Cremona Groups and the Icosahedron (Monographs and Research Notes in Mathematics)

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Cremona Groups and the Icosahedron focuses on the Cremona groups of ranks 2 and 3 and describes the beautiful appearances of the icosahedral group A_5 in them. The book surveys known facts about surfaces with an action of A_5, explores A_5-equivariant geometry of the quintic del Pezzo threefold V_5, and gives a proof of its A_5-birational rigidity.

The authors explicitly describe many interesting A_5-invariant subvarieties of V_5, including A_5-orbits, low-degree curves, invariant anticanonical $K3$ surfaces, and a mildly singular surface of general type that is a degree five cover of the diagonal Clebsch cubic surface. They also present two birational selfmaps of V_5 that commute with A_5-action and use them to determine the whole group of A_5-birational automorphisms. As a result of this study, they produce three non-conjugate icosahedral subgroups in the Cremona group of rank 3, one of them arising from the threefold V_5.

This book presents up-to-date tools for studying birational geometry of higher-dimensional varieties. In particular, it provides readers with a deep understanding of the biregular and birational geometry of V_5.

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