Foreword

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With SPT2014, held in Cala Gonone near Nuoro (Sardinia, Italy) in late May 2014, the series of conferences “SPT—Symmetry and Perturbation Theory” reached its eight edition, after those held in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2011. Over the years the conference series has somehow widened its scope, e.g. including the theme of Integrability or the Geometry of Differential Equations, but retained its name.

In this occasion the Conference was organized by M. Cadoni (Cagliari), P. Morando (Milano), M.A. Rodriguez (Madrid), S. Walcher (Aachen), and myself; we enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of Hotel Smeraldo and the beautiful scenery of Cala Gonone.

The Conference was financially supported and made possible by Università degli Studi di Milano (Dipartimento di Matematica) and by Università di Cagliari (Dipartimento di Fisica) together with GNFM-INdAM (the “Gruppo Nazionale di Fisica Matematica” of “Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica”); this is an appropriate occasion to thank again these funding bodies for their generous help, which for GNFM goes back to the first edition of the series.

While in some of the previous editions there were volumes of Proceedings [1–6], in this occasion we decided not to have a standard Proceedings volume. We decided instead to follow an approach which we had already taken in some previous occasions [7–9] and have a volume of invited “tutorial papers”. By this we meant a paper providing a personal view of some active field of research and an entry point for the same. We trust that the papers collected in this volume of *Acta Applicandae Mathematicae* reach this goal, and that they will be of interest to the readers of the Journal. Actually, as the reader will see, most of the papers went far beyond this goal, and present substantial new results.

As the readers will find out, the papers in this volume reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the SPT conferences. They are thus arranged in alphabetical order, with no attempt to group them according to their subject.

The Authors—and the anonymous referees—accepted to work under strict time constraints, and I would like to take this occasion to thank them for this.

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Finally, I would like to thank again all the Authors for their contributions, and all the participants in SPT2014 (and my fellow organizers) for their support and for the very nice atmosphere we all enjoyed at the conference. In the course of it we realized that two participants have been with us since the first edition and always present in all the editions of SPT; they are Giampaolo Cicogna (Pisa) and Ferdinand Verhulst (Utrecht), and they fully deserve a grateful special mention.

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