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EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY**

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EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
ANDERSON, W. M. The interaction of a contact discontinuity with sound waves according to the linearised Navier-Stokes equations	37
ANDREWS, GEORGE E. On a conjecture of Guinand for the plane partition function.	275
BAKER, J. W. AND PYM, J. S. A remark on continuous bilinear mappings	245
BLEYER, ANDRÁS. On the integral representation of the endomorphisms of Mikusiński's operator field	351
BOOK REVIEWS	107, 189, 283, 369
BROWN, G. AND PRYCE, J. D. Stability theorems for wedges	201
CHANDRA, PREM. Absolute Riesz summability factors for Fourier series	65
COLLINSON, C. D. Integrals of dynamical systems linear in the velocities	241
COPSON, E. T. On a generalisation of monotonic sequences	159
CRABB, MICHAEL J. The power inequality on normed spaces	237
DAYKIN, DAVID E. Inequalities for certain cyclic sums	257
DESBROW, D. On asymptotically stable sets	181
DUNCAN, J. Primitive idempotent measures on compact semigroups	95
EDGE, W. L. The osculating solid of a certain curve in [4]	277
FIRBY, P. A. Finiteness at infinity	299
GELLER, DENNIS P. Minimally strong digraphs	15
GERLACH, E. Mean value properties of generalized eigenfunctions	155
GIBSON, P. M. Eigenvalues of complex tridiagonal matrices	316
GOLDSMITH, DONALD L. On the structure of certain basic sequences associated with an arithmetic function	305
GONSHOR, H. Contributions to genetic algebras	289
GUPTA, HANSRAJ. On partitions of n into k summands	337

	PAGE
HARARY, FRANK AND READ, RONALD C. The enumeration of tree-like polyhexes	1
HILLS, R. N. On uniqueness of flows of a dipolar fluid	263
HOGGAR, S. G. A nonembedding result for complex Grassmann manifolds	149
HOLGATE, P. Genetic algebras associated with sex linkage	113
HOWIE, J. M. Products of idempotents in certain semigroups of transformations	223
JUMP, K. Ideals in pseudo-rings	215
JUMP, K. Pseudo-rings of infinite matrices	325
KERSHAW, D. A note on orthogonal polynomials	83
LOWNDES, J. S. A generalisation of the Erdélyi-Kober operators	139
MCARTHUR, C. W. In what spaces is every closed normal cone regular?	121
MCGREGOR, COLIN M. Operator norms determined by their numerical ranges	249
MCKILLIGAN, SHEILA A. Embedding topological semigroups in topological groups	126
MALONE, J. J. AND LYONS, C. G. Endomorphism near-rings	71
MARCUS, MARVIN AND GORDON, WILLIAM R. An extension of the Minkowski determinant theorem	321
MARTIN, M. H. Local uniqueness in boundary problems	23
MELDRUM, J. D. P. Varieties and d.g. near-rings	271
MING, R. YUE CHI. On elemental annihilator rings	187
MOON, J. W. On maximal transitive subtournaments	345
NOBLE, B. AND WHITEMAN, J. R. The solution of dual cosine series by the use of orthogonality relations	47
ROBERTSON, S. A. Twisted local-product manifolds	59
RUDEANU, S. Correction to the paper "On functions and equations in distributive lattices"	105
SCHEIBLICH, H. E. Semimodularity and bisimple ω -semigroups	79
SHERRY, D. L. A generalization of summability- (Z, p) of Silverman and Szász	53

CONTENTS

vii

	PAGE
SINCLAIR, ALLAN M. The states of a Banach algebra generate the dual	341
SPAIN, P. G. On commutative V^* -algebras	172
TWEDDLE, I. Thin sets in $\mathcal{L}^1(S, \mu)$	311
WALLACE, D. A. R. The radical of the group algebra of a subgroup, of a polycyclic group and of a restricted SN -group	165
WRIGHT, E. M. The asymptotic expansion of the number of tree-like polyhexes	281
YOUNG, N. J. On Pták's double limit theorems	193

uniformities corresponding to a given proximity is studied. It always contains a minimum element, which is totally bounded, though in general not a maximum. However the existence of the latter has been satisfied by introducing a generalized uniform structure with a weaker intersection axiom. Two uniformities of the same height and in the same proximity equivalence class induce equivalent uniformities in the hyperspace.

