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Some Mathematics of the "Mountain Man"

One of the outstanding geometers of medieval Islam is Abu Sahl al-Kuhi, who hailed from the mountainous region in Iran south of the Caspian Sea. ("Kuh" means "mountain" in Farsi.) In our talk we will discuss some of al-Kuhi's mathematics – including works on a number of problems in the Archimedean tradition, mathematical problems arising from the astrolabe, and calculating the distance from the earth to the shooting stars. We will end the talk with some thoughts about what, if anything, was particularly "Islamic" about al-Kuhi's work.