

Seminar SAW
Seminar History and Philosophy of Mathematics – 2011-2016

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**On the methods of approximation and
on questions of discretization**

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Douglas R. Hartree (1891-1958) : les méthodes d'approximation à l'épreuve de l'ordinateur

Abstract – D.R. Hartree both witnessed and contributed to the transition from analogue machines (the differential analyser) to digital machines, from desk machines to computers. This influenced both his practices and his thoughts about mathematical physics and calculating machines. We will examine the impact of this transition on approximation methods as Hartree viewed it, both in *Calculating Machines* (1949) and in *Numerical Analysis* (1952).