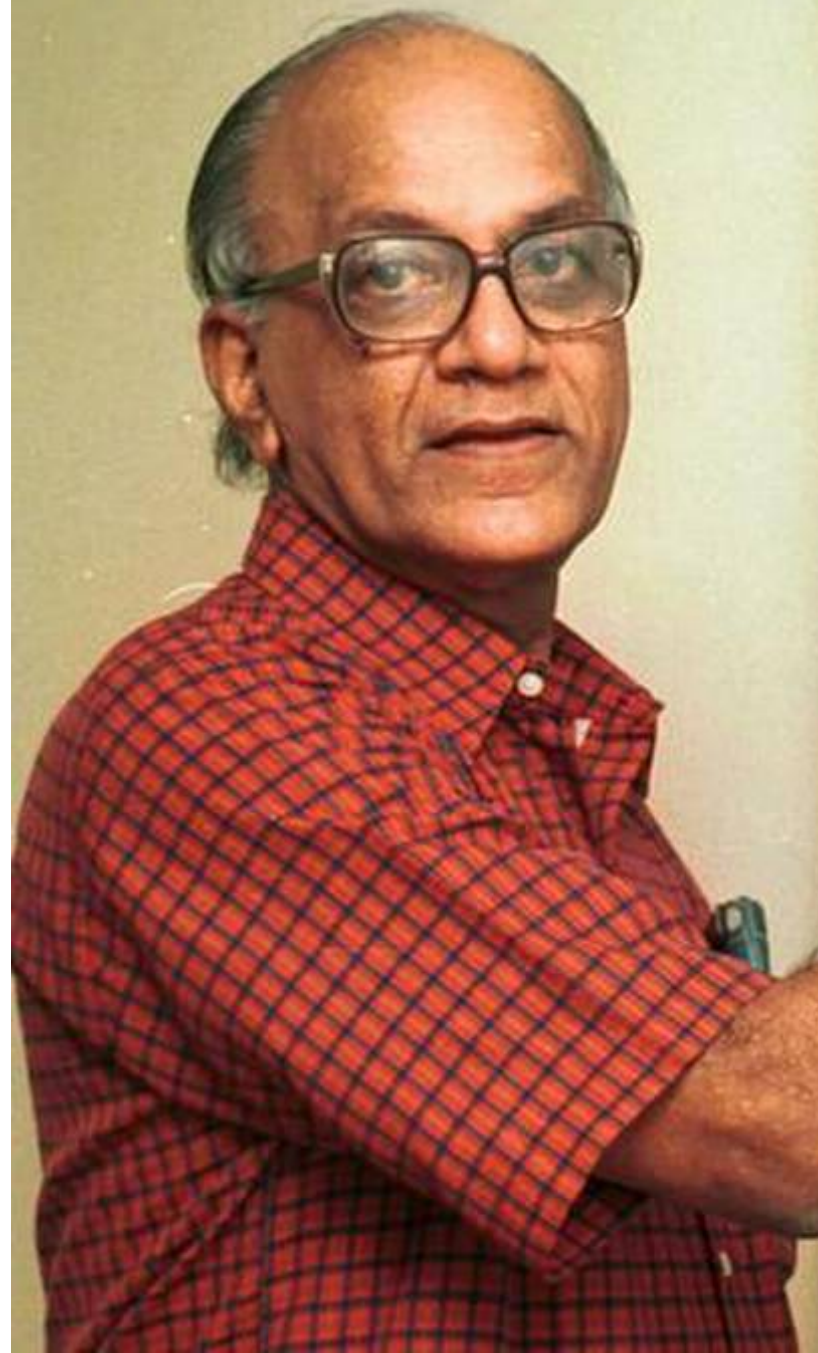




C. S. Seshadri on the differences between mathematics and music:

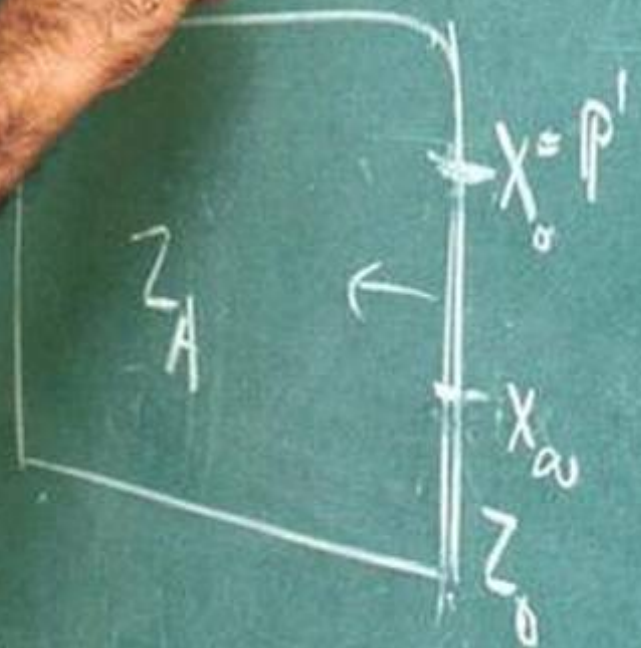
Mathematics is an intellectual pursuit. When working on a problem, you struggle and then suddenly everything falls in place, and which certainly in itself constitutes a unique mental experience. One also talks of “taste” in mathematics using a terminology from the arts. Mathematics, being basically a science, makes it tricky for such definitions from the humanities to apply to it, as its practice and appreciation is hardly as subjective as in the arts. But I can say that it is only in music that I experience something that is truly “transcendental”.

All quotations are taken from an interview with **Bhāvanā Magazine** for an article
C. S. Seshadri: From Proofs to Transcendence via Theorems and Ragas



$$\lambda_{ik} = \psi_{ij} \lambda_{jk} + \lambda_{ij} \psi_{jk}$$

$$\lambda_{ik}(t_x) = \psi_{ij}(t_x) \cdot \lambda_{jk}(t_x) +$$





C.S. Seshadri on the International Colloquium on Algebraic Geometry
in TIFR Mumbai, 1968:

“Many leading algebraic geometers were present: Weil (who was in India after a lapse of more than 30 years), Grothendieck, Mumford, Artin, Phillip Griffiths, Jun-Ichi Igusa, Teruhisa Matsusaka and Shreeram Abhyankar were all present. Grothendieck took a strong personal interest in organising it. It was indeed a great conference.”



