

# Preface

We are pleased to present “Geometric Group Theory, Geneva and Barcelona”, a selection of research articles contributed by speakers and participants of two strongly related recent international conferences. The first one, “Asymptotic and Probabilistic Methods in Geometric Group Theory”, was held at the University of Geneva (Switzerland), from June 20th to 25th, 2005. The second one, “Barcelona Conference in Group Theory”, was held at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), from June 28th to July 2nd, 2005.

This volume contains a selection of twelve refereed articles highlighting several active areas of research in Geometric and Combinatorial Group Theory. The specific material presented here will be of interest to researchers in this domain; owing to the broad nature of group theory, it should also appeal to graduate students and mathematicians throughout mathematics, by providing a direct introduction to active themes of research.

We are very grateful to the organisms that supported these two conferences. The Geneva event was organized by Goulmira Arzhantseva, Laurent Bartholdi, Alexander Ol’shanskii, Mark Sapir and Efim Zelmanov. It was part of the Swiss National Science Foundation research project “Geometry of groups and asymptotic invariants”, within the SNF Professorship of Goulmira Arzhantseva, no. PP002-68627, and was also sponsored by the University of Geneva, the foundation “L’Enseignement mathématique”, the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, the Swiss Mathematical Society (“Journées de Printemps”), and the American National Science Foundation.

The Barcelona event was organized by Noel Brady, José Burillo and Enric Ventura. It was part of the “Centre de Recerca Matemàtica” 2004–2005 research programme on “The Geometry of the Word Problem”, which contributed administrative, financial and institutional support to the organization of the Barcelona Group Theory Conference. Thanks are due as well to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya for their support.

Above all, we wish to thank the contributors to the present volume, and the anonymous referees who ensured the high quality of its contents. Our thanks also go to Thomas Hempfling at Birkhäuser for his assistance in the typesetting and preparation of this volume. Without these joint efforts, this book would never have appeared.

Geneva, Lausanne  
and Barcelone,  
March 2007

The editors,  
G. Arzhantseva, L. Bartholdi,  
J. Burillo, E. Ventura.

Geometric Group Theory

Geneva and Barcelona Conferences

Arzhantseva, G.N.; Bartholdi, L.; Burillo, J.; Ventura, E.

(Eds.)

2007, VII, 256 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-7643-8411-1

A product of Birkhäuser Basel