

EDITORIAL MESSAGES

The past decade has seen a vast proliferation of published mathematical research literature. As a result the established mathematical journals have been inundated with research papers and the impact of this has been that one of the original purposes of the mathematical journal, that of an efficient disseminator of mathematical knowledge has been undermined. Indeed the time interval between an article's acceptance and that article's appearance can be as long as three years. Thus, the need for a forum for truly current mathematical research is evident. The Real Analysis Exchange has been created to fill this vacuum in the areas of real analysis, functions of real variables, and real set theory. The service the Exchange provides to mathematicians will be, as we envision it, two-fold.

First, a booklet will be published twice per year which will contain three major sections, each of which is briefly described below.

Section 1: Topical Surveys

This section consists of survey articles concerning one area of current research activity. These articles would differ from survey articles in major journals both in their more limited scope and greater depth. It is anticipated that such a survey article would indicate a stream of mathematical thought from origins of the current problem area up to and including unpublished results.

Section 2: Inroads

This second section consists of annotated abstracts of the recent work of real analysts coupled with bibliographic information concerning this work. In addition, the Inroads section can well serve the need to publicize real analysis dissertation results.

Section 3: Queries

In this section problems are presented together with appropriate bibliographical and historical information. This is not meant to be a recreational section but a forum for the presentation of unsolved problems in specific areas of real analysis.

Second, we hope to act as an "exchange" in the literal sense of the word. That is, beginning in 1976 we will send preprints of Inroads articles which have been sent to us to subscribers interested in this service. The Exchange booklet then shall consist of survey articles together with a compilation of Inroads articles and an active Queries section.

We have been funded to produce this first Real Analysis Exchange by Western Illinois University which has indicated financial support for next year as well. As such, the booklet charges for next year will be somewhat below cost. The charges for next year's Exchange are listed below.

We have received some very encouraging letters during the year and hope to be able to produce a useful and enjoyable service to our community. We wish to thank Professors James Foran, Richard Fleissner, Richard J. O'Malley and Clifford E. Weil for their help and encouragement and have asked that they serve as Associate Editors for the Exchange. Please send us your suggestions and criticisms or communicate them to one of our Associate Editors.

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