CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS

373

Analyzable Functions and Applications

International Workshop on Analyzable Functions and Applications June 17–21, 2002 International Centre for Mathematical Sciences Edinburgh, Scotland

> O. Costin M. D. Kruskal A. Macintyre Editors



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Preface

Asymptotic analysis is extensively used to explore systems for which exact solutions are not available or are difficult to manipulate. In most cases of interest, however, classical asymptotics does not provide global information; in particular it does not yield information at values of the parameters which are not large, small, or otherwise special. The information provided by classical expansions is not complete; every classical asymptotic series represents a large class of functions. Furthermore, classical expansions are not closed under all common operations. Larger structures are needed to represent faithfully functions occurring in applications.

Transseries and LE series, two very related structures, are formally asymptotic expansions of ordinal length of power series, exponentials, and logs. They form a field closed under most usual operations, including algebraic ones, functional ones like composition and functional inversion, and analytical ones including differentiation and integration. As a consequence, they have the natural richness to represent a large class of functions including quite general solutions of differential and difference equations and some types of partial differential equations. In the theory of analyzable functions, transseries are precisely defined, studied, and can be relatively generally "summed" to actual functions. Transseries contain global information about the functions they represent.

Key ideas in the direction of a theory of analyzable functions are present in the works of Euler, Cauchy, Stokes, Hardy, Borel, and others. The theory took a great leap forward in the early 1980s with the work of J. Écalle; similar techniques and concepts emerged at essentially the same time in analysis, logic, applied mathematics and surreal number theory and developed rapidly through the 1990s.

The links between the various approaches soon became apparent and this body of ideas is now recognized as a field of its own with numerous nontrivial applications. The contributions to this volume are a sequel of the International Workshop on Analyzable Functions and Applications, Edinburgh, June 17–21, 2002, in which experts from many areas of mathematics participated.

The meeting was possible through generous funding by UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

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The Authors

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The theory of analyzable functions is a technique used to study a wide class of asymptotic expansion methods and their applications in analysis, difference and differential equations, partial differential equations and other areas of mathematics.

Key ideas in the theory of analyzable functions were laid out by Euler, Cauchy, Stokes, Hardy, E. Borel, and others. Then in the early 1980s, this theory took a great leap forward with the work of J. Écalle. Similar techniques and concepts in analysis, logic, applied mathematics and surreal number theory emerged at essentially the same time and developed rapidly through the 1990s. The links among various approaches soon became apparent and this body of ideas is now recognized as a field of its own with numerous applications.

This volume stemmed from the International Workshop on Analyzable Functions and Applications held in Edinburgh (Scotland). The contributed articles, written by many leading experts, are suitable for graduate students and researchers interested in asymptotic methods.



