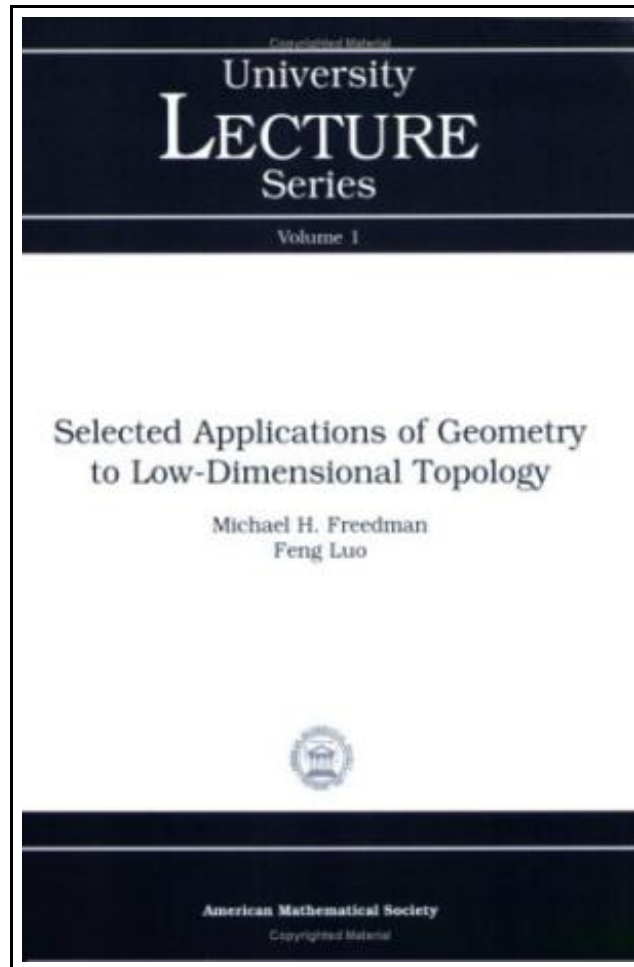


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SELECTED APPLICATIONS OF GEOMETRY TO LOW-DIMENSIONAL TOPOLOGY



American Mathematical Society. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Selected Applications of Geometry to Low-dimensional Topology, Michael H. Freedman, This book, the inaugural volume in the "University Lecture Series", is based on lectures presented at Pennsylvania State University in February 1987. The lectures attempt to give a taste of the accomplishments of manifold topology over the last 30 years. By the late 1950s, algebra and topology had produced a successful and beautiful fusion. Geometric methods and insight, now vitally important in topology, encompass analytic objects such as instantons and minimal surfaces, as well as nondifferentiable constructions. Keeping technical details to a minimum, the authors lead the reader on a fascinating exploration of several developments in geometric topology. They begin with the notions of manifold and smooth structures and the Gauss-Bonnet theorem, and proceed to the topology and geometry of foliated 3-manifolds. They also explain, in terms of general position, why four-dimensional space has special attributes, and they examine the insight Donaldson theory brings. The book ends with a chapter on exotic structures on \mathbf{R}^4 , with a discussion of the two competing theories of four-dimensional manifolds, one topological and one smooth. Background material was added to clarify the discussions in the lectures, and references for more detailed study are included. Suitable for graduate students and researchers in mathematics and the physical sciences, the book requires only background in undergraduate mathematics. It should prove valuable for those wishing a not-too-technical introduction to this vital area of current research.



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