# Garrett Birkhoff Encyclopedia Article

## Garrett Birkhoff

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# Garrett Birkhoff

**1911-1996**

American algebraist and applied mathematician whose most important work is his theory of lattices, which influenced the development of quantum mechanics. Birkhoff believed strongly in applying mathematical concepts and had much success deriving observed fluid flows from hydrodynamic principles. An enthusiastic supporter of computer use for solving complex physical problems, he devoted considerable effort to developing methods for computing numerical fluid flows. During World War II he worked on radio-wave ranging of targets and antitank charges.