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THE COMMUNICATION OF IDEAS

Progress in science is based on the development of ideas. However, a large collection of ideas by themselves will neither lead to a successful Ph.D. thesis nor a scientific article, since the ideas have to be properly formulated and carefully placed within a well developed framework. Yet, ideas are the gist of scientific work. Having no (original) ideas means that the person who lacks the ideas will not contribute to the progress of science. A well-known answer among researchers to the question "How many ideas do you need for writing a Ph.D. thesis?" is "Only one, just a good one." This answer is frequently followed by "The remainder is literature research, experiments, validations, and evaluations." It sounds simple, but I have seen many students struggling with the development of ideas. Many times, especially when in trouble, they ask themselves the question "What is the value of an idea?" That question is prompted by the many ideas they had that did not work out. To answer the question prosaically I would like to quote Samuel Johnson (1709-1784). "Language is only the instrument of science, and words are but the signs of ideas: I wish, however, that the instrument might be less apt to decay, and that signs might be permanent, like the things which they denote."

Understanding the value of ideas is the task of supervisors when guiding Ph.D. students. The students have to find a method to develop fruitful ideas that they can work out via experiments into an interesting result and then a useful article. Journals then have the task in conjunction with the publication of the article to communicate the new ideas clearly to the readership. This is a notoriously difficult point for which I refer to my Editorial of June 2009 titled "The Alignment of Ideas" where I informed you about four referees who complained about the fact that (young) authors incorporated the advice, ideas, and even suggested new research directions without any acknowledgement to the anonymous referees. My statement then was that if you cannot recognize anonymous referees then you do not deserve a place in our community.

In this Editorial, I would like to stress the plain communication of ideas. So far, we have seen that ideas can be communicated by scientific articles and by referee reports, but there are many more means. This issue of the Journal provides a good example. It is my pleasure to place a focus on Ingo Althöfer. In the December 2011

issue he contributed the article "On Games with Random-Turn Order and Monte Carlo Perfectness", in which he explained many new ideas. Moreover, he then suggested many new research directions. In this issue he provided me with a variety of contributions: a note, a conference report, a side report, and a tournament report. It is almost an "Althöfer issue". For clarity of exposition I will follow his contributions. In the note, he informs us about the origin of *Dynamic Komi*. He explains what Bernd Brügmann once did wrong, and tells us that the mistake did not block his career. More importantly, Ingo gives his thoughts a free space in his note by visiting many obscure corners, such as *Kanalarbeite*r (Sewerage worker). However, his communication remains in line with his ideas and he concludes with a fine last paragraph in which he gives a suggestion on how to use dynamic-komi techniques in other games. In his Conference Report ACG13 Day 2 (p. 38), he reports that "During Mirlacher's talk a side thought came to my chess-influenced mind …". In his tournament report on Clobber, he confessed that he received a "crash course" by Johan de Koning: "Looking at PAN's interface and listening to Johan's explanations taught me more about Clobber programming in one afternoon then own (isolated) analysis in a full year could have done."

Here we see two opposite "idea providers": (1) Ingo Althöfer, who thinks, formulates ideas and writes them down, and (2) Johan de Koning, who infrequently writes (tournament reports) but who is always prepared to talk on his ideas, to match them with others, and who is happy attempting to implement the new ideas he has picked up.

Let me be cautious; this issue contains many ideas, and there are many more "idea generators" such as Cameron Browne (Yavalath, and Go Without Ko on Hexagonal Grids), Frank Berger, Richard Lorentz, and many others, such as the other contributing authors, Ferreira among them, and the anonymous referees of the article by Ferreira.

Ideas may come in different forms. For instance, ideas can easily be communicated by texting, via websites, in chat sessions, twitters, and so on. In my Editorial of March 2011 (What is Original?) I informed you about three French chess players who communicated ideas on chess moves in an unprofessional way (meanwhile they have received very severe sentences). That is the downside of using modern technology for the communication of ideas.

Yet, in my opinion ideas have to be prepared, tested, and polished. They follow a long path before they are fruitful for a scientific application and may serve as a stimulator for progress in science. I consider this one of our editorial tasks. This means that we continue to encourage our referees to put forward new ideas that deserve a place in a submitted article. This Journal will therefore keep its nature of combining articles with news, information, and tournament reports to the greater glory of our community.

<div style="text-align:right">Jaap van den Herik</div>

For our readership:
A video of the four Tilburg events (WCCC, WCSC, Computer Olympiad, and ACG13) is made by the Tilburg University. It is available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEnIKc6i5aM.

The credits of the photographs in this issue are to: Joke Hellemons and Jimmy Yen.

Dear Readers,

Owing to the financial crisis and the banking crisis, we inform you on the following two changes.
(1) Part of the ABN-AMRO Bank has been sold to the Deutsche Bank Nederland N.V. Therefore our banking account, and its IBAN code, and BIC code now reads as follows.
Account no. 450790878, Maastricht-Airport, the Netherlands.
IBAN code: NL02DEUT0450790878   BIC code: DEUTNL2N

(2) Payment via PayPal is no longer possible since the ICGA organisation does not meet the changed interpretation of the requirements by the PayPal organisation.

P.S. Payment by credit card (Visa/Mastercard) is still possible (see p. 64).