



Dr. Ivan Izmestiev (TU Berlin) **Infinitesimal rigidity of convex surfaces** **and the Hilbert-Einstein functional**

TIME:

6 Jan 2011, 16:15 - 17:45

LOCATION:

Universität Potsdam
Campus Am Neuen Palais
Haus 8, Raum 1.08.0.53

Smooth strictly convex surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 are infinitesimally rigid, i.e. they allow no non-trivial deformations that would preserve their intrinsic metric in the first order. We give a new proof of this which is based on variations of the Hilbert-Einstein functional.

Instead of deforming the surface, we reduce the question to "warped product"-deformations of the metric in the domain bounded by the surface. By studying the second variation of the Hilbert-Einstein functional, we show that every deformation that preserves the boundary metric and leaves the interior metric Euclidean must be trivial. This implies the infinitesimal rigidity of the surface.

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