The final chapter considers proximal convergence and makes brief mention of symtopogeneous structures, sequential proximity, and four generalizations of proximity structures.

A very comprehensive bibliography containing 138 papers up to 1969 and the notes and references at the end of each chapter contribute to the book's value as a survey for the intending research worker. However it will also be enjoyed by those merely wishing to add proximity spaces to their store of knowledge.

J. R. MCCARTNEY

ROOM, T. G. and KIRKPATRICK, P. B., *Miniquaternion Geometry* (Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, No. 60, Cambridge University Press, 1971), viii + 176 pp., £4.

The system of miniquaternions is the 9-element near-field in which multiplication is right-distributive but not left-distributive over addition, and miniquaternion geometry is the study of three non-desarguesian projective planes of order 9 (i.e. with 10 points on each line) that can be constructed and coordinatized by means of this near-field. Lest such a bald definition of the meaning of the book's title should give the false impression that it is devoted exclusively to very specialized topics, it must at once be added that the sub-title, "An Introduction to the Study of Projective Planes", summarizes much more revealingly the book's aims and contents.

The 41-page second chapter is the most fundamental. It starts with the definition of a projective plane and surveys important generalities such as the well-definedness of the order of a finite plane, properties of central and axial collineations, and the Desargues configuration. It then turns attention to planes over fields and discusses matrix representation of projectivities, correlations, polarities, and conics when the field has characteristic different from 2. This chapter stands apart from the rest of the book in that other chapters aim to acquaint the reader with projective planes through the medium of detailed analysis of particular cases, attention being focussed almost exclusively on planes of order 9: thus Chapter 3 is devoted mainly to the plane over $GF(9)$, and Chapters 4 and 5 to miniquaternion geometry proper. The so far unmentioned first chapter is a short account of the miniquaternion system itself and, like the rest of the book, demands no sophisticated algebraic knowledge on the part of the reader.

Apart from a few curious lapses, the authors have presented their material in a well-organized form, and they are good at providing sign-posts for readers who are strangers to this area of mathematics. Chapter 2 deserves repeated mention as a welcome and very readable addition to the few available introductory accounts of projective planes. On the other hand, some readers who are largely familiar with the contents of Chapter 2 may regret that the emphasis throughout the rest of the book is so strongly on the particular as opposed to the general. In defence of the authors' approach, one can point out that their discussions of planes of order 9 provide an attractive and uncluttered setting for the communication of many ideas of more general importance, that in any case finite geometry is a subject where much of the interest and the charm resides in the particular, and that it would be impossible to

rewrite their work with greater development of the general without stepping up significantly the algebraic prerequisites.

T. A. WHITELOW

CHAUNDY, T. W., *Elementary Differential Equations* (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1969), xii+414 pp., £3·75; paperback £2·00.

This book appears after the death of Dr. Chaundy who left it in manuscript form, the editing for publication having been carried out by Dr. J. B. McLeod. The first six chapters are concerned with standard methods of integration of ordinary differential equations—use of operator D , separation of variables and so on. In the succeeding chapters great use is made of the operator $\delta \equiv xd/dx$; the methods of solution by series expansions and definite integral are also described, leading onto consideration of hypergeometric functions. There is a final chapter on singular solutions.

The book has a rather old fashioned appearance in that there is great emphasis on manipulation and use of formulae. The style, too, is rather ponderous and over wordy; it is hard to imagine modern students finding the general presentation attractive.

It is also a little difficult to decide what sort of student would benefit from this book. Those reading engineering or science would find the almost total lack of reference to physical problems a great drawback. On the other hand mathematicians might find it useful in parts but not as a single course.

There is a fairly detailed list of contents at the beginning of the book but no index at the end; one is certainly needed. At the end of each chapter many examples are given but solutions are provided for only the first nine chapters.

R. JORDINSON



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