IN MEMORIAM
CEM TEZER – (1955-2020)

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Abstract
Cem Tezer was a fastidious, meticulous, highly idiosyncratic and versatile scientist. Without him Turkish community of mathematics would be incomplete. Our sense of gratitude for his work in various areas of mathematics, history of sciences, literature, music and his encouragement to do mathematics for only its beauty was hardly unique and even unusual. After he passed away on 27 February 2020, while working actively at Middle East Technical University, the number of colleagues and former students described the ways in which their studies and indeed their view towards mathematics had been transformed by having known him might have surprised only those who had never met him. In this article not only, his contributions to mathematics will be classified and summarized but also his unique and distinguished personality as a mathematician will be emphasized.

Keywords: Dynamical systems and ergodic theory, general topology, classical and differential geometry, global analysis, history of sciences and mathematics, literature, music.

1 Introduction
Cem Tezer passed away in Dikmen, Ankara on 27 February 2020, from a sudden heart attack in the arms of his brother Üğur Tezer. With the passing away of Cem Tezer Turkish Mathematical community not only lost a distinguished researcher and colleague but also is left without an eloquent orator. He was born in Bilecik on March 19, 1955 as the first son of Orhan and Sevínç Tezer. Orhan Tezer was a Civil Engineer with a MSc. degree and Sevínç Tezer left Ankara University Faculty of Languages History and Geography (DTCF) while she was studying philosophy. The family settled down in several different cities of Anatolia due to his father’s employment as a Civil Engineer. He studied first two years of the primary school at İstiklal İlkokulu (1960-1962) in Merzifon. This little town left him deep with impressions and lifelong friendships. After Merzifon, they settled down to Keçiören, Ankara (1962-1965) and he finished the primary school at Kuyuşu İlkokulu where his teacher Göktürk Mehmet Uytun discovered his talent for poetry and encouraged him to publish his poems in a
booklet entitled as "Deniz Feneri, Şiirler", [1]. For the foreword of this book with a lovely picture of Cem with school uniform, see Figure 1. After studying the first year of the secondary school in Kalaba Ortaokulu, they moved to Elazığ (1965-1967) where he took accordion courses, met with his dear friend Erkan Oğur and finished his secondary school education. In this period of life he engaged in music with a great love and at the same time he developed a passion towards chemistry, even he built a laboratory in his house where he carried out experiments.

In 1965, Tezer family returned to Ankara and Cem Tezer graduated from high school in Ankara at Atatürk Lisesi. During those years his interest in mathematics dominated chemistry. By the influence and support of his father he started university at the Civil Engineering Faculty of Istanbul Technical University in 1971. Somehow his father persuaded him that he could learn Mathematics as an engineering student but after a few months he recognized the truth and decided to leave. As an influential character his father advised him to study abroad if he insisted on doing mathematics. After then, he went to London, started to learn English and prepared for the exams of Cambridge University.

During his studies at Cambridge University (1973-1976), his love in music revived again and he intensely dealt with European chamber music. First, he learned the block flute, played especially pieces from old English masters and baroque era and then bought a flute. I still remember vividly the joy and the pleasure of listening to Cem Tezer rehearsing the flute in the Department of Mathematics at Middle East Technical University occasionally late in the afternoon as a bachelor student. As a young bachelor student in Cambridge he was
mainly interested in the foundations of mathematics and philosophy yet a remarkable amount of courses were related to physics including electromagnetism, thermodynamics and quantum mechanics. After receiving his B.Sc. degree in mathematics at Cambridge University (1976) he started at his doctoral studies in Heidelberg and earned his Ph.D. degree at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (1984). His thesis is entitled as "Generalised Solenoids of the Dantzig Type", [2]. Professor Tezer later published the results of his thesis in the Israel Journal of Mathematics in 1987 under the title "The shift on the inverse limit of a covering projection", [3].

