

آگهی سخنرانی

Some Issues of Set Theory, from 1910 up to Now

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Abstract: At the beginning of the twentieth century, the recent set theory, supposedly the universal language of mathematics, was confronted with very serious difficulties and antinomies (paradoxes). One was related to the existence, definition and naming of new infinite sets. The other was with a specific type of paradoxes called Richard's or Russell's paradox. These difficulties gave the opportunity for mathematicians to deepen their knowledge and go further during most of the century. We will give a survey of how some of the problems were resolved - with Russell's type theory and descriptive set theory - and talk about the recent progress and issues.

The Power of Names in Culture and Mathematics

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Abstract: A common concept in history is that knowing the name of something or someone gives one power over that thing or person. This concept occurs in many different forms in numerous cultures - ancient and primitive tribes, Islam, Judaism, and in Egyptian, Vedic, Hindu, and Christian traditions. Some writers find it embedded in the first verses of Genesis, written probably over three thousand years ago; others believe it to be an intrinsic characteristic of classical Greek religion; still others find it a central feature in magic and folklore, and modern feminist writers often see it as the reason that a woman in marriage is often asked to take the name of her new husband. In all these cases "naming" something or someone is seen as the exertion of dominion over that thing or person. I will give examples of some of these, and then I will proceed to the role of "naming" in twentieth century mathematics and maintain that not only has it been central, but that it played an important role in the creation of the famous Moscow School of Mathematics.