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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The 18th Winter School 'Geometry and Physics' took place at the traditional place, the village Srní in the Czech Republic, in the period January 10 – January 17, 1998. These Winter Schools are organized by the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists, together with the Masaryk University in Brno and the Charles University in Prague, with the financial support by the International Erwin Schrödinger Institute for Mathematical Physics in Vienna.

During the school, 5 invited lecture series were presented: *Finsler Geometry and Dynamics* by Patrik Foulon, *Invariant Theory of Parabolic Geometries* by Rod Gover, *Quantum Methods in Classical Algebraic Topology* by Max Karoubi, *Twistor Methods and the Self-duality Equations* by Michael Singer, and *Introduction to Algebra over "Brave New Rings"* by Rainer Vogt.

In the rest of the program, more than thirty further lectures, communications, and posters were presented in two sections.

The Proceedings of this school, published traditionally in *Supplemento ai Rendiconti del Circolo Matematico di Palermo*, contain two of the invited series, the delayed invited survey from the 17th Winter School, and fifteen further contributions by the participants.

The list of all participants is included.

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