After earning his Ph.D. he returned to Turkey he decided to work at Middle East Technical University, Ankara where he would spend the next almost four decades where he was involved extensively in research and teaching. He also had a book chapter that is very carefully written about the foundations of algebraic topology, [26 Ch. 24, p. 779-848].

In the following one may find his M.Sc. and Ph.D. students with the titles of their thesis in chronological order.

• M. Işık Güzergöz, M.Sc., Affine Conformal Vector Fields, (1996).
• Nilüfer Koldan, M.Sc., Prevalence Of Almost Inner Automorphisms In Isospectral Deformations Of Riemannian Two Step Nilmanifolds, (2001).
• Fatma Muazzez Şimşir, M.Sc., On Two Instances Of Spectral Rigidity, (2001).
• Semra Taşkıng(Pamuk), M.Sc., Connection Preserving Conformal Diffeomorphisms Of Spheres, (2002).
• Selma Yıldırım, M.Sc., Magnetic Spherical Pendulum, (2003).
• Fatma Muazzez Şimşir, Ph.D., Conformal Vector Fields With Respect To The Sasaki Metric (2005).

Glimpses about him as a polymath

The influence on Cem Tezer of the rich cultural, historical and academic heritage he observed in these two outstanding institutions, was the main source of inspiration in his academic and intellectual work. This overwhelming influence led him to a principle which he employed at each stage of his mathematical research: "study only the classical works of the true masters of the field". He was keen to avoid "reader friendly" mathematical expositions. He was also critical of fashionable techniques most of which did fade away very rapidly without leading to any substantial progress. Cem Tezer adored mathematics as a human endeavour. He did not try to comply with the dominating academic attitude formulated in the cliché "publish or perish"; on the contrary, his attitude was that of the masters – few but ripe. His research articles span four basic fields, namely topological dynamics, differential geometry, mechanics and elementary
I always had the impression that among these fields, elementary geometry was his favourite; he quite often emphasized the neatness, simplicity and the beauty of the ideas and the techniques in elementary geometry. The ideas, the methods and the results in each and every research article of Cem Tezer deserve a careful investigation, which I believe will lead to further interesting research, [20]. Those were the late eighties and early nineties that he was very keen on working with Hüseyin Demir on elementary geometry and they published articles and answered several questions from the question series asked by American Mathematical Monthly and Mathematical Magazine, [16]–[22]. Matematik Dünyası was also another opportunity for him to share his original, beautiful proof techniques on Euclidean geometry.  

Figure 2: Backyard of Department of Mathematics, METU with Hüseyin Demir in the center.

Cem Tezer had great interest in the history of mathematics pertaining to the late Ottoman era. Combining his deep mathematical insight with his competence in the language and the script in which the articles were written then, Cem Tezer contributed significantly to the studies on the mathematics of that period. On several occasions he was invited to DTCF (Faculty of Language History and Geography) at Ankara University, one of the leading departments of history in Turkey, to teach graduate courses in history of sciences and mathematics. Bağcacı İshak Efendi and Vidinli Hüseyin Tevfik Paşa both had a central role in his research, [11], [12]. He had also an article about Hüseyin Demir, [13].

Özlük, Ö., Şahin, A. ve Tezer, C. Pisagor Teoreminin Çeşitli İspatları, Matematik Dünyası 1, 3(1991) pp. 6-9. Menelaus ve Ceva Teoremleri ve düzlem geometride açılar ve ölçüleri https://www.matematikdunyasi.org/article/menealus-ve-ceva-teoremleri/.
His speech was urbane and sophisticated, and his command of Turkish, English, German and French was eloquent in conversation as it was on the page. He was able to read and write in Persian. He was more than capable of expressing sharp and accurate judgements, and independent of the language he spoke, his discourse was in terms so carefully chosen and so persuasive that dissent would have seemed superfluous.

