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Global Geometry and Mathematical Physics

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	V
N.J. HITCHIN, The Geometry and Topology of Moduli Spaces	1
L. ALVAREZ-GAUMÉ, Topics in Conformal Field Theory and String Theory	49
E. ARBARELLO-C. DE CONCINI, Geometrical Aspects of the Kadomtsev- Petviashvili Equation	95
Seminars	
U. BRUZZO-G. LANDI, Geometry of Standard Constraints and Anomalous Supersymmetric Gauge Theory	138
A.R. LUGO-J.G. RUSSO, Hamiltonian Formulation of String Theory and Multiloop Amplitudes in the Operator Context	148
M. MATONE, Conformal Field Theory, Real Weight Differentials and KDV Equation in Higher Genus	163
G. FALQUI-C. REINA, Supermoduli and Superstrings	176
List of Participants	189

FOREWORD

"Geometry and Physics" is a binomial which has become increasingly more important in the last years and especially in the last two decades. The relations between these two subjects, whose marriage was already hidden in the "*Mécanique Analytique*" of J.-Louis Lagrange (1788), were subtly envisaged as means of understanding the structure of our Universe by the genius of B. Riemann (1854) and fully developed by A. Einstein in his celebrated theory of General Relativity (1916). Since then, although with varying degrees of fortune, the relationship between these two disciplines has grown steadily and robustously, through the contribution of many great scientists (D. Hilbert, T. Levi Civita, E. Cartan, H. Weyl, just to mention a few).

Up to a few years ago the interaction between Geometry and Physics was mainly limited to the domain of Differential Geometry, which plays a fundamental role in the local formulation of the laws of classical and relativistic field theories, and always in a single direction: from the theory to the application. More recently, however, other fundamental branches of Geometry have found their way into Physics, giving an enormous impetus especially to the investigations concerning the global behaviour of physical fields and their quantum properties, the structure of gauge theories, the theory of crystalline defects, the global structure of so-called "completely integrable" dynamical systems, as well as many other domains of application. In particular, the last two decades have seen an increasingly extensive application of Differential Topology and Global Analysis to Field Theory, and an impressive renewed role of Algebraic Geometry in both String Theory and Classical Mechanics. Also the arrow of influence has been somehow reversed, and nice results in pure Mathematics have been sometimes based on ideas originated within the context of Physics (the most striking example is, perhaps, the relatively recent work on 4-manifolds based on the structure of Yang-Mills fields).

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With exactly this spirit in mind, around 1987 the idea came to one of us (MF) to organize a Summer School on "Global Geometry and Mathematical Physics", to be held under the auspices of the CIME Foundation, with the explicit purpose of offering to both pure mathematicians and theoretical physicists the occasion of an intensive period of interaction on a number of freshly developing fields of common interest.

Also profiting of fruitful conversations with many colleagues (among which A. Cassa, R. Catenacci, M. Cornalba, M. Ferraris and C. Reina), the general structure of the Course was established. It was decided to divide the Course into four modular parts, to be assigned to experienced teachers coming both from pure Geometry and from Mathematical Physics, centering around the main themes of global aspects of field theories (instantons, monopoles, vortices, anomalies, functional integration of gauge fields) and the algebro-geometric methods in Mathematical Physics (KP hierarchies, infinite dimensional Grassmannians, theory of Riemann Surfaces and its applications to String Theory). The CIME Foundation did enthusiastically accept this

program, which has been later perfected and worked out in detail with the collaboration of the second Editor (FG).

The Course was held in Montecatini Terme, in the beautiful and quiet surroundings of "Villa La Querceta", from July 4 to July 12, 1988. (Incidentally, this was exactly 200 years after the publication of the cited treatise of Lagrange, which laid the foundations of the fruitful interaction between Geometry and Physics and initiated the modern theory of dynamical systems of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian type). It was attended by over 70 participants, belonging to both the mathematical and the physical communities, thus reaching its aim of stimulating further interaction and development. The intensive program was centered around four main Lectures, in which all the major topics were discussed. A number of Seminars was also provided (both by participants and by invited scientists) to cover complements or parts of the subjects which could not be fully exploited during the lectures, and also to discuss some further topics having relation with the Course itself.

