DOI – Digital Object Identifier

It is clear that electronic publishing is here to stay, and that hard copies of mathematical journals are becoming less and less important for the reader. But it is not immediately obvious how to locate and identify items in the vast array of scientific papers in the electronic world.

We have followed the lead of many other scientific journals, and equipped the papers appearing in AMC with a DOI (a ‘Digital Object Identifier’) that helps uniquely identify the paper. DOIs were introduced in 2000 by the International DOI Foundation (IDF). From volume 15 (2018) onwards, we have assigned a DOI to the hard copy of each paper in AMC. In the same year, we also began the process of assigning a DOI to every electronic paper, from volume 1 onwards. This information is now displayed on the ‘metapage’ of each individual paper.

The DOI is a string of characters divided into two parts: a prefix and a suffix, separated by a slash. For example, the DOI of the first paper of this issue is 10.26493/1855-3974.2163.5df. The corresponding document can be accessed by visiting https://doi.org/10.26493/1855-3974.2163.5df, which forwards the visitor to the corresponding ‘metapage’ on the AMC website. The first part, namely 10.26493, is permanent and identifies the publisher, which in our case is the University of Primorska. The second part is variable, and depends on the specific paper. In our example above, 1855-3974 represents the ISSN of our journal. Also a journal issue has its own DOI; for example, the current issue (volume 19, issue 1) is identified by 10.26493/1855-3974.19_1.

Using DOIs proved to be especially helpful when we introduced the class of Accepted Manuscripts. Each article appearing in Accepted Manuscripts is assigned a DOI, and because a DOI is permanent identification, every article may be accurately identified when cited even before it is assigned to a particular issue, and when that happens, the DOI remains the same. Even later, if the platform of the journal moves to another website, the same DOI can be used to link to the new URL. (In our case, AMC began at http://amc.imfm.si/, but is now hosted at https://amc-journal.eu/.)

For more information about the DOI system, see the DOI Handbook, doi:10.1000/182.

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