

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 differ from survey articles in major journals both in their more limited scope and greater depth. Such a survey article should indicate a stream of mathematical thought from origins of the current problem area up to and including unpublished results.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, to those subscribers who desire such a service we shall send preprints of Inroads articles as they arrive at our office. Any reader wishing to receive these preprints should request the "Preprint mailing service."

Subscription rates for either type of service are as follows:

1. Basic annual subscription (two booklets)....\$2.00
2. Preprint mailing service.....\$5.00
3. Combined service (1 and 2 above).....\$7.00

These rates continue to be somewhat below actual cost. For this we are grateful to the continued financial support of Western Illinois University.

The first issue (Vol. 1, No. 1) of the Exchange appeared last May and we have received reactions from several readers. We thank you for your interest, encouragement, and suggestions. A number of libraries have also contacted us concerning the possibility of subscribing. While the Exchange is intended to be a "personal use" type of publication, the availability of it in libraries is clearly advantageous to all concerned. Consequently, we have been filling library orders at the same subscription rate as for individuals and will continue to do so as long as this is financially possible. Hence, if your university's library budget can be squeezed for an extra two dollars per year, we shall be glad to add olive green to the decor of your departmental reading room.

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