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The statue on the cover is situated in the city of Ulm. It honours Albert Einstein, who was born here on March 14, 1879. Unfortunately, our photograph does not allow us to fully appreciate the sensation of relativity, since it does not show the rocket beneath the Einstein-faced snail. On the other hand, the artist of the statue, Jürgen Goertz, succeeds in giving us an insight into Einstein's miraculous brain (backside of the cover).

Preface

Once more we present to you a new issue of Ulmer Seminare: Volume 20, the final issue of the series. The first issue of Ulmer Seminare appeared back in 1996 when the internet was still in its infancy. In 1996 MathSciNet came into existence, Google followed a few years later in 1998. Interestingly, the electronic preprint repository arXiv.org was already around in 1991 and has since grown into the indispensable resource it is today.

This issue shall be the final issue of the series and we want it to be a special one, of course. The previous issues of Ulmer Seminare were foremost a venue for the proceedings of the Analysis Seminar of the *Institute of Applied Analysis* at Ulm University, collecting contributions from colleagues as well as from the members of our institute. Naturally we once again have a number of such contributions.

Furthermore, however, we invited all of you to send us short contributions in the general realm of functional analysis, partial differential equations and evolution equations that very loosely fit into the two categories of 'open problems' and 'three-line proofs'.

The organisers are grateful to all the authors for their wonderful and most valuable contributions. We also would like to acknowledge Ulm University for its financial support over all these years.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the cornucopia of mathematical offerings and that the Ulmer Seminare will be fondly remembered.

Wolfgang Arendt
Jochen Glück
Manfred Sauter
Rico Zacher

More about the activities of the Institute of Applied Analysis can be found at `http://www.uni-ulm.de/mawi/iaa/`.

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