

Acknowledgements

I would like to warmly thank Marc Burger and Alessandra Iozzi for suggesting I give a graduate course (Nachdiplomvorlesung) at ETH Zurich, and the Institute for Mathematical Research (FIM) for the opportunity to give this course, and for providing a wonderful working environment for the semester. I am grateful to Yannick Krifka for the excellent notes he typed up throughout the course, and to Stephan Tornier for reading these as they were prepared. Thanks must go to all participants in the course for their interest and questions. I also thank the University of Sydney for supporting the semester of study leave during which I visited ETH.

More broadly, I am indebted to the many people who introduced me to the material in these notes, including Marc Bourdon, Inna Capdeboscq, Mike Davis, Benson Farb, Frédéric Haglund, Chris Hruska, Tadeusz Januszkiewicz, Angela Kubena, Elizabeth Milićević, Petra Schwer and Richard Weiss. I also thank an anonymous referee for careful reading and many helpful comments. Of course, any mistakes that remain are my own responsibility.