

ALM 13

Advanced Lectures in Mathematics

Handbook of Geometric Analysis (vol. II)

几何分析手册 (第II卷)

Editors: Lizhen Ji • Peter Li • Richard Schoen • Leon Simon



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Jihe Fenxi Shouce (Di II Juan)

Editors: Lizhen Ji • Peter Li • Richard Schoen • Leon Simon



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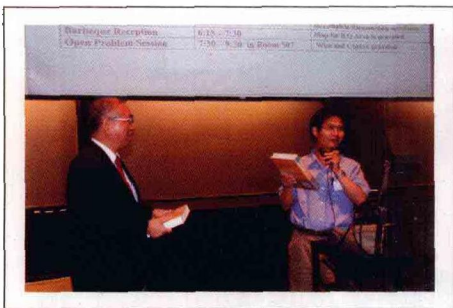
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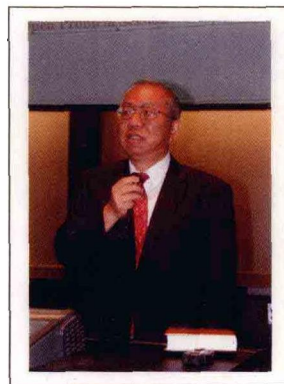
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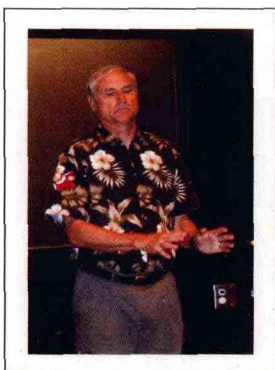
**Dedicated to Shing-Tung Yau on the occasion of
his sixtieth birthday.**



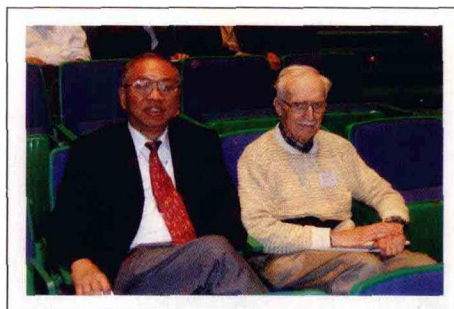
Lizhen Ji handed a copy of *Handbook of Geometric Analysis, Vol. I* to Prof. Yau



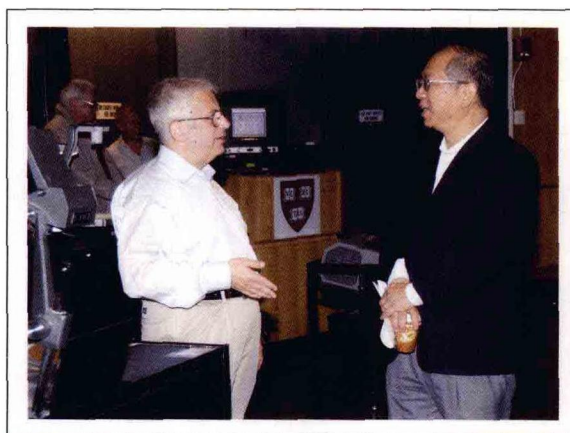
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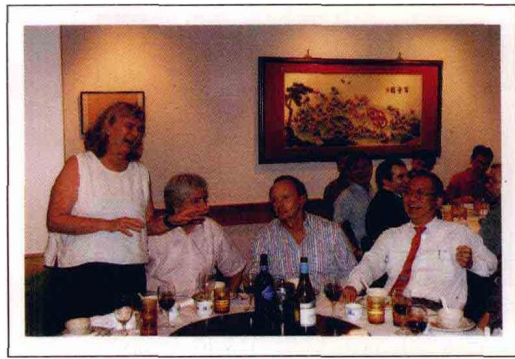


