

FAREWELL NOTES FOR PROFESSOR RAMANI RAMAKRISHNAN'S RETIREMENT

J. Gregory Downey¹, Romain Dumoulin², Joonhee Lee³, Frank A. Russo⁴, Shivraj Sagar⁵, and Jérémie Voix⁶

¹Parklane, 1180 Speers Rd, Oakville Ontario, Canada, L6L 2X4

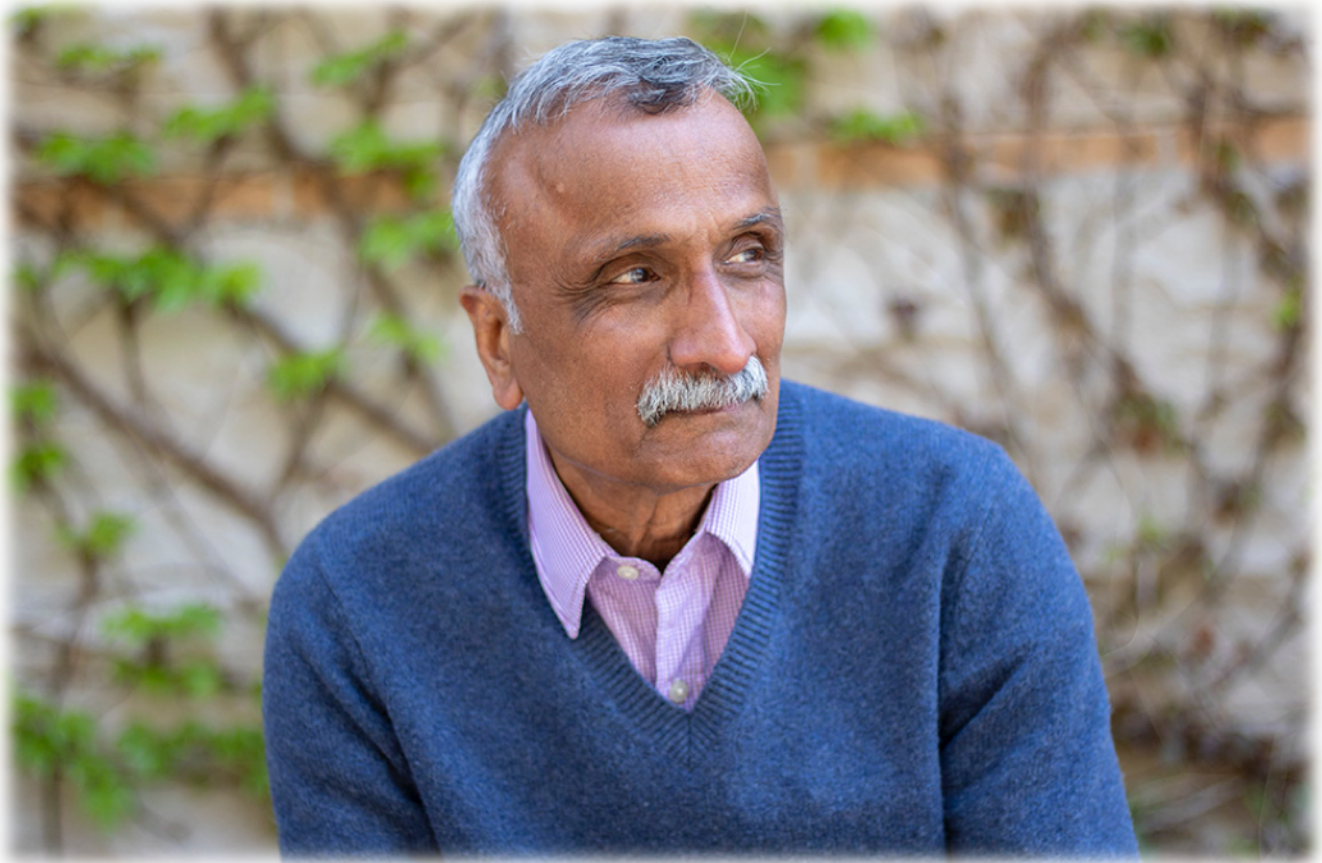
²SoftdB, 250 Avenue Dunbar Suite 203, Mount Royal, Quebec H3P 2H5

³Department of Building, Concordia University, EV 6.231, 1515 Rue Sainte-Catherine O, Montréal, H3G 2W1

⁴Department of Psychology, Ryerson University 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3

⁵Wood, 15 Justice Mill Lane Aberdeen, AB11 6EQ Scotland, UK

⁶Université du Québec (ÉTS), 1100 Notre-Dame Ouest, Montréal (Qc) Canada H3C 1K3



Reflections on Professor Ramakrishnan by Romain Dumoulin

In 2010, a few days before Christmas, newly arrived in Canada I was looking to connect with the local acoustics community and I sent a cold email to Prof. Ramakrishna, not expecting much given the timing.

Little did I know that the warm response I received would build beyond that first internship, collaborating on several projects (from the acoustical design of church and concert halls to the simulation of wind tunnels' tuning vanes!), publishing papers and presenting at CAA conferences.

