Brazilian Workshop on Game Theory Evaluation

The Brazilian Workshop on Game Theory (BWGT) was outstanding. The central part of the workshop was the mini-courses. I attended one myself and the room (Auditorium 2 in the program, holding perhaps 80-100 people) was filled from the first until the last class. I also heard quite favorable reports on the other mini-courses. The topics were well chosen and covered important areas of research in game theory and economics.

The objective of mini-courses such as those at the BWGT, at least in part, is to bring participants "up to speed" in an area of research. The BWGT also consisted of a substantial number of contributed and invited presentations. The keynote and semi-plenary speakers were established researchers with international reputations for excellence in research. Their presentations tended to first provide an introduction to a body of research and then to report on work at the frontiers of the area being discussed. Thus, the keynote presentations and also the semi-plenary presentations could thus be widely understood, even though they included discussion of recent research; I believe that students, especially, benefited from these presentations (although I have to say that I learned much myself!).

The contributed papers tended to be more focused. Participants in the BWGT had the opportunity to hear more about diverse, more specialized topics.

Let me also comment on the social events. Listening and learning from presentations of research is primarily a solitary activity. Often, deeper understanding and new ideas come from discussing research with others. The social events provide such an opportunity and an opportunity for the development of collaborations and long-term scientific interaction. Social events are an important component of a successful workshop.

Finally, let me remark that lunches were provided for the students. I thought this was terrific! It gave the students a chance to get to know each other and to talk about research with each other and also kept costs for the students down. For non-students, lunch was not expensive – better to subsidize lunch for the students.

As the reader must have already inferred, I give the BWGT an A+ on all counts!

Sincerely yours

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