These Lecture Notes contain the extended text of three of the four main Lectures, as well as a carefully addressed selection of the Seminars held during the Course. It has to be remarked that all the Seminars were rather interesting and valuable, although only very few of them appear in these Notes. The choice, which has been also worked out together with the four main lecturers, was dictated by a severe limitation of space, so that here only the seminars whose contents are really complementary to the Lectures appear.

* * * *

The first topic discussed in the Course was the application of global methods of Differential Topology to the domain of Field Theory. The Lectures of Nigel HITCHIN (Oxford) on "*The Geometry and Topology of Moduli Spaces*", were mainly aimed at discussing the various occurrences of the theory of moduli spaces in physical applications. The Lectures begin with a short description of the notion of moduli spaces, to pass immediately to discuss the self-dual Yang-Mills equations and the instantons over the 4-sphere, together with the appropriate moduli space. This opens the way to a short account on Donaldson's work on invariants for four-dimensional manifolds, which are here considered also in the general setting proposed by E. Witten. An interesting section refers to the Riemannian structure of the moduli space of all instantons, which is described in full detail together with its hyper-Kähler structure. Passing to the case of a coupled scalar field, the Yang-Mills-Higgs equations are discussed, in view of the moduli space structure of their "monopole" solutions; also the hyper-Kähler metric of this space is considered. After having discussed the above 3-dimensional and 4-dimensional situations, the Lectures address the gauge-theoretic viewpoint in the 2-dimensional case of a Riemann surface. Various important aspects are touched upon (hyper-Kähler structure, stability, existence of flat connections and related Teichmüller space structures). Finally, vortices and skyrmions, together with the structure of the corresponding moduli spaces are considered.

Some seminars were more or less directly related to the subject of this Lecture. P. HORVATHY (Metz) discussed the "*Dynamic Symmetry of Monopole Scattering*", giving a short but detailed account about the scattering of Bogomolny-Prasad-Sommerfeld monopoles for $SU(2)$ -gauge theories, the Hamiltonian structure of Taub-Nut geodesics and some remarkable extension to $O(4,2)$ -symmetry. (See Cordani B., Feher L.Gy. and Horvathy P.A., Phys. Lett. **201B**, 481(1988)). M. SEPPÄLÄ (Helsinki) considered "*Teichmüller spaces and Moduli Spaces of Klein Surfaces*",

presenting a detailed exposition on moduli spaces of real algebraic curves, via a real version of Torelli theorem and suitable Teichmüller spaces (see M. Seppälä and R. Silhol, to appear in Math. Zeitschrift). Another group of seminars addressed the modern investigations of the "supersymmetric extension" of the motion of moduli spaces; these shall be reviewed later in this Introduction, owing to their explicit connections with other main Lectures.

Unfortunately, the Lectures of R. STORA (CERN and Annecy) about "*Differential Algebras in Field Theory*" could not be typed timely and hence could not be collected here. We profit however of a short description of their contents which has been written by the Author: -- The influence of Geometry on Quantum Field Theory has been increasing over the last few years, mainly under the influence of E. Witten, within the Theoretical Physics community, and of M.F. Atiyah, within the Mathematical community. E. Witten has created a new discipline, which one may call "Physical Mathematics", as distinguished from Mathematical Physics. The latter consisted in applied mathematics to well-formulated of some relevance to Physics. The former consist in applying mostly heuristic Field Theory or Quantum Mechanics methods to mathematical problems, mostly in Geometry, often shedding a new light on known theories and pointing to new developments. The methods used in this context, which are mostly non-perturbative, fail to incorporate one of the strongest ingredients of the perturbative methods: locality. The idea was to review consequences of locality in agreement with the geometry of some interesting models based on Lagrangians: (i) locality in perturbation theory, both in Minkowski space and in a compact Riemannian or Euclidean manifold; (ii) 4-dimensional gauge theories and their anomalies: the s -operations connected with gauge fixing; (iii) the quantization of differential forms, s -operations and their relations to the Ray supertorsion; (iv) 2-dimensional conformal models: the free string as an example, the anomaly; (v) topological theories: the topological Yang-Mills theory in four dimensions as an example (in relation with the Jones polynomials). Since then Chern-Simons in 3-dimension has proved to be one of the most interesting ones mathematically, in relation to knot theory, and most tractable models of this sort, although there are still some subtle quantization problems to be settled --.

