Editors' Introduction

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This summer issue of SIGecom Exchanges has an exciting mix of news updates and technical content. The issue starts with statements from this year's slate of candidates for SIGecom officer positions. It has two event summaries, for the 2023 SIGecomm Winter Meeting and the 2nd ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO'22). There is a survey, three research letters, and an annotated reading list. Finally, puzzles: a solution to the puzzle published in the Summer 2022 issue of the Exchanges in honor of Noam Nisan's 60th birthday, and a new puzzle in honor of Joe Halpern's 70th birthday.

SIGecom sponsors several events throughout the year. This issue highlights two. The third SIGecom Winter Meeting took place virtually in February 2023 on the topic of Web3/Blockchain/Cryptocurrencies. Graduate students Emily Ryu, Chenghan Zhou, and Maryam Bahrani provide an excellent overview of the event. In their coverage, they summarize an introductory presentation and panel on *what* blockchain and Web3 are and *why* researchers should work on problems in this space. They also provide excerpts from a fireside chat with Tim Roughgarden, an overview of a social activity where participants could mint their own NFT, and a summary of an NFT discussion, treating the Bored Ape Yacht Club as a case study.

The second ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO'22) took place in October 2022 at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia. We invited the program chairs Elena Falcettoni, Dina Machuve, Bryan Wilder, and Angela Zhou to contribute a report summarizing the technical program, events, and organization of the conference. The report summarizes emergent themes in this year's program, and highlights the work that won awards. It should be of interest to researchers interested in equity, access, and social issues across a wide range of disciplines.

Hedyeh Beyhaghi and Linda Cai authored a comprehensive survey on Pandora's box problem for sequential search with costly inspections. Their survey first presents the canonical version of the problem by Weitzman in 1979. They then overview the wide range of recent extensions to the model, which impose additional combinatorial structure on the problem, constrain the searcher's information, or limit their adaptivity, among other things. The survey also covers applications of the model, including to mechanism design and matching markets.

Modibo Camara, winner of the 2022 EC Best Paper with a Student Lead Author Award, 2022 EC Exemplary Theory Track Paper Award, and 2023 ACM SIGecom

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Doctoral Dissertation Award, provides an overview of his groundbreaking theory of *tractable choice*. Using his EC'22 paper as a case study, he argues that economic assumptions of rational choice and a computational approach to tractable choice need to be studied together.

A letter from George Christodoulou, Elias Koutsoupias, and Annamaria Kovacs summarizes their breakthrough proof of the Nisan-Ronen conjecture, which they recently published in STOC'23. Their proof strengthens their prior work on the problem from FOCS'21, which was featured in last year's summer issue of the Exchanges. They discuss the new ideas that helped them finally settle the problem.

Etan Green and Barry Plunkett describe their work applying deep reinforcement learning to eBay bargaining. They nicely summarize the challenges with putting deep RL into practice, as well as the ways they were able to overcome these to outperform human bargaining. Their work received the Best Paper Award at EC'22.

This issue also includes an annotated reading list from Eric Balkanski, Vasilis Gkatzelis, and Xizhi Tan on learning-augmented mechanism design. They consider a mechanism designer with side information about agents' private types. The challenge is to design a mechanism that uses this extra information effectively without giving up worst-case robustness. This list may be of particular interest to readers wishing to follow up on the tutorial on the same subject at EC'22.

This issue ends with a solution to a puzzle by Vincent Conitzer in last year's summer issue on the communication complexity of planning a workshop to celebrate Noam Nisan's 60th birthday, and a new puzzle by Vincent Conitzer on simulation and cooperation in normal-form games in celebration of Joe Halpern's 70th birthday.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing co-editor-in-chief Inbal Talgam-Cohen for her outstanding service to our community since 2020. We also extend thanks to Yannai Gonczarowski for his continuing help in putting together the issues of Exchanges. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to volunteer a letter, survey, annotated reading list or position paper. We hope you find the research showcased in this issue inspiring!