What is *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea*?

Ars Mathematica Contemporanea (AMC) will publish high-quality articles in contemporary mathematics that arise mainly from the discrete and concrete mathematics paradigm. It will favor themes that combine at least two different fields of mathematics. In particular, we welcome papers intersecting discrete mathematics with other branches of mathematics, such as algebra, geometry, topology, and theoretical computer science. The name was chosen carefully. Symmetry is certainly a theme that is quite welcome to the journal, since it is through symmetry that mathematics comes closest to art. The name emphasizes that *work*, *skill* and *art* (three possible translations of the word ars, as exemplified by the well known proverbs *"Ars longa vita brevis"* and *"Ars sine scientia nihil est"*) are necessary to produce good contemporary mathematics, and that applications and connections should encompass a large variety—including art.

WHY A NEW JOURNAL?   There are three main reasons for launching *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea*. The first reason is that the quality of mathematical research in Slovenia has increased significantly in the past 40 years. In particular, discrete mathematics gained momentum and is becoming the leading branch of mathematics in Slovenia. Slovenia is the only country with developed research in mathematics that has no mathematical journal directed towards international readership.

The second reason is that discrete mathematics is a crucial part of the theoretical foundation of the digital age that was introduced by the rapid growth of computing, multimedia, and the internet. Although this is recognized by most universities, and discrete mathematics now forms part of the standard curriculum, most mainstream mathematical journals still favor classical mathematics. A main-stream journal devoted to contemporary concrete mathematics is therefore needed.

The third reason is that, although there exist a number of excellent specialized journals in the area of discrete mathematics, interdisciplinary topics are not adequately covered by them. Authors of such papers will find *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* a suitable journal for publication of their work. The journal will encourage publication of proceedings of conferences, such as the International Slovenian Conference in Graph Theory, the Leoben-Ljubljana Seminar, SIGMAC and GEMS, that emphasize these interdisciplinary areas.

ARTICLES.   *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* will publish research papers, survey papers, short papers (notes), open problems, and other mathematical material. In the non-research part, it will also publish short editorials and book reviews. Submissions should be made online, through our web page, where further instructions can be found. Manuscripts, which should be prepared in LaTeX and submitted as a PDF file, will undergo a standard peer reviewing process.

PUBLISHER AND SPONSORS.   The journal is published by the Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia and is sponsored by the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics and by the University of Primorska. The editors will actively seek support from other sources. In particular, we hope to attract collaborators and sponsors from other countries.

PUBLICATION STRATEGY.   The journal will initially publish two issues of about 10 papers per year. In general, we would like one of the papers in each issue to be a survey paper. The

editorial process will be carried on entirely on the internet. All papers will be freely available on the internet immediately after publication, and authors will be encouraged to submit their papers simultaneously as preprints to the arXiv, in order to make the paper available early and widely. We will promote AMC aggressively in order to be listed in MathSciNet and Web of Science, as soon as possible.

The Editorial Team

The First Issue

The very first issue of the new journal *Ars Mathematica Contmporanea* is composed of some papers that were presented at the 6th international Slovenian conference on graph theory that took place at Lake Bled in 2007. The participants of the conference had a choice of submitting their work either to an established journal or to this new, emerging journal. We would like to thank the authors that have chosen to trust and support *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea* even though their papers will not bring them any immediate points in their career. We will do our best that the situation changes soon.

Dragan Marušič and Tomaž Pisanski,
Editors-in-Chief