

Foreword

The VII International Conference on **Nonextensive Statistical Mechanics – Foundations and Applications** was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil, from 27 to 31 October 2008. In its seventh edition, about seventy participants attended the Conference, coming from Europe, Asia, South and North America. The meeting was opened by C. Tsallis (CBPF, Brazil) and L. P. Kadanoff (Chicago, USA). The other nineteen invited talks were given by renowned physicists. In addition to these, during the Conference, ten oral communications and more than twenty posters were presented. Different subjects were discussed, involving complex and nonergodic systems, networks, econophysics, anomalous diffusion, biological systems, metastability and long-range Hamiltonian systems, edge of chaos, granular matter, and nuclear physics, among others. To allow easy contact between participants, the scientific program was organized with no parallel sessions. This special issue with the proceedings of the Conference includes thirty papers describing several aspects of nonextensive statistical mechanics and the nonadditive entropy on which it is based, giving an updated overview of this area in the World. We acknowledge financial support from Capes, CNPq, Fundação Araucária, and Universidade Estadual de Maringá, which allowed the participation of many invited speakers and students.

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