

# PCT Spin and Statistics and All That: Princeton Landmarks in Mathematics

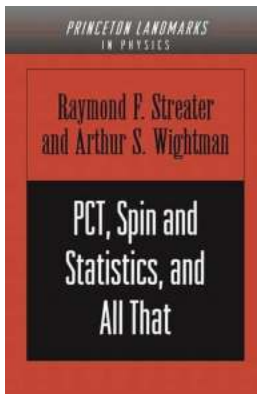


PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

Mathematics has long been a significant field of study that has contributed greatly to our understanding of the universe. Within this vast discipline, Princeton University has had a significant impact on the development of various mathematical concepts and theories. In particular, the exploration of PCT spin and statistics has led to groundbreaking discoveries in theoretical physics and advanced mathematics.

## **The Unraveling of PCT Spin and Statistics**

PCT spin and statistics refers to the fundamental principles in quantum field theory that involve the combination of three mathematical properties: Parity (P), Charge Conjugation (C), and Time Reversal (T). These properties play a crucial role in determining the behavior of elementary particles and their interactions.



## PCT, Spin and Statistics, and All That (Princeton Landmarks in Mathematics and Physics Book 30)

by Suzanne Kelton (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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At Princeton University, renowned mathematicians and physicists like Freeman Dyson, John von Neumann, and Michael Atiyah have played key roles in elucidating the concepts behind PCT spin and statistics. Their research and collaborations have shed light on the principles governing the symmetry of nature, leading to a deeper understanding of the universe at its most fundamental level.

### Landmarks in Mathematics at Princeton

#### The Atiyah-Singer Index Theorem

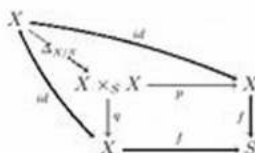
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## ALGEBRAIC ATIYAH-SINGER INDEX THEOREM

NGUYEN LE DANG THI

**ABSTRACT.** The aim of this work is to give an algebraic weak version of the Atiyah-Singer index theorem. We compute then a few small examples with the elliptic differential operator of order  $\leq 1$  coming from the Atiyah class in  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{O}_X}^1(\mathcal{O}_X, \Omega_{X/k}^1)$ , where  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k)$  is a smooth projective scheme over a perfect field  $k$ .

We follow Grothendieck [EGA4, §16.8] to recall briefly the notion of differential operators. Let  $f : X \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of schemes. Consider the Cartesian square



The diagonal  $\Delta_{X/S} : X \rightarrow X \times_S X$  is an immersion. One defines the  $n$ -th normal invariant of  $\Delta_{X/S}$  as

$$\mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n = \Delta_{X/S}^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_{X \times_S X}) / I_f^{n+1}.$$

It is clear that  $\{\mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n\}_n$  form a projective system. One defines

$$\mathcal{P}_{X/S}^\infty = \varprojlim_n \mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n.$$

The first projection  $p : X \times_S X \rightarrow X$  induces an  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -algebra structure on  $\mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n$  and the second projection  $q : X \times_S X \rightarrow X$  induces a morphism

$$d_{X/S}^n : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n.$$

If  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{O}_X - \text{Mod}$  is an  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -module, one defines

$$\mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{P}_{X/S}^n \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{F}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{O}_X - \text{Mod}$  be two  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -modules. Let  $D : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  be a morphism of the underlying abelian sheaves.  $D$  is called a differential operator of order  $\leq n$  relative  $S$ , if there exists a

