

Foreword

The idea of the present volume stemmed from a conference held in honor of Francesco Baldassarri's 60th anniversary at the University of Padova, February 3–5, 2011.

It is a collection of original peer-reviewed contributions dedicated to Francesco by some of his friends and colleagues.

Francesco Baldassarri was a student at the University of Padova where he worked under the supervision of Iacopo Barsotti and later became a collaborator and disciple of the legendary Bernard Dwork.

From the latter he inherited the quest for the ultimate truth on the radius of convergence of a p -adic connection, which he is still pursuing.

The study of this radius of convergence and its recent applications at the description of the p -adic ramification of finite maps of p -adic curves are indeed some of his recent remarkable results.

The aim of the conference in Padova was to celebrate Francesco's work and many accomplishments through the presence at the debates of his favorite mathematical themes and of his favorite mathematicians.

The present collection of articles, sharing the same aim with the conference, is remarkable by its lack of uniformity; it comprises very short articles and very long ones and we hope that all of Francesco's favorite themes are represented. There are articles about p -adic cohomology, representations of p -adic groups, p -adic period rings, zeta functions, p -adic comparison isomorphisms, uniform structures, p -adic differential equations, slopes of Frobenius, heights of algebraic cycles etc.

We see this volume of articles as a reflection of Francesco Baldassarri's wide range of interests, talents and pursuits and we dedicate it to him with the greatest of affections. Evviva!

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