Photo credit: TIFR, Algebraic Geometry Colloquium, Mumbai 1968

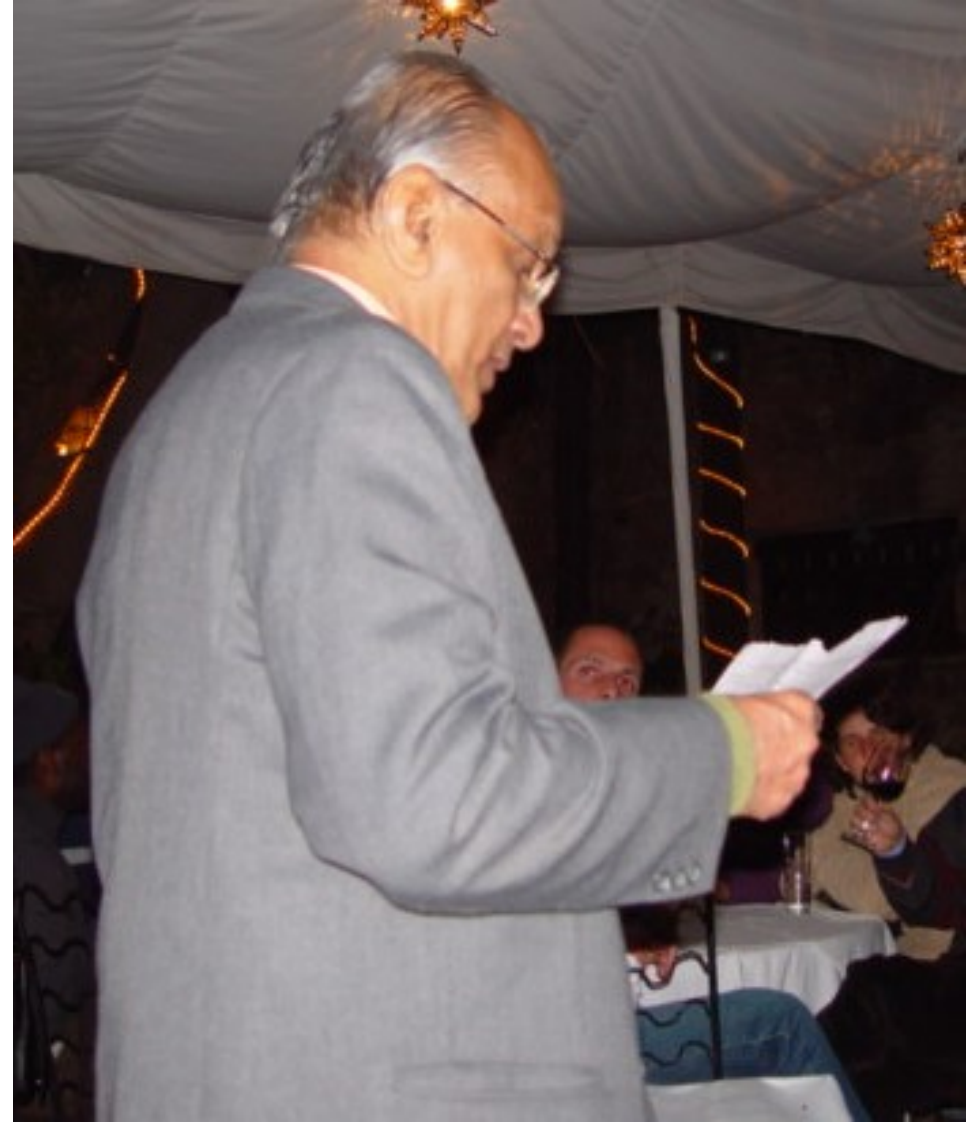
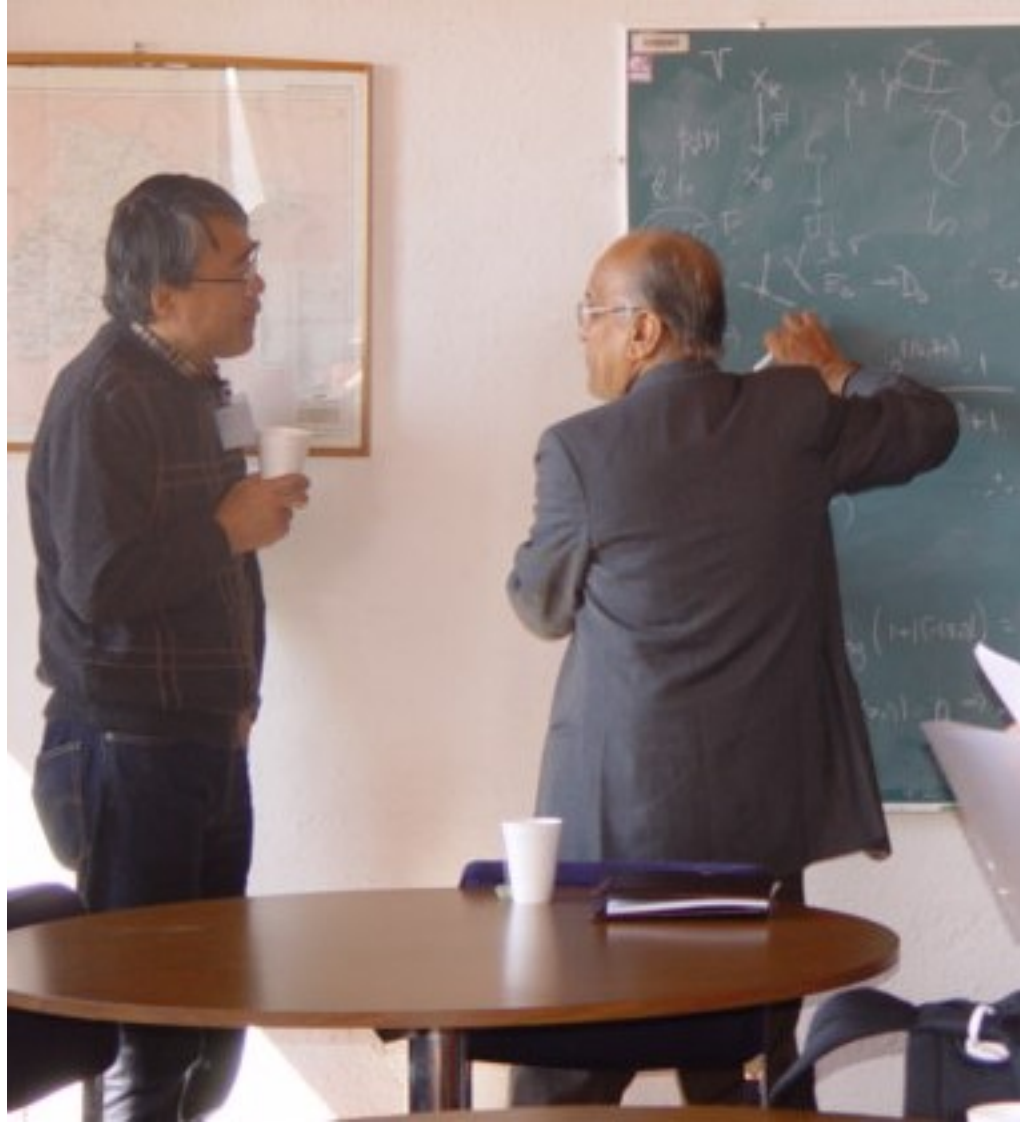


