

Analysis

Geometric Analysis and the Calculus of Variations for Stefan Hildebrandt

Jürgen Jost, Editor

This text is dedicated to S. Hildebrandt on his 60th birthday and includes current works by his students, colleagues, and friends.

After fleeing East Germany in 1958, Hildebrandt met again his former academic teacher Ernst Hölder in Mainz. This reunion allowed Hildebrandt to continue his mathematics education, which was based on the Liepzig tradition of mathematical analysis of L. Lichenstein, O. Hölder (father of Ernst), E. Hopf, and others.

A frequent visitor at the Courant Institute in New York during the time at which the regularity theory for elliptic systems and minimal surfaces were prominent research topics, Hildebrandt formed lasting friendships with other brilliant analysts of his generation: Rabinowitz, Trudinger, Wentz, and Widman.

At Courant, he also met the grand masters of the time: Courant, Lewy, Moser, and Nirenberg. In the 30s, when Douglas, Radó, and Courant founded the modern theory of minimal surfaces, the question of boundary regularity for minimal surfaces remained unsettled. Hildebrandt achieved a complete solution of the problem. His result not only completed the classical theory, but also was a basis for subsequent new developments. The result brought Hildebrandt immediate fame. He was made a full professor in Mainz in 1967 and in Bonn in 1970. This theorem was only the first in an impressive series of fundamental results by Hildebrandt on various geometrically defined variational problems.

His contributions continued to be fundamental for later research. He achieved a lasting and formative influence on the geometric calculus of variations through his scientific contributions, and also through his direction of several research projects at the German Research Foundation (DFG) and his systematic education and support of a younger generation of German analysts. This book is a compilation of contributed works by those who wish to express their gratitude for the generous support Hildebrandt provided.

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Tsing Hua Lectures on Geometry & Analysis

Shing-Tung Yau, *Harvard University, Cambridge, MA*, Editor

This book presents lectures given during a seminar organized by S.-T. Yau at Tsing Hua University (Taiwan). Included are lectures by experts in the field and students who studied under Yau. Contributions by guest lecturers and students made this a lively and successful seminar.

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