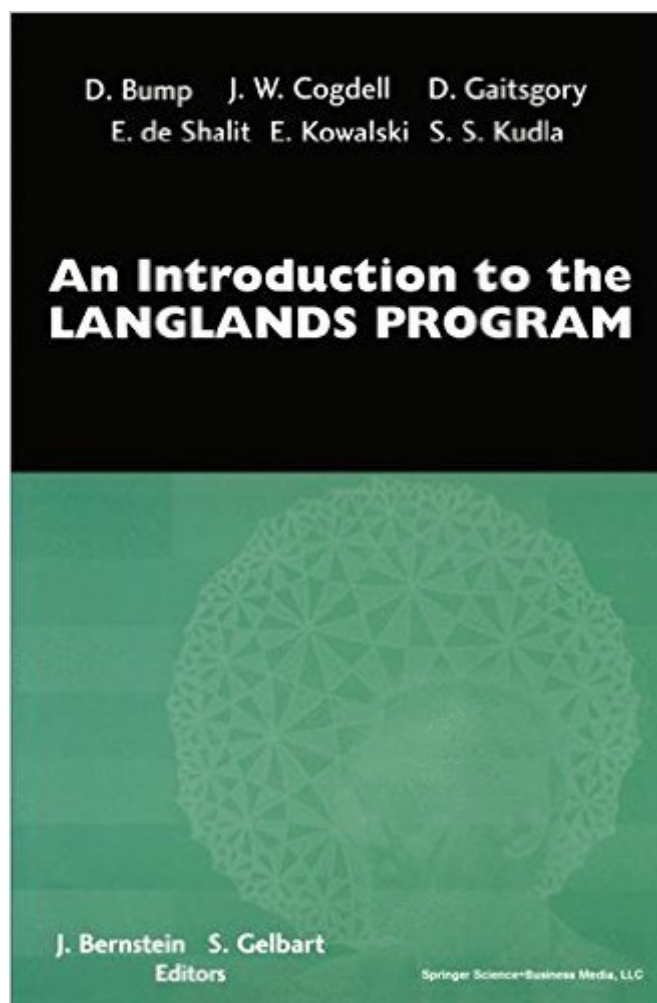


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An Introduction To The Langlands Program



Synopsis

This book presents a broad, user-friendly introduction to the Langlands program, that is, the theory of automorphic forms and its connection with the theory of L-functions and other fields of mathematics. Each of the twelve chapters focuses on a particular topic devoted to special cases of the program. The book is suitable for graduate students and researchers.

Book Information

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Very loosely speaking, the Langlands program can be viewed as an attempt to study to what extent L-functions are really different from each other. L-functions have their origins in number theory as a method for counting or manipulating various arithmetic objects, such as prime numbers. As such the use of L-functions is somewhat surprising, since they are objects coming from analysis, and not number theory. The connection of L-functions to arithmetic is however made more believable if one remembers how the gamma function is defined for all real numbers instead of just the natural numbers. Once this definition is made the gamma function satisfies interesting recursive relations, with similar types of relations being satisfied by more "general" L-functions. The most famous example of an L-function is of course the Riemann zeta function, which was used by the mathematician Leonhard Euler to give an "analytic" proof that there are an infinite number of primes. Other fascinating properties of this L-function are shown in the first article of this book, in particular its analytic continuation in the complex plane and the functional equation that it satisfies. The author views the presence of the gamma function in this functional equation as being somewhat

mysterious, and he points to another article in the book as serving as the best resolution of this mystery. This article concerns the thesis of the mathematician John Tate, and is advertised as a way of unifying the analytical continuation and functional equation of L-functions.

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