



The State of the *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*

Ken Ono

The American Mathematical Society launched the *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* (PAMS) in 1950. Its very first issue contained gems such as the classical notes: “On a theorem of Erdős and Turán” on the distribution of prime numbers by Alfréd Rényi, and “On the radical of a Lie algebra” by Harish-Chandra. Such articles established the tradition of excellence which PAMS now enjoys. PAMS has now published approximately 26,000 excellent short research articles in all areas of pure and applied mathematics. Digitized versions of PAMS legacy articles, which include papers published from 1950 to 1995, as well as all articles published prior to 2007, are freely available on the AMS website.

The first volume of PAMS was edited by Gustav A. Hedlund, Nathan Jacobson, and A. C. Schaeffer, with the assistance of ten auxiliary editors. The editorial structure of PAMS has evolved over time, and it is now a large enterprise. Today the board consists of almost forty mathematicians whose expertise covers all areas of pure and applied mathematics. The editors are divided into the following five broad areas of mathematics:

- ODE, PDE, Global Analysis, and Dynamical Systems
- Topology and Geometry
- Analysis
- Algebra, Number Theory, Combinatorics, and Logic
- Applied Mathematics, Probability, and Statistics.

Each of these five categories has a coordinating editor, and I serve as the managing editor who oversees the entire enterprise. I was fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Ron Fintushel, my predecessor as managing editor, who did an exemplary

job steering PAMS. I have been on the job since February 2010.

PAMS has undergone a number of fairly recent changes which I wish to explain. All submissions are now handled by *Editflow*, a Web-based editorial tool which keeps track of all documents and information related to submitted articles. Editors have at their fingertips complete email histories, a database of referees, etc. Authors also have easy access to information pertaining to their submissions. Of course, no system is perfect, and we are continually revising and improving *Editflow*. The AMS staff has been doing a great job of helping the editors with the daily operations of PAMS. Thanks to their efforts and *Editflow*, we can realistically aim to secure referee reports for submitted articles within three months of submission. Of course, this is subject to the case-by-case goodwill of referees. Manuscripts are in the hands of a cognizant editor within 1–2 days of submission, and referees are approached shortly thereafter.

In 2008 PAMS began accepting papers up to fifteen pages in length, a significant increase compared to the previous limit of ten pages. This change was approved for a variety of reasons. The change in policy had several noticeable implications, the most important being the opportunity to receive many more high quality submissions, some of which would otherwise have been submitted to the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* (TAMS), or to a nonAMS journal. And indeed, the number of submissions to PAMS has skyrocketed, and PAMS currently receives many more quality submissions than it can publish. To address this problem the Editorial Board has tightened acceptance standards. To be considered for publication in PAMS, a paper must be of high quality, original, well written, and be of fundamental interest to a wide range of mathematicians. Articles which fall short are not sent out for review. After a few months of this new policy, we have seen

Ken Ono is the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Emory University. His email address is ono@mathcs.emory.edu.

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our backlog drop, and I have high hopes that PAMS will reach a healthy and sustainable equilibrium within 1–2 years.

There are further changes afoot with respect to PAMS. In April the Council of the AMS discussed a proposal to launch open access companions to PAMS and TAMS. This proposal is in response to various factors, including mandates worldwide concerning the free access of government funded research (most notably in the UK), and advocacy for open access by the communities of researchers

and librarians. I look forward to these projects with optimism, and I firmly believe that the future is bright for PAMS. The traditional PAMS, combined with the new open access companion journal, will together continue to provide an outstanding forum for short high quality research articles. Let's continue the great tradition established by Hedlund, Jacobson, and Schaeffer in 1950 by writing and publishing the next generation's analogs of the wonderful articles by Rényi and Harish-Chandra.

Reference and Book List

The Reference section of the Notices is intended to provide the reader with frequently sought information in an easily accessible manner. New information is printed as it becomes available and is referenced after the first printing. As soon as information is updated or otherwise changed, it will be noted in this section.

Contacting the Notices

The preferred method for contacting the *Notices* is electronic mail. The editor is the person to whom to send articles and letters for consideration. Articles include feature articles, memorial articles, communications, opinion pieces, and book reviews. The editor is also the person to whom to send news of unusual interest about other people's mathematics research.

The managing editor is the person to whom to send items for "Mathematics People", "Mathematics Opportunities", "For Your Information", "Reference and Book List", and "Mathematics Calendar". Requests for permissions, as well as all other inquiries, go to the managing editor.

The electronic-mail addresses are notices@math.wustl.edu in the case of the editor and smf@ams.org in the case of the managing editor. The fax numbers are 314-935-6839 for the editor and 401-331-3842 for the managing editor. Postal addresses may be found in the masthead.

Upcoming Deadlines

July 24, 2013: Proposals for NSF CAREER Awards. See the website <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11690/nsf11690.htm>.

July 31, 2013: Nominations for SASTRA Ramanujan Prize. See the website <http://www.math.ufl.edu/sastra-prize/nominations-2013.html>.

August 1, 2013: Applications for August review for National Academies Research Associateship Programs. See the website http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/RAP/PGA_050491 or contact Research Associateship Programs, National Research Council, Keck 568, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; telephone 202-334-2760; fax 202-334-2759; email rap@nas.edu.

Where to Find It

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