Literature and music were two other endeavours which fascinated Cem Tezer. In his poems, mainly in Turkish, a few in English and in unpublished articles on Turkish literature we again observe how keen he was to prefer the classical over the fashionable. In his poems in Turkish, Cem Tezer almost invariably followed the classical tradition, using the rich late Ottoman era language and style. He derived his inspiration from the masterpieces of Divan Edebiyatı. Cem Tezer was about to complete a trilogy on three of the most influential and controversial Turkish poets; Yahya Kemal Beyatlı, Tevfik Fikret and Melmet Akif Ersoy. I believe that even though the finishing touches of Cem Tezer are lacking, these articles are of great importance as terse comparative essays on various social, cultural and literary attitudes prevailing in the Ottoman Empire and then in the Turkish Republic in early 20th century. [25].

Cem Tezer had several poems in different folders and he shared with close friends. It was my honour that he also shared one of those with me called "Bazı Bir Sırca Muamma", [14]. Among his poems, those he quintupled "tahmis etmek" the poems called "Gazel"s of masters of poetry such as Nâbi, Yahya Kemal, Turgut Uyar and Attila İhlan plays a central role of his work reflecting his style.[7]

The last but not the least, he was a distinguished teacher with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. As far as I know he was about to finish a textbook in differential geometry of curves and surfaces in Turkish. However, this time his meticulousness deprived us from a rigorously written textbook which will be unique in terms of both its language and content. In written expositions, numerous conference and seminar talks and in private discussions he generously shared intriguing ideas, questions in mathematics, history, literature, languages, music. He enjoyed every aspect of civilisation like concert halls, elegant cafés and restaurants, museums, libraries, book stores yet once the subject is mathematics contrary to his city motivated joys he loved to be in Çakılarası Mathematics Village where he gave several lecture series. These lecture series had a great diversity including "Gamma and Zeta functions", "Theory of special relativity", "Euclidean geometry", "Non-Euclidean geometry", "Characterisation of closed surfaces", see Figure 3.

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[2] The last quintet of Yahya Kemal’in Veda Gazelini Tahmis
Gösterdi ehil ehlini tahmis-i gazelde !
Eyyam-ı Kemal-veş tükenip sonsuz emelde
Gül solsa kalıp sırm, siyah kalsa da elde
tekrar mülak oturuz bezm-i ezelde:
Evel giden abhaba selam olsun erenler !

[3] Math 373 - Geometry by Cem Tezer: https://ocw.metu.edu.tr/course/view.php?id=311

[4] Türklerin Matematigi Katkiları: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBaOxR9yqKjVDwLXXqM0oyN9gTNRJ9o5y

[5] https://www.cakilarasimatematikkoyu.com/
When he deceased on February 2020, I once more became an orphan. I not only lost my mathematical father, but also the one and only person that I can converse with about music, literature, languages, arts and sciences including history, theology, philosophy and metaphysics, namely almost everything.\footnote{For a short autobiography one may refer to http://sertoz.bilkent.edu.tr/depo/CemTezerHayatim.pdf.}

It should be obvious to the reader that many other share similar feelings with me, \footnote{For a sincere interview with Cem Tezer: Sertöz, S. Matematiğin Aydınlık Dünyası, TÜBİTAK Popüler Bilim Kitapları, Ankara, 1996. pp. 69.}

2 His Contributions to mathematics

Dynamical systems, ergodic theory and global analysis, not surprisingly, play a center role in his research, \cite{2}–\cite{9} and \cite{23}. His thesis ”Generalised Solenoids of the Dantzig Type”, provided the motivation and foundation for some of his later work, \cite{2}. In particular for his papers in Quarterly Journal of Mathematics 1989, \cite{4} and in the Mathematische Zeitschrift 1992, \cite{6}. Tezer’s approach in these papers enabled others to obtain further results in this area. Under the heading of ”Smale spaces” the dynamics on solenoids as considered by Professor Tezer has become by now a prominent topic. Tezer’s findings can be seen as an early contribution to this line of research. He also interested in differential geometry, \cite{10} and \cite{22}, classical mechanics \cite{24} and geometry \cite{15}–\cite{21}.

