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The book provides a self-contained account of the formal theory of general, i.e. also under- and overdetermined, systems of differential equations which in its central notion of involution combines geometric, algebraic, homological and combinatorial ideas. It presents for the first time in book form the theory of Pommaret bases, a special kind of Gröbner bases closely related to Koszul homology, and contains an extensive discussion of the existence and uniqueness of solutions of formally well-posed initial value problems and a novel presentation of Vessiot's dual version of the Cartan-Kähler theory. Special emphasis is put on a constructive approach leading to effective algorithms.

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W.M. Seiler is professor for computational mathematics (algorithmic algebra) at Kassel University. His research fields include differential equations, commutative algebra and mechanics. He is particularly interested in combining geometric and algebraic approaches. For many years, he has been an external developer for the computer algebra system MuPAD.