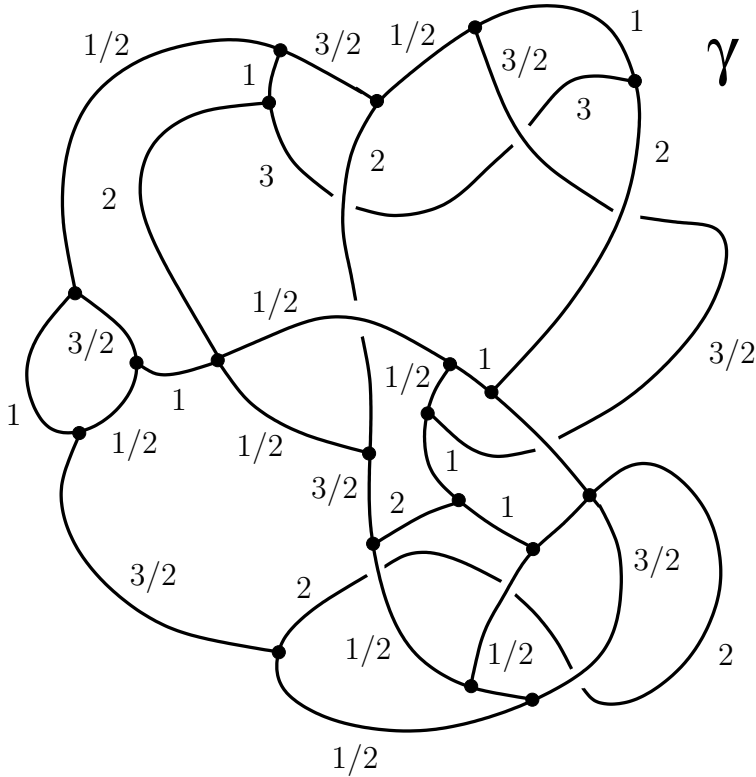


Volume II

Loop Quantum Gravity



Draft version

By

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Contents:

- Chapter 1: Classical GR, Einstein's hole argument and physical geometry (1912-1916)
- Chapter 2: The early beginnings of LQG (1984-1992)
- Chapter 3: Formal developments (1992-2006)
- Chapter 4: Dynamics: The Hamiltonian constraint and Spin foams
- Chapter 5: Physical Applications of LQG: Black Hole Entropy and Loop Quantum Cosmology
- Chapter 6: The Master Constraint and a Better Understanding of the Dynamics (May 2003-present)
- Chapter 7: The Semi-Classical Limit
- Chapter : Algebraic Quantum Gravity with Application to Reduced Phase Space Quantization of GR
- Chapter 9: Extending standard quantum mechanics for Background-Independent Theories
- Chapter 10: Towards Background-Independent Scattering Amplitudes
- Physics Glossary
- Maths Glossary
- Many Detailed Appendices with Worked Exercises

Chapter 1: Classical GR, Einstein's hole argument and Physical Geometry (1915)

- Einstein's hole argument.
- Physical geometry.
- Conceptual issues.
- Relational mechanics.
- Partial, complete and Dirac observables.
- The problem of quantizing gravity.

Chapter 2: The early beginnings of LQG (1984-1992)

- Motivation for Non-Perturbative (Background Independent) Quantum General Relativity.
- Canonical Quantization Of GR (Brief Sketch).
- Ashtekar's New Variables.
- Loops and the Loop Representation.
- Difficulties.

Chapter 3: Formal Developments (1992-2005)

- Spin networks: how to generate independent Wilson loops
- Area and volume operators and the quantum geometry of space.
- Functional integration and the inner product.
- Spatial Invariant Hilbert Space and spin network states.
- Uniqueness of kinematic representation.

Chapter 4: Dynamics: The Hamiltonian constraint (1994-1997) and Spin foams (1994-present)

- Real Formalism and the Hamiltonian constraint.
- Quantization of the Hamiltonian constraint.
- Spin foams - the quantum geometry of spacetime.
- Unsettled concerns.
- Consistent discrete quantum gravity.
- Proposal for a reduced phase space quantization of gravity coupled to matter.

Chapter 5: Physical Applications of LQG: Black Hole Entropy and Loop Quantum Cosmology

- Thermodynamics of Black holes and Hawking radiation.
- Microscopic Source of Black Hole Entropy.
- Loop Quantum Cosmology.
- Inflation From Loop Quantum Cosmology.
- A Quantum Black hole.

Chapter 6: The Master Constraint and a Better Understanding of the Dynamics (May 2003-present)

- Introduction.
- The Master Constraint Programme versus the Hamiltonian Constraint Programme for GR.
- Possibility of having:
 - (i) Control over Physical space of solutions,
 - (ii) Control over Quantum Dirac Observables of LQG,
 - (iii) An Answer to Whether LQG has the Correct Semi-classical limit.
- Quantization of the Master Constraint Operator for GR.

Chapter 7: The Semi-Classical Limit

- Some of the schemes
- Relating Loop Representation to Fock-Space Description in the Low Energy Limit.
- Coherent States.
- Semiclassical limit of the non-graph changing Master constraint.
- Noiseless Subsystems in Quantum Gravity.
- The outlook

Chapter 8: Algebraic Quantum Gravity with Application to Reduced Phase Space Quantization of GR

- Motivation for Algebraic Quantum Gravity
- Definition of Algebraic Quantum Gravity
- Reduced Phase Space Quantization
- Semi-Classical Limit
- Scattering Amplitudes

Chapter 9: Extending standard quantum mechanics for Background Independent Theories

- The Problem of Time.
- Covariant quantum mechanics.
- Multiple-Event Probability.
- General boundaries formulation of quantum mechanics.
- Emergence of Temporal Phenomena.
- Consistent discrete quantum gravity.
- Bearing of Matters of Quantum Gravity on Interpretations of QM

Chapter 10: Towards Background-Independent Scattering Amplitudes.

- Conventional Scattering Theory.
- Difficulties in Formulating Scattering Amplitudes for BI Theories.
- A Background-Independent Strategy.
- Background-Independent Scattering Amplitudes.
- Global and Local Particles.

Appendices

- A Physics Glossary
- B Mathematics Glossary
- C Basic Mathematics
- D Yang-Mills and Gauge Theory
- E Covariant Classical and Quantum Mechanics
- F Spin Networks
- G Black Hole Entropy
- H Loop Quantum Cosmology
- I Functional Analysis
- J Quantization Schemes
- K The Loop Representation
- L The Hamiltonian Constraint
- M Spin Foams
- N The Master Constraint
- O The Semiclasical Limit
- P Algebraic Quantum Gravity
- Q Consistent Discrete Classical and Quantum General Relativity
- R Quantum Gravity Phenomenology

Contents

1	Classical GR, Einstein’s hole argument and Physical Geometry	77
1.1	Einstein’s Hole Argument	79
1.2	Background Independence - A Farewell to Spacetime	91
1.2.1	Comparison of GR with the Rubber Sheet Analogy	91
1.2.2	The View of the World that Emerges	91
1.2.3	Common Misunderstandings	93
1.2.4	The Blessing of background independence - Non-Perturbative Quantum Gravity Finite and Requires No Renormalization!	94
1.3	Physical Geometry	97
1.3.1	Physical GPS Coordinates	98
1.3.2	Physical Area	99
1.3.3	Description of a Measurement of Area	100
1.3.4	Einstein’s Field Equations	102
1.3.5	The velocity composition law	103
1.3.6	Dust as Matter Reference System	103
1.4	Some conceptual issues	103
1.5	Relational Mechanics	104
1.5.1	Covariant Hamiltonian Formulation	104
1.5.2	Deparametrizable Mechanics: Identification of a “time” variable	107
1.5.3	Fully Constrained Hamiltonian Systems	108

1.6	Action Principle for General Relativity	110
1.6.1	Invariance of Integral Scalars Under Active Diffeomorphisms	111
1.6.2	Palatini's first order formalism of Einstein's equation.	114
1.7	Hamiltonian Formulation	118
1.7.1	Gauge Transformations in Phase Space	118
1.7.2	Second Class Constraints and Gauge Fixing	120
1.8	Partial, Complete and Dirac Observables	120
1.8.1	A Complete Observable is a Dirac Observable	124
1.8.2	Systems with Several Constraints	130
1.8.3	Infinitely Many Constraints	130
1.8.4	Observables for Canonical General Relativity	130
1.8.5	Approximate Observables for Canonical General Relativity	131
1.9	Recovering Time	131
1.10	Why Quantise Gravity	132
1.11	The Problem of Quantising Gravity	132
1.11.1	The Problem of Time	133
1.12	The Problem of Quantum Cosmology	135
2	The early beginnings of LQG (1984-1992)	136
2.1	Introduction	136
2.2	Motivation for Non-Perturbative Quantum General Relativity (as Apposed to String Theory!)	137
2.3	Connections verses Metrics	141
2.4	Canonical Quatization Of GR.	142
2.4.1	Sketch of canonical quantization:	143
2.5	Ashtekar's New Variables.	147
2.6	Loops and the Loop Representation.	151

2.6.1	Projector Technique (Group Averaging)	157
2.7	The Hamiltonian Constraint	159
2.8	Need for Intersecting Loops	160
2.8.1	Intersecting Loops	161
2.9	Difficulties	161
2.9.1	Over-Completeness of Wilson Loops	162
2.9.2	Complex General Relativity and Reality Conditions	162
2.9.3	Hamiltonian Constraint and Spacial Diffeomorphism	163
2.9.4	Formulism Based on Surfaces of Simultaneity	163
2.9.5	Observables	163
2.9.6	Locality	163
2.10	Summary	164
3	Formal Developments	165
3.1	Spin networks: how to generate independent Wilson loops.	166
3.1.1	Some Maths of Spin Networks	169
3.1.2	A Note on Spatial Diffeomorphism Invariance	175
3.2	Constructing Well Defined Operators: Areas and Volumes	176
3.2.1	Area.	176
3.2.2	Volume operator:	179
3.2.3	Quantum Geometry	179
3.3	Algebraic Quantization	181
3.3.1	The GNS Construction	182
3.3.2	C^* -algebras	182
3.3.3	Null vectors	184
3.3.4	GNS Construction	186
3.4	The Holonomy-Flux Algebra	186

3.4.1	Differentiability Classes of Manifolds and Loops	186
3.4.2	Integration on a Manifold	187
3.4.3	The Holonomy-Flux Algebra	189
3.5	Implimentation of Quantization	191
3.5.1	GNS Constrution for the Holonomy-Flux Representation	191
3.6	A Measure for Integration:	192
3.6.1	Primer on Functional Integration	193
3.6.2	Cylidrical Intergration Theory	195
3.6.3	Integrating Gauge Field Theories	196
3.7	How does one apply cylindrical measure theory to non-Abelian connections? 198	
3.8	Weyl Rather than Heisenberg	201
3.9	Projective Limits	202
3.9.1	Measure Theory on Infinite Dimensional Manifolds	203
3.9.2	Tychonov' theorem	204
3.9.3	Functional Calculus	205
3.10	Generalized Eigenstates as Solutions to Constraint Equations	205
3.10.1	Induced Hilbert Space and the New Inner Product	208
3.11	Spacial Diffeomorphism Inner-Product Structure	208
3.11.1	Solving the Diffeomorphism Constraint	208
3.11.2	Non Weak Continuity of Diffeomorphisms in LQG	213
3.11.3	Ergodicity of Spacial Diffeomorphisms	214
3.12	Uniqueness Theorem for the Holonomy-Flux Representation	214
3.12.1	Assumptions of the Uniqueness Theorem	214
3.12.2	Outline of Proof	217
3.12.3	Irreducibility	220
3.12.4	Outline of Proof	221
3.12.5	Alternative Uniqueness Theorem of Fleischhack	227

3.13	Summary:	228
4	Dynamics: The Hamiltonian constraint and Spin foams	229
4.1	Introduction	229
4.2	Dynamics: The Hamiltonian constraint	230
4.3	Regularization of the Hamiltonian Constraint	234
4.4	Details of Thiemann’s Hamiltonian Constraint	237
4.4.1	Quantization of the Regulated Constraint	242
4.4.2	Removal of the Regulator	243
4.5	Concerns About the Hamiltonian Constraint	245
4.5.1	A “Failure to Propagate”?	248
4.5.2	Anomaly-freeness	250
4.5.3	Recovering Poisson bracket between two Hamiltonian constraints	251
4.5.4	Solutions and Physical Inner Product	251
4.5.5	Semi-Classical Limit	253
4.6	Spin Foams	253
4.6.1	Obtaing Physical Solutions with the “Projection” Operator	253
4.6.2	Difficulties with this Spin Foams Model	255
4.7	Simplices in 2,3,4 Dimensions	258
4.7.1	A Crash Course in Simplexes and Complexes	258
4.7.2	Geometry of Simplices	260
4.7.3	The Dual Complex	261
4.8	Barrett-Crane Model	262
4.8.1	The Partition Function	266
4.8.2	Hilbert Space of a Simplex	268
4.8.3	Simple Representations	269
4.8.4	Quantizing a 4-Simplex	274

