# Richard Courant Encyclopedia Article

## Richard Courant

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# Richard Courant

**1888-1972**

German-American mathematician who significantly influenced the development of physics, computer science, and other disciplines through applied work on variational calculus and numerical analysis. In *Methods of Mathematical Physics* (1924-7) he and David Hilbert developed techniques later important in quantum mechanics and nuclear physics. Courant was a principal coordinator and catalyst of twentieth-century mathematical research, as the impact of the Mathematics Institute in Göttingen and Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University attest.