

The May Meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section



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ciated sequence $H(A') \rightarrow H(A) \rightarrow H(\bar{A}) \rightarrow H(A') \rightarrow \dots$ is exact. If a homomorphism f of A with subgroup A' into a second differential group B with subgroup B' induces isomorphisms on $H(A')$ and $H(\bar{A})$, the 5-lemma may be used to prove that f also induces an isomorphism of $H(A)$ to $H(B)$. It was indicated how this and similar results may be used to establish the equivalence of different definitions of homology theories for various types of mathematical systems.

J. C. POLLEY, *Secretary*

THE MAY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SECTION

The eleventh annual meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at Hofstra College, Hempstead, New York, on May 3, 1952. Mr. E. I. Shapiro, Vice-Chairman of the Section, presided at the morning session, and Professor James Singer, Chairman of the Section, presided at the afternoon session.

One hundred fifty-one persons attended the sessions, including the following eighty-four members of the Association:

R. G. Archibald, I. L. Battin, Brother Bernard Alfred, W. W. Bessell, Samuel Borofsky, C. B. Boyer, Benjamin Braverman, A. B. Brown, Charlotte Brown, J. H. Bushey, Jewell H. Bushey, P. J. Cocuzza, L. W. Cohen, T. F. Cope, W. H. H. Cowles, I. A. Dodes, J. N. Eastham, J. E. Eaton, W. H. Fagerstrom, A. B. Farnell, J. M. Feld, Daniel Finkel, Edward Fleisher, William Forman, R. M. Foster, B. P. Gill, A. J. Goldman, I. L. Goldman, Bernard Greenspan, Harriet M. Griffin, Carl Hammer, Frank Hawthorne, G. C. Helme, H. H. Hinman, E. Marie Hove, R. J. Jaeger, Jr., D. B. Jordan, L. S. Kennison, G. A. Keyes, E. R. Kiely, H. S. Kieval, M. S. Klamkin, David Kotler, Edna Kramer-Lasser, H. C. Kranzer, C. H. Lehmann, M. E. Levenson, Walter Littman, E. R. Lorch, W. A. Lucas, J. D. Matheson, G. J. Mazzara, F. H. Miller, Morris Morduchow, A. J. Mortola, G. R. Mott, A. F. Nickl, C. J. Oberist, L. F. Ollmann, Martin Orr, J. J. Quinn, M. R. Reeks, Moses Richardson, Selby Robinson, N. J. Rose, H. D. Ruderman, J. P. Russell, J. B. Ryan, John Salerno, Charles Salkind, Arthur Sard, A. H. Sarno, Abraham Schwartz, Aaron Shapiro, E. I. Shapiro, James Singer, F. E. Smith, E. R. Stabler, Mildred M. Sullivan, R. L. Swain, L. F. Tolle, A. W. Tucker, J. A. Vollkommer, Sue R. Waldman.

The officers elected at the business meeting were: Chairman, Professor L. F. Ollmann, Hofstra College; Collegiate Vice-Chairman, Professor W. H. Fagerstrom, The College of the City of New York; High-School Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. D. Ruderman, Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades; Secretary, Dr. H. S. Kieval; Treasurer, Mr. Aaron Shapiro, Midwood High School.

At the business meeting, the following report on the activities of the Committee on Contests and Awards was given by its chairman, Professor W. H. Fagerstrom: "The Committee on Contests and Awards of the Metropolitan New York Section of the Mathematical Association of America enlarged its area of operation this year to include the state of Connecticut along with its own area which includes southern New York, Long Island, and northern New Jersey. In addition, the University of Oregon and the University of British Columbia conducted their own contests but used the questions of the Metropolitan New York Section. One hundred thirty-three invitations were sent out to the larger high schools in the other 44 states of the union, not more than four invitations going to any one state. The registration of 39 schools from 29 states was most gratifying. There were 295 schools registered for the contest and

7,867 copies of the examinations were used. Further information regarding the contest and copies of the 1951 contest questions may be obtained from the Chairman, W. H. Fagerstrom, City College, New York 31, N. Y."

The twelfth annual meeting of the section will be held in the spring, 1953.

After a welcoming address given by President J. C. Adams of Hofstra College the following papers were presented:

1. Panel discussion, *The mathematics curriculum*:

(a) *Training for industry*, by Professor R. M. Foster, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

(b) *Undergraduate mathematics for its own sake*, by Professor Arthur Sard, Queens College.

The speaker made a few general remarks, largely supporting the customary mathematical curriculum.

(c) *Modern psychology in the teaching of high school mathematics*, by Dr. I. A. Dodes, Stuyvesant High School, New York City.

The following conclusions, based on fifty years of experimentation, were presented. (1) If the teacher emphasizes a pattern, it will be reproduced as a learning pattern. If he attempts to correlate or integrate various fields, the learning which takes place will probably follow a subject—field pattern, anyhow. (2) Motivating devices do not guarantee good learning outcomes. Certain motivating devices which tend to "bring the goal nearer" are reported to be very successful. (3) No "type" of lesson will guarantee a better learning outcome than any other. (4) No specific classroom practice will guarantee good or bad learning outcomes. (5) The evidence concerning homework and tests as teaching devices is scanty. (6) There is no decisive proof that any specific "philosophy" of teaching (questioning, pupil activity, pupil-centered methods, *etc.*) guarantee good learning outcomes. (7) There is considerable proof that the teacher "as a whole" is the important factor in successful learning. The evidence does not show clearly why this is so.