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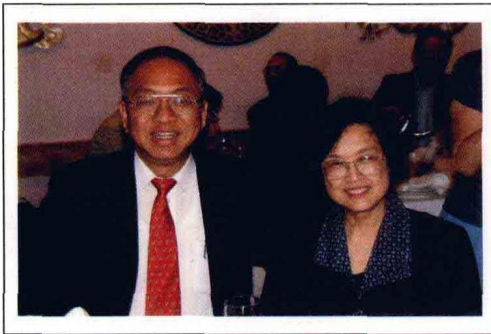
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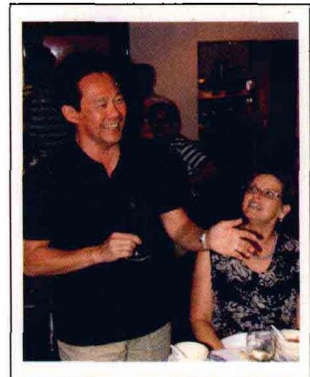
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Shing-Tung Yau and his wife



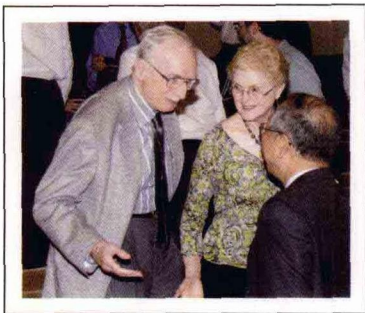
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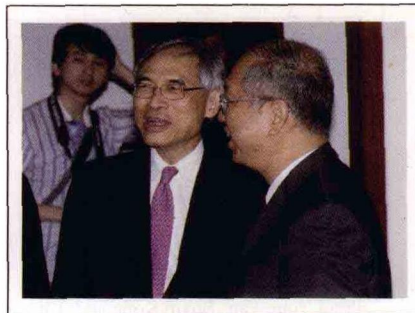
Shing-Tung Yau and his wife, Richard Schoen and his wife, and Leon Simon



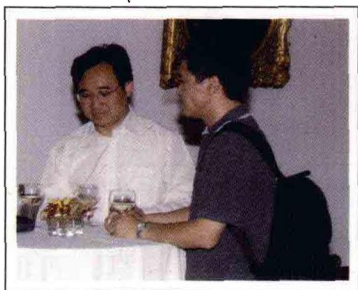
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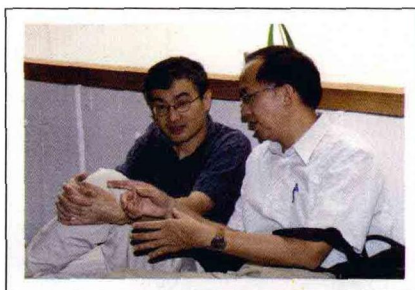
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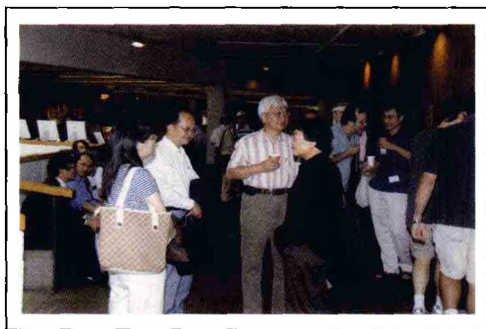
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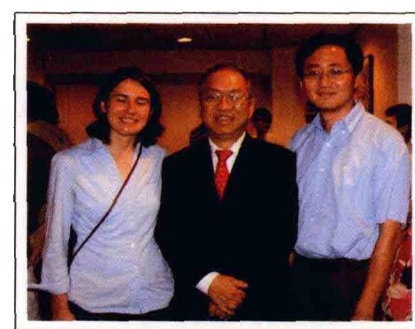
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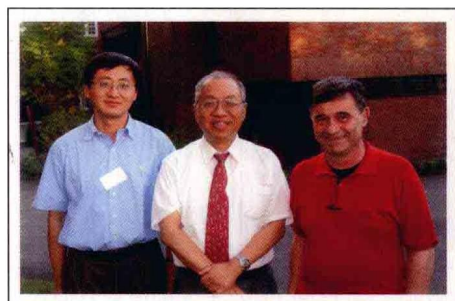
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Huai-dong Cao and Shing-Tung Yau



Shing-Tung Yau and Lixin Qin



Jun Li, Shing-Tung Yau and Andrey Todorov

Preface

The marriage of geometry and analysis, in particular non-linear differential equations, has been very fruitful. An early deep application of geometric analysis is the celebrated solution by Shing-Tung Yau of the Calabi conjecture in 1976. In fact, Yau together with many of his collaborators developed important techniques in geometric analysis in order to solve the Calabi conjecture. Besides solving many open problems in algebraic geometry such as the Severi conjecture, the characterization of complex projective varieties, and characterization of certain Shimura varieties, the Calabi-Yau manifolds also provide the basic building blocks in the superstring theory model of the universe. Geometric analysis has also been crucial in solving many outstanding problems in low dimensional topology, for example, the Smith conjecture, and the positive mass conjecture in general relativity.

