

Preface

From September to December 2012, a Research Programme on *Automorphisms of Free Groups: Algorithms, Geometry and Dynamics* took place at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica (CRM), Bellaterra, Barcelona. It was coordinated by Juan González-Meneses (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain), Martin Lustig (Université Aix-Marseille III, France), Alexandra Pettet (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada), and Enric Ventura (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Catalonia).

During these intense four months, several scientific events took place, including an international conference, an advanced course, two workshops, and a weekly seminar, all of them with the active participation of many visitors invited to attend from several countries abroad. Of course, additionally, all participants had numerous occasions to host informal but fruitful conversations among themselves, discussing mathematical ideas which, in many cases, gave rise to new and interesting results, altogether in a very dynamic and productive research atmosphere.

In this first volume of the new subseries *Research Perspectives CRM Barcelona* published by Birkhäuser inside the series *Trends in Mathematics*, we present 17 Extended Abstracts corresponding to selected talks given by participants in the research programme. More than half of them came from the *Conference on Automorphisms of Free Groups* (held from November 12 to 16, 2012) and the rest came from talks given at the workshops or the weekly seminar held along the Fall of 2012. We hope that the presentation of this material under the present Extended Abstract form will help authors spread their recent research. Most of the short articles in this volume contain preliminary presentations of new results not yet published in regular research journals.

We would like to express our gratitude to CRM for hosting and supporting our research programme. We also convey our warm thanks to the CRM Director, Joaquim Bruna, and to the secretaries for providing great facilities and a very

pleasant working environment. Finally, thanks are due to all those who attended the talks, for their interest, their active participation, and their enthusiasm towards mathematics.

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