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RECENT ADVANCES IN OFFBEAT INTEGRAL GEOMETRY

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This is a brief survey of the new book published by the authors which describes recent results in integral geometry.

KEY WORDS: offbeat integral geometry.

ПОСЛЕДНИЕ ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ В НЕОБЫЧНОЙ ИНТЕГРАЛЬНОЙ ГЕОМЕТРИИ

Волчков В.В., Волчков Вит.В.

В заметке приведен короткий обзор новой книги, опубликованной авторами, которая описывает последние результаты в интегральной геометрии.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: необычная интегральная геометрия.

ОСТАННІ ДОСЯГНЕННЯ В НЕЗВИЧАЙНІЙ ІНТЕГРАЛЬНІЙ ГЕОМЕТРІЇ

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В замітці наведено короткий огляд нової книги, опублікованої авторами, яка описує останні результати в інтегральній геометрії.

КЛЮЧОВІ СЛОВА: незвичайна інтегральна геометрія.

A typical problem in offbeat integral geometry is as follows. Let R^n be the n -dimensional real Euclidean space, $ISO(n)$ the group of Euclidean motions of R^n , and A a bounded subset of R^n of positive Lebesgue measure. Consider the following problem: describe the class of locally integrable functions f such that

$$\int_{gA} f(x) dx = 0 \quad (1)$$

for each $g \in ISO(n)$. This problem has various generalizations and modifications. For instance, in place of (1) one can investigate solutions of a system of convolution equations with fixed distributions.

The first studies in this area were carried out in 1929, by the Rumanian mathematician D. Pompeiu, who investigated the question on the existence of non-trivial functions satisfying (1) for some A . D. Pompeiu erroneously assumed that if A is a ball then equation (1) has only the trivial solution. Later on, F. John showed that a function $f \in C^\infty$ with zero integrals over all balls of fixed radius r is uniquely defined by its

values in the ball of radius r . After that, F. John, J. Delsarte, L. Hörmander, L. Zalcman, C. A. Berenstein, and other authors discovered deep connections between these questions and many areas of contemporary mathematics and its applications.

In recent years, local versions of the above problem have become a point of attention, in which a function f is defined in a bounded domain O and equality (1) holds for $g \in ISO(n) : gA \subset O$. The transition from the global to the local case makes the problem considerably more complicated, which is related to the breakdown of the structure of a group action on the solution set of equation (1). Among first results in this direction we point out Hörmander's approximation theorem for solutions of a convolution equation on convex domains and the local two-radii theorem by C. A. Berenstein and R. Gay. Until recently research in this area was carried out mostly using the technique of the Fourier transform and corresponding methods of complex analysis. A remarkable result by the first author at the end of the last century was the development of a universal method for the complete

solution of many problems of this kind, which allowed one, in particular, to remove virtually all superfluous assumptions imposed by his predecessors. This method is based on the representation of solutions of a broad class of convolution equations by series in special functions. The results obtained by this method were summarized in the monograph [1] in which the author puts forward more than 50 new problems designed for further developments in this area. In particular, it seems a promising program to develop the techniques for various classes of homogeneous spaces with invariant measure. This task is now close to completion in the case of two-point homogeneous spaces. The new book [2] describes recent advances in this direction of research. A key role here belongs to analytic tool developed in recent monograph [3].

How is the book [2] organized? Subdivision is into Parts, Chapters and Sections. Each chapter begins with a summary and ends with bibliographical notes.

All the chapters contain some exercises and further results with explicit references. The reader will find also many open problems and the invitation to work in this exiting field. It is hoped that the diversity of the problems tackled in this book illustrates the possibilities offered by the theory considered, so that it

might be a source of inspiration to mathematicians. In order to make this book as self-contained as possible we have gathered all prerequisites needed in the first part. The subject matter and notation of the first part are used throughout the book.

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