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Differential Geometry: Theory and Applications

editors

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City University of Hong Kong, China

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Higher Education Press

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NEW JERSEY • LONDON • SINGAPORE • BEIJING • SHANGHAI • HONG KONG • TAIPEI • CHENNAI

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Editorial Assistants: Zhou Chun-Lian

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

微分几何: 理论与应用 = Differential Geometry:
Theory and Applications: 英文 / (法) 希阿雷 (Ciarlet,
P. G.), 李大潜主编. —北京: 高等教育出版社,
2007.11

(现代应用数学丛书)

ISBN 978-7-04-022283-8

I. 微… II. ①希…②李… III. 微分几何—英文
IV. 0186.1

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 163222 号

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Higher Education Press

4 Dewai Dajie, Beijing 100011, P. R. China, and

World Scientific Publishing Co Pte Ltd

5 Toh Tuch Link, Singapore 596224

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ISBN 978-7-04-022283-8

Printed in P. R. China

Preface

The ISFMA-CIMPA School on “Differential Geometry: Theory and Applications” was held on 07 August – 18 August 2006, in the building of the Chinese-French Institute for Applied Mathematics (ISFMA), Fudan University, Shanghai, China. This school was jointly organized by the ISFMA and the CIMPA (International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics), Nice, France. About sixty participants from China, Hong Kong, France, Cambodia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Vietnam attended this highly successful event.

The first objective of this school was to lay down in a self-contained and accessible manner the basic notions of differential geometry, such as the metric tensor, the Riemann curvature tensor, the fundamental forms of a surface, covariant derivatives, and the fundamental theorem of surface theory etc. Although this field is with good reasons often considered as a “classical” one, it has been recently “rejuvenated”, thanks to the manifold applications where it plays an essential role.

The second objective of this school was to present some of these applications, such as the theory of linearly and nonlinearly elastic shells, the implementation of numerical methods for shells, and mesh generation in finite element methods.

To fulfill these objectives, four series of lectures, each series comprising ten 50min-lectures, were delivered under the following titles: “Introduction to differential geometry”, “Introduction to shell theory”, “A differential geometry approach to mesh generation”, and “Numerical methods for shells”. This volume gathers the materials covered in these lectures. As such, this volume should be very useful to graduate students and researchers in pure and applied mathematics.

The organizers take pleasure in thanking the various organizations for their generous support: The ISFMA, the CIMPA, the French Embassy in Beijing, the Consulate General of France in Shanghai, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Fudan University, Higher Education Press and World Scientific. Finally, our special thanks are due to Mrs. Zhou Chun-Lian for her patient and effective work in editing this book.

Philippe G. Ciarlet and Ta-Tsien Li
February 2007

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