

Editorial Policy, Preferences, and Prejudices

The BULLETIN of the Australian Mathematical Society aims at quick publication of original research in all branches of mathematics. Only manuscripts that are suitable for quick publication will be accepted, and only if space permits. Manuscripts must be in their final, publishable form when submitted; refereeing will be kept to a minimum, and no revision of manuscripts will be allowed.

The BULLETIN is printed by a photo-offset process from a carefully prepared typescript. The type founts and special symbols available are, accordingly, restricted.

To facilitate the work of reviewing journals and the Mathematical Offprint Service (MOS) of the American Mathematical Society, the BULLETIN publishes an abstract at the head of each paper that is not itself an abstract, and also a tentative MOS classification in the top right-hand corner of the first page of each paper. Authors are invited to assist by supplying abstracts of their papers and supplying or checking MOS classification numbers. Copies of the MOS classification scheme are available to authors on request from MOS, American Mathematical Society, POB 6248, Providence, R.I. 02904, USA. The scheme and instructions for its use can be also found as an appendix to *Mathematical Reviews*, Index to Volume 39 (1970).

The Editors receive rather more than twice as much material as can be published in the BULLETIN; many meritorious papers can, therefore, not be accepted. Editorial decisions on acceptance or otherwise are taken quickly, normally within a week of receipt of a paper. They are usually NOT based on an expert referee's report; thus imperfections may mar papers that are accepted: in the Editors' view they are the authors' responsibility!

Authors can assist the Editors and improve their papers' chances of acceptance by observing some simple rules:

Submit a typescript (one is enough) that looks clean and clear, preferably a top copy. Make the style attractive, avoid ugly abbreviations, avoid lower case mathematical symbols at the beginning of sentences, pay attention to punctuation. We prefer clear and full arguments, and especially clear and full motivation, to mathematical telegrams. Present your case for FAST publication; if you can not well do this in the paper, do it in the covering letter. Submit an abstract that can be understood by the non-expert, and that explains what you do and why. [The abstract may be used by the *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* as its review of your paper.] See also *Outside Back Cover*.

Avoid all mathematical symbols in the title (even harmless looking ones like " p -group", " $*$ -algebra", " L -space"): they lead to unnecessary difficulties in the production processes, and are a great nuisance also after publication, in reviews, bibliographies, and so on. Arrange references alphabetically (by surname of first author), and ensure their accuracy: authors' names should appear as in the work quoted; and if this has not appeared yet or is not readily accessible to everybody (for example, a preprint), a photostat or xerox copy of the title page of the copy you have used will be of great help to us.

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The following notes are based on those prepared by UNESCO:

1. The purpose of an abstract is threefold:
 - (i) to help workers in the subject of the paper to decide whether to read it in full;
 - (ii) to give readers who are only marginally concerned in the subject enough information to make it unnecessary for them to read it in full;
 - (iii) to expedite and simplify the work of the reviewing journals and mathematical offprint services.
2. In writing abstracts, authors should bear in mind that these may be the only parts of the papers that are read.
3. The abstract should contain a brief but informative summary of the contents of the paper, but no inessential details.
4. The abstract should be self-contained, but may refer to the title.
5. If the paper is an announcement of results whose proofs are to be published in full elsewhere or later, the abstract should say so.
6. The abstract should be written in completely connected sentences, not as a list of headings. Abbreviations should be avoided.
7. The abstract should be non-technical, and intelligible without reference to the full paper. Specific references (by number) to a section, proposition, equation, bibliographical item should be avoided.
8. The abstract should be as concise as is compatible with these requirements. It should not be longer than 200 words, and may be much shorter.

The BULLETIN of the Australian Mathematical Society is published for the Society by

The University of Queensland Press,
St Lucia, Queensland 4067,
Australia,

and printed by

Watson Ferguson & Co,
Brisbane, Queensland 4101,
Australia.