Geometric analysis has been intensively studied and highly developed since 1970s, and it is becoming an indispensable tool for understanding many parts of mathematics. Its success also brings with it the difficulty for the uninitiated to appreciate its breadth and depth. In order to introduce both beginners and non-experts to this fascinating subject, we have decided to edit this handbook of geometric analysis. Each article is written by a leading expert in the field and will serve as both an introduction to and a survey of the topics under discussion. The handbook of geometric analysis is divided into several parts, and this volume is the second part.

Shing-Tung Yau has been crucial to many stages of the development of geometric analysis. Indeed, his work has played an important role in bringing the well-deserved global recognition by the whole mathematical sciences community to the field of geometric analysis. In view of this, we would like to dedicate this handbook of geometric analysis to Shing-Tung Yau on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

Summarizing the main mathematical contributions of Yau will take many pages and is probably beyond the capability of the editors. Instead, we quote several award citations on the work of Yau.

The citation of the Veblen Prize for Yau in 1981 says: “*We have rarely had the opportunity to witness the spectacle of the work of one mathematician affecting, in a short span of years, the direction of whole areas of research.... Few mathematicians can match Yau’s achievements in depth, in impact, and in the diversity of methods and applications.*”

In 1983, when Yau was awarded a Fields medal, L. Nirenberg described Yau's work up to that point:

"Yau has done extremely deep work in global geometry and elliptic partial differential equations, including applications in three-dimensional topology and in general relativity theory. He is an analyst's geometer (or geometer's analyst) with remarkable technical power and insight. He has succeeded in solving problems on which progress had been stopped for years."

More than ten years later, Yau was awarded the Carfoord prize in 1994, and the citation of the award says:

"The Prize is awarded to ... Shing-Tung Yau, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, for his development of non-linear techniques in differential geometry leading to the solution of several outstanding problems."

Thanks to Shing-Tung Yau's work over the past twenty years, the role and understanding of the basic partial differential equations in geometry has changed and expanded enormously within the field of mathematics. His work has had an impact on areas of mathematics and physics as diverse as topology, algebraic geometry, representation theory, and general relativity as well as differential geometry and partial differential equations. Yau is a student of legendary Chinese mathematician Shiing-Shen Chern, for whom he studied at Berkeley. As a teacher he is very generous with his ideas and he has had many students and also collaborated with many mathematicians."

In 2010, Yau was awarded the Wolf Prize for his lifetime achievements in geometric analysis and mathematical physics, and the award citation probably gives one of the best summaries of his major works up to 2010:

"Shing-Tung Yau (born 1949, China) has linked partial differential equations, geometry, and mathematical physics in a fundamentally new way, decisively shaping the field of geometric analysis. He has developed new analytical tools to solve several difficult nonlinear partial differential equations, particularly those of the Monge-Ampere type, critical to progress in Riemannian, Kahler and algebraic geometry and in algebraic topology, that radically transformed these fields. The Calabi-Yau manifolds, as these are known, a particular class of Kahler manifolds, have become a cornerstone of string theory aimed at understanding how the action of physical forces in a high-dimensional space might ultimately lead to our four-dimensional world of space and time. Prof. Yau's work on T-duality is an important ingredient for mirror symmetry, a fundamental problem at the interface of string theory and algebraic and symplectic geometry. While settling the positive mass and energy conjectures in general relativity, he also created powerful analytical tools, which have broad applications in the investigation of the global geometry of space-time."

Prof. Yau's eigenvalue and heat kernel estimates on Riemannian manifolds count among the most profound achievements of analysis on manifolds. He studied minimal surfaces, solving several classical problems, and then used his results, to create a novel approach to geometric topology. Prof. Yau has been exceptionally productive over several decades, with results radiating onto many areas of pure and applied

mathematics and theoretical physics.

