

## Editorial

In this volume the scientific committee presents the transactions of the international conference “*Advances in Group Theory and Applications*” (AGTA), held in Porto Cesareo in June 2013. The AGTA meetings have been held on every second year since 2007. We are most grateful to the team of main speakers who kindly accepted our invitation to present an individual lecture series on topics in Algebra. The comprehensive set of their lecture notes and source references is contained in this collection. A wide variety of challenging questions requiring future investigation are highlighted and expertly discussed. We thank them sincerely for their choice of topic and their painstaking commitment to editorial detail.

Gratitude is also expressed to all those who participated in the “short talk” programme. The reader will find a broad spectrum of interesting research achievements. A specific objective of all AGTA conferences is to attract, encourage and support young researchers. The large and talented cohort who presented and the high quality of their results confirms the worthiness of that ideal.

The extensive list of participants reflects the international appeal of the conference. Their questions, remarks and suggestions provided for lively discussion not only at lectures but continuously throughout the week, at times into the late-night hours. Many people contributed in a very special way to the success of the meeting. They are deserving of particular mention.

Firstly, the generous support of our sponsors “Monte dei Paschi di Siena”, “Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica Ennio De Giorgi dell’Università del Salento”, “Dipartimento di Matematica e Applicazioni Renato Caccioppoli dell’Università di Napoli Federico II”, “MIUR - PRIN 2009 Teoria dei Gruppi e Applicazioni”, “INdAM - G.N.S.A.G.A.”, “Università di Roma La Sapienza - Progetto di Ricerca: Identità polinomiali e metodi combinatori in strutture algebriche e geometriche”.

Secondly, the trojan efforts of the organisation and management committee who collectively ensured the smooth running of the whole programme: Maria Maddalena Miccoli, Salvatore Siciliano, Ernesto Spinelli, Paola Stefanelli. A special thank is due to Ilaria Colazzo for her help in the preparation of these proceedings.

Lastly, but by no means least, we are greatly indebted to the proprietors and staff of the hotel “Lo Scoglio” for their courteous, warm and friendly hospitality. They made our stay a truly enjoyable occasion.

Francesco Catino,  
Francesco de Giovanni,  
Martin L. Newell.

## Partecipants

Eli ALJADDEFF (Technion, Israel)  
Bernhard AMBERG (Mainz, Germany)  
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Sergio CAMP-MORA (València, Spain)  
Andrea CARANTI (Trento, Italy)  
Francesco CATINO (Lecce, Italy)  
Masoud CHABOKSAVAR (Mahhad, Iran)  
Büşra ÇINAR (Ankara, Turkey)  
Ilaria COLAZZO (Lecce, Italy)  
Francesca DALLA VOLTA (Milano, Italy)  
Alma D'ANIELLO (Napoli, Italy)  
Ulderico DARDANO (Napoli, Italy)  
Rex DARK (Galway, Ireland)  
Maria DE FALCO (Napoli, Italy)  
Francesco DE GIOVANNI (Napoli, Italy)  
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Ángel DEL RIO (Murcia, Spain)  
Onofrio Mario DI VINCENZO (Potenza, Italy)  
Cristina DRAPER (Málaga, Spain)  
Florian EISELE (Brussels, Belgium)  
Ramón ESTEBAN-ROMERO (València, Spain)  
Paolo FACCIN (Trento, Italy)  
Marco GERACI (Palermo, Italy)  
Antonino GIAMBRUNO (Palermo, Italy)  
Anna Luisa GILIOTTI (Bologna, Italy)  
Jairo Z. GONÇALVES /São Paulo, Brasil)  
Valerio GUIDO (Lecce, Italy)  
Hermann HEINEKEN (Würzburg, Germany)  
Otto KEGEL (Freiburg, Germany)  
Ann KIEFER (Brussels, Belgium)  
Feride KUZUCUOĞLU (Ankara, Turkey)  
Mahmut KUZUCUOĞLU (Ankara, Turkey)  
Daniela LA MATTINA (Palermo, Italy)  
Roberto LA SCALA (Bari, Italy)  
Leire LEGARRETA (Bilbao, Spain)  
Patrizia LONGOBARDI (Salerno, Italy)  
Andrea LUCCHINI (Padova, Italy)

Mercede MAJ (Salerno, Italy)  
Ivan MARTINO (Stockholm, Sweden)  
Maria MARTUSCIELLO (Napoli, Italy)  
Maurizio MERIANO (Salerno, Italy)  
Maria Maddalena MICCOLI (Lecce, Italy)  
Marta MORIGI (Bologna, Italy)  
Paula MURGEL (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)  
Carmela MUSELLA (Napoli, Italy)  
Martin L. NEWELL (Galway, Ireland)  
Vicente PÉREZ-CALABUIG (València, Spain)  
César POLCINO MILIES (São Paulo, Brazil)  
Raffaele RAINONE (Padova, Italy)  
Silvana RINAURO (Potenza, Italy)  
Roberto RIZZO (Lecce, Italy)  
Wolfgang RUMP (Stuttgart, Germany)  
Alessio RUSSO (Caserta, Italy)  
Federica SACCOMANNO (Napoli, Italy)  
Mohamed A. SALIM (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates)  
Luigi SERENA (Firenze, Italy)  
Salvatore SICILIANO (Lecce, Italy)  
Francesca SPAGNUOLO (València, Spain)  
Ernesto SPINELLI (Lecce, Italy)  
Paola STEFANELLI (Lecce, Italy)  
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Maria TOTA (Salerno, Italy)  
Nadir TRABELSI (Setif, Algeria)  
Marco Trombetti (Napoli, Italy)  
Inneke VAN GELDER (Brussels, Belgium)  
Giovanni VINCENZI (Salerno, Italy)  
Thomas WEIGEL (Milano, Italy)