In his research articles, he made used of his own rigorous methods and that he developed through reinterpreting the known techniques and supported by a meticulously chosen notation. In his proofs he reflected the mathematical beauty, neatness and elegance. The articles he published in this sense was complete, irreproachable and refulgent. It was also his fastidiosity and perfectionism that he followed the masters attitude towards publishing a few but
ripe. Being his student I knew that he kept and hid out many elegantly written unpublished work that were not able to jump his thresholds. This fact indeed makes me sad. The only thing that I can do at this stage of my life is to hope and to dream that one day they will be caught by an appreciative mathematician.

Since his research interest are diverse from dynamical systems and differential geometry to classical mechanics and elementary geometry it is almost impossible to cover all of his research, in detail. Instead, I will try to emphasise the first two area and leave the others, hopefully, as a part of separate research article.

2.1 Dynamical Systems, ergodic theory and global analysis

A dynamical system, in its most general form, is a topological space X with a continuous map \( f : X \rightarrow X \) on X. In the category of dynamical systems, characterisation depends on topological conjugacy:

**Definition 2.1** Let \((X, f)\) and \((Y, g)\) be dynamical systems. If there exists a homeomorphism \( h : X \rightarrow Y \) such that \( h \circ f = g \circ h \), the given dynamical systems are called topologically conjugate.

In theory of dynamical systems "shift equivalence" also takes an important part:

**Definition 2.2** Given the dynamical systems \((X, f)\) and \((Y, g)\) if there exists continuous maps \( f : X \rightarrow Y \) and \( \psi : Y \rightarrow X \) such that

\[
\phi \circ f = g \circ \phi, \quad f \circ \psi = \psi \circ g, \quad \psi \circ \phi = f^n, \quad \phi \circ \psi = g^n
\]

for some \( n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \) then the two dynamical systems are called shift equivalent.

Both definition 2.1 and definition 2.2 may be adapted to any category. In the category of groups, applications of these concepts related to the fundamental groups of topological spaces play an important role in reducing the problems associated to topological and differentiable maps to the algebraic ones. Another categoric technique used in topological or differential dynamical systems is the inverse limit, [3]. The importance of the dynamical system \((\Sigma_f, \sigma_f)\) which is obtained from the topological space

\[
\Sigma_f = \{(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^+} : x_i \in X, f(x_{i+1}) = x_i, \ i \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}
\]

and the homomorphism

\[
\sigma_f : \Sigma_f \rightarrow \Sigma_f, \ \sigma_f(x_i) = (x_{i+1})
\]

can be seen in the applications that appear in Tezer’s respective publications, [3–8], [23]. In particular, his article entitled as "The shift on the inverse limit of a covering projection", [3] takes the central position among the others. In
the following problems that appear in different articles of Cem Tezer will be investigated under two categories, namely those related to the topological and to the differentiable dynamical systems, respectively.

2.1.1 His contributions to topological dynamical systems

Given topological spaces $Z_1$, $Z_2$ and points $z_i \in Z_i$, $i = 1, 2$, the fundamental group with the base point $z_i$ is denoted by $\pi_1(Z_i, Z_i)$, $i = 1, 2$. If $f : Z_1 \rightarrow Z_2$ is a continuous map with $f(z_1) = f(z_2)$, the group homomorphism between $\pi_1(Z_1, Z_1)$ and $\pi_1(Z_2, Z_2)$ is defined as

$$f_\ast : \pi_1(Z_1, Z_1) \rightarrow \pi_1(Z_2, Z_2)$$

$$f_\ast([\gamma]) = [f \circ \gamma].$$

Let $X$ and $Y$ be connected, locally path connected, semi-locally simply connected metric spaces, let $a : X \rightarrow X$ and $b : Y \rightarrow Y$ be covering maps and let $x_0$, $y_0$ be the fixed points of the maps $a$, $b$. In [3], the topological equivalence between $(\Sigma_a, \sigma_a)$ and $(\Sigma_b, \sigma_b)$ is identified with the equivalence between $(\pi_1(X, x_0), a_\ast)$ and $(\pi_1(Y, y_0), b_\ast)$ in the category of groups:

i. If there exists a homeomorphism $f : \Sigma_a \rightarrow \Sigma_b$ such that $f(\xi_o) = \eta_o$ and $f \circ \sigma_a = \sigma_b \circ f$ then

$$a_\ast : \pi_1(X, x_o) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_o)$$

is shift equivalent to

$$b_\ast : \pi_1(Y, y_o) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_o),$$

