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Combinatorial Optimization and Games

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Message from the Guest Editors

Most socio-economic and communication systems in the Digital Age are organized as complex networked structures, of which basic constituents are rational agents making selfish decisions. Although the natural framework to study such systems is a game-theoretic one, the complexity of these multi-player games is spectacularly higher than that usually considered in classical economics, and new theoretical and algorithmic methods are awaited. Techniques from the area of combinatorial optimization and statistical physics of disordered systems have proved useful to characterize equilibrium properties of these large-scale games, but many aspects are still poorly understood. This Special Issue is expected to provide a step forward in the research on these topics, in particular on the role of externalities and network correlations, the study of dynamical equilibrium selection and learning processes, the effect of incentives allocation and mechanism design.