

GROUP THEORETICAL METHODS IN PHYSICS 2006

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Proceedings of the XXVI International Colloquium on
Group Theoretical Methods in Physics (Group 26),
held in New York, USA, 26-30 June 2006

Ed. Birman, Catto, Nicolescu

**Edited by
Joseph L Birman, Sultan Catto
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Edited by
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Foreword

The XXVI International Colloquium on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics was hosted by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, between June 26 and June 30 2006. Although other Colloquia have been previously hosted in the United States, this was the first time the Colloquium was held in New York.

Founded in 1961, the Graduate Center is the doctorate-granting institution of the City University of New York (CUNY). The Graduate Center is a nationally unique consortium consisting of a core faculty of 125 Graduate Center appointments, supplemented by over 1600 additional faculty members drawn from throughout CUNY's eleven senior colleges and New York City's leading cultural and scientific institutions. The Graduate Center houses twenty-nine interdisciplinary research centers and institutes, enrolls 4000 students and has an alumni base of 9600. It is located in Midtown Manhattan, in a nine-story landmark, formerly the B. Altman department store, diagonally opposite the Empire State Building.

This book is a collection of all the papers contributed by participants of Group 26. There were 140 participants attending from various corners of the world. The meeting covered some 22 topics, and was divided into 3 sessions running simultaneously over a period of 5 days.

As it has been the tradition for the last few Colloquia, the Wigner Medal and the Herman Weyl Prize were awarded during the conference. The Wigner Medal was presented to Professor Susumu Okubo, with the Laudatio written by the Chair of the 2006 Wigner Prize Committee Professor Kazuhiko Nishijima and Professor Catto, and was delivered by Professor Sultan Catto. A second special session was devoted to the presentation of the Weyl Prize to Professor Bojko Bakalov with the Laudatio delivered by Professor Jean-Pierre Gazeau.

In connection with these ceremonies there were special presentations and performances. These included the play "Kopenhagen" by Break-A-Leg productions; Big Bang musical by Patrick Grant and Charles Liu with input from physicist Brian Schwartz; Magical Act by Bob Friedhoffer; Drum Solo by Timur Catto; Bluegrass, Jazz and Klezmer Music Concert by Andy Statman Trio held at the Greenwich Village Synagogue.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the passing of our friend and colleague Professor Yuval Ne'eman, exactly two months before the Colloquium. A Memorial Session was held in his memory, and all present were moved by personal memories shared by Allan Solomon, Kurt Bernardo Wolf, Arno Bohm, and Richard Kerner.

This colloquium would not have been possible without the efforts and input of many of our colleagues. We wish to particularly thank Linda Meurman, Adrienne Klein, Robert Blumenblatt, and the staff of the Graduate Center of CUNY, especially the Print Shop, the secretaries, and our indefatigable cadre of graduate students Upali Aparajita, Levent Kurt, Ozan Aksoy and Yasemin Gurcan.

We also wish to thank the performers and especially Professor Brian Schwartz, for conceiving and organizing the very unusual but pleasant events held during the Colloquium, and Harman Lowenhar for providing the facilities of beautiful historic Greenwich Village Synagogue.

We especially thank the following for their financial support and for providing the facilities:

President William Kelly and Provost Linda Edwards, The Graduate School of the City University of New York

Dean Myrna Chase, The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Baruch College of the City University of New York

Dean Maria Tamargo, Dean of Science of City College of New York, of the City University of New York

Finally and not the least, we thank all the participants of the XXVI International Colloquium on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics. It is our hope that these Proceedings of the scientific papers received for publication will be useful to the scientific community as a window on the cutting edge of Group Theory applied in Physics, as well as an important resource to be used for some time by researchers and students in advancing their own knowledge and in contributing to new developments in this field.

Joseph L Birman, Sultan Catto, Bogdan Nicolescu
New York June 2007

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