Abstracts

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The purpose of this department is to give sufficient information about the subject matter of each publication to enable users to decide whether to read it. It is our intention to cover all books, articles, and other materials in the field.

Books for abstracting and eventual review should be sent to this department. Materials should be sent to Duncan J. Melville, Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617, U.S.A. (e-mail: `dmelville@stlawu.edu`).

Readers are invited to send reprints, autoabstracts, corrections, additions, and notices of publications that have been overlooked. Be sure to include complete bibliographic information, as well as transliteration and translation for non-European languages. We need volunteers willing to cover one or more journals for this department.

In order to facilitate reference and indexing, entries are given abstract numbers which appear at the end following the symbol #. A triple numbering system is used: the first number indicates the volume, the second the issue number, and the third the sequential number within that issue. For example, the abstracts for Volume 30, Number 1, are numbered: 30.1.1, 30.1.2, 30.1.3, etc.

The initials in parentheses at the end of an entry indicate the abstractor. In this issue there are abstracts by Francine Abeles (Union, NJ), Laura Martini, Kim Plofker, and Duncan J. Melville.

General

Agarwal, Ravi; and Sen, Syamal. *Creators of Mathematical and Computational Sciences*. Cham: Springer, 2014, xx+495 pp. The work comprises short biographies of mathematicians from the earliest periods through to modern times, organized in chronological order. See the review by Godofredo Iommi Amunátegui in *Mathematical Reviews* 3243605. (DJM)   #43.1.1

Blåsjö, Viktor. A critique of the modern consensus in the historiography of mathematics. *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* **4** (2) (2014), 113–123. The author divides historians of mathematics into "rational" and "idiosyncratic" classes, using approaches to anachronistic notation as a distinguishing marker: rational historians embrace modern notation, idiosyncratic historians eschew it. His critique is in response to what he perceives as the "self-congratulatory attitude" towards recent changes in historiography

among professional historians. See the review by Mikhail G. Katz in *Mathematical Reviews* 3245162. (DJM)   #43.1.2

Borwein, Jonathan M.; and Chapman, Scott T.   I prefer Pi: A brief history and anthology of articles in the *American Mathematical Monthly*. *American Mathematical Monthly* **122** (3) (2015), 195–216. On the place of π in the *American Mathematical Monthly*. (DJM)   #43.1.3

Buchsbaum, Arthur.   *See* #43.1.7.

Chapman, Scott T.   *See* #43.1.3.

Féry, Suzanne, ed.   *Aventures de l'analyse de Fermat à Borel. Mélanges en l'honneur de Christian Gilain* [*Adventures in Analysis from Fermat to Borel. Miscellanea in Honor of Christian Gilain*] (*Histoires de Géométries*). Nancy: Presses Universitaires de Nancy/Editions Universitaires de Lorraine, 2012, 728 pp. A festschrift in honor of French historian of mathematics Christian Gilain. Most of the articles in the volume are listed or abstracted separately as: #43.1.44; #43.1.46; #43.1.54; #43.1.55; #43.1.56; #43.1.57; #43.1.58; #43.1.59; #43.1.61; #43.1.62; #43.1.63; #43.1.64; #43.1.65; #43.1.66; #43.1.67; #43.1.70; #43.1.71; #43.1.72; #43.1.90; #43.1.94; #43.1.95; #43.1.110; #43.1.116; and #43.1.128. (DJM)   #43.1.4

Fried, Michael N.   The discipline of history and the "Modern consensus in the historiography of mathematics". *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* **4** (2) (2014), 124–136. A commentary on #43.1.2. See the review by Mikhail G. Katz in *Mathematical Reviews* 3245163. (DJM)   #43.1.5

Harel, David.   Standing on the shoulders of a giant. One person's experience of Turing's impact (Summary of the Alan M. Turing lecture), in Czumaj, Artur, et al., eds., *Automata, Languages, and Programming. 39th International Colloquium, ICALP 2012, Warwick, UK, July 9-13, 2012. Proceedings, Part II* (*Lecture Notes in Computer Science* **7392**) (Berlin: Springer, 2012), pp. 16–22. This paper discusses three of Turing's main lines of work and how they impacted the author's research. (LM)   #43.1.6

Khromov, Avgust.   *See* #43.1.8.

Koslow, Arnold; and Buchsbaum, Arthur, eds.   *The Road to Universal Logic. Festschrift for 50th Birthday of Jean-Yves Béziau*. Volume I (*Studies in Universal Logic*). Cham: Birkhäuser/Springer, 2015, xii+520 pp. The papers in this book with historical content are abstracted separately as: #43.1.34; and #43.1.35. (LM)   #43.1.7

Kuznetsov, Nikolay; and Khromov, Avgust.   The Fourier method in Russia before and after V.A. Steklov. *Mathematical Intelligencer* **36** (4) (2014), 67–73. The authors outline the Russian development of the Fourier method beginning in the first half of the 19th century by M.V. Ostrogradsky and others, followed by work in the 1930s by N.H. Günther and by O.A. Ladyzhenskaya in the 1950s. There is a discussion of Steklov's (1864–1926) influence on three important theorems. An extensive bibliography is included. (FA)   #43.1.8

Pierce, David.   Abscissas and ordinates. *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* **5** (1) (2015), 223–264. On the etymology of terminology associated to conics. See the review by Victor V. Pambuccian in *Mathematical Reviews* 3312989. (DJM)   #43.1.9

Rothman, Tony.   Cardano v. Tartaglia: The great feud goes supernatural. *Mathematical Intelligencer* **36** (4) (2014), 59–66. The author examines the facts in the standard stories about the Cardano (Girolamo 1501–1576)—Tartaglia (Niccolò 1499–1557) affair and finds negligence, deception, and mean-spiritedness in the tales many writers wove around them. Particularly egregious is Alan Wykes' book from 1969, *Doctor Cardano, Physician Extraordinary*, in which Rothman "found it virtually impossible to confirm a single citation [. . .]" (p. 64). (FA)   #43.1.10

Sen, Syamal.   *See* #43.1.1.