



## The Printed Edition

Our journal has both an on-line edition as well as a printed one. The on-line internet edition is freely available and the current edition expands as additional papers become accessible for download once they have been accepted in their final form. There is an identical, classical, printed edition that is relatively costly, that is printed when the issue is completed. We have received several questions as to why we insist on a printed edition, as the trend clearly shows the growth of internet journals and it seems contrary to common sense to expect someone will pay for a printed edition if a free on-line edition is available. Here we give two reasons for our decision to maintain a paper edition of our journal.

1. **Visibility.** The recent growth in the number of scholarly journals, some of dubious quality, makes some mathematicians sceptical of the need for any changes in the list of “established” mathematical journals. In particular, in the age of “publish or perish” many mathematical departments at lesser known universities have introduced local on-line journals of low standard that have almost no impact on the international research community. In this ocean of internet journals it is hard to be visible. By keeping a printed edition our journal is more visible.

2. **Longevity.** It is clear that information on paper has a much better chance of surviving than information that exists in a purely electronic form. For instance, most early e-mail, even scholarly correspondence, has been lost forever, sometimes due to nothing more than a change in operating system. Additionally, several web pages that existed in the nineties are now gone since keeping them would require active work that no-one was prepared to pay for. Every upgrade of a system requires active management of existing data. Paper copies can survive for ages, sometimes with no human intervention.

It is our intention to keep the on-line edition freely available to scholars and to offer the printed edition to mathematical institutions and to individuals. By subscribing to the printed edition one can show support and appreciation for the work connected with this journal. If we can increase the number of subscriptions, the subscription costs will decrease for everyone.

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Editors in Chief