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conformal field theory. Focus is particularly put on the combinatorial-algebraic aspects, from the perspective of operator algebras. It will bring the reader to the frontline of research with the minimum of prerequisites from the classical theory.

Ram P. KANWAL. — **Generalized functions: theory and technique.** — Second edition. — Un vol. relié, 19×26, de IX, 462 p. — ISBN 0-8176-4006-1. — Prix: SFr. 168.00. — Birkhäuser, Boston, 1998.

This book contains both the theory and applications of generalized functions with a significant feature being the quantity and variety of applications. Definitions and theorems are stated precisely, but rigor is minimized in favor of comprehension of techniques. This edition has been strengthened in many ways. Various new concepts have been added. Some of the material from the first edition has been reorganized to improve the logical flow of ideas. And the set of examples has been expanded considerably to make more of the ideas concrete in the reader's eye.

Albrecht PIETSCH and Jörg WENZEL. — **Orthonormal systems and Banach space geometry.** — Encyclopedia of mathematics and its applications, vol 70. — Un vol. relié, 16×24, de IX, 553 p. — ISBN 0-521-62462-2. — Prix: £55.00. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

The book describes the interplay between orthonormal expansions and Banach space geometry. Using harmonic analysis as a starting platform, classical inequalities and special functions are used to study orthonormal systems leading to an understanding of the advantages of systems consisting of characters on compact Abelian groups. Probabilistic concepts such as random variables and martingales are employed and Ramsey's theorem is used to study the theory of super-reflexivity. The text yields a detailed insight into concepts including type and co-type of Banach spaces, B-convexity, super-reflexivity, the vector valued Fourier transform and the unconditionality property for martingale differences (UMD).

L.A. SAKHNOVICH. — **Interpolation theory and its applications.** — Mathematics and its applications, vol. 428. — Un vol. relié, 17×24,5, de XVIII, 197 p. — ISBN 0-7923-4830-3. — Prix: Dfl. 185.00. — Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1997.

This volume is devoted to the use of the method of operator identities for investigating interpolation and expansion problems. A general interpolation problem comprising both classical and new elements is formulated. The solution of an abstract form of the Potapov inequality enables the description of the set of solutions of the general interpolation problem. Connections between the solved interpolation problem and important problems of analysis, occurring in, for example, spectral theory, nonlinear integrable equations, and generalised stationary processes are then considered.

## *Géométrie*

Izu VAISMAN. — **Analytical geometry.** — Series on university mathematics, vol. 8. — Un vol. relié, 16,5×22,5, de X, 284 p. — ISBN 981-02-3158-X. — Prix: £33.00. — Singapore, World Scientific, 1997.

The author proposes an alternative way of teaching either a first or a second course in geometry, which would develop analytical affine and Euclidean geometry, also including geometric transformations, and give an introduction to projective geometry. Furthermore, in this book the author also intends to advocate a return to the geometric patterns, teach students to perceive geometry as a world in itself, and develop their geometric intuition.