

From Minkowski to the present

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The geometry of numbers is one of the branches of number theory that has contributed to almost every other branch of number theory. We'll begin with some historical remarks about Minkowski's work, his "first theorem". Then we'll present some topics from the modern geometry of numbers, including the problem of tiling a rectangle with smaller rectangles, each of which has at least one side that is an integer. We'll see why this innocent-sounding problem gives rise to a whole field of modern mathematics