

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| 1. The Physical Concept of Time | 9 |
| 2. The Time Arrow of Radiation | 15 |
| 2.1 Retarded and Advanced Forms of the Boundary Value Problem | 18 |
| 2.2 Thermodynamical and Cosmological Properties of Absorbers | 22 |
| 2.3 Radiation Damping | 26 |
| 2.4 The Absorber Theory of Radiation | 32 |
| 3. The Thermodynamical Arrow of Time | 37 |
| 3.1 The Derivation of Classical Master Equations | 40 |
| 3.1.1 μ -Space Dynamics and Boltzmann's H -Theorem | 41 |
| 3.1.2 Γ -Space Dynamics and Gibbs' Entropy | 45 |
| 3.2 Zwanzig's General Formalism of Master Equations | 55 |
| 3.3 Thermodynamics and Information | 66 |
| 3.3.1 Thermodynamics Based on Information | 66 |
| 3.3.2 Information Based on Thermodynamics | 71 |
| 3.4 Semigroups and the Emergence of Order | 75 |
| 4. The Quantum Mechanical Arrow of Time | 83 |
| 4.1 The Formal Analogy | 84 |
| 4.1.1 Application of Quantization Rules | 84 |
| 4.1.2 Master Equations and Quantum Indeterminism | 87 |
| 4.2 Ensembles <i>versus</i> Entanglement | 92 |
| 4.3 Decoherence | 99 |
| 4.3.1 Trajectories | 101 |
| 4.3.2 Molecular Configurations as Robust States | 103 |
| 4.3.3 Charge Superselection | 105 |
| 4.3.4 Classical Fields and Gravity | 107 |
| 4.3.5 Quantum Jumps | 109 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| 4.4 | Quantum Dynamical Maps | 111 |
| 4.5 | Exponential Decay and ‘Causality’ in Scattering | 116 |
| 4.6 | The Time Arrow of Various <i>Interpretations</i> of Quantum Theory | 121 |
| 5. | The Time Arrow of Spacetime Geometry | 133 |
| 5.1 | Thermodynamics of Black Holes | 137 |
| 5.2 | Thermodynamics of Acceleration | 146 |
| 5.3 | Expansion of the Universe | 151 |
| 5.4 | Geometrodynamics and Intrinsic Time | 159 |
| 6. | The Time Arrow in Quantum Cosmology | 169 |
| 6.1 | Phase Transitions of the Vacuum | 171 |
| 6.2 | Quantum Gravity and the Quantization of Time | 174 |
| 6.2.1 | Quantization of the Friedmann Universe | 177 |
| 6.2.2 | The Emergence of Classical Time | 185 |
| 6.2.3 | Black Holes in Quantum Cosmology | 193 |
| Epilog | | 197 |
| Appendix: | A Simple Numerical Toy Model | 201 |
| References | | 207 |
| Subject Index | | 227 |