Thm 4.1, [3].

ii. If $\sigma_a$ is topologically conjugate to $\sigma_b$ then

$$a_\ast : \pi_1(X, x_o) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_o)$$

weakly shift equivalent to

$$b_\ast : \pi_1(Y, y_o) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_o),$$

Thm 4.2, [3].

Weak shift equivalence formalised in [3] will be defined as follows:

**Definition 2.3** Group endomorphisms $a : G \rightarrow G$ and $b : H \rightarrow H$ are said to be weakly shift equivalent if there exist $g \in G$ and $h \in H$ such that $Ad[g] \circ a$ is shift equivalent to $Ad[h] \circ b$, [3].

Cem Tezer also showed that when a shift equivalence between $(\pi_1(X, x_0), a_\ast)$ and $(\pi_1(Y, y_0), b_\ast)$ is given if there exist a covering map $F : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying specific conditions then the dynamical systems $(\Sigma_a, \sigma_a)$ and $(\Sigma_b, \sigma_b)$ are topologically equivalent, Thm. 4.3, [3].
2.1.2 His contributions to differentiable dynamical systems

Differentiable dynamical systems that Cem Tezer took into account consists of a smooth manifold \( X \) and an expanding map \( a : X \rightarrow X \).

**Definition 2.4** Let \( X \) be a differentiable manifold on which there exists a Riemannian \( <, > \) metric. \( a : X \rightarrow X \) will be called and expanding mapping if there exists constant \( C > 0, \lambda > 1 \) such that

\[
||Ta^n(x)(\nu)||_{a^n(x)} > C\lambda^n||\nu(x)||_x
\]

for any \( x \in X, \nu \in T_xX \) and \( n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \) where \( ||\nu(x)||_x \) stands for \( <\nu,\nu> \).

Let \( X \) be a compact manifold and \( a : X \rightarrow X \) be an expanding mapping then the dynamical system \((\Sigma a, \sigma a)\) is called an expanding attractor. It is very well known that if \( a : X \rightarrow X \) be an expanding mapping then it is a covering map and and \( a \) has fixed points. These properties are frequently made used of in \([3]\) and \([5]\).

Cem Tezer, as in the case of covering maps has found a necessary and sufficient condition describing the relationship between the topological equivalence and the shift equivalence:

i. Let \( a : X \rightarrow X \) and \( b : Y \rightarrow Y \) be expanding maps and let \( x_0 \) and \( y_0 \) be fixed points of \( \sigma_a \) and \( \sigma_b \) respectively. \( a_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0) \) is shift equivalent to \( b_* : \pi_1(Y, y_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0) \) iff there exists a homeomorphism \( F : \Sigma_a \rightarrow \Sigma_b, \text{Thm. 4.6, [3]} \).

ii. Let \( a : X \rightarrow X \) and \( b : Y \rightarrow Y \) be expanding maps and let \( x_0 \) and \( y_0 \) be fixed points of \( \sigma_a \) and \( \sigma_b \) respectively. \( \sigma_a \) is topologically equivalent to \( \sigma_b \) iff \( a_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0) \) is weakly shift equivalent to \( b_* : \pi_1(Y, y_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0) \), \text{Thm. 4.6, [3]}.

Another interesting result obtained by Cem Tezer related to the differentiable dynamical systems is the following: Let \( X \) be a compact manifold and \( a : X \rightarrow X \) be an expanding map then the fixed points of this map is equal to the Reidemeister number of the homomorphism \( F : \Sigma_a \rightarrow \Sigma_b, \text{Thm. 4.2, 4.3, [5]} \).

