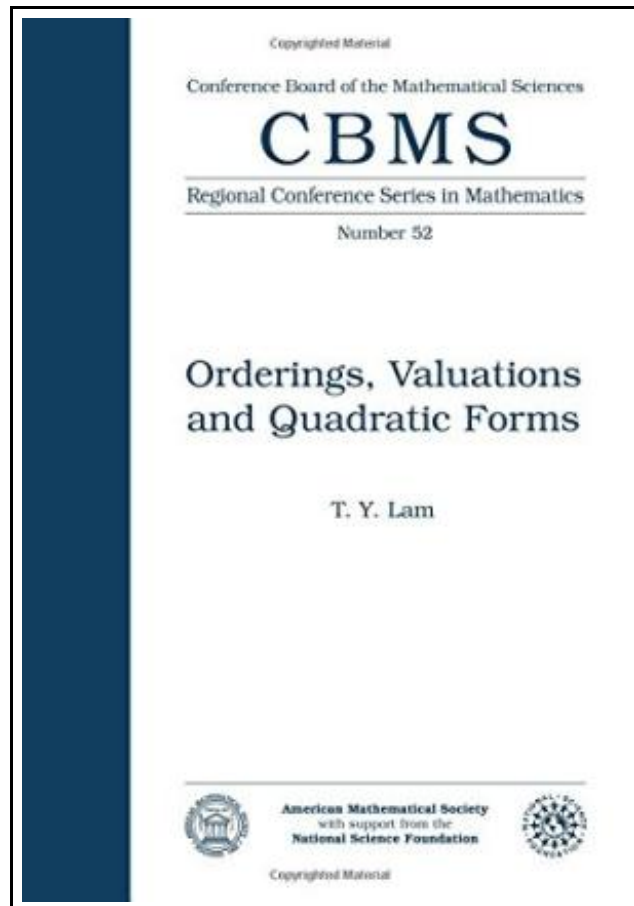


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American Mathematical Society. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Orderings, Valuations and Quadratic Forms, Tsit-Yuen Lam, The remarkable relationships and interplay between orderings, valuations and quadratic forms have been the object of intensive and fruitful study in recent mathematical literature. In this book, the author, a Steele Prize winner in 1982, provides an authoritative and beautifully written account of recent developments in the theory of the 'reduced' Witt ring of a formally real field. This area of mathematics is growing rapidly and promises to become of increasing importance in reality questions in algebraic geometry. The book covers many results from original research papers published in the last fifteen years. The presentation in these notes is largely self-contained; the only prerequisite might be a good working knowledge of general valuation theory and some familiarity with the basic notions and terminology of quadratic form theory. The first chapters of the author's previous book, published by W. A. Benjamin, are a good source for such background material. However, this volume may be read as an independent introduction to ordered fields and reduced quadratic forms using valuation-theoretic techniques. Orderings and valuations are related through the notion of compatibility; valuations and quadratic forms are related through the notion of residue forms, while quadratic forms and orderings are related through the notion of signatures. After a beginning chapter on the reduced theory of quadratic forms, the author lays the foundation for the study of compatibility. This is followed by an introduction to the techniques of residue forms and the relevant Springer theory. The author then presents the solution of the Representation Problem due to Bechker and Brocker, with simplifications due to Marshall. The notion of fans plays an all-important role in this approach. Further chapters treat the theory of real places and the real holomorphy ring, prove Brocker's...

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