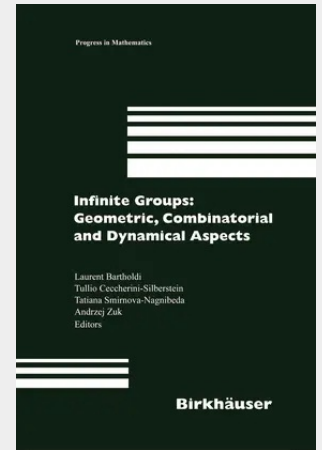


Infinite Groups: Geometric, Combinatorial and Dynamical Aspects

This book offers a panorama of recent advances in the theory of infinite groups. It contains survey papers contributed by leading specialists in group theory and other areas of mathematics. Topics include amenable groups, Kaehler groups, automorphism groups of rooted trees, rigidity, C^* -algebras, random walks on groups, pro- p groups, Burnside groups, parafree groups, and Fuchsian groups. The accent is put on strong connections between group theory and other areas of mathematics.

This book is a collection of selected papers on recent trends in the study of infinite discrete groups. The authors who contributed to this volume were invited plenary speakers at the International Conference on Group Theory: "Geometric, Combinatorial and Dynamical Aspects of Infinite Groups" which was held in Gaeta, Italy, in June 1-6, 2003. The exceptional quality of their lectures and the great interest they arose among the almost two hundred conference participants from over twenty countries gave us, the organisers of the conference, the idea of this book. We are most grateful to the authors who have all responded with wonderful enthusiasm to our request for a contribution. This volume is far from being a book of conference proceedings. It is rather a one-of-a-sort collection of papers which aims at reflecting the present state of the art in a most active area of research at the intersection of several branches of mathematics. Topics discussed in the book include geometric and combinatorial group theory; ergodic theory and operator algebras; low-dimensional topology; groups acting on trees and their boundaries; random walks; amenability; growth; groups and 2 fractals; L -cohomology.



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