
For Your Information

Andreescu Appointed Director of Mathematics Competitions

TITU ANDREESCU has been appointed the new director of the American Mathematics Competitions. He will assume the position in January 1999.

Andreescu has served as chair of the USA Mathematical Olympiad Committee, head coach of the International Mathematical Olympiad team, and director of the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program. He was most recently an instructor of mathematics at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois. From 1981 through 1989 he was Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Loga Academy in Timisoara, Romania. He received the Distinguished Teacher Award from the Romanian Ministry of Education in 1983 and the Edith May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America in 1994. In his new position he succeeds Walter E. Mientka of the University of Nebraska, who will become the executive director of the International Mathematical Olympiad 2001 U.S.A., Inc.

—From an MAA announcement

Comments Sought on NCTM Draft of Updated Standards

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has released a draft version of *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*. This document updates the Council's *Standards* for mathematics education. An electronic version of the document, which features a wider range of examples and elaborations, has been simultaneously released.

Individuals interested in commenting on the draft may do so by forwarding comments directly to NCTM. See NCTM's Web site, <http://www.nctm.org/standards2000/>, for both the text and the interactive

electronic formats of the document as well as instructions for submitting comments. A hard copy of the draft can also be ordered from NCTM by calling 888-220-7952; there is a nominal fee for shipping and handling. The deadline for comments is May 1, 1999.

—NCTM announcement

Listserver on Library Issues

MathLib is a listserv on library issues of interest to mathematicians and math librarians which was organized by the AMS Library Committee.

The list is not moderated, and messages to MathLib are being archived on the Mathematics Archives (<http://archives.math.utk.edu/hypermail/mathlib/>).

The list is open to subscribers only; to become a subscriber, send a message to majordomo@archives.math.utk.edu with only the words "subscribe mathlib" (without the quotation marks) in the body of the message. A subscription will then be approved by one of the moderators of the list.

No commercial products or services may be advertised on the list, but the list may be used to discuss commercial library materials, resources, and equipment.

—Larry Husch
AMS Library Committee

New Mathematics Classification Scheme

Mathematical Reviews and *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* have teamed up to produce a revision of the Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC) used by both journals. The current MSC was last revised in 1991, and the new classification is scheduled to appear in the year 2000. The revision process has been under way for two years now, and during this time MR and Zbl have gathered many suggestions

for changes and improvements. At the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berlin in August of this year, MR and Zbl held a joint session to present the proposed MSC2000.

There were a number of guiding principles in the MSC revision. First, the classification should be kept relatively stable to facilitate searches stretching over long periods of time. Each five-digit code should retain the same meaning in the new classification, so that new topics that are added get new numbers. The level of detail should remain fairly constant across all mathematical areas. Finally, the classification must be adequate to categorize current research as well as emerging new topics.

The classifications take the form $nnXmm$, where n and m are single digit numbers and X is a letter. The top level of the classification is given by the digits nn and may be found on AMS membership application forms, such as the one that appears in every issue of the *Notices*. Currently there are 61 top-level categories. The second level of classification, denoted by two digits and a letter, nnX , comprises several hundred categories. There are more than 5,000 categories at the third and finest level of the classification.

In MSC 2000 four new categories are planned at the top level. Dynamical systems and ergodic theory, currently found under subsections 58F and 28D, will appear under a new section, number 37. The reason for the change is that the growth in this area created a need for more subsections than could be handled with the present classification. Mechanics and deformable solids, currently under section 73, will be moved to a new section, number 74, which has been completely rewritten to take into account new topics and more modern views of the subject. Game theory, economics, and social and behavioral sciences now appear under 90A, 90D, and 92G-K. They will be shifted to a new section, number 91, to provide more coherence in the classification of these topics.

These three new categories are based on expansions or reorganizations of existing ones. The fourth new category is entirely new: section 97, for mathematics education. Currently there are no plans for MR or Zbl to start reviewing the literature in mathematics education. Rather, this category was added as a way of recognizing the professional interests of a segment of the mathematics community. The scheme for the section 97 classification is based largely on that used by *Zentralblatt für Didaktik der Mathematik*.

In addition to the new categories at the top level, there are numerous other changes as well. For example, section 04, set theory, has been subsumed under section 03, mathematical logic and foundations, and section 32, several complex variables and analytic spaces, has been substantially revised. Hundreds of changes have been made at finer levels of the classification; one example is the addition of subsection 68W to cover the topic of algorithms.

MR and Zbl will not make further changes in the top level of the MSC, but do anticipate a few further changes at the finest level. The current plan for MSC2000 can be found on the Web at www.ams.org/mathweb/msc2000/ and www.emis.de/msc2000.html.

—Allyn Jackson