

PREFACE

This special issue contains a selection of papers which were originally presented at the XV IMGTA (Italian Meeting on Game Theory and Applications), an international meeting that took place at the University of Urbino (Italy) from the 9th to the 12th of July 2003. It has been attended by approximately 200 researchers, with 133 communications and 8 invited lectures. One of the invited speakers was Guillermo Owen, as the XV IMGTA was dedicated to his 65th birthday, celebrated in 2003. A special session of the XV IMGTA has been dedicated to him, and some of the papers presented in that session are now collected in the volume “Essays on cooperative games, in honor of Guillermo Owen” edited by Gianfranco Gambarelli, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2005.

The IMGTA are meetings coordinated by the CITG (Interuniversity Centre for Game Theory and its Applications), and they have been held in odd numbered years, alternating with the Spanish meetings since the year 2000, in a “joint venture” which will include also the Dutch meetings from 2005. The previous Italian meeting was in Ischia (Naples), in 2001, and the previous Spanish one was in Seville, in 2002.

The papers which appear in this issue have undergone the standard refereeing process in use for this Journal, and we wish to express our gratitude to the referees for their essential help. The papers appearing in this issue address various topics in different areas of research in game theory and its applications, thus reflecting the character of the meeting, which is not specifically focused on a particular aspect of game theory. Indeed, it is intended to bring together the different streams of the growing literature in this field, in order to stimulate collaborations and a fruitful trade off between theoretical issues and applications. We hope that this special issue will help the reader to enter the research topics in game theory, as well as its recent advancements and applications.

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