4.8.5	The Barrett-Crane Model	274
4.8.6	State Sum	274
4.9	Lorentzian Barrett-Crane Model	276
4.10	The Difficulties with Barrett-Crane Type Models	277
4.10.1	Discretization Dependence	277
4.10.2	Boundary State Space	277
4.10.3	Link to Canonical Approach	277
4.11	New Spinfoam Models for Quantum Gravity	277
4.12	EPR	278
4.12.1	Outline of Derivation	279
4.12.2	Area	279
4.13	Freidel, Krasnov	279
4.13.1	New Geometric Interpretation of Simplicity Constraints	279
4.13.2	Coherent States in the Spin Foam Model	283
4.13.3	Coherent States	283
4.13.4	Partition Function	284
4.13.5	Imposing the Simplicity Constraints	285
4.13.6	The Error in the way the Constraints were Imposed in the BC Model	286
4.13.7	The New Model	287
4.13.8	Boundary State Space	287
4.13.9	Cubulations	287
4.14	Linear 2-Cell Spin Foam Models	287
4.14.1	Foams	288
4.15	Group-Field-Theory	288
4.16	Reduced Phase Space Path Integral	289
4.16.1	Introduction	289
4.16.2	Derivation of the Reduced Phase Space Path Integral	291

4.16.3	Canonical Path Integral Measures for Holst and Plebanski Gravity .	295
4.16.4	Corrections to the Measure of the “New Spin Foam Models”	295
4.17	Covariant Loop Quantum Gravity	295
4.18	Canonical Reduced Phase Space Quantization of LQG	295
4.18.1	Introduction	295
4.18.2	Reduced Phase Space Quantization of Some Toy Systems	296
4.18.3	The General Scheme	301
4.18.4	Outline of a Reduced Phase Space Quantization of LQG	306
4.18.5	Physical Hilbert Space	306
4.19	Consistent Discrete Classical and Quantum General Relativity	307
4.19.1	Semi-Discrete Approach	307
4.20	Summary:	308
4.21	Biblioliographical notes	308
5	Physical Applications of LQG: Black Hole Entropy and Loop Quantum Cosmology	309
5.1	Introduction	309
5.2	Thermodynamics of Black holes and Hawking radiation	309
5.3	Hawking Radiation	311
5.4	Laws of Thermodynamics from Statistical Mechanics	312
5.4.1	First Law	314
5.5	Black Hole Statistical Mechanics	315
5.5.1	First Law	316
5.6	Entropy of Black Holes (Isolated Horizons)	317
5.6.1	A new Hint: Quasinormal Modes of Black Holes	323
5.6.2	Entropy of Rotating and Axially-Symmetric Distorted Blackholes (Type II Isolated Horizons)	323
5.7	Black Hole Information Paradox	323

5.7.1	Singularity Avoidance	325
5.8	Black Holes in Full Quantum Gravity	325
5.8.1	Quantum geometry and the Schwarzschild singularity	326
5.9	Strings and Black-Hole Entropy	326
5.10	Quantum Cosmology	327
5.10.1	Classical theory	327
5.10.2	Problems in Classical Cosmology	329
5.10.3	Inflationary Universe	332
5.10.4	Matter Driven Inflation	332
5.10.5	Canonical Quantization	334
5.10.6	Why does the Wheeler-DeWitt Equation fail?	335
5.11	Loop Quantum Cosmology	336
5.11.1	Details of the LQC Hilbert Space Representation	338
5.11.2	On the Reliability of the Results of LQC	341
5.11.3	Inflation from Loop Quantum Cosmology	341
5.12	Path Integral Formulation of Loop Quantum Cosmology	342
5.12.1	Introduction	342
5.12.2	LQC Canonical Theory as a Sum Over Histories	343
5.12.3	Vertex expansion: Reorganising the sum over histories	344
5.12.4	Derivation of Path Integral from the Canonical Theory	345
5.12.5	Configuration Path Integral's Connection to Spin Foams	348
5.12.6	Singularity Resolution	348
5.13	Disordered Locality: A Possible Origin for Dark Energy and the Value of the Cosmological Constant	348
5.13.1	Introduction	348
5.13.2	Notions and Hypothesis	349
5.13.3	Disordered FRW Cosmology	350

5.13.4	Energetics of Non-Local Interactions	351
5.13.5	The Evolution of $N_{NL}(a)$ in a Simply Model of LQG	353
5.13.6	Conclusion	355
5.14	Problems with Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics Applied to Quantum Cosmology	355
5.14.1	The Problem	355
5.14.2	Many Worlds Interpretation	355
5.14.3	Consistent Histories Interpretation	355
5.14.4	Problems with the Consistent Histories Interpretation	356
5.15	Relational Quantum Cosmology	356
5.15.1	Relational Quantum Cosmology a la Smolin	356
5.15.2	Rovelli's Relation Quantum Mechanics	357
5.15.3	Causal sets	358
5.15.4	Discrete Quantum Gravity Applied to Cosmology	358
5.16	Summary	360
6	The Master Constraint Programme and an Improved Understanding of the Dynamics	361
6.1	Introduction	361
6.1.1	The Master Constraint	361
6.2	The Master Constraint Programme versus the Hamiltonian Constraint Pro- gramme for GR.	366
6.3	Quantization of the Master Constraint Operator for GR.	372
6.3.1	Spatially Diffeomorphism Invariant Operators on \mathcal{H}_{Kin}	374
6.3.2	Diffeomorphism Invariant Hilbert Space	376
6.3.3	Regularization and Quantization of the Master Constraint	376
6.3.4	Non Graph Changing (Extended) Master Constraint	376
6.3.5	Brief Note on the Volume Operator	378

6.4	Spectral Decomposition	379
6.5	Rigged Hilbert Space and Direct Integral Decomposition	382
6.6	Symmetric Operators and their Extensions	382
6.7	Weak Dirac Observables <i>a la</i> Dittrich	383
6.7.1	Equivalent Hamiltonians that are Spatially Diffeomorphism Invariant	383
6.8	Spin Foams From the Master Constraint	384
6.8.1	Removal of Difficulties of the Sum over Histories	384
6.9	Summary:	386
6.9.1	Problems	386
6.9.2	The Master Constraint	386
6.9.3	MCP: Physical Hilbert Space	387
6.9.4	Recipe for \mathcal{H}_{phys}	387
6.9.5	Uniqueness	388
6.9.6	Example: Abelian Constraints	388
6.9.7	Observables	389
6.9.8	Examples	389
6.9.9	Conclusions and Outlook	390
6.10	Biblioliographical notes	390
7	Semi-Classical Limit	391
7.1	Introduction	391
7.1.1	Properties of Semi-Classical States	393
7.1.2	The problem with establishing the semiclassical limit of LQG has to do with the quantum dynamics:	394
7.2	Some of the Schemes	394
7.3	Semi-Classical Limit	397
7.4	Semi-Classical Limit of Completely Constrained Systems	397

7.5	Coherent States	400
7.5.1	Reminder of Coherent States	400
7.5.2	Quantum Gravity Coherent states	403
7.5.3	The Complexifier Approach	404
7.5.4	$U(1)$ Coherent states	408
7.5.5	$SU(2)$ Coherent states	410
7.5.6	Gauge-invariant Coherent states for LQG	411
7.6	Relating Loop Representation to Fock-Space Description in the Low Energy Limit.	412
7.6.1	Polymer representation of Maxwell's Field	412
7.7	Minkowskian Spacetime and Scattering Amplitudes	415
7.7.1	Quantum states Representing Minkowskian Spacetime	415
7.7.2	Scattering Amplitudes	416
7.8	Semiclassicality from Spin Foams	417
7.9	The Infinite Tensor Product Extension	417
7.9.1	Von Neumann's Infinite Tensor Product (ITP)	418
7.10	Noiseless Subsystems and Quantum Gravity	424
7.10.1	Quantum Evolution of an Open System	424
7.10.2	Propagating Modes and the Interaction Commutant	427
7.10.3	Example of a NS: The Schwarzschild Black Hole in LQG	428
7.11	Emergent Coherent Excitations as Noiseless Subsystems	430
7.12	Semi-Classical Limit in Constitent Discrete Quantum Gravity	431
8	Extending Standard Quantum Mechanics for Background Independent Theories	432
8.1	Introduction	432
8.2	The Problem of Time	433
8.3	Rovelli's Formulation of Classical Mechanics	433

8.4	Covariant Quantum Mechanics	434
8.4.1	States and Observables	434
8.4.2	Spacetime States	434
8.4.3	Review of General Relativistic Classical Mechanics	436
8.4.4	Conditional Probability Interpretation	437
8.4.5	Time of Arrival in Quantum Mechanics	437
8.5	Boundary Hilbert Space	437
8.5.1	General Relativistic Quantum Mechanics	438
8.5.2	Single Event Probability	438
8.6	Multiple-Event Probability	439
8.6.1	Multiple-Event Probability	440
8.6.2	Multi-event probability from the coupling of an apparatus	443
8.6.3	Multi-event probability from the single-event one in nonrelativistic QM	444
8.6.4	The Problem of the “Frozen-time” Formalism	445
8.6.5	Future Developments of Multiple-Event Probabilities	446
8.7	General Boundaries Formulation	446
8.7.1	Preparation - Measurement	447
8.7.2	Basic Idea	447
8.7.3	Basic structures	447
8.8	The Vacuum State	449
8.8.1	The Vacuum State	450
8.9	Emergence of Temporal Phenomena	452
8.9.1	Gibb’s distribution	453
8.10	Consistent Discretization of Classical and Quantum Gravity	453
8.10.1	The problem of Time:	454

8.10.2	Realistic clocks, universal decoherence and the black hole information paradox	455
8.10.3	Quantum Cosmology:	456
8.11	Bearing of Matters of Quantum Gravity on Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics	456
9	Towards Background-Independent Scattering Amplitudes	457
9.1	Introduction	457
9.2	Difficulties in Formulating Scattering Amplitudes for BI Theories	458
9.2.1	Preparation - Measurement	459
9.3	Conventional Scattering Theory	460
9.3.1	The Propagator in Conventional Scattering Theory	460
9.3.2	Conventional Scattering Theory in Quantum Field Theory	462
9.4	Primer on the Graviton Propagator	463
9.4.1	Perturbation Theory of Scalar QED	463
9.4.2	Gravitons	464
9.4.3	Newton's Law from the Graviton Propagator	466
9.4.4	Physics From Spinfoam Kernel	468
9.5	Background-Independent Strategy	468
9.6	Elementary Quantum Mechanics for Comparison Purposes	471
9.6.1	Covariant Interpretation	475
9.6.2	Regarding Phases of the Boundary State and of the Propagator	475
9.7	Geometry of a 3-Simplex and a 4-Simplex	477
9.7.1	3-Simplex	477
9.7.2	4-Simplex	477
9.8	Quantum Gravity - The Four Ingredients	477
9.8.1	Space of 3d Fields	478
9.8.2	The Boundary Propagator $W[\varphi]$ from Group-Field-Theory	478

9.8.3	The Boundary State $\Psi_q[\varphi]$	480
9.8.4	Definition of the Field Operator $\varphi(x)$	480
9.8.5	Bringing it Together	484
9.9	The Complete LQG Graviton Propagator	484
9.9.1	Problems with the Non-diagonal Matrix Elements of the Propagator	484
9.9.2	Graviton Propagator from the New Spin Foam Model	485
9.10	Which is more Fundamental: Particles or Quantum Fields	485
9.10.1	QFT Notion of a Particle in a Background-Independent Context . .	486
9.10.2	Normal Modes and Global Particles	487
9.10.3	Local Particles	487
9.10.4	Open Issues	487
9.10.5	Inclusion of Matter - The Standard Model	488
9.10.6	Conclusion	488
9.11	3d “Nutshell” Model	488
9.12	Scattering Amplitudes from the Master Constraint Programme	488
9.13	Bibliographical notes	488
9.14	Worked Exercises	489
A	Physics Glossary	491
B	Mathematics Glossary	597
C	Basic Mathematics	693
C.1	Introduction	693
C.1.1	Summary of Tensor Calculus	693
C.1.2	Linear operators and Matrices	693
C.2	Group Theory	694
C.2.1	Examples of Groups	695

C.2.2	Unitary Representations of Groups	700
C.2.3	Schur's First Lemma	701
C.2.4	Schur's Second Lemma	703
C.2.5	Orthogonality relations	705
C.2.6	The Characters of a Representation	707
C.2.7	Direct Products	708
C.3	Continuous Groups, Lie Groups and Lie algebras	710
C.3.1	Infinitesimal Generating Technique	710
C.3.2	General Structure of Lie Groups	714
C.3.3	Rotations $SO(3)$ and $SU(2)$	715
C.3.4	Spin Direct Products	717
C.3.5	Direct Products and Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients	724
C.3.6	Recoupling Theory	727
C.3.7	$SO(3,1)$ and $SL(2,C)$	727
C.3.8	$SO(4)$	729
C.3.9	Conformal Group	730
C.3.10	Group Integration: The Haar Measure	731
C.3.11	Peter-Weyl theorem	736
C.3.12	Analogies	738
C.3.13	Clebsch-Gordan	740
C.3.14	Semi-direct Products	741
C.4	Infinite-Dimensional Group Representations	745
C.4.1	Group Actions	745
C.4.2	Countable and Locally Compact Topological Groups	745
C.4.3	Haar Measure	746
C.4.4	Summary of Group theory	746
C.5	Manifolds and Elementary Topology	747