Quickly, Prof. Ramakrishna's influence permeated not only my professional career in acoustics, but personally, offering advice, support and generosity at every turn—even in the speech he delivered at my wedding.

His presence looms large, this is clear based on the de-

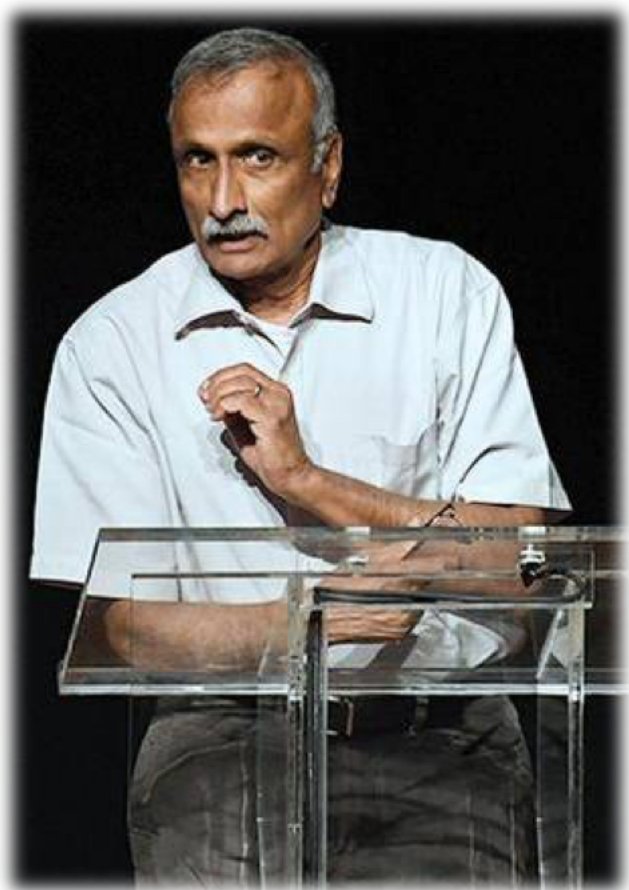
ference and respect he receives at yearly gatherings of the Canadian acoustical association. He has been a mainstay for decades, and while I wish him the best in his retirement, he will greatly be missed by this community.

Dear professor, thank you and wishing you all the best. Until I am next in Toronto.

Romain Dumoulin

Reflections on Professor Ramakrishnan by Frank A. Russo

As I reflect on my relationship with Professor Ramakrishnan, it has become clear to me that despite the wide gulf between our respective subdisciplines (architectural and psychological acoustics, respectively), he has somehow been there for me at all stages of my professional life.



Student Mentorship

I first met Professor Ramani Ramakrishnan in October of 1993 at the Canadian Acoustic meeting that was held at what was then the Delta Chelsea in Toronto. It was my very first academic presentation, and Dr. Ramakrishnan was seated near the centre back smiling and nodding about a topic he likely knew little about. Despite this, he showed great interest, seemingly hanging on my every word. His presence in the room made it easy to get the ideas out despite my acute sense of “imposter syndrome”. Ramani is an astute listener, and I have observed him playing the same role with junior scholars at many Acoustics meetings over the years. Always listening and asking good questions that force the speaker to broaden their perspective or at least think quickly on their feet. In 2001, it was Professor Ramakrishnan who conferred the Shaw Postdoctoral Award on me at the meeting he convened in Alliston (Toronto).

New Faculty Mentorship

When I arrived at Ryerson University years later, Professor Ramakrishnan was quick to reconnect and to come visit me over in Psychology. He had practical tips for me regarding how to navigate the waters as a new faculty member and good suggestions for how to best equip and accelerate activity in my lab. I also had the pleasure of working alongside him in various service capacities at the University and in our broader acoustics community. He encouraged me to become part of the CAA board and we eventually planned and executed a successful Acoustics Week in Canada meeting in 2009 (Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Editor Mentorship

Professor Ramakrishnan invited me to follow in his footsteps as Editor of Canadian Acoustics. This was somewhat intimidating given how revered he was by the community and his great service as the longest standing Editor of the journal. I shadowed him for 6 months before taking on the reigns. We had many excellent meetings in that period. The meetings took place in his small office on Church Street with almost all desk surfaces and shelves lined with past journals. These occasions were equal parts business, humor, and philosophy.

Collegiality and Friendship

Over the years, Ramani and I have had the pleasure of sharing many memories at academic meetings around the globe. He seems to always have wisdom to share, often in the form of a parable and always rich with metaphor. I fondly remember an animated conversation that we had about career trajectories, egos and envy, on a post-session walk in 2016 at the International Congress of Acoustics in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This past academic year, Ramani and I had the pleasure of co-supervising a student with interests that intersected Architecture and Psychological Acoustics.

So long, but not goodbye

It is with great sadness, admiration, and respect that I say so long to my dear friend and colleague. Of course, I realize it's not goodbye. Ramani will continue to be consulted on various issues as one of the pillars of our society and keepers of our institutional knowledge. I, for one, fully expect to see him popping up from time to time at future meetings with a smile on his face, twinkle in his eye, and a good story to share.