The algebraic methods that are introduced in the article are then employed to calculate the number of fixed points and the Artin-Mazur zeta function of the expanding maps of the Klein bottle.

It is an old conjecture that Anosov diffeomorphisms are topologically conjugate to infranilmanifold automorphisms. Cem Tezer in his survey article entitled as "Recent geometric developments in the theory of Anosov diffeomorphisms" discusses about the work in this direction which involve the geometric artifact of connections, \([9]\). In fact, he gives a definition of connections of class \( C^0 \) and enumerates some results of his own concerning the existence of some \( C^0 \) (canonical) connection having some properties \text{Thm. 4.2, Thm. 4.3} and asserts that it will play a crucial role in the theory of Anosov diffeomorphisms, Conjecture 2.5, \([9]\). Unfortunately, his life was not long enough to continue his research in this direction, we may only hope that his intuition will be proved soon.
2.2 His contributions to differential geometry

Cem Tezer interested in and worked actively in differential geometry, as well. In particular, he worked not only conformal and invariant structures but also on the geometry of the tangent bundle of a Riemannian manifold.

In his paper "Sur les transformations conformes de la sphère admettant une connexion invariante" he shows that a conformal transformation \( f \) of the standard sphere \( S^n, n = 1, 3, 7 \) admits an invariant connection if and only if it admits an invariant Riemannian metric, \( \text{Thm. 2} \). As a corollary he shows that If \( n \) is even, the set of conformal transformations of \( S^n \) which do not admit invariant connections contains an open and dense part of the group of conformal transformations, [10].

The paper entitled as "Conformal vector fields with respect to the Sasaki metric tensor" is actually consists of the results of the Ph. D. thesis with the same title of his student Fatma Muazzez Şimşir, (the author of this article). The idea of lifting the metric that defines the Riemannian manifold to its tangent bundle to get a natural metric on its tangent bundle is a very well known idea. The most basic infinitesimal transformations on a Riemannian manifold are Killing vector fields and the conformal vector fields. The tangent bundle of a Riemannian manifold is itself a manifold with a natural Riemannian manifold structure induced by the Sasaki metric tensor field whereof the Killing vector fields have been completely determined by S. Tanno. Let \( TM \) be the tangent bundle of a Riemannian manifold \((M, g)\) endowed with the Sasaki metric \( G \) defined by \( g \). In this paper, conformal vector fields on the tangent bundle \( TM \) of \((M, g)\) of dimension at least three with respect to the Sasaki metric \( G \) is characterised, \( \text{Thm 1} \), [22]. It is also shown that if \((M, g)\) is a compact Riemannian manifold with \( \dim M \geq 3 \), then a vector field \( A \) is conformal with respect to the Sasaki metric \( G \) if and only if \( A \) is a Killing vector field with respect to \( G \), \( \text{Thm 2} \), [22].

3 Epilogue and acknowledgements

When news of his death reached me, I already felt a keen sense of loss but would only begin to understand its full extent during the weeks and months that lay ahead. With academy in the world becoming more aggressive, with academicians exposed to increasing demand of publications without considering the quality, the values that Cem Tezer espoused seem all the more attractive. And as so much of the world is in turmoil from publish and perish fashion of various sorts, including to carrying out research without realising the beauty behind, Cem Tezer’s attitude towards was almost unique and from my standpoint the mathematical community should urgently at least comprehend and recognise his ideas.

In general, it is very hard to summarise someone’s whole life and endeavours in a short article. When it comes to my dear supervisor, my mathematical father Cem Tezer even it becomes a tough and daring action for me. I expect
that this humble article becomes an opportunity to those who knows him personally to remember him with love, joy and gratitude; and to the others to acquire some information about his life, his research and his understandings about mathematics.

Bezm-i ezelde tekrar mülaki olabilmek niyazlarımıla... Ruhun şad olsun Cem Hocam!

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