C.5.1	Sets and Mappings Between Sets	747
C.5.2	Continuity	748
C.6	Elementary Tensor Analysis	750
C.6.1	Affine Connection	753
C.6.2	Affine Geodesic	754
C.6.3	The Metric Connection	755
C.6.4	Curvature	758
C.6.5	Gaussian Normal Coordinates	760
C.6.6	Bianchi Identities	761
C.6.7	Conformal Tensor, Ricci tensor and Ricci Scalar	762
C.6.8	The Weyl Tensor	762
C.6.9	Index Free Formulism	762
C.7	Differential Geometry	765
C.7.1	Tangent Vectors	766
C.7.2	Covectors	768
C.7.3	Induced Metric and Other Objects on Sub-manifolds	769
C.8	Active Diffeomorphisms and the Lie Derivative	771
C.8.1	Mapping a Manifold to Itself Along Integral Curves	773
C.8.2	The Lie Derivative	774
C.8.3	Pull-back and Lie Derivative of a co-vector	782
C.8.4	More on Lie Derivative	783
C.8.5	Isometries and Killing Vector Fields	784
C.8.6	Conserved Quantities	786
C.8.7	Adapted Coordinates	787
C.8.8	Properties of Killing Fields	788
C.8.9	Diffeomorphism Gauge Group - Symmetry of GR Under Active Diffeomorphisms	788

C.9	Frame Fields	789
C.10	The Spin Connection	790
	C.10.1 Curvature Associated with the Spin Connection.	792
	C.10.2 Cartan Structure Equations	793
	C.10.3 A Differential Geometry Translator	794
C.11	More on Lie groups	796
	C.11.1 Discrete Groups	798
	C.11.2 Universal Covering Group	799
	C.11.3 Decomposition of a Lie Group into Abelian and Non-Abelian Parts	799
C.12	Group Actions on Sets	801
	C.12.1 Transitive Actions	803
	C.12.2 Faithful Actions	804
	C.12.3 Free Actions	804
	C.12.4 Introduction to Gauge Invariance of the Yang-Mills Equations	804
C.13	Principle Bundles and Connections	808
C.14	Fibre Bundles	810
	C.14.1 The Structure Group of a Bundle	815
	C.14.2 Frame Bundle	816
	C.14.3 The Idea of a Principal Bundle	816
	C.14.4 Principal Bundle	818
	C.14.5 Action of the structure Group on a Principal Bundle	818
	C.14.6 Connections on Principal Bundles	818
	C.14.7 Gauge Fields	822
	C.14.8 Parallel Transport in a Principal Bundle	829
	C.14.9 Curvature on a Principal Bundle	829
	C.14.10 Extension and Reduction of Principal Bundles	830
	C.14.11 The Complex Line Bundle	832

C.15 Summary of Differential Geometry	832
C.16 Some Algebraic Geomerty	833
C.16.1 Homology	833
C.16.2 De’Rham Cohomology	836
C.16.3 Cohomology and Homology	841
C.16.4 Homotopy	844
C.16.5 Homeomorphisms	847
C.17 Summary	847
C.18 Biblioliographical notes	848
C.19 Worked Exercises and Details	848
C.19.1 Dynamical and Non-Dynamical Symmetries	849
D Yang-Mills and Gauge Theory	853
D.1 Summary	853
D.2 Maxwell Equations and Gauge Theory	854
D.2.1 Gauge Symmetry	854
D.2.2 Simple example	855
D.2.3 Gauge Constraints	857
D.2.4 Gauge Fixing in Electrodynamics	858
D.2.5 Gauge Invariance Noether	860
D.3 Canonical Formulation of Yang-Mills	861
D.3.1 The Geometry of Gauge Invariance - Gauge Field as a Connection .	863
D.4 Summary of Yang Mills	864
D.5 Propagation Kernel Yang-Mills	866
D.5.1 n Uncoupled Harmonic Oscillators	870
D.6 Propagation Kernel in General Relativity	873
D.6.1 Gauge-Fixing	874

D.6.2	The Disappearance of Time	875
D.6.3	Linearized Theory	875
D.6.4	Ground-State and Graviton States	876
D.6.5	Newton Potential from the Propagation Kernel	876
D.7	Holonomies	876
D.8	Topological Field Theories	879
D.8.1	$U(1)$ Chern-Simons theory	880
D.8.2	Canonical Structure	880
D.8.3	Chern-Simons with Magnetic Flux Lines	882
D.8.4	$SU(2)$ Chern-Simons theory	883
D.8.5	The Quantum Hall Effect	887
D.9	How to Quantize 2+1 Gravity and Solve it Exactly <i>a la</i> Witten	888
D.9.1	Gauge transformations	893
D.9.2	Cosmological Constant	895
D.10	Witten and Link Polynomials	896
D.10.1	Knot and Link Polynomials	896
D.10.2	Link Invariants from Chern-Simons Field Theory	899
D.10.3	Witten On the Jones Polynomial	899
D.10.4	Dehn Surgery	902
D.10.5	Chern-Simons Theory on a Torus	904
D.10.6	Chern-Simons Quantum Field Theory and Dehn Surgery	904
D.10.7	Three-Manifold Invariants	904
D.11	BF-Theory	905
D.12	Characteristic Classes	907
D.13	Bibliographical notes	908
D.14	Worked Exercises	908

E	Covariant Classical and Quantum Mechanins	914
E.1	Relativistic Mechanics	914
E.2	Schrödinger Representation of Field Theory	915
E.3	General Boundary Formulation	916
E.3.1	Surfaces and Surface Derivatives	916
E.4	Relation to the Vacuum State	918
E.5	Hadamard	918
E.6	Conditional Probabilities	918
E.6.1	Dolby	919
E.7	Gravitational Statistical Mechanics	920
E.8	Worked Exercises and Details	921
F	Spin Networks	924
F.1	Diagrammatic Mathematics	924
F.1.1	Line, Bend ad Loop	924
F.1.2	Symmetrizing Products of Delta Functions	926
F.1.3	Jones-Wenzl Projectors	927
F.1.4	Contractions of Symmetrised Lines	930
F.1.5	3-Vertices	933
F.1.6	Angular Momentum Representation	935
F.1.7	Recoupling Theory: Combinatorics of Angular Momentum	940
F.1.8	Loop states and the spin network states	940
F.1.9	Summary of binary calculus and recoupling theory	941
F.1.10	The Spectrum of the Area Operator	943
F.1.11	The Spectrum of the Volume Operator	949
F.1.12	Reidermeister Moves	951
F.1.13	Kauffman Bracket	951

F.1.14	The Braid Group B_N	952
F.1.15	Temperley-Lieb Algebra	953
F.1.16	The twist move	957
F.1.17	q-deformed Recoupling Theory	957
F.1.18	Jones Polynomial	958
F.2	Spatially Diffeomorphism Invariant Space	958
F.3	Summary	958
F.4	Bibliographical notes	958
F.5	Worked Exercises and Details	958
G	Black Hole Entropy	960
G.1	Review of Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	960
G.2	Statistical Mechanics of Black Holes	961
G.2.1	Isolated Horizons: the Classical Phase Space	961
G.3	Quantum Geometry and Black Hole Entropy	965
G.3.1	Classical Phase Space	966
G.3.2	Symplectic Structure	967
G.3.3	Quantization Strategy	968
G.3.4	Bulk States	969
G.3.5	Geometric Interpretation of Bulk States	970
G.3.6	Surface States	971
G.3.7	Geometric Quantisation of Surface Degree's of Freedom	974
G.3.8	Geometric Interpretation of Surface States	974
G.3.9	Surface and Bulk	975
G.3.10	Entropy Calculation	976
G.4	Maths	977
G.5	Entropy of Rotating and Axisymmetric Distorted Black Holes	978

G.5.1	Quasi-normal Modes of Black Hole	979
G.6	Quantum Black Holes	979
G.7	Biblioliographical notes	979
G.7.1	Review of Chomology Group of Spherical Horizon	979
H	Loop Quantum Cosmology	980
H.1	Introduction	980
H.2	Quantum Cosmology	980
H.2.1	Classical theory	980
H.2.2	Minsuperspace	981
H.2.3	Mathematical Excurtion: Symmetry	982
H.2.4	Symmetries and Backgrounds	983
H.2.5	Loop Quantum Cosmology	983
H.2.6	Continuum Limit	988
H.2.7	Inflation from Loop Quantum Cosmology	988
H.3	Quantum Configuration Space of LQC	988
H.3.1	Review of the Schrodinger Representation	988
H.3.2	Polymer Representation	991
H.3.3	Quantum Configuration Space as a Compact Group	993
H.3.4	Projective Aspects	995
H.3.5	C^* -algebra Aspects	995
H.3.6	The Schrodinger Representation	996
H.4	Path Integral	1000
H.4.1	Eigenstates of Θ	1004
H.4.2	Matrix Elements for $f(\Theta)$	1010
H.5	Summary	1010

I	Functional Analysis	1012
I.1	Introduction	1012
I.2	Finite Dimensional Vector Spaces	1013
I.2.1	Linear Operator and Functionals on Finite Dimensional Spaces . . .	1013
I.3	Finite Hilbert Space.	1015
I.3.1	The Hamilton-Cayley Theorem.	1015
I.3.2	Functional Calculus for Finite Dimension Vector Spaces	1015
I.3.3	Decomposition of an N-Dimensional Space.	1018
I.3.4	Complications in Infinite Dimensional Spaces	1019
I.3.5	Cauchy Sequences	1020
I.3.6	Functions on Metric Spaces	1023
I.3.7	Topologies	1024
I.4	Function Spaces.	1024
I.4.1	Normed Spaces and Banach Spaces	1024
I.4.2	Completion of a metric space	1029
I.4.3	Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert spaces	1035
I.4.4	Linear Functionals	1037
I.4.5	Complete Orthonormal Systems of Vectors in \mathcal{H}	1038
I.4.6	Projection Operators	1041
I.5	Distributions (or Generalized Functions)	1048
I.5.1	Introduction	1048
I.5.2	Mathematical Formulism of Quantum Mechanics	1048
I.5.3	Gel'fand triple	1056
I.6	Linear Operators	1056
I.6.1	Mappings	1057
I.6.2	Bounded Operators	1060
I.7	Three Main Theorems in Functional Analysis	1061

I.7.1	Uniform Boundedness Theorem	1061
I.7.2	The Open Mapping Theorem	1061
I.7.3	The Hahn-Banach Theorem	1061
I.7.4	Adjoint of Bounded Operators	1066
I.7.5	Unbounded Operators	1069
I.7.6	Operators of Finite Rank	1074
I.7.7	Square Roots of a Positive operator	1075
I.7.8	Polar decomposition	1081
I.7.9	Compact Operators	1082
I.7.10	Hilbert-Schmidt operators	1099
I.7.11	Trace Class Operators	1102
I.8	Convergence of Sequences of Operators and Functionals	1106
I.9	More Topology	1108
I.9.1	Basis and Subbasis for a Topology	1108
I.9.2	Hausdorff Spaces	1109
I.9.3	Urysohn's Lemma	1112
I.9.4	Products of Topological Spaces	1115
I.9.5	Tychonov's Theorem	1117
I.10	Nets	1121
I.10.1	Net Convergence and Closure	1124
I.10.2	Nets and Compactness	1126
I.10.3	Universal Nets	1130
I.10.4	Proof of Tychonov's Theorem Using Nets	1133
I.10.5	Quotient Topologies	1133
I.10.6	Limit Spaces	1136
I.10.7	Locally Convex Spaces	1138
I.11	Stone-Weierstrass Theorem	1143

I.11.1	Weierstrass Approximation Theorem	1143
I.11.2	Stone-Weierstrass Theorem	1146
I.12	Introduction to Measure Theory and Lebesgue Integration	1150
I.13	Measure	1151
I.13.1	Null Sets	1151
I.13.2	Outer Measure	1151
I.13.3	Lebesgue-Measure	1151
I.14	Intregation	1154
I.14.1	Measures and Measure Spaces	1157
I.14.2	Measurable functions	1161
I.15	Main Results of Integration Theory	1162
I.15.1	Dominating Convergence	1162
I.15.2	Fubini	1163
I.15.3	Radon-Nikodym	1164
I.15.4	Riesz Representation	1167
I.16	Spectral Decomposition of Infinite-Dimensional Spaces	1167
I.16.1	Spectral Integrals	1170
I.16.2	Spectral Measure	1171
I.17	Measure Theory on Compact Spaces	1173
I.17.1	Spectral Theorem for Bounded Self-Adjoint Operators	1174
I.18	Extensions of Unbounded Operartors	1175
I.18.1	Semi-bounded Operators	1175
I.18.2	Closure	1176
I.18.3	Properties of Symmetric Operators	1188
I.18.4	Deficiency Indices and Self-adjoint Closed Extensions	1189
I.18.5	The Friedrichs Extension	1198
I.18.6	Quadratic Forms	1203

