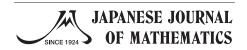
Japan. J. Math. 4, 121–139 (2009) DOI: 10.1007/s11537-009-0926-9



Symplectic embeddings and continued fractions: a survey *

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Received: 30 August 2009 / Revised: 21 October 2009 / Accepted: 28 October 2009
Published online: 25 December 2009
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Communicated by: Kaoru Ono

Abstract. As has been known since the time of Gromov's Non-squeezing Theorem, symplectic embedding questions lie at the heart of symplectic geometry. After surveying some of the most important ways of measuring the size of a symplectic set, these notes discuss some recent developments concerning the question of when a 4-dimensional ellipsoid can be symplectically embedded in a ball. This problem turns out to have unexpected relations to the properties of continued fractions and of exceptional curves in blow ups of the complex projective plane. It is also related to questions of lattice packing of planar triangles.

Keywords and phrases: symplectic embedding, symplectic capacity, continued fractions, symplectic ellipsoid, symplectic packing, lattice points in triangles

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000): 53D05, 32S25, 11J70

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** partially supported by NSF grant DMS 0604769.

^{*} This article is based on the 6th Takagi Lectures that the author delivered at the Hokkaido University on June 6 and 7, 2009. A related course of lectures was also given at the MSRI Graduate Summer school in August 2009.