

## INTRODUCTION

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Ambikeshwar Sharma was born in India on July 2, 1920. He was educated in Jaipur and in Lucknow where he received his Ph.D. in 1951 under A.N. Singh. Sharma held visiting research positions at Cornell, Harvard, and UCLA before joining the University of Alberta in 1962. He remained at Alberta until his retirement in 1985.

Sharma's mathematical work has been in classical analysis - mainly in lacunary interpolation and spline functions. The first deals with unique polynomial interpolation of values of a function and its (not necessarily successive) derivatives at a given set of points. Since often the interpolation at "logical" points that requires many different techniques. Sharma's papers on spline functions have been as diverse as the area itself; beginning with convergence of cubic splines, to cardinal splines, complex splines, trigonometric splines, and multivariate splines. More than 140 research papers bear the name of A. Sharma. His knowledge and feel for many problems in analysis as well as his inexhaustible enthusiasm are probably the driving force behind these articles.

His special personality, warmth, and desire to participate in research adventures are the reasons that at least 46 mathematicians have coauthored with him and befriended him for so many years. He has been a credit to mathematics, Approximation Theory, and the University of Alberta.

His good personal qualities are shared by Durga, his wife of 51 years. Many mathematicians will never forget the privilege of enjoying Durga's and Ambikeshwar's hospitality and their exceptionally delicious vegetarian table.

Sharma, we wish you many more productive years.

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