I.19	Semianalytic Theory	1207
I.19.1	Introduction	1207
I.19.2	Semianalytic Functions in \mathbb{R}^n	1208
I.19.3	Morphisms of Semianalytic Functions	1212
I.19.4	Semianalytic Manifolds and Submanifolds	1215
I.19.5	Local Character of Semianalytic Structures	1218
I.20	Limits of Families of Measurable Spaces	1220
I.20.1	Hopf Theorem	1220
I.21	Regular Borel Measures on the Projective Limit: The Uniform Measure . .	1223
I.22	Almost Periodic Functions and Bohr Compactification	1224
I.22.1	Bohr Compactification	1225
I.22.2	Characters and the Dual Group	1226
I.23	Introduction to Ergodic Theory	1226
I.23.1	Motivation	1226
I.23.2	Introduction	1226
I.23.3	An Ergodic Theorem	1228
I.24	The Infinite Tensor Product	1230
I.24.1	Infinite Products of Complex Numbers	1233
I.24.2	C -vectors of the ITP	1244
I.24.3	Strong Equivalence Classes	1246
I.24.4	ITP Hilbert Space	1251
I.24.5	Non-Associativity of ITPs	1253
I.24.6	Von-Neumann Algebras on ITPs	1254
I.25	Bibliographical notes	1258
I.26	Worked Exercises and Details	1258

J	Quantization Schemes	1262
J.1	Introduction	1262
J.2	Algebraic Quantum Theory	1262
J.2.1	The Harmonic Oscillator	1263
J.2.2	Abstract Formalism	1267
J.2.3	GNS (Gel'fand, Naimark, Segal)	1269
J.2.4	Null Ideals of the Algebra	1272
J.2.5	Algebra Automorphisms: Time evolution and Symmetries	1273
J.2.6	Summary	1273
J.2.7	Modifications for $*$ -algebras	1276
J.3	Stone-Von Neumann Theorem	1276
J.3.1	Proof of the Stone-von Neumann Theorem	1278
J.3.2	Superselection Sectors	1292
J.3.3	Existence of Representations	1295
J.3.4	Construction of Representations	1295
J.4	Gel'fand-Neumark Theorem	1295
J.5	Gel'fand Theory for Abelian C^* Algebras	1297
J.6	Details of the Gel'fand-Neumark Theorem	1297
J.6.1	Review of what we Wish to Establish	1298
J.6.2	Properties of the Spectrum of Operators	1298
J.6.3	Functional Calculus	1301
J.6.4	Null Ideals	1302
J.6.5	The Gel'fand-Mazur Theorem	1306
J.6.6	Gel'fand Topology	1312
J.6.7	The Gel'fand Transformation	1313
J.7	Spectral Theorem and GNS-Construction	1316
J.7.1	Bits and Pieces	1319

J.7.2	Extension of Spectral Theorem to Unbounded Operators	1321
J.8	*Further Details on Algebraic Quantization	1321
J.9	Examples: Shrödinger and Weyl-Representations	1321
J.10	Uniqueness Proof of the Ashtekar-Lewandowski-Isham Representation . . .	1322
J.10.1	Uniqueness	1322
J.10.2	Irreducibility	1322
J.11	Algebraic Quantum Field Theory	1322
J.11.1	Wightman Axioms	1323
J.11.2	Haag-Kastler Axioms	1324
J.12	Constructive Quantum Field Theory	1325
J.13	Algebraic Quantization	1325
J.14	von Neumann Algebras	1325
J.14.1	Introduction	1325
J.14.2	The Emergence of Time	1326
J.14.3	von Neumann Algebras	1328
J.14.4	von Neumann's Density Theorem	1329
J.14.5	Tomita-Takesaki Theorem	1334
J.14.6	The Statistical State of the Universe	1336
J.15	Fock-Bargmann Representation	1336
J.15.1	Weierstrass M-test	1338
J.15.2	From the Space of Normalizable Functions to the Space of Entire Analytic Functions	1341
J.15.3	The Segal-Bargmann-Hall Transformation	1347
J.15.4	The Ground-State Representation	1348
J.16	Geometric Quantization	1348
J.16.1	Pedestrian Overview	1348
J.16.2	Complex, Hermitian and Kähler Manifolds	1356

J.16.3	Mathematics Details of Geometric Quantization	1365
J.16.4	Integrability Condition	1379
J.16.5	Polarisation	1380
J.16.6	Quantisation	1394
J.17	Non-Commutative Field Theories and Thier Relation to Quantum Geometry	1395
J.18	Summary	1395
J.18.1	Algebraic quantum mechanics	1395
J.18.2	Algebraic quantum field theory	1395
J.18.3	Geometric quantization	1396
J.19	Biblioliographical notes	1396
J.20	Worked Exercises and Details	1396
K	The Loop Representation	1409
K.1	Loop Representation	1409
K.2	Algebraic Quantization of Loop Representation	1410
K.2.1	Loop Algebra for $U(1)$	1411
K.2.2	Mathematical Description	1411
K.2.3	Loops of Connections	1413
K.2.4	Differentiability Classes of Manifolds and Loops	1416
K.2.5	Loop Space	1416
K.2.6	Regularization of Holonomies	1416
K.2.7	Classical Loop Algebra	1417
K.2.8	Holonomy-Flux $*$ -Algebra	1417
K.2.9	Quantization of Loop Algebra	1418
K.3	Spinor Network States	1419
K.3.1	Spinor Network Decomposition of Kinematic Hilbert Space	1420
K.4	Cylindrical Measure Theory	1420

K.4.1	Probability Densities	1423
K.4.2	Bochner-Minlos Theorems	1426
K.4.3	Proof of Bochner's Theorem	1430
K.4.4	Generalization to Infinite Dimensional Spaces: Bochner-Minlos Theorem	1431
K.4.5	Background Independent Quantization of Linear Scalar Field Theory	1432
K.5	The Space of Distributional Connections for Diffeomorphism Invariant Quantum Gauge Theories	1436
K.5.1	Introduction	1436
K.5.2	The Label Set: Piecewise Analytic Paths	1438
K.5.3	The Topology: Tychonov Topology	1439
K.6	The C^* Algebraic Viewpoint	1443
K.6.1	The spaces \overline{X}/G and $\overline{X/G}$ are Homeomorphic	1448
K.7	Regular Borel Measures on the Projective Limit: The Uniform Measure . .	1448
K.8	Operators	1448
K.9	Functional Calculus on a Projective Limit	1449
K.10	Density and Support Properties of $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}$ with respect to $\overline{\mathcal{A}}, \overline{\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}}$	1449
K.11	Uniqueness Theorem for the Ashtekar-Lewandowski Representation	1450
K.11.1	Flux Operators	1452
K.11.2	Algebra of Cylindrical Functions and Space of Generalised Connections	1453
K.11.3	Generalized Vector Fields Tangent to $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$	1454
K.11.4	The Quantum $*$ -algebra	1455
K.11.5	Symmetries of \mathfrak{A}	1455
K.11.6	Implementation of Piecewise Analytic Diffeomorphisms on \mathcal{H}_{kin} . .	1455
K.11.7	Proof	1457
K.12	Irreducibility of the Ashtekar-Lewandowski Representation	1472
K.12.1	Fleischhack	1482

K.12.2 Properties of the Kinematic Hilbert Space	1483
K.13 Grassmann Integration	1483
K.13.1 Grassmann generating Functional	1487
K.14 Bibliographical notes	1488
K.15 Worked Exercises and Details	1488
L Hamiltonian Constraint	1495
L.1 Solving Quantum Constraint Equations	1495
L.2 Projection Operator	1495
L.3 Rigged Hilbert Space	1497
L.3.1 Inadequancies of Hilbert Space.	1497
L.3.2 Introduction to Generalized Eigenfunctions and the RHS.	1500
L.3.3 Projector Technique with a Rigged Hilbert Space	1502
L.4 Group-averaging	1503
L.4.1 The Rigging Map	1504
L.4.2 More on RAQ: Open Algebras	1508
L.5 The Direct Integral Decomposition of the Hilbert Space	1509
L.5.1 The Direct Integral Decomposition Theorem	1510
L.5.2 Comparing the RAQ and DID Programmes	1513
L.6 Anomaly-freeness	1513
L.7 Quantum Dirac Algebra	1513
L.8 Quantization Ambiguity	1513
L.9 Constructing the Solution's	1514
L.10 The Generalized Wick Transformation	1515
L.11 Inclusion of Matter	1515
L.11.1 The "habitat" of functions	1516
L.12 Analysis of the Volume Operator	1517

L.13 Non-Hermitian Hamiltonian in the Rovelli-Reisenberg Spin Foam	1518
L.13.1 Spin Foam	1519
L.14 Spacially Diffeomorphism Invariant Hamiltonian Constraints	1519
L.15 Biblioliographical notes	1519
L.16 Worked Exercies and Details	1520
M Spin Foams and Physical Observables.	1521
M.1 Spin Foam	1521
M.1.1 Spin Foam From Projector Technique Applied To the Hamiltonian Constraint	1521
M.1.2 State Sum	1522
M.2 Barrett-Crane Model	1522
M.2.1 Lattice BF-Theory	1523
M.2.2 Spin Foam BF Theory	1525
M.3 State Sums in 3-d Gravity	1525
M.3.1 Regge Calculus	1525
M.3.2 Ponzano-Regge-Turaev-Viro (PRTV)	1525
M.4 10j symbols	1528
M.5 4D State Sum	1528
M.6 Group Field Theory for 2D Gravity	1529
M.7 GFT Dual to State Sums	1532
M.7.1 TOCY model as a QFT over a group manifold	1532
M.7.2 Mode Expansion	1535
M.7.3 S^3 Spherical Functions	1537
M.7.4 $SO(4)$ Barrett-Crane Model	1537
M.7.5 Simplicity Constraints for 4-Simplicies	1541
M.7.6 Self-dual structure of $SO(4)$	1541

M.8	Coherent State Formulation of New BC Models	1542
M.8.1	New Geometric Criterion	1542
M.8.2	Coherent States	1542
M.8.3	Partition Function	1544
M.9	Perturbation Theory	1544
M.9.1	Diagrammatic Perturbation Theory	1544
M.9.2	The Generating Functional of Connected Diagrams	1548
M.9.3	1PI n-point functions	1550
M.9.4	Rernormalization	1550
M.10	Coupling Matter to Spin Foams	1551
M.11	Background-Independent Renormalization	1551
M.11.1	Background-Independent Renormalization a la Markopoulou	1551
M.11.2	Background-Independent Renormalization a la Oeckl	1555
M.12	Reduced Phase Space Path-Integral	1555
M.13	Operator Constraint Quantisation Path-Integral	1555
M.14	Biblioliographical notes	1558
M.15	Worked Exercies and Details	1558
N	The Master Constraint	1570
N.1	Weak Dirac Observables	1570
N.2	Regularization of the Master Constraint	1571
N.3	Quantizing the Master Constraint	1572
N.4	Testing the Master Constraint on Toy Models	1572
N.5	Functional Analytic Issues of the Master Constraint	1575
N.5.1	Closure	1575
N.6	The Associated Master Constraint Operator	1576
N.6.1	Master Constraint from Quadratic form	1576

N.6.2	General Considerations	1577
N.6.3	Semi-Groups	1578
N.7	Integral Decomposition and the Master Constraint.	1579
N.7.1	Dirac observables	1580
N.7.2	Direct Integral Decomposition and Rigging Maps	1581
N.8	Toy Model III Free Field Theory: Maxwell Theory	1583
N.8.1	Free Field Theories	1583
N.8.2	Recap of Standard Canonical Quantization of Maxwell Theory . . .	1583
N.8.3	Master constraint	1584
N.8.4	Physical Hilbert Space	1587
N.9	Master Constraint for Gravity	1587
N.10	Worked Exercises	1589
N.10.1	Toy Models	1589
N.10.2	Functional Analysis Issues	1589
O	The Semi-Classical Limit	1609
O.1	Introduction	1609
O.2	Quantum Mechanics: Schrödinger vs. Polymer particle	1609
O.2.1	Weyl representation as Apposed to the Schrödinger representation .	1609
O.3	Varadarajan's Polymer Version of Maxwell's Theory	1613
O.4	Coherent States	1614
O.5	Coherent States of LQG	1616
O.6	Coherent States of Compact Groups	1616
O.6.1	Coherent States of $U(1)$	1617
O.6.2	Coherent States of $SU(2)$	1620
O.6.3	Expectation Values and Variation Properties of $U(1)$ and $SU(2)$ Coherent States	1621

O.7	Wigner Function	1622
O.8	Noiseless Subsystems and Quantum Gravity	1623
O.8.1	Propagating Modes vs Background Independence	1623
O.8.2	NS and Locality - Microscopic vs Macroscopic Locality	1623
O.8.3	Outlook	1624
O.9	The Standard Model from Loop Quantum Gravity?	1625
O.10	Summary	1625
O.11	Bibliographical notes	1625
O.12	Worked Exercises and Details	1626
P	Consistent Discrete Classical and Quantum General relativity	1639
P.1	Introduction	1639
P.1.1	“Dirac’s” canonical approach to general discrete systems	1642
P.1.2	Canonical discrete quantization of general relativity	1643
P.1.3	Discrete Quantum Gravity Applied to Cosmology	1644
P.2	Semi-Discrete Approach	1647
P.3	Bibliographical notes	1648
P.4	Worked Exercises and Details	1648
Q	Quantum Gravity Phenomenology	1649
Q.1	Gamma ray bursts	1649
Q.2	Bose-Einstein Experiment of Quantum Gravity Decoherence	1650
Q.3	Nonlinearities may be Observable in the Next Generation of Molecular Interferometry Experiments	1650
Q.4	Spectrum of Fluctuations in Singularity-free Inflation	1650
Q.5	Formation and Evolution of Structure in Loop Cosmology	1650
Q.6	Physical effects of the Immirzi parameter	1651

