



Preface

This special issue collects the papers which have been presented at the Special Session “Variational Analysis and Applications”, held during the First AMS-UMI Joint Meeting (Pisa, 12–16 June 2002). This important event was the occasion for the meeting of some international scholars, who presented the status-of-the-art in the above field. It is worth remarking that Variational Analysis encompasses a large area of modern Mathematics, such as the classic calculus of Variations, the theory of perturbation, approximation, subgradient, subderivatives, set convergence and Variational Inequalities. In this framework, Variational Inequalities play a remarkable role, because they have had a great development and influence both in the progress of Variational Analysis and in offering the mathematical model to several fundamental problems of Mathematical Physics and, more recently, of Engineering, Statistics, Networks, Economics.

A warm thanks needs to be given to all the participants, who, by means of their contributions, are allowing to present to the international mathematical community such a special collection of important and up-to-date results.

A special thanks also must be given to the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Global Optimization* for having accepted to publish in this special issue the referred papers presented at the joint meeting.

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