Contents

1 Overview **9**
- 1.1 A sketch of general relativity . . . 9
- 1.2 A sketch of quantum theory . . . 10
- 1.3 Quantum mechanics meets general relativity . . . 11
- 1.4 Quantisation—the accepted paradigm . . . 12
- 1.5 Emergence—a recent paradigm . . . 13
- 1.6 Structure of this PhD thesis . . . 14

2 Emergence from irreversibility **17**
- 2.1 Introduction . . . 17
- 2.2 Basics in irreversible thermodynamics . . . 18
- 2.3 Irreversible thermodynamics *vs*. quantum theory . . . 20
- 2.4 Emergence from irreversibility . . . 23
- 2.5 Conclusions to chapter 2 . . . 23

3 Emergent QM as a thermal ensemble **25**
- 3.1 Introduction . . . 25
- 3.2 Emergent time . . . 27
- 3.3 Entropy *vs*. energy . . . 28
  - 3.3.1 The energy picture . . . 28
  - 3.3.2 The entropy picture . . . 29
  - 3.3.3 S rather than H . . . 31
  - 3.3.4 Uncertainty *vs*. the second law . . . 33
  - 3.3.5 Commutators *vs*. fluctuations . . . 33
  - 3.3.6 Quantumness *vs*. dissipation . . . 35
- 3.4 Conclusions to chapter 3 . . . 36

4 The irreversible quantum **39**
- 4.1 Introduction . . . 39
- 4.2 Different representations for Chapman–Kolmogorov . . . 41
  - 4.2.1 The quantum–mechanical representation . . . 41
  - 4.2.2 Intermezzo . . . 42
  - 4.2.3 The representation in irreversible thermodynamics . . . 43
  - 4.2.4 Mapping thermodynamics into quantum mechanics . . . 44

4.2.5 Incoming states *vs*. outgoing states 45
4.3 The thermodynamical oscillator 47
4.3.1 The oscillator on the Banach spaces $L^1(\mathbb{R})$ and $L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ 47
4.3.2 The point spectrum of real eigenvalues 48
4.3.3 Irreversibility *vs*. nonunitarity 50
4.4 Conclusions to chapter 4 50

5 Overall summary **53**