

Preface

The present volume contains a selection of papers presented at the XXI and XXII Workshops on Geometrical Methods in Physics held in June/July 2002 and 2003 in Białowieża, Poland. The workshops, organized by the Institute of Theoretical Physics of the University of Białystok, usually gather approximately 80 participants from Poland, other European countries, Americas, Africa and Asia.

As implied by the title of the workshop, the main focus of these meetings is to explore and understand the many different ways in which geometrical, and particularly differential geometrical, methods have been applied in analyzing various problems of mathematical physics. The range of applications is truly staggering, for even after a quarter century of annual workshops, new methods and techniques are still being invented. This indeed, is one of the more exciting aspects of these meetings.

The subtopic of the XXI Workshop was *Recent Developments in Quantization*. The scientific review of this workshop is contained in the beautiful paper by Gérard G. Emch, *So... what was the question?* We strongly encourage the reader to look at this paper as an interesting guide over all other subjects.

The XXII Workshop followed closely in the tradition of its predecessors, in that its focus was again on examining more recent applications of differential geometric methods in physics. The theme of the XXII Workshop was *Dynamical Systems and Quantization*. The various topics included within this theme included quantization, Poisson spaces, dissipative operators and other topics.

The traditional site of the workshops is Białowieża located in the forest that is the only remnant of the European preieval forests. One of our colleagues, prof. Bogdan Mielnik, under the spell of this environment expressed his anxiety about the global environmental dangers that we are facing on the example of the Amazon jungle. The participants of the workshop drafted a statement urging the protection of the Amazon jungle by the governments of the region. The materials concerning this discussion are also included in this volume. We hope that the reader will be able to catch the inspiring interplay of the exact science and the beautiful environment, especially after consulting the material of our web at the <http://physics.uwb.edu.pl/wgmp>.

Finally we would like to thank all our referees for their voluntary work, careful reading of the contributed papers and their remarks.

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