

Special Volume on Poisson Geometry

Preface

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Poisson geometry is an active domain of research related to a large variety of problems. The articles in this special volume present several of the most active areas of investigation in and around Poisson geometry, and so represent the state of research in this vibrant field.

This volume, dated 2009, appears two hundred years after the papers of Lagrange and Poisson that lie at the foundation of present-day symplectic and Poisson geometry. The article of Charles-Michel Marle recounts the historical development of the subject. It was presented at the *International Conference on Poisson Geometry in Mathematics and Physics, "Poisson 2008"* that was held in July 2008 at the Bernoulli Center of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. This conference marked ten years from the first conference on this subject that was held at the Banach Center in Warsaw. From that relatively modest beginning, these conferences have evolved into a major event showcasing, every other year, the most significant developments in Poisson geometry and related areas (see the web site poissongeometry.org). This particular conference was not only the largest one held so far, but also marked the inception of a six-month program at the Bernoulli Center on *Poisson Geometry and Momentum Maps*.

As guest editors of this volume, we solicited contributions consisting of original research, and we believe that these articles together will constitute a useful overview of some of the most significant current research in Poisson geometry. All contributions went through the usual refereeing procedure of this journal.

We wish to express our gratitude to the editors of *Letters in Mathematical Physics* for the invitation to present this collection of articles on topics centering on the use of Poisson geometry as a single special volume of this journal.

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and Tudor S. Ratiu, guest editors*

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