<<超弦理论(第1卷)>>

图书基本信息

书名:<<超弦理论(第1卷)>>

13位ISBN编号: 9787506292009

10位ISBN编号:7506292009

出版时间:2008-5

出版时间:世界图书出版公司

作者:(英)格林著

页数:470

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内容概要

Recent years have brought a revival of work on string theory, which has been a source of fascination since its origins nearly twenty years ago. There seems to be a widely perceived need for a systematic, pedagogical exposition of the present state of knowledge about string theory. We hope that this book will help to meet this need. To give a comprehensive account of such a vast topic as string theory would scarcely be possible, even in two volumes with the length to which these have grown. Indeed, we have had to omit many important subjects, while treating others only sketchily. String field theory is omitted entirely (though the subject of chapter 11 is closely related to light-cone string field theory). Conformal field theory is not developed systematically, though much of the background material needed to understand recent papers on this subject is presented in chapter 3 and elsewhere.

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