

GUIDE TO USE OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Structure of the Encyclopedia

The material in this Encyclopedia is organised into two sections. At the start of Volume 1 are eight **Introductory Articles**. The introductory articles on mathematics are aimed at physics graduates; those on physics are aimed at mathematics graduates. It is intended that these articles should serve as the first port of call for graduate students, to enable them to embark on any of the main entries without the need to consult other material beforehand.

Following the Introductory Articles, the main body of the Encyclopedia is arranged as a series of entries in alphabetical order. These entries fill the remainder of Volume 1 and all of the subsequent volumes (2–5).

To help you realize the full potential of the material in the Encyclopedia we have provided four features to help you find the topic of your choice: a contents list by subject, an alphabetical contents list, cross-references, and a full subject index.

1. Contents List by Subject

Your first point of reference will probably be the contents list by subject. This list appears at the front of each volume, and groups the entries under subject headings describing the broad themes of mathematical physics. This will enable the reader to make quick connections between entries and to locate the entry of interest. The contents list by subject is divided into two main sections: *Physics Subjects* and *Related Mathematics Subjects*. Under each main section heading, you will find several subject areas (such as GENERAL RELATIVITY in Physics Subjects or NONCOMMUTATIVE GEOMETRY in Related Mathematics Subjects). Under each subject area is a list of those entries that cover aspects of that subject, together with the volume and page numbers on which these entries may be found.

Because mathematical physics is so highly interconnected, individual entries may appear under more than one subject area. For example, the entry GAUGE THEORY: MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS is listed under the Physics Subject GAUGE THEORY as well as in a broad range of Related Mathematics Subjects.

2. Alphabetical Contents List

The alphabetical contents list, which also appears at the front of each volume, lists the entries in the order in which they appear in the Encyclopedia. This list provides both the volume number and the page number of the entry.

You will find “dummy entries” where obvious synonyms exist for entries or where we have grouped together related topics. Dummy entries appear in both the contents list and the body of the text.

Example

If you were attempting to locate material on path integral methods via the alphabetical contents list:

PATH INTEGRAL METHODS *see* Functional Integration in Quantum Physics; Feynman Path Integrals

The dummy entry directs you to two other entries in which path integral methods are covered. At the appropriate locations in the contents list, the volume and page numbers for these entries are given.

If you were trying to locate the material by browsing through the text and you had looked up Path Integral Methods, then the following information would be provided in the dummy entry:

Path Integral Methods <i>see</i> Functional Integration in Quantum Physics; Feynman Path Integrals

3. Cross-References

All of the articles in the Encyclopedia have been extensively cross-referenced. The cross-references, which appear at the end of an entry, serve three different functions:

- i. To indicate if a topic is discussed in greater detail elsewhere.
- ii. To draw the reader's attention to parallel discussions in other entries.
- iii. To indicate material that broadens the discussion.

Example

The following list of cross-references appears at the end of the entry STOCHASTIC HYDRODYNAMICS

See also: Cauchy Problem for Burgers-Type Equations; Hamiltonian Fluid Dynamics; Incompressible Euler Equations: Mathematical Theory; Malliavin Calculus; Non-Newtonian Fluids; Partial Differential Equations: Some Examples; Stochastic Differential Equations; Turbulence Theories; Viscous Incompressible Fluids: Mathematical Theory; Vortex Dynamics

Here you will find examples of all three functions of the cross-reference list: a topic discussed in greater detail elsewhere (e.g. Incompressible Euler Equations: Mathematical Theory), parallel discussion in other entries (e.g. Stochastic Differential Equations) and reference to entries that broaden the discussion (e.g. Turbulence Theories).

The eight Introductory Articles are not cross-referenced from any of the main entries, as it is expected that introductory articles will be of general interest. As mentioned above, the Introductory Articles may be found at the start of Volume 1.

4. Index

The index will provide you with the volume and page number where the material is located. The index entries differentiate between material that is a whole entry, is part of an entry, or is data presented in a figure or table. Detailed notes are provided on the opening page of the index.

5. Contributors

A full list of contributors appears at the beginning of each volume.