In addition to his diverse and fundamental mathematical achievements, which have inspired generations of mathematicians, Prof. Yau has also had an enormous impact, worldwide, on mathematical research, through training an extraordinary number of graduate students and establishing several active mathematical research centers."

Indeed, he has already trained more than 60 Ph.D. students.

We wish Yau a happy sixtieth birthday and continuing success in many years to come!

Lizhen Ji
Peter Li
Richard Schoen
Leon Simon

Contents

Heat Kernels on Metric Measure Spaces with Regular Volume Growth

<i>Alexander Grigor'yan</i>	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Heat kernel in \mathbb{R}^n	2
1.2 Heat kernels on Riemannian manifolds	3
1.3 Heat kernels of fractional powers of Laplacian	4
1.4 Heat kernels on fractal spaces	5
1.5 Summary of examples	7
2 Abstract heat kernels	8
2.1 Basic definitions	8
2.2 The Dirichlet form	11
2.3 Identifying Φ in the non-local case	13
2.4 Volume of balls	17
3 Besov spaces	21
3.1 Besov spaces in \mathbb{R}^n	21
3.2 Besov spaces in a metric measure space	23
3.3 Embedding of Besov spaces into Hölder spaces	24
4 The energy domain	26
4.1 A local case	26
4.2 Non-local case	31
4.3 Subordinated heat kernel	32
4.4 Bessel potential spaces	35
5 The walk dimension	36
5.1 Intrinsic characterization of the walk dimension	36
5.2 Inequalities for the walk dimension	39
6 Two-sided estimates in the local case	46
6.1 The Dirichlet form in subsets	46
6.2 Maximum principles	47
6.3 A tail estimate	47
6.4 Identifying Φ in the local case	55
References	57

A Convexity Theorem and Reduced Delzant Spaces

<i>Bong H. Lian, Bailin Song</i>	61
1 Introduction	61
2 Convexity of image of moment map	64
3 Rationality of moment polytope	69
4 Realizing reduced Delzant spaces	74
5 Classification of reduced Delzant spaces	82
References	94

Localization and some Recent Applications

<i>Bong H. Lian, Kefeng Liu</i>	97
1 Introduction	97
2 Localization	100
3 Mirror principle	102
4 Hori-Vafa formula	112
5 The Mariño-Vafa Conjecture	115
6 Two partition formula	123
7 Theory of topological vertex	125
8 Gopakumar-Vafa conjecture and indices of elliptic operators.....	128
9 Two proofs of the ELSV formula	129
10 A localization proof of the Witten conjecture	132
11 Final remarks	134
References	134

Gromov-Witten Invariants of Toric Calabi-Yau Threefolds

<i>Chiu-Chu Melissa Liu</i>	139
1 Gromov-Witten invariants of Calabi-Yau 3-folds.....	139
1.1 Symplectic and algebraic Gromov-Witten invariants.....	139
1.2 Moduli space of stable maps	139
1.3 Gromov-Witten invariants of compact Calabi-Yau 3-folds....	140
1.4 Gromov-Witten invariants of noncompact Calabi-Yau 3-folds	141
2 Traditional algorithm in the toric case	142
2.1 Localization	142
2.2 Hodge integrals	143
3 Physical theory of the topological vertex	144
4 Mathematical theory of the topological vertex.....	146
4.1 Locally planar trivalent graph.....	146
4.2 Formal toric Calabi-Yau (FTCY) graphs	148
4.3 Degeneration formula	150
4.4 Topological vertex	152
4.5 Localization	153
4.6 Framing dependence	154
4.7 Combinatorial expression	154

4.8 Applications	155
4.9 Comparison	155
5 GW/DT correspondences and the topological vertex	156
Acknowledgments	156
References	156

Survey on Affine Spheres

<i>John Loftin</i>	161
1 Introduction	161
2 Affine structure equations	163
3 Examples	164
4 Two-dimensional affine spheres and Titeica's equation	165
5 Monge-Ampère equations and duality	168
6 Global classification of affine spheres	172
7 Hyperbolic affine spheres and invariants of convex cones	173
8 Projective manifolds	176
9 Affine manifolds	181
10 Affine maximal hypersurfaces	185
11 Affine normal flow	186
References	187

