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"*Plateau problem: old and new results*"

Abstract: Plateau problem consists in finding a surface of minimal area among the ones spanning a given curve. It is among the oldest problem in the calculus of variations and its study lead to wonderful development in mathematics with influences in different fields. In this talk I will survey its history and present some of the different approaches that has been devised in trying to solve it and I will conclude by presenting a series of new results obtained in the last years, together with some open problems.