List of Figures

1.1	Rubbersheet simulation of geodesic motion in special relativity.	78
1.2	rubbersheet. It doesnot matter that the coordinates are time-dependent - it still serves as a physical reference system.	78
1.3	Passive spatial diffeomorphism $f : M \rightarrow M$ refers to invariance under change of coordinates. The same object in a different coordinate system. Any theory of nature is invariant under passive diffeomorphisms.	85
1.4	An active diffeomorphism $f : M \rightarrow M$ drags fields on the manifold while remaining in the same coordinate system. f is viewed as a map that associates one point in the manifold to another one.	85
1.5	The value of $\tilde{\phi}(P)$ at P is equated to the value of $\phi(P_0)$ at P_0 , i.e. $\tilde{\phi}(P) = \phi(P_0)$. Under this transformation f we indentify one point of the manifold P_0 to another point P $f : P_0 \rightarrow P$	86
1.6	The value of the metric function \tilde{g}_{ab} at P is defined by the value of the metric function g_{ab} at P_0 , i.e. $\tilde{g}_{ab}(P) = g_{ab}(P_0)$. We go to a new coordinate system which assigns P the same coordinate values that P_0 has in the x-coordinates, so that $\tilde{g}_{ab}(y_1 = u_1, y_1 = u_2) = g_{ab}(x_1 = u_1, x_1 = u_2)$, compare to (1.28).	87
1.7	(a) An active diffeomorphism in which we indentify one point of the manifold to another point. (b) We then go to a coordinate system that assigns the newly identified points the original coordinate values.	88
1.8	(a) An active diffeomorphism in which we actively drag the tensor function over the, in doing so indentify one point of the manifold to another. (b) We then go to a coordinate system which assigns the newly identified points their original coordinate values. That is to say - we carry the tensor function over the manifold, keeping the coordinate lines ‘attached’.	89
1.9	Einstein’s hole argument.	89
1.10	Resolution of Einstein’s hole argument.	90

1.11	Illustration of smearing. operator valued distributions.	96
1.12	Regime where gravity is very strong so that the non-perturbative and back-ground independence of GR must be taken into account. That spacetime points have no independent physical reality casts doubt on the hand-wavy argument I gave above.	97
1.13	Labortary walls exemplify Newton’s absolute space and the clock absolute time. We can define positions relative to the wall.	97
1.14	GPS.	99
1.15	GPS3D A spacetime point in Minkoski spacetime can be expressed as a relation amogst 4? measurable variables. This definition of spacetime location retains meaning in the jump to GR.	100
1.16	clock time.	101
1.17	. . . . .	101
1.18	measLocation.	102
1.19	measVelocity.	102
1.20	partialobs. τ is an unphysical parammeter labelling different possible correlations between the time reading t of the clock and the elongation x of the pendulm.	105
1.21	We first do a pushforward mapping the “corners” of the infintesimal volume to new points. We then do a coordinate transformation to assign the new points the original coordinate values.	113
1.22	partComptDitt1.	119
1.23	comptasGIE.	123
1.24	partComptDitt3a. $F_{[f,T]}(\tau, x)$ is defined as the value of f evaluated at the point y on the gauge orbit where $T(y) = \tau$. Solving for y we can write $F_{[f,T]}(\tau, x) = f(y) = f(T^{-1}(\tau))$. Note that $F_{[f,T]}(\tau, x)$ only depends on τ and not on the location of x along the gauge orbit.	123
1.25	partComptDitt3. (a) $t = t_1$ when the clock function $T(\alpha_C^t(x))$ assumes the value τ . (b) The function $F_{[f,T]}(\tau, x)$ gives the value that the function $f(\alpha_C^t(x))$ assumes if the function $T(\alpha_C^t(x))$ assumes the value τ . $F_{[f,T]}(\tau, x)$ is a complete observable generated from the partial observables $T(x)$ and $f(x)$	124

1.26	partComptDitt5. If we started at another phase space point y on the same orbit, we would still evaluate f at the same point on that gauge orbit as before, namely at that point, at which T assumes the value τ	125
1.27	partComptDitt4.	130
1.28	FolofSpacetime. Foliation of spacetime \mathcal{M} by a family of spacelike hypersurfaces $(\Sigma_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$	130
2.1	The regularized operator depends on the orientation of the lattice.	140
2.2	With the metric approach, the shortest distance from A to B is defined by coordinates, and a Pythagoras-like metric equation for S.	141
2.3	With connections, the shortest distance is defined as the route along which every tangent vector is parallel to its neighbour so there is no need for coordinates X and Y.	142
2.4	A spacetime diagram illustrating the definition of the lapse N and shift vector N^a	143
2.5	Both have the same intrinsic geometry, i.e. both have a induced metric that is flat. However, the plane does not curve with respect to the 3-dimensional space manifold and the spilt-cylinder does. The spilt-cylinder is said to have non-zero extrinsic curvature.	144
2.6	Triad field.	148
2.7	SphcurvEx. This is a manifestation of the curvature of the sphere.	151
2.8	loop.	152
2.9	introduce spinors.	153
2.10	There are many combinations of loops one can consider.	156
2.11	Discrete objects are ideal for dealing with the requirement of spatial diffeomorphism invariance. Physically relevant information is represented by abstract combinatorics.	156
2.12	We can generate spatially diff invariant wavefunctions $\Psi_{Diff}[A]$ by averaging of the associated loop $\gamma \Psi[A]$. Each of the loops γ_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots$ are topologically equivalent but geometrically inequivalent.	158
2.13	If there are kinks as in (a) or intersections as in (b) the product $\gamma^a(x_P)\gamma^b(x_P)$ is not always a symmetric a symmetric quantity, (we are ignoring the very important regularization issue!). Hence, such loops don't solve the Hamiltonian constraint, see (2.62).	159

2.14	Action of the Hamiltonian on a four-valent spin network.	161
2.15	Solution of the Hamiltonian of four-valent spin network.	161
3.1	The Mandelstam identity.	166
3.2	. . . . .	166
3.3	. . . . .	167
3.4	A state of quantum geometry $\Psi[\gamma]$ assigns an amplitude to any system of spinning test particles tracing out paths in space, merging and splitting. These are described by spin networks γ : graphs with edges labelled by spins together with ‘interwining operators’ at vertices saying how the spins are routed.	168
3.5	Trivalent nodes have to obey Clebsch-Gordon conditions.	169
3.6	A node of valence 4 can be reduced to two trivalent nodes. The different ways of combining 4 spins	169
3.7	valdecomp. The decomposition of a higher valent intersection valence 4... .	170
3.8	$i^{\alpha\beta\sigma}$. no free ends if diagrams closed will be Gauss gauge invariant.	171
3.9	A node of valence 2 has $i^{\alpha\beta} = \delta^{\alpha\beta}$ as the trival interwiner.	172
3.10	. . . . .	172
3.11	A partition of Σ	177
3.12	A simple spin network S intersecting the surface Σ	178
3.13	A node of a spin network (in bold) and its dual 3-cell (here a tetrahedron). The colouring of the node determines the quantized volume of the tetrahedron. The colouring of the edges determines the quantized area of faces via equation ().	180
3.14	knotAresVolF. Area and volume operators are insensitive to the topology of the embedding.	180
3.15	knotAresVolF2. Infinte degeneracy.	181
3.16	DiffCurveFig. The map $\lambda(t)$ from the open interval $I = (a, b)$ of the real line to the coordinates on \mathbb{R}^n characterizes the differentiability class of the curve.	187
3.17	tangvectorForm. The map $\phi \circ \lambda$ from the open interval $I = (a, b)$ of the real line to the coordinates characterizes the differentiability class of the curve $\lambda(t)$	188

3.18	DiffClass0. A chart on \mathcal{M} comprise an open set U of \mathcal{M} , called a coordinate patch, and a map $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$	189
3.19	DiffClass2. The neighbourhoods U and V in \mathcal{M} overlap. Their respective maps to \mathbb{R}^n , ϕ and φ , give two different coordinate systems to the overlap region. The relation between these coordinates characterizes the differentiability class of the manifold.	190
3.20	The union of the two graphs γ and γ' has a finite number of edges. If the edge e were allowed to “oscillate” arbitrarily rapidly the union of the two graphs would have an infinite number of edges.	191
3.21	smoothIntersecF. Piecewise analytic curves which intersect at least a countable number of times <i>must</i> coincide everwise, i.e. be the same edge. However, smooth edges can intersect one another at an infinite number of points without coinciding everywhere and so the union has an infinite number of independent edges.	191
3.22	CongHolVarbF.	192
3.23	funcspace. (a) a is a function on spacetime. It maps points in spacetime to real or complex numbers. (b) a is a point in the function space \mathcal{A} . The functional $F[a]$ maps points in the function space \mathcal{A} to real or complex numbers. That is, the functional $F[a]$ turns functions into numbers.	193
3.24	The motion of a “configuration,” (x, y) , in the configuration space under the “gauge” transformation defined in (D.6). The path is called a gauge orbit. In the simple example here, the gauge orbits are lines of constant $x - y$	196
3.25	The gauge choice $x + y = 0$ defines a “gauge slice” through the configuration space. (x', y') is a configuration on the slice, that is, it satisfies the gauge condition. (x, y) is a gauge equivalent configuration, since both (x, y) and (x', y') reside on the same gauge orbit. a is the gauge transformation that takes us from the slice (x, y)	197
3.26	Illustration of a general choice of gauge, $f(x, y) = 0$. The desired change of coordinates is from (x, y) to (s, y) , s being a variable that runs along the slice, and a being the gauge transformation that runs from the slice (x, y)	197
3.27	GraSymmFig0. The diffeomorphism φ maps a loop to itself resulting in a reparametrization of the loop γ_1	209
3.28	GraSymmFig0a. The diffeomorphism φ maps a loop to itself resulting in a reparametrization of the loop γ_1	209

3.29	GraSymmFig. The diffeomorphism φ maps the edge e_1 to e_2 and at the same time the edge e_2 to the edge e_1 . This has the effect of swapping around the labels on the two edges.	210
3.30	GraSymmFig2. The diffeomorphism φ maps swapping around the labels on the two edges.	211
3.31	tangnodeF. The map	212
3.32	(a) A semianalytic curve in \mathbb{R}^3 . (b) A semianalytic surface in \mathbb{R}^3	216
3.33	Action of $Y_\gamma(t_\gamma)$ on T_s	222
3.34	Action of $Y_\gamma(t_\gamma)$ on T_s . T_s is composed of degrees of freedom $A_{|\gamma}$ of A related to the edges $E(\gamma)$ and degrees of freedom $A_{|\bar{\gamma}}$, the complement of $A_{|\gamma}$, related to the edges $E(\gamma \cup \gamma(s) - \gamma)$	224
4.1	regfigHam1	235
4.2	regfigHam2	235
4.3	NumTripF.	236
4.4	graphofnet. Given a graph γ we will construct one triangularization of the triple of edges meeting at the given vertex ν	239
4.5	tetrahedron. An elementary tetrahedron and the choice of edges. Where $s_i(\Delta) \subset e_i$ for all $i = 1, 2, 3$. $a_{ij}(\Delta) := s_i(\Delta) \circ a_{ij}(\Delta) \circ s_j(\Delta)^{-1}$ is a “loop with a nose”. It is clear that the regulated formular for $S(N)$, based on such paths, is invariant under internal gauge transformations.	240
4.6	ThiemHam2. An elementary tetrahedron and the edges.	240
4.7	tetSaturate1. Visualizing the 7 additional tetrahedra $\Delta_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^{\mathfrak{p}}$, $\mathfrak{p} = 1, \dots, 7$, which together with Δ_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^0 , form a neighbourhood, $U_{e_1, e_2, e_3} := \cup_{\mathfrak{p}=0}^7 \Delta_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^{\mathfrak{p}}$, of ν	241
4.8	TriangHam. so that $U_{e_1, e_2} := \cup_{\mathcal{P}=0}^3 \Delta_{e_1, e_2}^{\mathcal{P}}$ is a neighborhood of v	243
4.9	TriangHam2. trivalent node we average over the three triangles based on using only one such quadrupel of triangles.	243
4.10	The action of the Hamiltonian constraint on a trivalent node.	245
4.11	actionham2. The action of the Hamiltonian constraint on a node of valence 4.	245
4.12	actionofham. The action of the Hamiltonian constraint on a trivalent node.	246

4.13	ϵ_{max} .	247
4.14	rescale. ϵ_{max} .	247
4.15	HamNonComfig0.	249
4.16	HamNonComfig0a.	249
4.17	HamNonComfig.	249
4.18	spinderfig. (spiderweb) around each vertex.	252
4.19	solutionfig. Solutions to all the constraints of canonical quantum gravity as dressed (Diff-invariant) spin networks.	252
4.20	histories. “Sum over histories” formalism in quantum gravity.	254
4.21	A vertex of a spinfoam.	255
4.22	(a) Surface corresponding to a term of order zero. (b) Surface corresponding to first order term.	255
4.23	A term of second order.	256
4.24	Structure of interaction vertex.	258
4.25	simplexes3.	259
4.26	Structure of interaction vertex.	259
4.27	4-simplex. All 10 faces of a 4-simplex.	259
4.28	dihedralRov. The dihedral angle at the centre of one edge of a three-simplex.	261
4.29	1Δ	262
4.30	2Δ	262
4.31	Part of a four-valent spin network corresponds to five tetrahedra of a cellular decomposition of 3-dimensional space.	263
4.32	Structurex.	263
4.33	(a) $v \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 3-cells in Δ ; (b) $e \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 2-cells in Δ ; (c) faces $f \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 1-cells in Δ	264
4.34	Δ dual3	264
4.35	wedge.	265
4.36	dualface3.	265

