Foreword

The first part of this volume is dedicated to our friend and colleague Fabio Zanolin, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. This section contains seventeen invited papers from mathematicians who have collaborated in various ways with Fabio, mainly in the fields of ordinary differential equations and topology. We thank all the authors for their contributions.

Fabio Zanolin was born on November 3, 1952 in Trieste, where he studied and obtained his university degree in mathematics in 1976, with a thesis in topology directed by Mario Dolcher. He was then appointed assistant professor at the *Istituto di Matematica* of the University of Trieste, then associate professor from 1982 to 1987, when he became full professor and moved to the University of Udine, where he still works and lives.

During his career, Fabio has had many students and collaborated with mathematicians from several countries all over the world. All those who have known Fabio have always appreciated his deep mathematical insight, as well as his kindness, generosity and modesty. Among these Alessandro Fonda and Pierpaolo Omari, who have taken care of this section, so to celebrate this special birthday.