Convergence and Collapsing Theorems in Riemannian Geometry

<i>Xiaochun Rong</i>	193
Introduction	193
1 Gromov-Hausdorff distance in space of metric spaces	194
1.1 The Gromov-Hausdorff distance	194
1.2 Examples	199
1.3 An alternative formulation of GH-distance	202
1.4 Compact subsets of (\mathcal{Met}, d_{GH})	204
1.5 Equivariant GH-convergence	206
1.6 Pointed GH-convergence	209
2 Smooth limits-fibrations	217
2.1 The fibration theorem	217
2.2 Sectional curvature comparison	219
2.3 Embedding via distance functions	223
2.4 Fibrations	226
2.5 Proof of theorem 2.1.1	231
2.6 Center of mass	234
2.7 Equivariant fibrations	235
2.8 Applications of the fibration theorem	240
3 Convergence theorems	245
3.1 Cheeger-Gromov's convergence theorem	245
3.2 Injectivity radius estimate	248
3.3 Some elliptic estimates	253
3.4 Harmonic radius estimate	255

3.5	Smoothing metrics	259
4	Singular limits-singular fibrations	260
4.1	Singular fibrations	261
4.2	Controlled homotopy structure by geometry	265
4.3	The π_2 -finiteness theorem	269
4.4	Collapsed manifolds with pinched positive sectional curvature	271
5	Almost flat manifolds	273
5.1	Gromov's theorem on almost flat manifolds	273
5.2	The Margulis lemma	275
5.3	Flat connections with small torsion	277
5.4	Flat connection with a parallel torsion	281
5.5	Proofs—part I	285
5.6	Proofs—part II	290
5.7	Refined fibration theorem	294
	References	297
 Geometric Transformations and Soliton Equations		
	<i>Chuu-Lian Terng</i>	301
1	Introduction	301
2	The moving frame method for submanifolds	306
3	Line congruences and Bäcklund transforms	309
4	Sphere congruences and Ribaucour transforms	315
5	Combescure transforms, O-surfaces, and k -tuples	317
6	From moving frame to Lax pair	320
7	Soliton hierarchies constructed from symmetric spaces	329
8	The $\frac{U}{K}$ -system and the Gauss-Codazzi equations	336
9	Loop group actions	343
10	Action of simple elements and geometric transforms	347
	References	355
 Affine Integral Geometry from a Differentiable Viewpoint		
	<i>Deane Yang</i>	359
1	Introduction	359
2	Basic definitions and notation	361
2.1	Linear group actions	361
3	Objects of study	362
3.1	Geometric setting	362
3.2	Convex body	362
3.3	The space of all convex bodies	362
3.4	Valuations	362
4	Overall strategy	363
5	Fundamental constructions	363
5.1	The support function	363
5.2	The Minkowski sum	364

5.3	The polar body	365
5.4	The inverse Gauss map	366
5.5	The second fundamental form	366
5.6	The Legendre transform	366
5.7	The curvature function	367
6	The homogeneous contour integral	368
6.1	Homogeneous functions and differential forms	368
6.2	The homogeneous contour integral for a differential form ...	369
6.3	The homogeneous contour integral for a measure	369
6.4	Homogeneous integral calculus	373
7	An explicit construction of valuations	374
7.1	Duality	375
7.2	Volume	375
8	Classification of valuations	376
9	Scalar valuations	376
9.1	$SL(n)$ -invariant valuations	376
9.2	Hug's theorem	378
10	Continuous $GL(n)$ -homogeneous valuations	378
10.1	Scalar valuations	378
10.2	Vector-valued valuations	379
11	Matrix-valued valuations	380
11.1	The Cramer-Rao inequality	381
12	Homogeneous function- and convex body-valued valuations	383
13	Questions	384
	References	385

Classification of Fake Projective Planes

<i>Sai-Kee Yeung</i>	391
1 Introduction.....	391
2 Uniformization of fake projective planes.....	393
3 Geometric estimates on the number of fake projective planes.....	396
4 Arithmeticity of lattices associated to fake projective planes.....	398
5 Covolume formula of Prasad.....	410
6 Formulation of proof.....	411
7 Statements of the results.....	419
8 Further studies.....	423
References.....	427