Editors' introduction

David Kerr, Nicolas Monod, and Tatiana Nagnibeda

This issue is dedicated to Rostislav Grigorchuk, the founder of the journal Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics (GGD). Slava served as Editor-in-Chief from the day the journal was created in 2007 until the end of 2023. That year, we also celebrated Slava's 70th birthday. It was during his birthday conference, held in Les Diablerets, that the idea for this journal issue was born. The contributors – speakers at the conference, past and present members of the GGD editorial board, friends, and colleagues – wanted it to be a tribute to Slava's beautiful and influential mathematics, and a token of our enduring friendship.

Photo courtesy of Stanislav Smirnov.

Much has been written about Slava's contributions to mathematics, especially about the famous group that bears his name. His work has received wide recognition, including the prestigious Steel Prize for Seminar Contribution to Research. Here, we would like to say a couple of words about his other creation: the journal Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics, published by EMS Press, the publishing house of the European Mathematical Society.

While the journal's titular themes and the interactions between them have long been central to modern mathematics and instrumental to modern mathematical thinking, a series of innovations in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, including Slava's own influential work on intermediate growth, triggered an explosive new phase of development with the study of infinite discrete groups at its heart. Much of this progress revolved around fundamental structural notions like amenability, hyperbolicity, non-positive curvature, and property (T) and profited from expanding connections to other areas of mathematics such as operator algebras, low-dimensional topology, abstract ergodic theory, and probability theory.

In founding GGD, Slava foresaw the tremendous growth that the area would experience in the ensuing decades. It is thanks in large part to his vision and leadership as Editor-in-Chief that the journal has played a big role in supporting and shaping this growth.

With the dedication of this issue we would also like to look ahead to the future by wishing many more exciting and productive years to Slava and to GGD.

David Kerr
Mathematisches Institut, University of Münster, Einsteinstr. 62, 48149 Münster, Germany;
kerrd@uni-muenster.de

Nicolas Monod
Institute of Mathematics, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Station 8, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland; nicolas.monod@epfl.ch

Tatiana Nagnibeda
Section of Mathematics, University of Geneva, Rue du Conseil-Général 7-9, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland; tatiana.smirnova-nagnibeda@unige.ch