4.37	dualface3to4. (a) One dimension suppressed. Varing the normal coordinate sweeps out the 2-dimensional wedge in fig 4.36. (b) One dimension suppressed. Varing the normal coordinate sweeps out a 2-dimesional dual face corresponding to the dual edge from the centre of the 4-simplex to the centre of this boundary tetrahedron. There are 4 dual faces to the dual edge.	266
4.38	duale4duale. For a 4-simplex a dual edge e has four dual faces meeting at it.	266
4.39	BCSim1. In the discretization of BF we assign a variable B_f to each triangle f of the triangulation. B_f can be taken to be the surface integral of B on f . We can discretize the gravitational field e , by assigning a variable e_s to each segment of the triangle. e_s can be taken to be the line integral of e along the segment s of the triangulation	267
4.40	4simclose. The closure condition for the tetrahedron A	274
4.41	6jappearsChD. How 6-j Symbols Appears.	275
4.42	basisinter. The interwiner.	275
4.43	BCintdecom. The BC interwiner.	276
4.44	tenjsymbBC. Barrett-Crane partition function.	276
4.45	tenjsymAmpl. This depends on ten spins and is called the $10j$ symbol. The vertex amplitude for the BC model.	276
4.46	newgeom4. (a) In two dimensions there is only one independent norm \vec{n} to the line with tangent \vec{u} . (b) In three dimensions there are many normals to \vec{u} spanning a plane.	280
4.47	dualfacehol.	284
4.48	coherIncer. Schematic.	285
4.49	coherIncer2. Schematic. Have an edge $\sigma\sigma'$ in one-to-one correspondence with the common tetrahedra t . There is an insertion of a complete set of coherent states for each tetrahedron.	286
4.50	(a) A 2-cell (b) Not a 2-cell.	288
4.51	. . . . .	288
5.1	. . . . .	310
5.2	areaincrease.	310
5.3	Reflects forward in time by the strong gravitaional field outside the event horizon.	312

5.4	timereflection2. The antiparticle mode falling into the black hole can be interpreted as a particle travelling backwards in time, from the singularity down to the horizon.	313
5.5	a) A spherical star of mass M undergoes collapse. b) Later, a spherical shell of mass δM falls into the resulting black hole. With Δ_1 and Δ_2 are both isolated horizons, only Δ_2 is part of the event horizon.	318
5.6	Quantum Horizon. Polymer excitations in the bulk puncture the horizon, endowing it with quantized area. Intrinsically, the horizon is flat except at punctures where it acquires a quantized deficit angle. These angles add up to 4π	319
5.7	Deficit angle in horizon 2-geometry. (a) surface is flat (b) A 3-dimensional perspective: a bulk polymer excitation “exerts a tug” on the horizon exciting a quantum of curvature. (c) A cut is made in the disc and a wedge is incerted corresponds to negative curvature by (5.20).	320
5.8	An example of the emission in which one of the flux lines breaks, with one of the ends falling into the black hole and the other escaping to infinity. . .	321
5.9	Maxwell Field in Minkowskian space-time outside $r = r_0$	322
5.10	Expansion of closed universe.	327
5.11	Cosmic time.	329
5.12	(a) Photon. (b) At the last scattering surface, the photons had a much higher frequency, which has been redshifted as the photons travel toward us.	329
5.13	At the last scattering surface, the photons had a much higher frequency, which has been redshifted as the photons travel toward us.	330
5.14	Motion of the scalar field in the theory with $\frac{m^2}{2}\phi^2$	334
5.15	The universe emerging from nothing.	336
5.16	inversescale.	337
5.17	eigendensity Eigenvalues of the density operator for twp choices of the ambiguity parameter, compared to the classical expectation (thick, dashed).	342
5.18	We begin with well-studied semiclassical states and contaminate them by adding a small proportion of links that are non-local in the classical metric q_{ab} without, however, weakening the correspondence between expectation values of coarse grained observables and the classical metric.	350
5.19	Exchange moves increasing the number of non-local edges.	353
5.20	Exchange moves decrease the number of non-local edges.	354

5.21	cosmologyeyes.	358
6.1	minimalloop1. minimal loop.	377
6.2	minimalloop2. minimal loop. $|L(\gamma, e_1, e_2, e_3)| = 3$	377
6.3	minimalloop3. minimal loop. $|L(\gamma, e_1, e_2, e_3)| = 2$	378
7.1	NonSepExF. No amount of algebraic action can one of these states into another. The different states describe states ‘infinitely’ different from each other. In statistical mechanics, different representations of the operator algebra describe different phases.	393
7.2	“percolation” leads to critical behaviour.	395
7.3	node.	417
7.4	NSexBlackHole.	428
7.5	NSBraid1F	429
7.6	NSBraid2F	429
8.1	Coordinatized by the partial variables α and t . Rovelli calls useful measurement is an event . Rovelli calls this the event space or relativistic configuration space	434
8.2	space of physical motions or relativistic phase space.	435
8.3	multprob2F. The probability $\mathcal{P}_{s \Rightarrow s''}$ is different depending on whether a detector is present or absent in s' . This well known fact plays an important role in the discussion below.	443
8.4	multprob3F.	444
8.5	multprob4F. “the apparatus state is <i>Yes</i> ” while “the system is ψ'' ” are compatible statements in quantum theory: they refer to orthogonal observables, both at time t'' . By moving the quantum/classical boundary, a question such as in fig (8.4) is captured by a single-event probability amplitude.	446
8.6	GenBoundaF. Basic idea.	448
8.7	GenBoundcF.	448
8.8	GenBound1F.	449
8.9	GenBound2F. Splitting of V	449

8.10	GenBound3F. Evolution to a closed surface Σ_m .	450
8.11	GenBound4F. Splitting of V_{fi}	450
8.12	VacuumFig.	452
9.1	scatConven. scattering	459
9.2	scattGraph.	461
9.3	gravwavemode.	465
9.4	scatteringP.	469
9.5	Boundfuncxy. Here x and y are points in the 3d metric manifold comprising a boundary with the topology of a 3-sphere S_3 and metric q , i.e. (S_3, q) . Metric relations between x and y are determined by q . Under an active diffeomorphism the points x and y change together with q , leaving the metric relations between x and y invariant.	469
9.6	RegionPartDec. The boundary geometry is measured by the physical apparatus that surrounds a potential interaction region.	471
9.7	tenjsymbRov.	479
9.8	DihedAngRov.	481
9.9	tenjsymbRov2.	481
9.10	DihedAngRov2.	482
9.11	TetphiRov.	483
9.12	TetphiRov2.	483
9.13	equiltetra.	488
A.1	Abhay Ashtekar.	494
A.2	John Baez.	496
A.3	Julian Barbour.	497
A.4	John Barrett.	498
A.5	LebRien.	499
A.6	Martin Bojowald.	500
A.7	Bondi coordinates at future null infinity.	501

A.8	Cauchy Horizon.	502
A.9	crossing. The crossing symmetry vertices.	510
A.10	We display the geometric interpretation of the curvature tensor. Carry a third vector Z , by parallel transport from p to s via q , comparing this with transporting this from p to s' via r we find a discrepancy between the two vectors given in terms of the curvature tensor components $R_{abc}{}^d$ by the formula $\epsilon^2 X^a Y^b Z^c R_{abc}{}^d$	511
A.11	Bryce DeWitt.	514
A.12	Paul Dirac.	515
A.13	Bianca Dittrich.	516
A.14	The future domain of dependence, $D^+(\Sigma)$, of Σ . p is in $D^+(\Sigma)$, q isn't because there are past-inextendable causal curve through q that don't intersect Σ , e.g. the curve γ	516
A.15	Albert Einstein (1879-1955).	518
A.16	exceptional. The Hamiltonian constraint's action on the trivalent node v with linearly independent tangent vectors produces two new vertices v_1 and v_2 - each of which has only two linearly independent tangent vectors.	521
A.17	The charge renormalization.	523
A.18	Christian Fleischhack.	525
A.19	. . . . .	527
A.20	Rodolfo Gambini.	527
A.21	geons.	532
A.22	Stephen Hawking.	537
A.23	Husain.	541
A.24	Chris Isham.	543
A.25	An expression for the conserved mass, evaluated when the spacial boundary is pushed to infinity. (b) $\partial\Sigma$ is a closed spacelike two-surface surrounding the source.	547
A.26	Kirill Krasnov.	547
A.27	Jerzy Lewandowski.	549
A.28	Etera Livine.	549

A.29 Renate Loll.	550
A.30 Fontini Markopoulou.	553
A.31 Robert Oeckl.	559
A.32 Penrose process.	563
A.33 Sir Roger Penrose.	564
A.34 PonRegg.	566
A.35 Jorge Pullin.	567
A.36 radartimeF. Schematic of the definition of radar time $\tau(x)$	571
A.37 ReggeGlos. Gluing flat simplices to get a surface with curvature.	573
A.38 Regge Lagrangian.	573
A.39	576
A.40 Carlo Rovelli.	577
A.41 Lee Smolin.	581
A.42 Simone Speziale.	582
A.43 Thomas Thiemann.	588
A.44 John von Neumann.	592
A.45 John Wheeler.	593
A.46 Oliver Winkler.	595
B.1 bijective	603
B.2 Braid group generators	606
B.3 Multiplication of braids.	606
B.4 A Reidemeister move on a three-string braid.	606
B.5 DiffClass0. A chart on \mathcal{M} comprises an open set U of \mathcal{M} , called a coordinate patch, and a map $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$	610
B.6 Complex manifold.	614
B.7 Dehn surgery.	618
B.8 15JSymbol.	622

B.9	A contravariant functor.	626
B.10	Computing the Gauss linking number.	627
B.11	Computing the Gauss linking number.	627
B.12	Gauss self-linking number.	628
B.13	. . . . .	639
B.14	injective	640
B.15	Skien relation for the Kauffman bracket.	643
B.16	knots Reidemeister moves.	644
B.17	knots Reidemeister moves.	644
B.18	If $A \subseteq B$ then $A \leq B$. partially ordered set of subsets of X is a lattice. (a) Their union $A \cap B$ is the l.u.b. (b) $A \cup B$ is the g.l.b.	644
B.19	links Whitehead link.	647
B.20	minimal loop.	650
B.21	Pachner move in d=3. (a) the $1 \rightarrow 4$ move subdivides.	655
B.22	pullbackDef0. Pushing forward a vector X from $T\mathcal{M}_x$ to $T\mathcal{N}_{\phi(x)}$	662
B.23	pullbackDef. $\varphi_*|_p : T_p\mathcal{M} \rightarrow T_{\varphi(p)}\mathcal{N}$	663
B.24	links.	664
B.25	Simplices in 3d.	675
B.26	Skien relation for the Conway polynomial.	676
B.27	Skien relation for the Conway polynomial.	676
B.28	The Trefoil knot.	676
B.29	Evaluation of the Conway polynomial for the Trefoil knot $1 + t^2$	677
B.30	surjective	682
B.31	tenjsymbol. This depends on ten spins and is called the $10j$ symbol.	683
B.32	Twists going to writes.	686
B.33	unicoverEx.	688
B.34	An upper semi-continuous function.	689

C.1	coset. Suppose H is a subgroup of a finite group G , here the elements of H are listed first. The shaded box are the elements of the (left) coset of $g_r \in G$	696
C.2	infinitesimal rotation.	712
C.3	infinitesimal rotation.	712
C.4		729
C.5		729
C.6	Penrose diagram for Minkowskian spacetime.	731
C.7	Haarmeas1.	732
C.8	HaarmeasSO3.	733
C.9	TranRotGrF.	744
C.10		748
C.11		748
C.12	(a) (b) f is discontinuous at p_1 .	749
C.13	Open sets interior points (b)	749
C.14	(U, ϕ_1) and (V, ϕ_2) are two coordinate patches on X . Transition functions, $\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1}$, are ordinary functions that go from points of one R^n space onto another, i.e. $\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} : R^n \mapsto R^n$. The domain and range of the transition function are the shaded regions in R^n .	750
C.15	Möbius.	751
C.16	tangtoM.	751
C.17	connection.	754
C.18	coordbasevec. The vector ξ may be thought of as being composed of $\xi = \xi^1 \partial / \partial \mathbf{x}^1 + \xi^2 \partial / \partial \mathbf{x}^2$. ξ^1 and ξ^2 are the components of ξ in the (x^1, x^2) -coordinate system.	764
C.19	tangvector. maps the tangent spaces of \mathcal{M} linearly into the	766
C.20	Two curves $\lambda(t)$ and $\mu(t)$ are tangent at p if and only if their images are tangent at $\phi(p)$ in \mathbb{R}^n .	768
C.21	activeDiffGeom. A pushforward of the tensor $T_{ab}(x)$, i.e. $T_{ab}(x) \rightarrow \tilde{T}_{ab}(y)$.	771