2. *The theory of games*, by Professor A. W. Tucker, Princeton University.

The speaker discussed zero-sum two-person games in matrix form, giving several simple examples of such games and their solutions. He illustrated the role of bluffing in poker by a highly simplified two-person model permitting one bet and one raise. He also presented a two-person "dilemma" to show the complications that arise when a two-person game is *not* zero-sum.

3. *On the application of algebraic methods to analysis*, by Professor E. R. Lorch, Columbia University.

A discussion of the introduction into problems of analysis of methods, concepts, and points of view which belong to algebra. Three analytical problems were considered. To determine: (a) the structure of a linear operator (*e.g.*, differential or integral); (b) the structure of the ring of functions $f(x)$ continuous on the closed unit interval; (c) the structure of the ring of functions $f(x)$ integrable $(-\infty, +\infty)$ where multiplication is defined by convolution.

In discussing briefly the solution of these problems, the role of the algebraic concepts of ring, field, ideal, radical, idempotent, reducibility, and Boolean algebra was brought to the fore.

4. *Collegiate mathematics clubs*, by Professor L. F. Ollmann, Hofstra College.

Among the important advantages and opportunities offered the student members of our present day mathematical clubs over those of earlier clubs are: (1) the existence of the national honorary mathematical societies, Pi Mu Epsilon and Kappa Mu Epsilon; (2) the availability of publica-

tions which cater to students of mathematics by publishing articles written by and for the students.

The author urges all teachers to become actively interested in existing mathematical clubs or to sponsor new mathematical organizations to meet the needs of other students. He suggests that such extra effort on the part of the teacher may be very rewarding and that the attitudes toward mathematics of many students may be changed from indifference or even hatred to keen interest in mathematics by an inspiring teacher working through the medium of a well-conducted mathematics club.

5. *Mathematics clubs for high schools*, by Mr. E. I. Shapiro, Abraham Lincoln H.S., Brooklyn, N. Y.

In recent years, a great deal of attention has been paid to the slow student but the needs of the superior student have been overlooked. The superior student can be greatly stimulated through mathematics clubs, contests, and by means of special classes. Most of the schools in the Metropolitan area have some form of club specializing in making models, using the slide rule, studying surveying, and taking up topics of a general nature. At least two schools publish excellent printed mathematics magazines. Some schools provide for the superior student by means of special classes. There are three mathematics contests conducted in the Metropolitan area. One is sponsored by the Interscholastic Mathematics League of New York City with frequent meets each term. The other two are annual contests. Of these two, one is given by the Pi Mu Epsilon chapter of New York University and the other is conducted by the Metropolitan New York Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Several hundred schools participate in these contests.

H. S. KIEVAL, *Secretary*

THE MAY MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA SECTION

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, on May 10, 1952. Sessions were held in the forenoon, at luncheon and in the afternoon. Sister M. Seraphim, Professor W. R. McEwen and Professor H. D. Colson, Chairman of the Section, presided at the respective sessions.

Sixty-nine persons attended the meeting including the following fifty-four members of the Association:

H. M. Anderson, V. W. Beck, E. J. Berger, C. R. Bonnell, R. W. Brink, L. E. Bush, W. H. Bussey, R. H. Cameron, E. J. Camp, C. S. Carlson, Elizabeth Carlson, H. D. Colson, Helen Engebretson, I. C. Fischer, G. C. Francis, W. B. Fulks, Gladys Gibbens, J. E. Hafstrom, K. L. Hankerson, W. L. Hart, A. G. Hill, J. S. Hill, G. H. Jaeger, G. K. Kalisch, Karlis Kaufmanis, W. S. Loud, H. B. MacDougal, Kenneth May, W. H. McBride, W. R. McEwen, A. G. Montgomery, E. O. Nelson, M. J. Norris, J. C. Peterson, P. A. Rognlie, P. C. Rosenbloom, Ruth Scholten, L. W. Sheridan, S. C. Simonson, Sister M. Joanne, Sister M. Mercedes, Sister M. Prudentia, F. C. Smith, R. C. Staley, O. E. Stanaitis, Irwin Stoner, P. Y. Tani, F. J. Taylor, Takashi Terami, H. P. Thielman, Ella Thorp, S. E. Warschawski, K. W. Wegner, Irene L. Wentz.

At the business meeting, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Professor A. G. Swanson, Gustavus Adolphus College; Secretary, Professor F. C. Smith, College of St. Thomas; Members of the Executive Committee, Professor H. D. Colson, Bemidji State Teachers College, Mr. J. S. Hill, Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, Professor G. K. Kalisch, University of Minnesota.

By invitation of the Executive Committee, Professor H. P. Thielman of