

# Preface

This volume contains survey articles on various aspects of operator theory and partial differential operators. These papers are meant as self-contained introductions to specific fields written by experts for non specialists. They are accessible for graduate students and young researchers but – we believe – they are also of interest to scientists already familiar with the respective area.

The topics covered range from differential operators on abstract manifolds to finite difference operators on a lattice modeling some aspects of impure superconductors. All of them share a view towards applications in physics.

The idea to collect these contributions arose during a conference organized by D. Mayer, I. Witt and one of the editors in Goslar (Germany) in September 2011. But, instead of collecting highly specialized articles on most recent research as for conference proceedings our focus was on introductory aspects and readability of up-to-date contributions.

During the Goslar conference mentioned we also had the opportunity to celebrate the 65th birthday of Michael Demuth. It gives me a great pleasure to wish him here once more many happy years to come.

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