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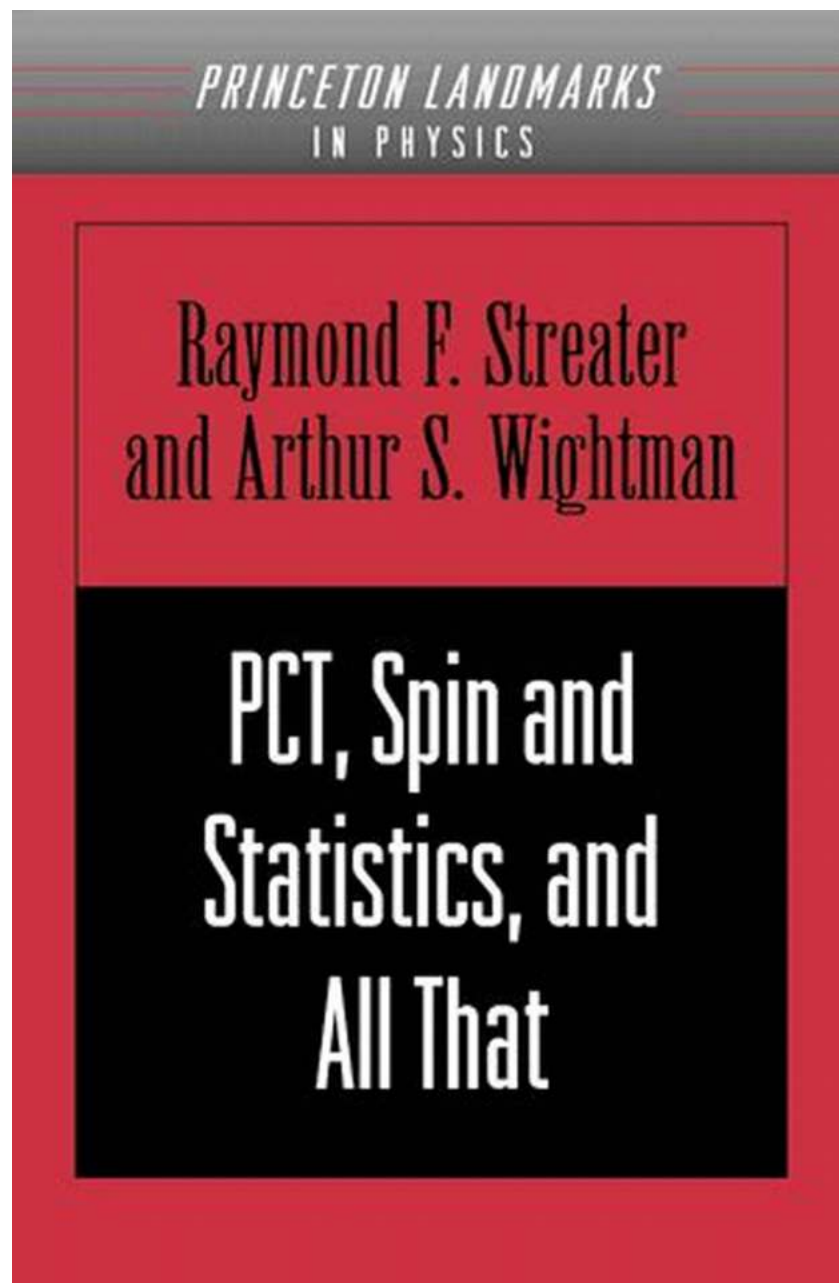
*1991 Mathematics Subject Classification.* 14F22, 14F42.

*Key words and phrases.*  $K$ -theory, motivic cohomology, differential operators.

One of the most significant landmarks in mathematics at Princeton is the Atiyah-Singer Index Theorem. Introduced by Sir Michael Atiyah and Isadore Singer in the 1960s, this theorem revolutionized the field of algebraic topology. It provides a deep connection between geometry, analysis, and topology, linking abstract concepts such as differential operators, characteristic classes, and homotopy theory.

The Atiyah-Singer Index Theorem has had profound implications in diverse areas of mathematics and physics, including gauge theories, string theory, and quantum mechanics. It has paved the way for further research on PCT spin and statistics, emphasizing the role of symmetry and its underlying algebraic structures.

## **Geometric Analysis and the Ricci Flow**



Another significant contribution from Princeton comes in the form of geometric analysis and the Ricci flow. Introduced by Richard S. Hamilton, the Ricci flow is a mathematical tool that helps analyze the geometry of spaces. It is instrumental in understanding the formation and evolution of shapes and their corresponding curvature.

