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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The 28th Winter School ‘Geometry and Physics’ took place at the usual place, the village Srní in the Czech Republic, in the period January 12 – January 19, 2008. The Winter School was organized by the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists, together with the Charles University and the Masaryk University, with financial support by the International Erwin Schrödinger Institute for Mathematical Physics.

During the School, 5 invited lecture series were presented: *Multiplicity free branching laws for unitary representations* by **Joachim Hilgert**, *Exterior differential systems, Lie algebra cohomology, and the rigidity of homogeneous varieties* by **Joseph Landsberg**, *Algebraic operads, Koszul duality and generalized bialgebras* by **Jean-Louis Loday**, *Towards a Lie theory of locally convex groups* by **Karl-Hermann Neeb** and *New sheaf theoretic methods in the study of surface bundles* by **Michael Weiss**.

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

The Proceedings of this School contain 15 contributions by the participants.

Martin Čadek
editor