

Guidelines for the Editorial Process

All contributions are on invitation only. Most major researchers relevant to the event should be invited, regardless whether or not they come to the meeting. All, except one or at most two expository papers, should be original research. No summary type papers. In general, each paper should be at least 15 pages (single space) but no more than 30 pages, though exceptions can be made.

Guest editors are to invite and receive submissions, and take care of the refereeing process (in consultation with the editor in chief of the Journal). Following the guidelines set forth below, guest editors will make recommendations for each paper. In general, such recommendations will be accepted by the editor in chief who, nevertheless, reserves the right to make all final decisions.

Each paper needs to receive two detailed and conclusive reports for acceptance (a positive but brief report should be discounted). To reject a paper, one report is enough or no report is necessary if a guest editor is so convinced. In the invitation, it is necessary to spell out that the process is extremely selective so as to guarantee the top quality of the issue, and no guarantee of eventual acceptance.

In the letter to a referee, it is necessary to make it clear that the paper should be treated as a regular submission to the Journal, and the final special issue is not going to be a proceedings. Referees should be specifically asked to comment whether (a): the results are new and nontrivial; (b): new ideas and/or techniques are introduced; (c): the results and proofs are accurate; (d): the paper is of interest to an appreciable number of readers; (e): the paper is clearly written. Guest editors' final recommendations should be based on referees' answers to these five questions instead on their not substantiated comments.

For possible expository papers, guest editors should, in consultation with field leaders, see if the topics are viable and beneficial to a large readership; if the answer is yes, then try to select and invite the right person to write such a paper. For such a paper the presentation must be lucid and the exposition is complete in that it should reflect the state of art in the area and contain all recent important developments by all researchers, keeping in mind that the paper is to benefit both young researchers coming into the field and seasoned researchers as well. Finally, it is necessary to find two referees who are willing to help referee the paper in a very detailed way so as to check even the presentation, language, organization, etc. to ensure its optimal setting.

In general, expository papers are quite useful but only if the topics are relevant and current, and the presentation is excellent. Authors should be alerted to consult Notices of AMS for model presentations on expository papers.