The problem of Chern-Simons terms in their supersymmetric version was addressed by G. LANDI (SISSA, Trieste) and U. BRUZZO (Genova) in the seminar "*Geometry of Standard Constraints and Anomalous Supersymmetric Gauge Theories*" which is included in these Proceedings as an integrating part. This was largely based on another seminar by the same authors, on "*Some topics in the Theory of Supervector Bundles*", where the structure and cohomology of supermanifolds, super vector bundles and super line bundles was addressed, with applications to the existence of connections and characteristic classes on SVB's. Intimately related with the above topics was a seminar by R. CIANCI (Genova) on "*Differential Equations on Supermanifolds*", which cannot be included here (see Cianci R., Journ. Math. Phys. **29**, 2152 (1988)). Still in the context of "Global Anomalies", although in a rather different perspective, we also mention a beautiful seminar by L. DABROWSKI (SISSA, Trieste), on "*Berry's Phase for Mixed States*", referring to the rising of an extra phase in the course of various physical processes (quantum optics,...).

* * * *

The Lectures by L. ALVAREZ-GAUMÉ (CERN) form, in a sense, a bridge between the previous aspect of "global geometry applied to field theory" and the

algebro-geometric side mentioned earlier in this Introduction. They were in fact concerned with discussing in great detail the mathematical structures connected with (classical, quantum and supersymmetric) string theory, as well as the whole class of so-called "conformal theories". The material presented here is divided in six parts. The Lectures contain a thorough introduction to the methods of conformally invariant theories over Riemann Surfaces of arbitrary genus g , which are considered in the operatorial approach (some of whose aspects have been retaken in the course of appropriate Seminars). In the first two sections it is shown how conserved quantities relate to representations of the "Virasoro algebra" and how Feynman's rule of integration over paths in phase-space leads to integrals over the appropriate moduli space of the relevant Riemann surface which is first supposed to have topology $\mathbb{R} \times S^1$. The third lecture extends to cover the case of surfaces having higher genus g and an arbitrary number n of parametrized boundaries. The corresponding moduli space $P(g,n)$ is considered in detail together with quantum states in the appropriate Hilbert space. Lecture 4 addresses the case of an interacting scalar field. In lectures 5 and 6 the author finally considers the problems of generating a connection over $P(g,n)$ out of the Virasoro algebra and of constructing a physically meaningful measure on moduli spaces of Riemann Surfaces with distinguished points.

