CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS

434

Geometric and Topological Methods for Quantum Field Theory

Summer School on Geometric and Topological Methods for Quantum Field Theory July 11–29, 2005 Villa de Leyva, Colombia

> S. Paycha B. Uribe Editors



American Mathematical Society

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Introduction

This volume offers an introduction to some recent developments in several active topics at the interface between geometry, topology and quantum field theory:

- Anomalies and noncommutative geometry
- Deformation quantization and Poisson algebras
- Topological quantum field theory and orbifolds

It is based on lectures and short communications delivered during a summer school on "Geometric and Topological Methods for Quantum Field Theory" held in Villa de Leyva, Colombia in July 2005.

The invited lectures, aimed at graduate students in physics or mathematics, start with introductory material before presenting more advanced results. Each lecture is self-contained and can be read independently of the rest.

The volume begins with an introductory course on deformation quantization, in which Martin Bordemann provides a sketch of partial results on the theory of morphisms and modules in that framework in relation to Poisson geometry. Yoshiaki Maeda and his coauthors describe later in this volume a deformation quantization of (infinite dimensional) Fréchet-Poisson algebras associated with Heisenberg Lie algebras.

The reader is led into the realm of noncommutative geometry and its interactions with physics with an introductory lecture by Denis Perrot on anomalies in noncommutative index theory. The author introduces the basic methods of cyclic cohomology and explains the noncommutative counterpart of the Atiyah-Singer index theorem in order to describe anomalies in quantum field theory. A further lecture by Giovanni Landi provides a pedagogical introduction to recent work on deformation of spaces (e.g. toric noncommutative manifolds) and of vector bundles over these spaces, which are relevant both in mathematics and in physics, notably for monopoles and instanton bundles.

Topological quantum field theory and orbifolds are the subject of a lecture by Ernesto Lupercio and Bernardo Uribe, which is a survey on the construction of topological quantum field theories originating from orbifolds such as Chen-Ruan cohomology and orbifold string topology that provides an accessible introduction to these topics for both physicists and geometers.

The invited lectures are followed by nine short communications on a wide spectrum of topics on the borderline of mathematics and physics ranging from quasicristals to invariant instantons through black holes and involving a manifold of mathematical tools borrowed from geometry, algebra and analysis.

We hope that these contributions will give – as much as the school itself seems

INTRODUCTION

to have given – young students the desire to pursue what might be their first acquaintance with some of the problems on the edge of mathematics and physics presented here. On the other hand, we hope that the more advanced reader will find some pleasure in reading about different outlooks on related topics and seeing how the well-known geometric tools prove to be very useful in some areas of quantum field theory.

We are indebted to various organizations for their financial support for this school. Let us first of all thank the Clay Institute in Boston without which this school would not have taken place. We are also deeply grateful to the ICTP in Trieste, for its constant financial support over the years and specifically for this school. We also acknowledge the CDE-IMU for its support. We are also greatly indebted to the Universidad of Los Andes that has been supporting this and many other schools of this kind we have been organizing in Colombia since 1999. Other organizations such as CLAF in Brazil, Colciencias, ICETEX and ICFES in Colombia also contributed in a substantial way to the financial support needed for this school.

Special thanks to Sergio Adarve (Universidad de Los Andes) and Hernán Ocampo (Universidad del Valle), coorganizers of the school, who dedicated time and energy to make this school possible in a country like Colombia, where many difficulties are bound to arise along the way due to social, political and economic problems.

We are also very grateful to Juana Vall-Serra who did a great job for the practical organization of the school, the quality of which was very much appreciated by participants and lecturers. We are also very indebted to Mateo Adarve, Paola Adarve, Marta Casas, Magdalena Cubides, María Inés Cubides, Rodrigo Escobar, Anderson García, Andrés García, Marta Kovacics, Mauricio Morales, Alexandra Parra, Celio Sierra-Paycha and Oriel Sierra-Paycha, for their help in various essential tasks needed for the successful development of the school and to Alexander Cardona, for his permanent assistance and collaboration in the academic organization of the school.

We also would like to thank the administrative staff at the Universidad de los Andes, particularly José Rafael Toro, Vice-rector, Rolando Roldán, Dean of the Science School, Carlos Montenegro, Director of the Mathematics Department, and Bernardo Gómez, Director of the Physics Department, for their constant encouragement and support.

Without the people named here, all of whom helped in the organization in some way or another, before, during and after the school, this scientific event would not have left such vivid memories in the lecturers' and participants' minds. Last but not least, thanks to all the participants who gave us all, lecturers and editors, the impulse to prepare this volume through the enthusiasm they showed during the school, and thank you to all the contributors and referees for their participation in the realization of these proceedings.

The editors, Sylvie Paycha and Bernardo Uribe

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This volume, based on lectures and short communications at a summer school in Villa de Leyva, Colombia (July 2005), offers an introduction to some recent developments in several active topics at the interface between geometry, topology and quantum field theory. It is aimed at graduate students in physics or mathematics who might want insight in the following topics (covered in five survey lectures):

- · Anomalies and noncommutative geometry,
- Deformation quantization and Poisson algebras,
- Topological quantum field theory and orbifolds.

These lectures are followed by nine articles on various topics at the borderline of mathematics and physics ranging from quasicrystals to invariant instantons through black holes, and involving a number of mathematical tools borrowed from geometry, algebra and analysis.



