

Editorial

Rajaram Nityananda, Chief Editor

The target audience of *Resonance* was loosely defined as undergraduates and their teachers, with individual articles more focused on a specific group, and spillover into both the post-graduate student and the keen teen communities. The subjects covered have ranged over all of natural science, mathematics, and engineering, and have captured contemporary progress as it occurred. Looking back, one cannot but be struck by the remarkable extent to which these ambitious goals were realized, due both to the enthusiasm and support of the community, and the hard work and vision of successive editorial teams.

What is a *Resonance* article? Clearly, it has to be technically correct but this is only the beginning. An author must face the challenge of finding the right topic, the right level of explanation and detail, and the right tone for the intended readership.

Our referees, editors and the dedicated publication staff at the Academy office have worked with authors over the years towards these goals, to a far greater extent than in a conventional research journal. This tradition will surely continue. Putting articles together into the monthly issues poses new challenges, of coherence in a theme issue, and balance of different areas in a more typical, general issue. Because of these factors, a given article may have to wait its turn, and even be overtaken by others and we hope that our authors understand – publication in *Resonance* cannot be as time critical as in a research journal. Given the multiple factors to be juggled, the atmosphere at the (figurative) *Resonance* desk each month is that of a deadline-driven magazine! While adrenaline has its place in keeping all of us going, one worthwhile target is to build up a bank of articles, refereed, proof-read, copy edited, typeset, all ready for publication, so that the staff and editors can think a few months ahead.



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Resonance wishes
its readers a
Happy New Year,
2015.



The first issue of *Resonance* came out in January 1996 and hence with this issue, it is entering the final year as a teenager. A lot of thought and debate went into the many features which give *Resonance* its special character – the iconic back cover personality, the wide margins, the series (now in short supply), the theme issues, and so on. Nineteen years is not too early to take stock and ask ourselves what new features and changes we can consider – not in haste, but after due deliberation among all the stakeholders. Readers will notice a fair number of new entrants in the Editorial Board and Council. The effort has been to bring in younger people and also those with more direct contact with our target audience of undergraduates. The names of many of the stalwarts who have steered the journal for more than a decade – sometimes close to two – no longer appear on the inside front cover. This is the place to thank them for their contributions, and to warn them that they may still hear from us when we need help!

Our back cover features Asima Chatterjee, the eminent and pioneering chemist who worked on natural products herself and fostered a school. We have a rather surprising and relatively recent result on tiling of a square by triangles. The Classroom Section features one piece on the importance of asking questions. The second is devoted to a demonstration tool which brings to life the arrangement and motion of atoms in the gaseous, liquid and crystalline phases. We take you to Western Ghats to learn about two species of turtles. A short piece on the conceptual aspects of identical versus distinguishable particles in statistical physics is included. And finally, a Classics article which laid the foundations of many different aspects of statistical estimation. It is remarkable both for its richness of ideas, many before their time, and for when, where, and by whom it is written, which I will not give away here!