As we already mentioned above, several specialized Seminars were devoted either to cover in greater detail some of the topics touched upon in these Lectures on Strings and Conformal Fields Theories, or to establish links with the previous two Lectures, as well as with the further Lecture of E. Arbarello. A pedagogical seminar on *"Introduction to Supergravity and Superstrings"* was given by F. GIERES (Berne). An interesting new perspective on strings was addressed in the seminar *"String Field Theory as General Relativity of Loops"* by L. CASTELLANI (Torino and CERN), whereby the dynamics of bosonic and supersymmetric strings was considered in the framework of free differential algebras on group manifolds and using loop representations based on the space $\text{Diff}(S^1)$ of diffeomorphisms of the circle (see L. Castellani, R.D'Auria and P.Fre *"Supergravity Theory: a Geometrical Perspective"*, World Sci. (Singapore, 1989)). Strictly related to this group manifold approach and also in deep connection with Stora's Lectures on topological invariant in field theories was a couple of seminars delivered by R. D'AURIA (Padova) and P.FRE (Torino), respectively on *"Superspace Constraints and Chern-Simons Cohomology in D=4 Superstring Effective Theories"* and *"Geometrical Formulation of 4-Dimensional Superstrings"* (see, e.g., P. Fre and F. Gliozzi, Phys. Lett. **B208**, 203 (1988)). S. SHNIDER (Beersheva) gave an interesting seminar on *"Supercommutative Algebra in Higher Dimensions"*, showing in particular, in the algebraic context of Konstant's theory of graded manifolds, that no superconformal algebras exist in dimension strictly greater than six. The operator formalism for string theory in genus g larger than one, which formed the core of Alvarez-Gaumè's Lectures, was discussed in greater detail in the Seminar *"Hamiltonian Formulation of String Theory and Multiloop Amplitudes in the Operator Context"* by A.R. LUGO and J. RUSSO (SISSA, Trieste), which is here included as a complement to the Lectures themselves. On parallel lines M. MATONE (SISSA, Trieste) delivered the seminar *"Conformal Field Theories, Real Weight Differentials and KdV Equation in Higher Genus"*, which is included here; the Seminar was devoted to establish a link between the operator approach of conformal field theories and the algebraic geometric aspects related with Krichever-Novikov algebra on a Riemann surface.

Two seminars addressed, on different perspectives, the important problem of coherently defining the structure of supermoduli spaces of super Riemann surfaces,

thus providing mathematically well grounded basis for the discussion of amplitudes in superstring theory: "*Super Riemann Surfaces and Super Moduli Spaces*" by M. ROTHSTEIN (Sunny at Stony Brook), not included here (see M. Rothstein, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **95**, 255-259 (1985)), and "*Supermoduli and Superstrings*" by G. FALQUI and C. REINA (SISSA, Trieste).

These last seminars bring directly into the core of the applications of "strong" algebraic-geometrical methods in Mathematical Physics, which include nowadays a wide spectrum of techniques and domains of interest. As we already said above, the aim of the Lectures by E. ARBARELLO (Rome) was exactly to make an up-to-date review on some of these relevant topics; the Lectures "*Geometrical Aspects of Kodomchev-Petviashvily Equation*", written together with C. DE CONCINI (Rome), address in fact all the algebro-geometric machinery involved in the KP generalization of the famous KdV equation. Their first chapter reviews the fundamental concepts from the theory of Riemann surfaces and Abelian varieties (Abel-Jacobi map, Torelli theorem, etc.). Chapter two is devoted to discuss a geometrical criterion to check whether a principal polarized Abelian variety is the Jacobian of a (possibly reducible) algebraic curve. Another criterion, which is based on the so-called "trisecant formula" and which leads naturally to the KP equation, is extensively discussed in Chapter 3. This smoothly introduces to Chapter 4, where the KP equation is used to characterize the Jacobians themselves, and to Chapter 5, where the Hirota bilinear form of the KP hierarchy is discussed. The next Chapters are finally devoted to a thorough discussion on the infinite dimensional Grassmannian $Gr(H)$ and the corresponding t -function on the inverse determinant bundle of the Grassmannian.

A natural complement to these Lectures was a beautiful seminar on "*The Geometrical Construction of W Algebras and their Quantization*", by D.J. SMIT (Utrecht) whereby various relations between KdV equations, Yang-Baxter equations, quantum groups and bi-Hamiltonian structures for the Virasoro algebra are discussed. We finally mention the nice seminar "*The Hilbert Schmidt Grassmannian is Non-negatively Curved*", delivered by O. PEKONEN (Palaiseau), which refers to the Kähler structure and sectional curvature of $Gr(H)$ (see O. Pekonen, Man. Math. **63**, 21-27 (1989)).

Mauro Francaviglia