

Preface

This Supplement volume of the Progress of Theoretical Physics contains the proceedings of the twenty-first Nishinomiya-Yukawa Memorial Symposium on Theoretical Physics, entitled “Noncommutative Geometry and Quantum Spacetime in Physics”, which was held November 11–12, 2006, at Shukugawa City Hall in Nishinomiya and November 13–15, 2006, at the Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics in Kyoto.

Noncommutative geometry and quantum spacetime are discussed in various fields of physics, and these topics have also stimulated a great deal of interaction between mathematicians and physicists. To enhance the exchange of ideas, one aim of this symposium was to bring together physicists from various fields to explain the interesting topics in this broad subject. The lecturers in the symposium presented overviews of the recent developments in noncommutative geometry and quantum spacetime from their points of view and raised problems for future investigation. A number of short talks and poster sessions enriched the exchange of ideas, and these are also contained in this volume.

In the early stages of the preparation for this symposium, Nishinomiya City suddenly withdrew from its organization. However, considering its importance, the members of the Yukawa Institute decided to continue the project. Eighty-five participants, including thirty-two scientists from abroad, gathered at this year’s meeting. Their talks and discussions created a lively atmosphere in which all in attendance could easily participate. We would like to thank all of the participants for their contributions, which made this first meeting since the withdrawal of Nishinomiya City so successful. We would also like to thank officials of Nishinomiya City for supporting us with their advice.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the administrative staff for the symposium. It was organized by H. Fukuma (Kyoto University), K. Ito (Tokyo Institute of Technology), H. Kunitomo (Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics), N. Sasakura (Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics) and S. Watamura (Tohoku University).

Financial support was obtained through a Grant-in-Aid for the 21st Century COE “Center for Diversity and Universality in Physics” from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, and from Kyoto University.

November 2007

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