CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS

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Homotopy Theory via Algebraic Geometry and Group Representations

Proceedings of a Conference on Homotopy Theory March 23–27, 1997 Northwestern University

> Mark Mahowald Stewart Priddy Editors



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This volume contains the proceedings of a conference on homotopy theory held at Northwestern University on March 23-27, 1997.

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This volume is dedicated to Mark Mahowald in gratitude for his many wonderful and continuing contributions to homotopy theory. Only the fact that he is an editor of this volume prevents me from saying more. For those who know Mark nothing more need be said.

S. Priddy

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Preface

The academic year 1996–97 was designated as a special emphasis year in Algebraic Topology at Northwestern University. In addition to visitors and special courses, an international conference entitled "Current trends in algebraic topology with applications to algebraic geometry and physics" was held during the period March 23–27. A series of plenary lectures, listed on the following page, indicates the great breadth of the conference and the attempt made to promote interaction between various areas of mathematics. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support provided by the National Science Foundation and Northwestern University. Approximately 120 mathematicians participated in the conference.

Conference participants were invited to submit original research papers related to the theme of the conference. All submissions were refereed to usual journal standards. One special feature is the paper prepared by Charles Rezk which covers the topics of his emphasis year course. A set of problems presented at a special problem session is given at the end of the volume. We thank Ran Levi, who generously agreed to conduct this session and collect the problems.

Finally, we thank Ms. Melanie Rubin for her editorial support in preparing this volume and for her many hours of assistance in arranging the conference.

Mark Mahowald Stewart Priddy

Plenary Talks

Lars Hasselholt, MIT, "Topological cyclic homology"

Ruth Charney, Ohio State University, "CAT(0) geometry and Artin groups"

Michael Hopkins, MIT, "Formal groups, spectra, and orientability"

- Nicholas Kuhn, University of Virginia, "Cohomological stability and generic representation theory"
- R. James Milgram, Stanford University, "The interaction of finite simple groups and stable homotopy theory"
- William Dwyer, University of Notre Dame, "Duality in homotopy theory"
- Douglas Ravenel, University of Rochester, "What we still don't know about loop spaces of spheres"
- J. Peter May, University of Chicago, "Brave new worlds of stable homotopy theory"
- Ulrike Tillmann, Oxford University, "Moduli space of Riemann surfaces—a K-theory approach"
- Fred Cohen, University of Rochester, "Applications of group theory to classical homotopy theory"

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