Grete Hermann

Canonical name	GreteHermann
Date of creation	2013-03-22 16:57:11
Last modified on	2013-03-22 16:57:11
Owner	Mravinci (12996)
Last modified by	Mravinci (12996)
Numerical id	5
Author	Mravinci (12996)
Entry type	Biography
Classification	msc 01A60

Grete Hermann (1901 - 1984) German mathematician perhaps most famous for discovering a flaw in John von Neumann's proof of the impossibility of hidden variable theory in quantum mechanics. As a student of Emmy Noether at Göttingen University, Hermann showed in her thesis that her teacher's proof of the Lasker-Noether theorem could be turned into an efficient algorithm for computing primary decompositions of polynomial ideals in Noetherian rings.

As Adolf Hitler came to in Germany, Hermann participated in the underground movement against the Nazis, but by 1936 she left Germany for Denmark and later England. She returned when World War II was over. In her later years she was more interested in politics and philosophy than in physics and mathematics.