Frank A. Russo

A few words about Ramani by J. Gregory Downey

Ramani and I first met in 1984 while working at Vibron limited. Ramani a seasoned acoustical engineer fresh from NASA and myself green and right out of Engineering School. We hit it off as friends that first day and he was such a terrific mentor to me in those early days. Even though our paths have taken us in different directions in the industry over the years the strength of the friendship has never diminished.

I recall it was summer 1990 I was developing a new line of rectangular and circular silencers and Ramani was working on computer software that would predict insertion loss and pressure drop data for rectangular silencers. It was a perfect opportunity for us to come together and compare the accuracy of his software with actual silencer data I was receiving from a test company we had retained to test a wide range of silencers. The outcome was that Ramani could fine tune the software and that software was then used to aid in filling out the full line of silencers. It was truly terrific collaborative work that at the end of the day really benefitted both of us and we had so much fun doing it.

To celebrate the successful completion of this collaborative effort Ramani said “Greg I want to take out for lunch. I’m going to take you to one of my favorite Indian Restaurants”. I replied by saying “Okay but I’m not very good with hot spicy foods”. “Not a problem” Ramani replied, “I will make sure you only get very mild dishes”. Well lunch arrived and Ramani lit me on fire. The food was so spicy that I was having a hard time talking. Ramani thought it was hysterical. He was laughing so hard he was crying.

There were a few choice words that day but over the years we’d laugh about that lunch engagement. Needless to say, I never let Ramani pick the Restaurant again. He’d try but there was no biting on that one.

Although Ramani is ‘Retiring’, and I’m not quite sure what that word really means in Ramani’s world, as we know he’s a man in constant motion with fingers in a lot of pies. The good thing is even in retirement he will always be an active part of the acoustical community that he has served so well.

All the very best to you and family my good friend.

J. Gregory Downey

Reflections on Professor Ramakrishnan by Shivraj Sagar

I first met Dr. Ramakrishnan while completing my final year of mechanical engineering. I was seeking special permission to take his acoustics course – the first question he asked me was, “what do you know about acoustics?” At the time, the answer was very little, and I was intimidated.

When taking his course, I quickly learned that Dr. Ramakrishnan is a professor who wants you to truly understand the material and the “why” behind everything. I appreciated the fact that outside of academics, he has a wealth of industry experience which he shares lessons from. He is kind and never troubled by students asking questions. Dr. Ramakrishnan always encourages and supports his students when they have ideas on writing journal papers, experiments and various ideas outside of the classroom.

Students, clients, colleagues and the CAA have greatly benefited from Dr. Ramakrishnan’s contributions and his continuous demonstration of integrity over his career. He is one of the best professors I have ever met and his dedication to the field of acoustics is remarkable. I congratulate Dr. Ramakrishnan on his retirement and I wish him the best of luck. Thank you, Dr. Ramakrishnan!

Shivraj Sagar



CadnaR is the powerful software for the calculation and assessment of sound levels in rooms and at workplaces

Intuitive Handling

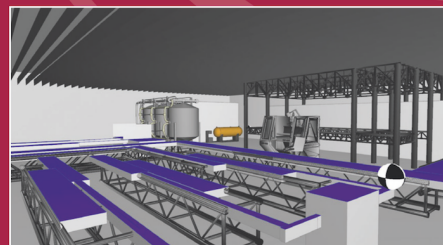
The clearly arranged software enables the user to easily build models and make precise predictions. At the same time you benefit from the sophisticated input possibilities as your analysis becomes more complex.

Efficient Workflow

Change your view from 2D to 3D within a second. Multiply the modeling speed by using various shortcuts and automation techniques. Many time-saving acceleration procedures enable a fast calculation process.

Modern Analysis

CadnaR uses scientific and highly efficient calculation methods. Techniques like scenario analysis, grid arithmetic or the display of results within a 3D-grid enhance your analysis and support you during the whole planning and assessment process.



Fields of Application

Office Environments

- Process your acoustic calculations and assessments according to DIN 18041, VDI 2569 and ISO 3382-3
- Receiver chains serve as digital “measurement path” and provide you with relevant insights into the acoustic quality of rooms during the planning phase
- Import of DWG-/DXF-/SKP-files (e.g. pCon.planner, AutoCAD, SketchUp)
- Visualization of noise propagation, noise levels and parameters for quality criteria like the Speech Transmission Index STI

Production Plants

- Calculation of the sound load at workplaces based on the emission parameters specified by the machine manufacturer according to the EC guideline 2006/42/EC while also taking the room geometry and the room design into account
- Tools for enveloping surfaces and free field simulations to verify the sound power of the sources inside of the enveloping surface
- Calculation of the sound power level based on technical parameters such as rotational speed or power



Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by: Scantek, Inc. Sound and Vibration Instrumentation and Engineering
6430 Dobbin Rd, Suite C | Columbia, MD 21045 | 410-290-7726 | www.scantekinc.com