

## PREFACE

The XIIIth Białowieża Summer Workshop was held from July 9 to 15, 1994. While still within the general framework of Differential Geometric Methods in Physics, the XIIIth Workshop was expanded in scope to include quantum groups,  $q$ -deformations and non-commutative geometry. It is expected that lectures on these topics will now become an integral part of future workshops. In the more traditional areas, lectures were devoted to topics in quantization, field theory, group representations, coherent states, complex and Poisson structures, the Berry phase, graded contractions and some infinite-dimensional systems.

Those of us who have taken part in the evolution of the workshops over the years, feel a good measure of satisfaction with the excellent quality of the papers presented, in particular the mathematical rigour and novelty. Each year a significant number of new results are presented and future directions of research are discussed. Their freshness and immediacy inevitably leads to intense discussions and an exchange of ideas in an informal and physically charming environment.

The present workshop also had a higher attendance than its predecessors, with approximately 65 registered participants. As usual, there was a large number of graduate students and young researchers among them.

The editors would like to thank all members of the local organizing committee for their painstaking efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the meeting and for organizing a delightful array of social events. Secondly, they would like to record their indebtedness to all the people who have contributed to this volume. Finally they would like to thank Warsaw University, Białystok Branch, for generous financial support.

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