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Buchanzeigen

Measure Theory and Probability. By M. Adams and V. Guillemin. (Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel Berlin Boston 1996.) 220 pp., Hardcover sFr. 42.00; DM 48.00 – ISBN 3-7643-3884-9.

Measure theory and integration are presented to undergraduates from the perspective of probability theory. The first chapter shows why measure theory is needed for the formulation of problems in probability, and explains why one would have been forced to invent Lebesgue theory (had it not already existed) to contend with the paradoxes of large numbers. The measure-theoretic approach then leads to interesting applications and a range of topics that include the construction of the Lebesgue measure on R^n (metric space approach), the Borel-Cantelli lemmas, straight measure theory (the Lebesgue integral). Chapter 3 expands on abstract Fourier analysis, Fourier series and the Fourier integral, which have some beautiful probabilistic applications: Polya's theorem on random walks, Kac's proof of the Szegő theorem and the central limit theorem. In this concise text, quite a few applications to probability are packed into the exercises.

Physics and National Socialism. An Anthology of Primary Sources. By Klaus Hentschel. Science Networks Vol. 18, Historical Studies. (Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel Berlin Boston 1996.) 616 pp., Hardcover sFr. 148.00; DM 178.00 – ISBN 3-7643-5312-0.

To only name some of the famous scientists: *Heisenberg, Einstein, v. Laue, Meitner, Stark...*

A collection of 121 documents in English translation portray the role of physics, both perceived and actual, in the Nazi state. These texts were written predominantly by influential German scientists, particularly physicists, both inside and outside Germany in the period from 1933 to 1945. The semipopular articles, private correspondence, and official memoranda selected for the volume reflect the contemporary developments in science as well as the change in political climate and working conditions after the National Socialists' rise to power.

The extensive annotation is clearly distinguished from the original text, and the appendix provides an aid to the reader with biographical information on the more important figures and brief outlines of frequently mentioned institutions, journals and companies. The introduction surveys the latest results in the secondary literature and covers: – The historiography of National Socialism in Germany, with emphasis on the history of science – National Socialist science policy – recent emigration research on scientists fields after 1933 – physical research between 1933 and 1945 in Germany, especially in weapons technology – the policies of specific German scientific institutions in the Nazi state – the history of important scientific societies in Germany such as the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Physik* – the legacy of National Socialism for postwar Germany – an analysis of the style and rhetoric in the selected texts.

Galois Cohomology. By Jean-Pierre Serre. Translated from the French by P. Ion. (Springer Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg New York London Paris Tokyo Hong Kong 1997.) X, 208 pp., Hardcover sFr. 69.00; DM 78.00 – ISBN 3-540-61990-9.

This is an updated English translation of COHOMOLOGIE GALOISIENNE published more than 30 years ago, as one of the very first Lecture Notes in Mathematics. It includes a reproduction of an influential paper of R. Steinberg, together with some new material and an expanded bibliography.