C.22 activeDiffGeom1. The red dashed lines in (a) are the x -coordinate lines of the point P . We perform a coordinate transformation back to the original coordinate system. The pushed-forward tensor $\tilde{T}_{ab}(y)$ transforms to $\tilde{T}'_{ab}(x)$, i.e. $\tilde{T}_{ab}(y) \rightarrow \tilde{T}'_{ab}(x)$	772
C.23 The tangent vector field resulting from a congruence of curves.	773
C.24 The local congruence of curves resulting from vector field.	774
C.25	777
C.26 pullbackDef0. Pushing forward a vector X from $T\mathcal{M}_x$ to $T\mathcal{N}_{\phi(x)}$	778
C.27 The push-forward map h_* that maps the tangent spaces of \mathcal{M} <i>linearly</i> into the tangent spaces of \mathcal{N}	778
C.28 The pullback map ϕ^* of a function f from \mathcal{N} to \mathcal{M} by a map $\phi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ is the composition of ϕ with f	782
C.29 pushLie. The maps the co-tangent spaces of \mathcal{M} <i>linearly</i> into the co-tangent spaces of \mathcal{N}	783
C.30 The Killing vector field resulting from a congruence of curves.	785
C.31 Framefield or tetrad with one spatial dimension suppressed.	790
C.32 A curve through e under the map $h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$, first a right action $R_{g^{-1}}$ as $h \mapsto hg^{-1}$ followed by the left action L_g as $hg^{-1} \mapsto ghg^{-1}$. The identity e is mapped to itself but points h and f near it are generally changed, so that a tangent vector at e , in $T_e(G)$, is mapped to another one in $T_e(G)$	796
C.33 A vector $X \in T_e(G)$ is mapped to another one in $\mathcal{A}d_g(X) \in T_e(G)$. Written formally as $(ad_g)_* : T_e(G) \rightarrow T_e(G)$	797
C.34 If a Lie group is a direct product of the proper subgroup and some discrete subgroup then each connected component G_i is obtained from the proper subgroup G_1 by applying some discrete transformation γ_i of a discrete subgroup Γ	798
C.35 leftTran. The left translation along g maps a neighbourhood of e onto one of g . There is a natural map of a vector at e to one at g	804
C.36 Fibre bundle, $TS^1 = S^1 \times R$. The base manifold \mathcal{M} (the real line R^1). The circle is the fibre. The fibre bundle consists of a manifold and a projection map π . $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is the local product space.	810
C.37 The inverse map $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is the local product space.	811

C.38 tangent bundle, $TS^1 = S^1 \times R$. The base manifold \mathcal{M} (the circle S^1) consists of a manifold and a projection map π . $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is the local product space.	811
C.39 Möbius.	812
C.40 tangent bundle, $TS^1 = S^1 \times R$. The curved line is a section.	812
C.41 Travelling up fibre.	813
C.42 Defintion of the right action of G on the principal fibre bundle P	817
C.43 The horizontal subspace $H_{gu}P$, defining by the connection in definition (1), is obtained from H_uP by the left action.	820
C.44	820
C.45	824
C.46	842
C.47	843
C.48 σ_1 and σ_2 are homotopic to each other but not to σ_3	844
C.49 Homotopy1A.	844
C.50 Homotopy2. The product of two equivalence classes of paths $[a]$ and $[b]$	845
C.51 transitivity. (a) $0 \leq s \leq 1$. (b) $0 \leq s \leq 1/2$. (c) $1/2 \leq s \leq 1$	845
C.52 (a) $a(t)$. (b) For decreasing s , $a \cdot a^{-1} \sim e_1$. (c) $a^{-1} \cdot a \sim e_2$	846
C.53 HomeoFigDef.	847
C.54 homeoClylind.	848
C.55 homDehnfig1.	848
D.1 simplegauge. The motion of a “configuration,” (x, y) , in the configuration space under the “gauge” transformation defined in (D.6). The path is called a gauge orbit. In the simple example here, the gauge orbits are lines of constant $x - y$	856
D.2 simplegauge2. The gauge choice $x + y = 0$ defines a “gauge slice” through the configuration space. (x', y') is a configuration on the slice, that is, it satisfies the gauge condition. (x, y) is a gauge equivalent configuration, since both (x, y) and (x', y') reside on the same gauge orbit. a is the gauge transformation that takes us from the slice (x, y)	856

D.3	simplegauge3. Illustration of a general choice of gauge, $f(x, y) = 0$. The desired change of coordinates is from (x, y) to (s, y) , s being a variable that runs along the slice, and a doing the gauge transformation that runs from the slice (x, y)	857
D.4	orbitgenerator. A gauge choice is made. Configurations $A'_a{}^\mu$ that satisfy the gauge condition, $F[A] = 0$, fall on the gauge slice. Two configurations that are gauge equivalent lie on the same gauge orbit. U is the gauge transformation relating $A'_a{}^\mu$ to $A_a{}^\mu$	857
D.5	gaugeslice.	858
D.6	gaugeElectric. The wavefunction at point x is $\psi(x) = |\psi(x)|e^{i\theta(x)}$ and the wavefunction at a nearby point y is $\psi(y) = |\psi(y)|e^{i\theta(y)}$	863
D.7	ConnCurvat. $F_{ab} \approx$	865
D.8	The Wilson loop integral is taken around a closed loop. It can be expressed in terms of the flux integral of the field strength over a surface bounded by the loop γ	877
D.9	$\phi(\theta) = 2\theta$ as an example of a mapping with winding number = 2.	885
D.10	knotDef.	896
D.11	Reidemeister moves.	896
D.12	Bracketpoly1.	897
D.13	Bracketpoly2.	897
D.14	Bracketpoly4.	898
D.15	Brackpoly4Pr. Proof of bracket of curl	898
D.16	Chern-Simons regularization.	899
D.17	DiagExpanW. Chern-Simons.	900
D.18	Heegard. Heegard spiltng of a three manifold \mathcal{M} into two three manifolds \mathcal{M}_1 and \mathcal{M}_2 with common boundary Σ	901
D.19	ChernStoWZW. (a) $SU(2)$ CS theory with coupling k with Wilson lines carrying representations j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n , ending at n points in the boundary Σ . (b) $SU(2)_k$ WZW theory on Σ with n punctures carrying primary fields in representations j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n	902
D.20	CuttingMan.	902
D.21	TorusLongMer. Ameridian and longitude on a torus.	903

D.22	gluingTori. tori	903
D.23	gluingTori2. Gluing together two tori to get a 3-sphere S^3	903
D.24	KirbyMIfigs2.	905
D.25	KirbyMIfigs3.	905
D.26	KirbyMIfigs1.	906
E.1	For a gas, increasing entropy tends to make the distribution more uniform. For a system of graviating bodies the reverse is true. High entropy is achieved by gravitational clumping and highest of all, by collapse to a black hole.	920
E.2	equiltetra.	923
F.1	epdown	925
F.2	epup	925
F.3	firstprob	925
F.4	Projector.	927
F.5	P.	927
F.6	graphmath7.	928
F.7	graphmath9	928
F.8	graphmath8.	929
F.9	Diagrelfor3	929
F.10	graphmath11.	930
F.11	graphmath12.	930
F.12	graphmath13.	931
F.13	This one.	931
F.14	graphmath2.	932
F.15	graphmath2A.	932
F.16	graphmath3A	933
F.17	graphmath3 $\mu_3 = 2/3$	933

F.18 graphmath1.	934
F.19 P math4.	934
F.20 graphmath5.	935
F.21 graphmath6.	936
F.22 P math4.	936
F.23 P.	937
F.24 graphmath15.	937
F.25 graphmath16.	938
F.26 graphmath17.	938
F.27 graphmath18.	939
F.28 graphmath19.	939
F.29 graphmath20.	940
F.30 graphmath21.	940
F.31 graphmath22.	941
F.32 This one.	941
F.33 graphmath23.	942
F.34 Identity.	943
F.35 graphmath25.	944
F.36 graphmath24.	945
F.37 hjbbv	945
F.38 recouplefig. The recoupling equation	947
F.39 TetDef.	948
F.40 6jandTET.	948
F.41 Tetfig2.	949
F.42 reductfigs.	950
F.43 reductfigs2.	950
F.44 grasp3edge.	951

F.45	grasp3edge2.	951
F.46	grasp3edge3.	952
F.47	9jsymbolFig.	952
F.48	Reidemeister moves.	953
F.49	Twist and q -deformed $su(2) - su_q(2)$ (or quantum group of $su(2)$).	953
F.50	braidgroup. The generators of the braid group.	954
F.51	Tempalgebra. The generators of the Temperley-algebra.	954
F.52	2tangEx.	954
F.53	posBraids.	955
F.54	canconconstr.	955
F.55	ProofpropQ1.	956
F.56	ProofpropQ2.	956
F.57	recoupfig2. Proof of the orthogonality identity.	959
G.1	disc D . $\mathcal{M} = D \times R$	963
G.2	sepbulksurface.	966
G.3	classphase.	966
G.4	Classical boundary conditions for isolated horizons.	968
G.5	Bulk states.	969
G.6	geobulk1.	970
G.7	geobulk2.	970
G.8	geobulk3 $U(1)$ fixes internal vector r^i	971
G.9	surfacestate.	971
G.10	surfaceY.	973
G.11	surfaceR.	975
G.12	cone.	975

I.1	separatenot. As $k_1/k_2 = 2.5$ both e^{ik_1x} and e^{ik_2x} are periodic over intervals of length 2λ , these two functions do not separate points an interger number of 2λ apart. However, if k_1/k_2 were irrational there would be no finite interval over which both functions were periodic.	993
I.1	The limit function of a sequence of continuous functions need not be continuous.	1023
I.2	Euclidean triangle inequaltiy.	1025
I.3	Normed, Banach, inner product space, Hilbert space.	1036
I.4	Visualization of a mapping.	1057
I.5	Injective mapping.	1058
I.6	Surjective mapping.	1059
I.7	$\text{Ran}(B) \cap D(A)$	1072
I.8	hausdorff.	1109
I.9	. . . . .	1113
I.10	netsReiman: Partions of Reinmann integrals. P_2 finer partition than P_1 . .	1122
I.11	(a) graph set Γ . (a) The red graph γ_R is contained in the yellow graph γ_Y so that $\gamma_R \prec \gamma_Y$ (b) Neither graph is contained in the other so γ_Y and the blue graph γ_B are incomparable. (c) Both the graphs γ_R and γ_B are contained this larger graph γ_L , i.e., $\gamma_Y \prec \gamma_L$ and $\gamma_B \prec \gamma_L$	1123
I.12	(a) Inverse set inclusion: $N_3 \subset N_2 \subset N_1$. (b) $N_3 \not\subset N_2$ still so that $N_3 \subset N_2$ and $N_3 \subset N_1$	1124
I.13	Example of a net.(a) $x_1 \preceq x_2 \preceq x_3$. (b) $x_3 \parallel x_2$ still so that $x_2 \preceq x_3$ and $x_1 \preceq x_3$	1124
I.14	polyExists.	1146
I.15	polygonApp.	1146
I.16	fgmaxmin. The meaning of $f \vee g$ and $f \wedge g$ for two continuous functions on a closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line.	1147
I.17	LebRien.	1154
I.18	(a) . (b) $A_1 \cap A_2 = X \setminus ((X \setminus A_1) \cup (X \setminus A_2))$	1157
I.19	(a) . (b) $B_1 = A_1, B_2 = A_2 \setminus A_1, B_3 = A_3 \setminus (A_2 \cup A_1)$. $\cup_{k=1}^3 A_k = \sqcup_{k=1}^3 B_k$. .	1159

I.20	.....	1209
I.21	.....	1209
I.22	Subsets, $\mathcal{U}_{h,\sigma}$, of dimension two.	1210
I.23	Subsets, $\mathcal{U}_{h,\sigma}$, of dimension one.	1210
I.24	Subsets, $\mathcal{U}_{h,\sigma}$, of dimension zero.	1211
I.25	An example of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}, h^{(1)} \cup h^{(2)}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}, h^{(1)}) \cap \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}, h^{(2)})$. Also, for every $\mathcal{U}_{h,\sigma} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}, h)$ there are some $\mathcal{U}_{h^{(1)},\sigma^{(1)}}^{(1)} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}^{(1)}, h^{(1)})$ and $\mathcal{U}_{h^{(2)},\sigma^{(2)}}^{(2)} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}^{(2)}, h^{(2)})$ such that $\mathcal{U}_{h^{(1)} \cup h^{(2)},\sigma} \subset \mathcal{U}_{h^{(1)},\sigma^{(1)}}^{(1)}$ and $\mathcal{U}_{h^{(1)} \cup h^{(2)},\sigma} \subset \mathcal{U}_{h^{(2)},\sigma^{(2)}}^{(2)}$	1211
I.26	semiana. The neighbourhoods U and V in Σ overlap. Their respective maps to \mathbb{R}^n , χ_I and χ_J , give two different coordinate systems to the overlap region. The differentiability class of the manifold is semianalytic when $\chi_J \circ \chi_I^{-1}$ is semianalytic.	1215
I.27	Definition of a semianalytic function f between two semianalytic manifolds Σ and Σ' . Composition can be applied only when the range of $\chi_I(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ under $\chi_{I'} \circ f \circ \chi_I^{-1}$ overlaps with the subset $\chi_{I'}(V) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n'}$ for subsets $U \subset \Sigma$ and $V \subset \Sigma'$	1216
I.28	.....	1217
I.29	Surface corresponding to first order term.	1228
I.30	Proof of the inequalities $||z_n| - 1| \leq |z_n - 1| \leq ||z_n| - 1| + |\varphi_n|$. (a) Case where $|z_n| > 1$. (b) Case where $|z_n| < 1$	1240
I.31	NumConvex.	1260
J.1	Gelfand. Compact (and Hausdorff) in a natural topology. The algebra of the commutative C^* -algebra is isomorphic to $C(\Delta)$, the algebra of continuous functions on Δ	1297
J.2	contfornth. The contour used to evaluate the n th derivative, $|w - z_0| > |z - z_0|$. ....	1342
J.3	Complex manifold.	1357
J.4	Torus.	1363
J.5	.....	1374
J.6	Eleaf.	1394
J.7	OperProdsComp.	1406

