Foreword to the special issue of PuMA on "Nonlinear Economic Dynamics" in honour of professor Ferenc Szidarovszky

This special issue of PuMA contains selected papers originally presented at the 4th International Conference on Nonlinear Economic Dynamics (NED) held at the University of Urbino, Italy, from July 28–30, 2005. The previous NED conferences have been held in 2002 and 2003 at the University of Southern Denmark and in 2004 at Chuo University in Tokyo (Japan). NED is an international meeting of scholars interested in economic dynamics with the intention to bring together the different streams of the growing literature in this field, in order to stimulate collaborations and to enable a fruitful exchange between theoretical research and applications in economics.

This fourth edition of NED was very special, as it offered us the opportunity to dedicate this meeting, as well as this special issue, to the 60th birthday of professor Ferenc Szidarovszky. Ferenc was not only involved in the series of conferences on NED from the beginning on, he also contributed to all the meetings by giving inspiring talks and making interesting comments and suggestions to all the participants. He is well-known in the scientific community and his work covers a variety of fields, like e.g. linear and nonlinear dynamical systems, linear algebra, optimal control, and neural nets, mostly applied to the description of economic and social systems. Throughout the years, Szidar maintained fruitful collaborations with many scholars spread all over the world, from Japan, to Australia, from the the United States, where he is working at the University of Arizona, to Hungary, his native country. However, knowing Szidar ourselves for several years now, the remarkable feature of his way of working with people is that there is always a strong feeling of friendship that Ferenc shares with all his collaborators.

Quite in the spirit of NED, the papers which appear in this issue address various topics in different areas of research on nonlinear dynamical systems applied to economic and social sciences. Several papers are devoted to the study of oligopoly models, other contributions deal with nonlinear business cycles, evolutionary approaches to bounded rationality and learning, and international fisheries and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. We hope that this special issue will help the reader to gain an entrée into the main topics of nonlinear dynamics applied to economics and social sciences, as well as their recent advances.

We wish to thank all the participants of NED whose talks and discussions lead to an interesting and enjoyable conference. The papers which appear in this issue have undergone the standard refereeing process of PuMA. We thank the referees for their support in selecting suitable contributions for the special issue. Special thanks are due to the editor, Prof. Péter Tallos, who also helped us in preparing this special issue. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the University of Urbino and of Italian Ministry of Research who supported the workshop in

the framework of the PRIN Grant "Nonlinear models in economics and finance: interactions, complexity and forecasting".

The guest editors
Gian Italo Bischi, University of Urbino (Italy)
Michael Kopel, Vienna University of Technology (Austria)
Akio Matsumoto, Chuo University (Japan)

Pure Mathematics and Applications

Volume 16 (2006), Issue No. 4