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Columbia, MO 65211. *Quantitative characterization of VMO.*

Let  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denote the space of functions with bounded mean oscillations in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $VMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denote Sarason's space of functions with vanishing mean oscillations in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . In this talk I will present a new characterization of the space  $VMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  as the closure in  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  of classes of smooth functions contained in  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  within which uniform continuity may be suitably quantified (such as the class of smooth functions satisfying a Hölder or Lipschitz condition). This improves on Sarason's classical result describing  $VMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  as the closure in  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  of the space of uniformly continuous functions with bounded mean oscillations. As an application, the boundedness of Calderón-Zygmund operators on the space of functions of vanishing mean oscillations will be discussed.

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