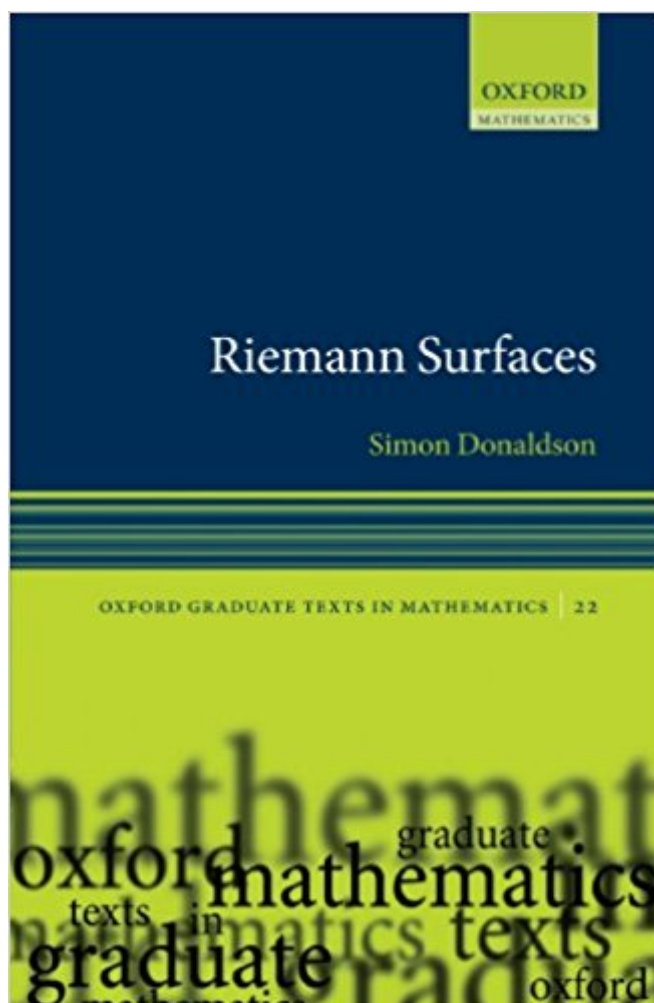


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Riemann Surfaces (Oxford Graduate Texts In Mathematics)



Synopsis

The theory of Riemann surfaces occupies a very special place in mathematics. It is a culmination of much of traditional calculus, making surprising connections with geometry and arithmetic. It is an extremely useful part of mathematics, knowledge of which is needed by specialists in many other fields. It provides a model for a large number of more recent developments in areas including manifold topology, global analysis, algebraic geometry, Riemannian geometry, and diverse topics in mathematical physics. This graduate text on Riemann surface theory proves the fundamental analytical results on the existence of meromorphic functions and the Uniformisation Theorem. The approach taken emphasises PDE methods, applicable more generally in global analysis. The connection with geometric topology, and in particular the role of the mapping class group, is also explained. To this end, some more sophisticated topics have been included, compared with traditional texts at this level. While the treatment is novel, the roots of the subject in traditional calculus and complex analysis are kept well in mind. Part I sets up the interplay between complex analysis and topology, with the latter treated informally. Part II works as a rapid first course in Riemann surface theory, including elliptic curves. The core of the book is contained in Part III, where the fundamental analytical results are proved. Following this section, the remainder of the text illustrates various facets of the more advanced theory.

Book Information

Series: Oxford Graduate Texts in Mathematics (Book 22)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (May 19, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199606749

ISBN-13: 978-0199606740

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.7 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology > Algebraic Geometry](#) #6 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology > Topology](#) #26 in [Books > Science & Math > Physics > Mathematical Physics](#)

Customer Reviews

"This book may be recommended to readers of all levels, from beginners to specialists." --

Mathematical Reviews "This compact book is a fabulous contribution to the literature on the gorgeous and important subject of Riemann surfaces... The book is simply wonderful." --MAA Reviews

Simon Donaldson gained a BA from Cambridge in 1979. In 1980 he began graduate work in Oxford, supervised by Nigel Hitchin and Sir Michael Atiyah. His PhD thesis studied mathematical aspects of Yang-Mills theory. In 1986, aged 29, he was awarded a Fields Medal and was elected to the Royal Society. He was Wallis Professor of Mathematics in Oxford between 1985 and 1998 when he moved to Imperial College London. Most of his work since has been on the interface between differential geometry and complex algebraic geometry. The recipient of numerous awards, including the Shaw Prize in 2009 with Clifford Taubes, he is also a Foreign Member of the US, French & Swedish academies. Donaldson has supervised more than 40 doctoral students, many of whom have gone on to become leading figures in research.

I am partial to the Donaldson-style of mathematics and I very excitedly ordered a copy when I heard of its publication. This is an old subject, many treatises have been written about it, so what more can one expect from yet another monograph? I would say, that this book offers you Donaldson's perspective on the subject, always superbly clear and efficient, informed by the author's own extensive experience, and revealing the depths of the subject with an ease that would make Fred Astaire jealous. It has a geometric bias and it brings you from zero to where modern research begins. This is a good place to start if you want to learn about this subject that branches out into many other areas of mathematics and theoretical physics.

Amazing, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

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