

Topics in Symplectic 4-Manifolds

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Ronald J. Stern
editor

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Preface

On March 28, 1996 - March 30, 1996, International Press, the National Science Foundation, and the University of California at Irvine sponsored the First Annual IP Lecture Series at the University of California at Irvine. Peter Li and S.T. Yau first conceived the idea for this prestigious annual lecture series. The organizing committee for this first lecture series was Richard Wentworth and Ronald J. Stern with the important assistance of Julie Crosby.

The focal point for the First IP Lecture Series were the three one hour lectures entitled "Seiberg-Witten and Gromov Invariants" delivered by Clifford Taubes. The 5 papers upon which these talks were based comprise Volume II of these Proceedings. These articles are reprinted from their original source and present a major mathematical achievement.

There were 10 one hour invited lectures delivered by many of the prominent researchers in 4-dimensional smooth and symplectic topology; Sir Michael Atiyah, Yasha Eliashberg, Mikio Furuta, Robert Gompf, Peter Kronheimer, Dusa McDuff, Tomas Mrowka, Yongbin Ruan, Gang Tian, and Zoltan Szabo. Volume I of these Proceedings contains the write-ups of six of these invited lectures.

We are very grateful to Cliff Taubes and the invited speakers who attracted an audience of over 200 research mathematicians whose participation made this conference a success.