**THE UNIVERSITY**                    **OF HONG KONG**

*Institute of Mathematical Research*
*Department of Mathematics*

# COLLOQUIUM

# Finsler Geometry, Rejuvenation of a Classical Domain

## Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
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Date:      February 20, 2012 (Monday)

Time:      4:00 – 5:00pm

Venue:   Room 210, Run Run Shaw Bldg., HKU

## Abstract

Finsler Geometry has a long history. It was considered by both Bernhard Riemann and David Hilbert as a possible context for developing generalisations of Euclidean geometry.

Its later developments discouraged a number of geometers to be involved with it, because of its extreme technicality. More recently, through efforts of a number of people, and in particular Professor Chern Shiing-Shen, renewed approaches focusing in particular on dynamical properties associated with its "geodesic flow" provided an efficient framework from which emerged considerable progress on geometrically motivated problems.

Some outstanding problems remain, in particular along a line of questioning that is classical in Riemannian geometry, namely that of relations between geometry and topology, or the appropriate notion of a Laplacian.

*All are welcome*