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Contents

Preface

Computing torus-equivariant K-theory of singular varieties
DAVE ANDERSON

Algebraic structures of groups of birational transformations
JÉRÉMY BLANC

The Hermite-Joubert problem over p -closed fields
MATTHEW BRASSIL and ZINOVY REICHSTEIN

Some structure theorems for algebraic groups
MICHEL BRION

Structure and classification of pseudo-reductive groups
BRIAN CONRAD and GOPAL PRASAD

Invariants of algebraic groups and retract rationality of classifying spaces
ALEXANDER S. MERKURJEV

Preface

The prominent (semi)group theorist Alfred Hobilitzelle Clifford (1908–1992) joined Tulane University in 1955. Since 1984, honoring his contributions, the Mathematics Department at Tulane has hosted the annual Clifford Lectures, a week-long series of talks by a distinguished mathematician. A mini-conference is held in conjunction with each of the Clifford Lecture series. The theme of the 2015 Clifford Lecture series was the “algebraic groups; structure and actions” and the main speaker was Michel Brion. This volume presents the proceedings of the associated mini-conference.

The theory of algebraic groups forms a very active research area in contemporary mathematics. It has rich relations to many other areas, including algebraic geometry, number theory, and representation theory. The topics that were covered in the Clifford lectures contributed widely to this spectrum. They included pseudo-reductive groups, structure theory for algebraic groups, groups of birational transformations, the Tschirnhaus transformations and applications, algebraic theory of quadratic forms, geometry of classifying spaces; G -torsors, as well as operational K -theory and its applications.

The papers in this volume present not only new results on the aforementioned themes but also provide much awaited exposés of the foundational results of algebraic group theory recast in the language of schemes at the desired generality.

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