J.8	OperProd2	1407
K.1	Bridge.	1412
K.2	Definition of the composition of two loop α and β (both in \mathcal{L}_{x_0}) - it is denoted as $\alpha \circ \beta$	1412
K.3	inverse α^{-1} is a bit of a misnomer, $\alpha \circ \alpha^{-1} \neq o$	1413
K.4	(a) Two examples of strongly independent loops in \mathcal{L}_{x_0} . (b) An example of two strongly dependent loops in \mathcal{L}_{x_0} - they have a segment in common.	1414
K.5	Induce a measure on the projective limit. With the typical measures encountered in quantum field theory the set of smooth functions on the classical configuration space has measure zero. Tempered distributions not just needed but essential. Connections that cannot be expressed as continuous fields on \mathcal{M} but which all the same assign well defined holonomies on \mathcal{M} . The quotient $\overline{\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}} := \overline{\mathcal{A}}/\overline{\mathcal{G}}$ is the gauge invariant quantum configuration space.	1435
K.6	direct set. The graphs $\gamma_1 \preceq \gamma_2$ if $\gamma_1 \subset \gamma_2$. Any two graphs γ_1 and γ_2 and there exists a graph γ such that $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \subset \gamma$	1437
K.7	The union of the two graphs γ and γ' has a finite number of edges. If the edge e were allowed to "oscillate" arbitrarily rapidly the union of the two graphs would have an infinite number of edges.	1441
K.8	(a) A semianalytic curve in \mathbb{R}^3 . (b) A semianalytic surface in \mathbb{R}^3	1449
K.9	(a) A semianalytic curve in \mathbb{R}^3 . (b) A semianalytic surface in \mathbb{R}^3	1452
K.10	Types of edges with respect to a face.	1452
K.11	Automorphisms of the bundle P implies action of the bundle automorphism group in the quantum $*$ -algebra	1454
K.12	. . . . .	1455
K.13	A bundle map.	1457
K.14	Pictorial illustration of a bundle map which preserves every fibre. The corresponding map on the base space is the identity - to be called a Yang-Mills gauge transformations.	1457
K.15	x_I defined such that the above is so.	1458
K.16	The pull-back $(\varphi)^*n_{I_j}$ of the scalar function $n_{I_j}(x)$ is given by $n'_{I_j} = n_{I_j} \circ \varphi^{-1}$	1460
K.17	x_I defined such that the above is so.	1461

K.18	1462
K.19 (a) Pull-back N_{I_j} of N'_{I_j} under x_I is given by $N'_{I_j} \circ x_I$. (b) Pull-back φ_t of φ'_t under x_I is given by $x_I^{-1} \circ \varphi'_t \circ x_I$	1464
K.20 $e_1 = e_{1,1} \circ e_{1,2}$	1465
K.21 We let S consist of 3 disjoint cubes C_1, C_2, C_3	1466
K.22	1468
K.23	1469
K.24 We let S consist of 6 disjoint cubes $C_{1,1}, C_{2,1}, C_{3,1}, C_{1,2}, C_{2,2}, C_{3,2}$	1469
K.25 The graph γ' is the standard graph associated with the original graph γ	1472
K.26 Abelean case	1473
K.27 Non-Abelean case	1473
K.28	1478
K.29 Action of $Y_\gamma(t_\gamma)$ on T_s	1479
K.30 KinHilbFig.	1483
K.31 $\sin x/x$	1492
M.1 The spins j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4 describe the areas of the triangles.	1524
M.2 The three types of tetrahedral building blocks used in 3d quantum gravity.	1525
M.3 (a) $v \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 3-cells in Δ ; (b) $e \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 2-cells in Δ ; (c) faces $f \in \mathcal{F}_\Delta$ - dual to 1-cells in Δ	1526
M.4 Δ dual3	1526
M.5 atom2.	1527
M.6 How 6-j Symbols Appears.	1528
M.7 Structure of interaction vertex. (a) $\phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4)\phi(g_4, g_5, g_6, g_7)$. (d) Reading off the numbers clockwise gives $\phi(g_7, g_3, g_8, g_9)\phi(g_9, g_6, g_2, g_{10})\phi(g_{10}, g_8, g_5, g_1)$	1533
M.8 Structure of interaction vertex.	1534
M.9 Structure of interaction vertex.	1534
M.10 $SO(3)/SO(2)$	1536

M.11 wedge.	1536
M.12 The two diagrams of order g	1545
M.13 The vacuum-fluctuation diagram	1545
M.14 The vacuum-fluctuation diagram	1546
M.15 Diagrammatic representation of (M.9.1)	1548
M.16	1549
M.17	1549
M.18 Spin foam map.	1551
M.19	1552
M.20	1554
M.21 Markoprenorm2	1554
M.22 Example of a Hopf algebra - rooted trees.	1563
M.23 Γ_1 and $\Gamma_1(c)$ all 22 of them.	1563
M.24 Homomorphism of Δ	1564
M.25 Anti-Homomorphism of S	1565
M.26 Markoprenorm5.	1566
M.27 Homomorphism of Δ	1568
N.1 MastatmostF.	1589
N.2	1603
N.3	1604
O.1 ConElecNeutrF. The effect of charge conjugation on an electron-neutrino. .	1623
O.2 NSlocalSpin.	1624
O.3 u	1625
O.4 EulerTherm.	1635

Terminology and Notation

Here is a list of symbols.

$[,]$	commutator
$\{ , \}$	Poisson bracket
\dagger	Hermitian conjugation
$:=$	definition
\equiv	identity
$\stackrel{*}{=}$	only true in a special coordinate system
iff	If and only if
η_{ab}	Minkowski metric
$\eta(x)$	test function of a variation of action
\mathcal{A}	space of gauge fields or area
$A_\mu(x)$	Yang-Mills connection
D_μ	covariant derivative
\mathcal{M}	spacetime manifold
\mathbf{M}	The Master constraint
$\hat{\mathbf{M}}$	The Master constraint operator
$\omega_{\mu\beta}^\alpha$	spin connection
\mathcal{C}	constraint surface in phase space
S	labells spin-network
s	equivalent class of spin-networks under the action of Diff denoted s - knots
$s(S)$	denotes equivalent class S to which belongs
g_{ab}	spacetime metric
K_{ab}	extrinsic curvature of Σ
G_{ab}	Einstein tensor
T_{ab}	The energy-momentum tensor
e_I^a, E_i^a	tetrad and triad
\mathcal{L}_t	Lie derivative with respect to t
n_a	unit normal to Σ_t
$N, (\tilde{N})$	lapse function (density)
N^a	shift vector on Σ
$\Omega_{\alpha\beta}$	symplectic form
\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}	space of gauge fields moduli gauge transformations
$[A]$	gauge equivalence classe of the connection A
\mathcal{HA}	the holonomy algebra
$\overline{\mathcal{HA}}$	the completion of the holonomy algebra in the norm $\|f\| := \sup_{[A] \in \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}} |f([A])|$
$\overline{\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{G}}$	spectrum of $\overline{\mathcal{HA}}$

Preface

So how do you go about teaching them something new? By mixing what they know with what they don't know. Then, when they see in their fog something they recognize they think, "Ah, I know that!" And then it's just one more step to "Ah, I know the whole thing." And their mind thrusts forward into the unknown and they begin to recognize what they didn't know before and they increase their powers of understanding"

PICASSO

Warning: We are sure there are lots of mistakes in these notes. Use at your own risk! Corrections and other feedback would be very appreciated.

These notes are meant to be supplementary to Loop quantum gravity literature. It is explicit (fills in all the gaps normally left out of the calculations); It is a self-contained and bringing together of relevant maths. Blow-by-blow account. Present material in language more familiar to a broader community of theoretical physicists. To which modern coordinate-free differential geometry is unfamiliar and possibly daunting.

Style of the Book:

The report is mainly aimed at theoretic physicists who are non-experts. fill in calculations and details that are skipped over in the literature. people who we have tried to make it accessible to people who are not familiar with modern methods and will have no need to apply these methods in their field of study. for example coordinate-free differential geometry

I should stress at the beginning that I am a physicist and not a mathematician will not always be at a level of rigour that would satisfy a proper mathematical physicist.

This report assumes the reader is somewhat familiar with special relativity and it would help if he/she has knowledge with general relativity at the undergraduate level. The treatment is self-contained in that an a priori knowledge is not assumed. Try to bring together many useful results. Many proofs are added and others expanded on to make them more accessible.

The many excellent expositions of Loop-quantum gravity

The initial idea was to try to present the subject at a level lower than in most of the literature. It may take the reader rather long time to make his/her way through the report.

the report offer something of value for the mathematically inclined and the not so alike.

[32] T. Thiemann, Introduction to Modern Canonical Quantum General Relativity, [gr-qc/0110034]

I'm not really an expert and I will try to indicate where my understanding is a bit more iffy. At the moment it is an enthusiastic if not entirely reliable account, which I hope to improve on this through criticisms, suggestions...

The purpose of these notes, not to replace any book or paper. You should turn to other source for other explanations.

Nevertheless, these notes written to be reasonably self-contained and comprehensible.

I make no claim to originality in these notes.

Often follows quite closely the treatments of

I have used a number of sources.

though it is not indispensable and understanding for the report.

This discussion is intended to provide only a passing familiarity with the scheme to allow the unfamiliar reader to follow certain calculations and to have a general understanding of the results.

Acknowledgments

Dedicated

Introduction

the beginning of the revolutionary contributions to physics by Einstein,

An attempt to apply the principles of quantum mechanics to general relativity.

The problem of merging gravitation and quantum mechanics is extremely difficult - it has defied solution for over seventy years. Classical theory developed by Einstein took 10 years. the principles of quantum mechanics and general relativity.

Canonical quantization is the oldest non-perturbative approach to quantization of general relativity.

“Is it just me or is quantum gravity easier nowadays?”

Didn't think he would see the completion of quantum gravity in his own life time. dead and buried. There is now hope (not a word usually associated with quantum gravity for a lot of people).

In spite of these compelling features... Quantizing gravity equivalent to finding a general solution to the classical field equations. The technical difficulties seemed even worse than non-renormalization of perturbative quantum gravity. Seem hopelessly difficult.

A school of thought has a long history in studies of quantum gravity. The viewpoint here is that it may well be possible to quantise pure general relativity consistently, and in a way that respects the geometrical framework of the classical theory, but to do so requires the use of techniques that are quite different from the weak-field perturbative methods that, for example, have dominated most particle-physics based approaches to quantum gravity. Much effort has been devoted to finding such nonperturbative schemes, and in this paper we will be concerned with a particular one that has evolved from the introduction of a new set of canonical variables to describe the phase space of classical general relativity.

A matter of getting the right perspective on the problem. General relativists have argued for decades that gravity must be quantized non-perturbatively - easily said that done!!

List of achievements:

- (1) Prediction of quantized spectrum for area and volume operators.
- (2) Black hole entropy from first principles for physical black holes in that

(i) non-extremal black holes non-rotating black holes with Maxwell charges and dilatonic charges (1998), and recently has even been extended to rotating black holes and black holes with arbitrary distortions, also

(ii) definition of black hole applies restrictions to horizon geometry only and not to the bulk spacetime outside the black hole. As a consequence, we can have time varying dynamics outside black hole; also means results extend to cosmological horizons too.

(3) Resolution of the big bang singularity.

(4) initial boundary conditions for the universe are determined, rather than guessed at.

(5) New mechanism for inflation from quantum geometry.

(6) A mathematically consistent quantum theory of gravity coupled to the standard model - explicitly demonstrated to be finite (1997). However serious worries about whether it is physically consistent - in particular whether it has the correct classical limit.

Progress in conceptual no less dramatic

(1) Relational quantum mechanics.

If it ultimately the case that it does not lead to the correct theory, we will have learned many things of value along the way.

The book is primarily on loop quantum gravity, however: Brian Greene in *The Fabric of the Cosmos* he says

”If I were to hazard a guess on future developments, I’d imagine that the background-independent techniques developed by the loop quantum gravity community will be adapted to string theory, paving the way for a string formulation that is background independent. And that spark, I suspect, that will ignite a third superstring revolution in which, I’m optimistic, many of the remaining deep mysteries will be solved”.

Paths through the report

Introductory book on general relativity [?]

T. Thiemann, Introduction to Modern Canonical Quantum General Relativity, [gr-qc/0110034]
[32]