



Bled'11

This issue of *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* contains a selection of articles presented at the 7th Slovenian Graph Theory Conference (Bled'11), held from June 19 to June 25, 2011, by tradition at Lake Bled, Slovenia. This conference (held every four years) has progressed a long way since the first one in 1991. The number of participants has grown, from just 30 in 1991, to 270 at Bled'11, representing 40 countries and all six continents. The Bled'11 conference was attended by some of the leading researchers in graph theory, as well as many postdocs and talented PhD students. There were nine keynote speakers (Jonathan L. Gross, Wilfried Imrich, Alexander A. Ivanov, László Lovász, Jaroslav Nešetřil, Egon Schulte, Tamás Szőnyi, Martin Škoviera, and Asia Ivić Weiss), plus 213 contributed talks presented within 16 minisymposia, and a general session. The minisymposia brought together researchers from specific fields, ranging across algebraic, algorithmic, geometric, topological, and other aspects of graph theory, and enabled them to present their work and exchange ideas. We know that this led to progress on many open problems, and catalysed many new collaborations. The algebraic minisymposia were dedicated to Henry H. Glover, a very dear and strong collaborator of the Slovenian Algebraic Graph Theory group, who sadly passed away just a few weeks before the conference.

Many special and satellite events were organised during and after the conference. We celebrated the 70th birthdays of Jonathan L. Gross and Wilfried Imrich. A meeting of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry was held, as well as the first meeting of the team from the ESF EuroGiGA GReGAS research project, led by Tomaž Pisanski (University of Primorska). Another highlight was the 'Milestones' exhibition, due to Boštjan Kuzman, which presented many important steps in the development of graph theory in Slovenia — from the first lecture notes, scientific results, published papers and doctoral theses, to international collaborations, celebrated publications, editorial positions, establishments of new institutions, scientific journals, and further projects. Immediately after the conference, about 80 participants attended a satellite PhD Summer School — the Algebraic Graph Theory Summer School, held in Rogla, and organised by the University of Primorska, and some participants attended a 'Mathematics meets Art' event in Ljubljana.

In the past, many papers from each Bled conference were published in a special issue of the *Discrete Mathematics* journal. In 2007 however, when *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* was established, the participants of the 6th Bled conference were given the option of publishing their contributions in a special issue of this new journal. The organisers of the 2011 conference decided that the contributions related to Bled'11 would be published exclusively by *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea*. This is the first such special issue, and contains 15 articles, accepted for publication after a thorough refereeing process. In producing it, we are able to present to the readers of this journal a selected number of the Bled'11 conference contributions, containing high quality results, and establishing starting points for future research. More of these will be published in another special issue in 2014.

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Guest Editors