

PREFACE

This volume contains a set of papers written by the participants of the international conference *Foliations 2005* held in the Conference Center of the University of Łódź (Poland) between June 13 and June 24, 2005. The conference was sponsored by the Chair of Geometry and Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Łódź, the Japan Society for Promotion in Science, Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Poland and the Stefan Banach International Mathematical Center in Warsaw. Participants numbered in approximately 75, more than 50 of them from abroad (Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Romania, Russia, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine and USA).

The organizing committee consisted of four people who became editors of this volume. They were supported by the staff of the Faculty of Mathematics and a group of young mathematicians and students from the University of Łódź.

The papers contained in this volume are closely related to the lectures given at the conference, which was designed to cover various aspects of the theory of foliations, focusing on topology, geometry and dynamics of such objects.

All the papers contained in this volume were refereed by experts. Some of them are just research papers containing original results, some contain surveys which bring light to the current state of some aspects of the foliation theory, some are of “mixed-type” (surveys with a bit of new results). The volume contains also a list of open problems presented during the conference at the problem session, then collected and prepared for publication by one of the editors of the volume. We hope that both, the conference itself and this volume of proceedings, should make a significant contribution to the progress of our field of science. We express our gratitude to the participants, the contributors of this volume, the sponsors and all the colleagues and students who helped us while organizing the conference and preparing the volume for publication. In particular, we would like to mention Marek Badura (who organized the webpage of the conference as well as the participant data base), Maciej Czarnecki (the secretary of the organizing committee) and Zofia Walczak (who worked a lot with the TeX-files of the articles contained here).

The Editors