

Contents

1	Introduction and Outlook	1
1.1	Zeta Functions	1
1.1.1	The Riemann Zeta Function	1
1.1.2	The Hurwitz Zeta Function	3
1.1.3	The Epstein Zeta Function	4
1.1.4	A Word on Related Bibliography	5
1.2	Zeta Function Regularization	5
1.2.1	Historical Background	5
1.2.2	The Zeta Function of a Differential Operator	6
1.2.3	Regularization of the Vacuum Energy	8
1.2.4	Regularization of One-Loop Graphs	8
1.3	Examples and a Comparison with Other Procedures	10
1.3.1	Some Explicit Examples	10
1.3.2	Comparison with Other Regularization Methods	11
1.3.3	A Word of Warning	13
1.4	Present Developments and a Point on Rigor	14
1.4.1	Calculation of Heat-Kernel Coefficients	15
1.4.2	Determinant of the Laplacian	16
1.5	General Definition of the Zeta Function of a Pseudo-differential Operator	17
1.5.1	The Zeta Function of a Ψ DO	17
1.5.2	The Zeta Regularized Determinant	18
1.5.3	Multiplicative Anomaly	19
1.5.4	On the Explicit Calculation of ζ_A and $\det_\zeta A$	20
1.6	Future Perspectives: Operator Regularization	21
1.6.1	Generalization and Further Extensions	21
2	Mathematical Formulas Involving the Different Zeta Functions	23
2.1	A Simple Recurrence for the Higher Derivatives of the Hurwitz Zeta Function	23
2.2	The Zeta-Function Regularization Theorem	29

2.2.1	The Theorem (Special Form)	31
2.3	Immediate Application of the Theorem	38
2.4	Expressions for Multi-series on Combinations Involving Arbitrary Constants and Exponents	41
3	A Treatment of the Non-polynomial Contributions: Application to Calculate Partition Functions of Strings and Membranes	49
3.1	Dealing with the Non-polynomial Term Δ_{ER}	49
3.1.1	Proof of Asymptoticity of the Series	51
3.1.2	The Remainder Term and the Poisson Resummation Formula	55
3.2	Numerical Estimates of the Remainder	57
3.3	Application: Summation of the String Partition Function for Different Ranges of the Temperature	60
4	Analytical and Numerical Study of Inhomogeneous Epstein and Epstein–Hurwitz Zeta Functions	67
4.1	Explicit Analytical Continuation of Inhomogeneous Epstein Zeta Functions	68
4.1.1	The Particular Case of the Basic One-Dimensional Epstein–Hurwitz Series	69
4.1.2	The Homogeneous Case: Chowla–Selberg’s Formula	72
4.1.3	Derivation of the General Two-Dimensional Formula	73
4.2	Extended Chowla–Selberg Formulas, Associated with Arbitrary Forms of Quadratic+Linear+Constant Type	77
4.2.1	Limit $q \rightarrow 0$	78
4.2.2	Case with $q = 0$ but $c_1 \neq 0$	79
4.2.3	Case with $c_1 = \dots = c_p = q = 0$	80
4.3	Numerical Analysis of the Inhomogeneous Generalized Epstein–Hurwitz Zeta Function	83
4.3.1	Asymptotic Expansions of the Function and Its Derivatives with Respect to the Variable and Parameters	84
5	Physical Application: The Casimir Effect	95
5.1	Essentials of the Casimir Effect	95
5.1.1	The Original Casimir Effect	95
5.1.2	Connection with the van der Waals Forces and the London Theory	96
5.1.3	The Specific Contribution of Casimir and Polder: Retarded van der Waals Forces	96
5.1.4	The Lifshitz Theory	98
5.2	The Casimir Effect in Quantum Field Theory	100
5.2.1	The Local Formulation of the Casimir Effect	100
5.2.2	The Mystery of the Casimir Effect	100
5.2.3	The Concept of the Vacuum Energy	101
5.2.4	The Explicit, Regularized Definition of the Casimir Energy	103

5.2.5	Definition of the Casimir Energy Density and Its Relation with the Vacuum Energy	104
5.3	A Very Simple Computation of the Casimir Effect	105
5.3.1	The Casimir Effect for a Free Massless Scalar Field in $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and in $\mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ Spacetimes	107
5.3.2	The Case of a Massless Scalar Field Between p Perpendicular Pairs of Parallel Walls with Dirichlet Boundary Conditions	110
5.3.3	Massless Scalar Field with Periodic and Neumann Boundary Conditions, and Electromagnetic Field	114
6	Five Physical Applications of the Inhomogeneous Generalized Epstein–Hurwitz Zeta Functions	119
6.1	Application: The Casimir Energy over Riemann Surfaces	120
6.2	Application: Kaluza–Klein Model with Spherical Compactification	125
6.3	Critical Behavior of a Field Theory at Non-zero Temperature	131
6.4	Application to Quantizing Through the Wheeler–De Witt Equation	134
6.4.1	Explicit Zeta-Function Calculation of the Essential Determinant and Extrema of the Potential	135
6.4.2	An Alternative Treatment by Means of Eisenstein Series	138
6.5	Spectral Zeta Function for Both Scalar and Vector Fields on a Spacetime with a Noncommutative Toroidal Part	141
6.5.1	Poles of the Zeta Function	141
6.5.2	Explicit Analytic Continuation of $\zeta_\alpha(s)$, $\alpha = 2, 3$, in the Complex s -Plane	143
7	Miscellaneous Applications Combining Zeta with Other Regularization Procedures	147
7.1	Relation Between the Generalized Pauli–Villars and the Covariant Regularizations	147
7.2	The Casimir Energy Corresponding to a Piecewise Uniform String	152
7.2.1	The Zero Temperature Theory	154
7.2.2	Regularized Casimir Energy and Numerical Results	157
7.2.3	The Finite Temperature Theory	160
7.3	Zeta and Hadamard Regularizations	164
7.3.1	A Zeta-Function Approach	166
7.3.2	Case of Two-Point Dirichlet Boundary Conditions	168
7.3.3	How to Deal with the Infinities?	169
7.3.4	Hadamard Regularization of the Casimir Effect	171
8	Applications to Gravity, Strings and p-Branes	175
8.1	Application to Spontaneous Compactification in Two-Dimensional Quantum Gravity	175
8.2	Application to the Study of the Stability of the Rigid Membrane	178
8.2.1	Calculation of the Potential	179
8.2.2	The Limit of Large Spacetime Dimensionality	180

8.2.3	A Saddle Point Analysis	182
8.2.4	Explicit Expressions for the Zeta-Function Regularization of the Effective Potential	183
8.2.5	Discussion of the General Case	185
9	Eleventh Application: Topological Symmetry Breaking in Self-Interacting Theories	189
9.1	General Considerations	189
9.2	The One-Loop Effective Potential for the Self-Interacting Theory .	190
9.3	The One-Loop Topological Mass	194
9.4	Renormalization of the Theory	196
9.5	Symmetry Breaking Mechanism for a Massless Scalar Field	198
10	Twelfth Application: Cosmology and the Quantum Vacuum	201
10.1	On the Reality of the Vacuum Fluctuations	202
10.2	On the Curvature and Topology of Space	203
10.2.1	On the Curvature	204
10.2.2	On the Topology	204
10.3	Vacuum Energy Fluctuations and the Cosmological Constant . . .	205
10.4	Simple Model with Large and Small Compactified Dimensions . .	206
10.4.1	Regularization of the Vacuum Energy Density	207
10.4.2	Numerical Results	208
10.5	Braneworld Models	209
10.6	Supergraviton Theories	211
	References	215
	Index	225