

Surveys in Differential Geometry

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Volume I

Surveys in
Differential Geometry

Proceedings of the conference on geometry and topology
held at Harvard University, April 27–29, 1990

edited by
H. Blaine Lawson, Jr.
S.-T. Yau

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PREFACE

As a service to the mathematics community, the editors of the Journal of Differential Geometry decided to organize a conference, to be held every three years, at which invited speakers would survey the field of differential geometry and related subjects. In choosing the speakers, we look at geometry in a very broad way and hope geometers will go beyond the classical perception of other fields. (Among the speakers at our first conference were people working in algebraic geometry, mathematical physics and other fields.) We decided that the speakers should be prominent specialists in their respective areas who are able to give a broad overview of recent trends and make predictions and suggestions for future research. We believe that these conferences will be useful gatherings for experts and nonexperts alike, and in particular for those who are isolated from the mainstream activity in geometry.

Our first conference, held at Harvard University from April 27–29, 1990, was made possible by the generous funding of the Journal of Differential Geometry. We are also grateful to Harvard University and the faculty of the Mathematics Department who were strongly supportive of this endeavor. Dean Michael Spence delivered the opening remarks commending our efforts to bring together geometry and other fields.

Central to the success of this conference were the speakers who prepared not only two hours' worth of lectures, but also the manuscripts published here. Their lectures were enthusiastically received by several hundred participants. We would like to express our gratitude to them for their efforts.

It is our hope that these conferences will become a tradition. We look forward to the next conference, which will take place at Harvard University in 1993.

S. T. Yau
H. Blaine Lawson, Jr.