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To be published in the Transactions, a paper must be correct, new, nontrivial, and significant. Further, it must be well written and of interest to a substantial number of mathematicians. Piecemeal results, such as an inconclusive step toward an unproved major theorem or a minor variation on a known result, are in general not acceptable for publication.

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As of June 30, 2001, the backlog for this journal was approximately 1 issue. This estimate is the result of dividing the number of manuscripts for this journal in the Providence office that have not yet gone to the printer on the above date by the average number of articles per issue over the previous twelve months, reduced by the number of issues published in four months (the time necessary for editing and composing a typical issue). In an effort to make articles available as quickly as possible, articles are posted to the AMS website individually after proof is returned from authors and before appearing in an issue.

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