

# Preface

The Spanish Relativity Meeting (ERE) is a well-established meeting devoted to General Relativity and Gravitation, and it has been organized in Spain for more than 30 years. However, in 2012, the Relativity group at the University of Minho in Portugal, took the challenge of the Spanish Society of Gravitation and Relativity (SEGRE), and organized the meeting in Portugal, for the first time. The meeting was organized in Guimarães, a world heritage site, and European Capital of Culture in 2012.

The ERE2012 was organized under the title “Progress in Mathematical Relativity, Gravitation and Cosmology”, and we were pleased to host an excellent panel of invited speakers on topics which ranged from mathematical cosmology, numerical relativity and black holes to string theory and quantum gravity. We were also very glad to have an exceptional international list of over a 100 participants from the 5 continents and over 40 countries.

The conference opening, on September 3rd, had the presence of both the Dean of the School of Sciences of Minho University, Prof. Estelita Vaz, who, luckily, was one of the meetings’ organizers, and the Secretary of the SEGRE society, Prof. Jaume Carot. Nineteen plenary lectures took place in the mornings while the afternoons included 81 talks in 10 parallel sessions as well as 7 poster presentations.

Following the tradition of previous meetings, there were also several social events, from the memorable Public Lecture by Carlos Herdeiro at “Centro de Artes e Espetáculos São Mamede” and the cocktail at “Escola de Ciências” to the guided visit to Porto and the closing dinner at Guimarães historical centre, with the Rector of Minho University, Prof. António Cunha.

We thank all the participants for creating a very pleasant atmosphere and hope that our first step can encourage future editions of the ERE in Portugal.

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