Geometric analysis and the Ricci flow have found applications in diverse areas, including the study of manifolds, three-dimensional topology, and general relativity. Princeton's mathematical community, including mathematicians like John W. Morgan and Gang Tian, has made significant contributions to this area, expanding our knowledge of the mathematical structures underlying the universe.

## **Random Matrix Theory**

*PRINCETON LANDMARKS*  
IN PHYSICS

Raymond F. Streater  
and Arthur S. Wightman

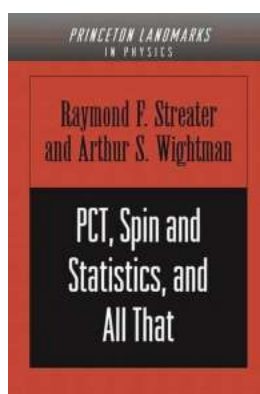
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Random Matrix Theory is another influential field of mathematics that has gained prominence at Princeton University. John P. Weyl and Eugene P. Wigner were among the pioneers who developed this theory during the 20th century. It deals with the mathematical analysis of matrices with random entries, providing insights into the behavior of complex systems.

Random Matrix Theory has found applications in various areas, including quantum chromodynamics, condensed matter physics, and statistical physics. It has also contributed to the understanding of energy levels of complex atoms, nuclear physics, and even stock market fluctuations. Princeton's longstanding contributions to this field have been pivotal, with mathematicians such as Paul Buser and Iain M. Johnstone pushing the boundaries of knowledge in this area.

From the unraveling of PCT spin and statistics to the groundbreaking theorems and concepts in mathematical physics, Princeton University has left an indelible mark on the field of mathematics. The contributions of its mathematicians and physicists have opened new avenues for understanding symmetry, analyzing geometric structures, and studying complex systems.

The landmarks discussed, such as the Atiyah-Singer Index Theorem, geometric analysis with the Ricci flow, and random matrix theory, are just a glimpse of the incredible mathematical achievements that have emerged from Princeton. As the university continues to inspire and nurture the brightest minds in mathematics, one can only anticipate further groundbreaking discoveries and advancements in the field.



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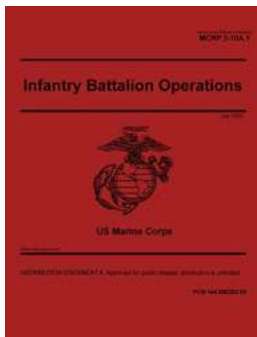
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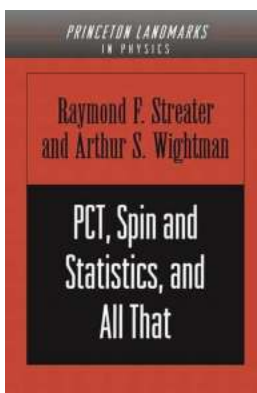


PCT, Spin and Statistics, and All That is the classic summary of and to the achievements of Axiomatic Quantum Field Theory. This theory gives precise mathematical responses to questions like: What is a quantized field? What are the physically indispensable attributes of a quantized field? Furthermore, Axiomatic Field Theory shows that a number of physically important predictions of quantum field theory are mathematical consequences of the axioms. Here Raymond Streater and Arthur Wightman treat only results that can be rigorously proved, and these are presented in an elegant style that makes them available to a broad range of physics and theoretical mathematics.



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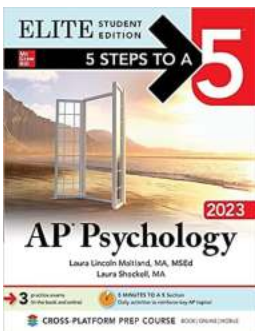
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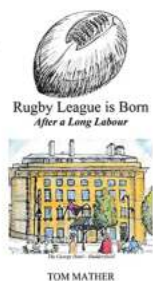
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