C. S. Seshadri on TIFR Mumbai and mathematics in India

The mood, I would say, was that something important was happening.

There was also a feeling of uniqueness about the TIFR School of Mathematics. Initially it gave us a sense of pride. However, in the course of time, it did not appeal to me. It was not a nice feeling that we had only two places of true excellence in mathematics in India.

But I should stress, too, upon the positive aspects. There were very many talented students, listening to inspiring lectures by visiting mathematicians of great stature from abroad. The atmosphere was very stimulating. Many areas of mathematics were cultivated. Talented people were promoted very quickly.

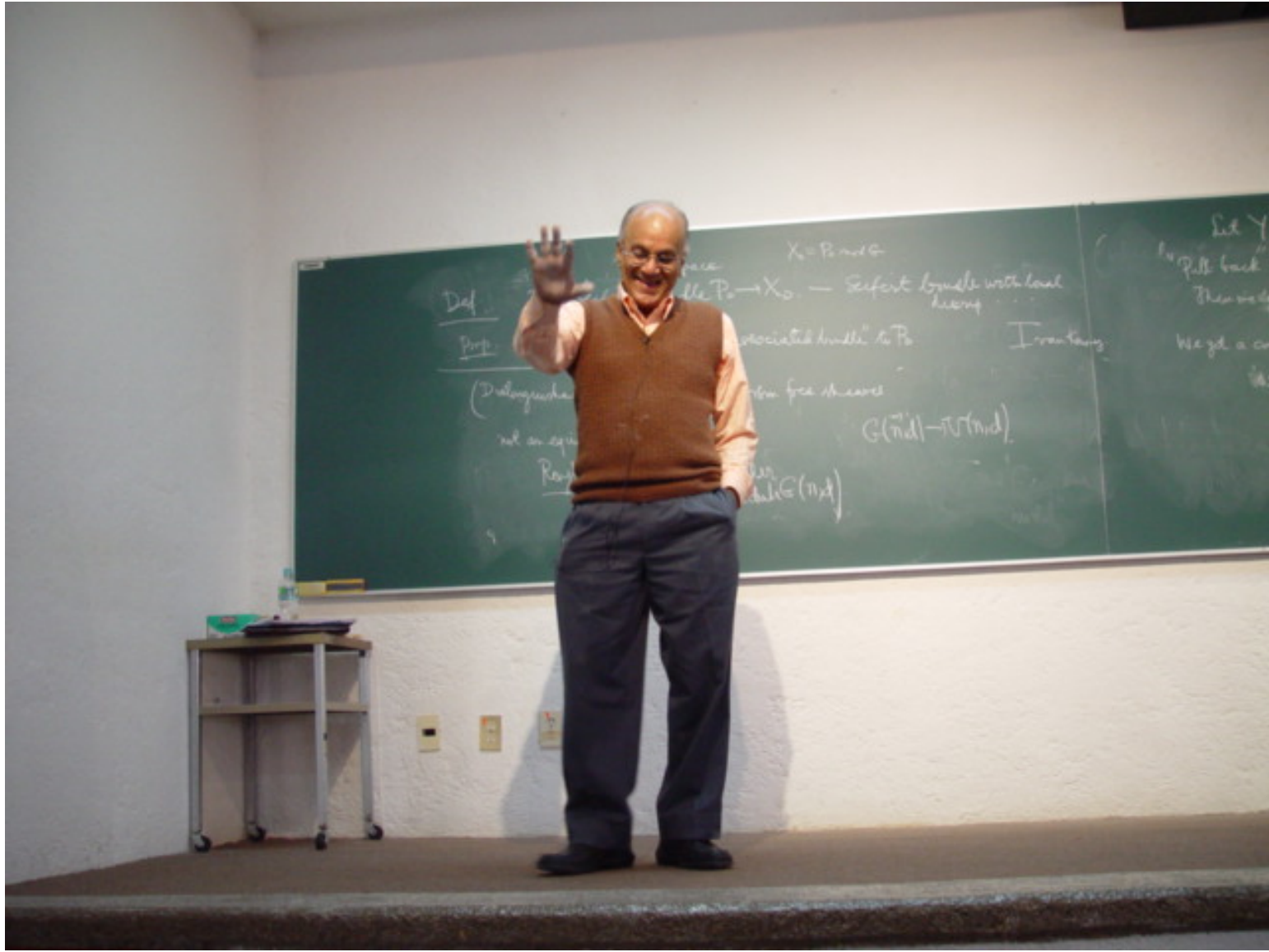




C. S. Seshadri on life in France:

I was in admiration of European culture and French mathematics. At home back in India we are vegetarians, but we adjusted soon. In fact, I began loving French food. As for the language, I still remember that when we landed in Paris, Charles Ehresmann (who had earlier visited us in TIFR) received us at the airport along with his student Jean Benabou and then we all went to a cafe. There they talked with others in French and we couldn't follow a thing, in spite of our having studied at the Alliance Française, Bombay. So we went to the Alliance Française, Paris, to study French again. In fact, my French improved to the extent that I could read the Le Monde, the daily newspaper, generally considered not an easy read.





C. S. Seshadri on mathematical life in France:

The Cartan seminar was a unique event with the participation of excellent mathematicians not only from France but other countries as well. I still remember the first Cartan seminar that I attended.

All the greats were there – André Weil, Harish-Chandra, Chevalley, Grothendieck and, of course, Henri Cartan. And the topic for that day was automorphic functions. First Roger Godement lectured and later Goro Shimura followed up. It was fantastic.





“Fields of knowledge are merging today like never before and the old traditional boundaries are blurring. New connections have come up in completely unexpected places.”