

INTRODUCTION

Quantum gravity has long been looked upon both by classical relativists and by particle physicists as the dark horse which will help them ultimately to surmount the physical difficulties of their respective disciplines. The relativist hopes that quantum effects of gravity will resolve the singularity problems of classical gravity theory. The particle physicist hopes that the peculiarities of gravity will do the same for the singularity problems of quantized field theories. Unhappily there have been few opportunities in the past when the practitioners of these two disciplines could meet.

In pursuance of its objective to help develop an interdisciplinary approach in theoretical physics, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics collaborated with the Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Vienna, to hold the seminar (13-16 July 1971) whose proceedings are here briefly summarized. Our intention was to bring together leaders in both disciplines in order that some comprehension of each other's methods and problems should be created. The programme was drawn up in conjunction with Professor R. Sexl of the University of Vienna and the Seminar was organized by Drs. J. Strathdee of ICTP, Trieste, and C.J. Isham of Imperial College, London.

Abdus Salam