



## Open Access Strategy: Either–Or

Our journal comes in two versions: an on-line edition and a printed edition. For the on-line edition we follow a ‘green’ open-access strategy, under which neither readers nor authors pay the costs of publishing articles with us. The only source of revenue is the printed edition. The first ten library subscriptions completely cover the costs of printing and mailing of hard-copies, with further subscriptions regarded as a legal and legitimate contribution to the support of the mathematical community in running our journal and maintaining high quality and ethical standards of our publication.

Unfortunately, the mathematical community at large has only little freedom to support this model of publishing, and libraries are entangled with batch subscriptions by commercial publishers that leave them little freedom to support open access journals. And why should anyone buy the printed edition, if the on-line edition is available free of charge? The answer is simple. If they do not support us by buying the printed edition, then our open-access model will have to change, and either authors or readers will have to pay. Since we are too small to carry the associated risks, we would eventually have to choose an established publisher to take over our journal. This, however, would increase the cost of access to the articles in our journal.

In the first years of AMC we published 20 papers per year, and our annual production was 250 pages. Our current target is to publish up to 30 papers per year, with a total of at least 400 pages. This brings down the page costs to under 0.50 Euros for individual subscription, and under 1.00 Euros for library subscription. Our long-term goal is to reach the page cost of about 0.50 Euros also for libraries.

Year	Papers	Pages	Indiv./page	Library/page
2008	10 + 10 = 20	241	0.62	1.24
2009	10 + 10 = 20	262	0.57	1.14
2010	10 + 10 = 20	258	0.58	1.16
2011	14 + 11 = 25	402	0.37	0.75
2012	10 + 15 = 25	405	0.37	0.74
Average	10.8 + 11.2 = 22	314	0.48 Euros	0.96 Euros

In some countries, universities and their mathematical or computer science departments get money from their respective granting institutions, directly proportional to the output published in recognised high-quality journals. Publications in open-access journals should be rewarded. We believe that part of this money should go directly or indirectly to the publishers of green open-access journals. This could be achieved if university libraries were required to set aside certain percentage, say 5% of their budget, to subscribe to printed editions of on-line open access journals.

The current issue of our journal is divided in two parts. The first eleven papers constitute the regular issue, while the last four make up a shortened special issue for SIGMAP’10, edited by Isabel Hubbard and Asia Ivić Weiss.



In 1998 Steve Wilson organised a workshop on Symmetries in Graphs, Maps and Complexes, in Flagstaff, Arizona. This became the first in a series of workshops, now held every four years. The second and third were organised in 2002 and 2006 by Antonio Breda d’Azevedo, in Aveiro, Portugal. The name then changed to SIGMAP (for ‘Symmetries of Graphs, Maps and Polytopes’), in time for the fourth one in the series, SIGMAP’10. These workshops form part of a cycle of meetings that people interested in symmetries and embeddings of discrete structures can attend, with the others in New Zealand (in years congruent to  $0 \pmod{4}$ ), Slovakia (years  $1 \pmod{4}$ ) and Slovenia (years  $3 \pmod{4}$ ).

The SIGMAP’10 workshop took place in Oaxaca, Mexico, from 20th to 25th June 2010, and was organised wonderfully by Isabel Hubbard. Oaxaca is a beautiful colonial city in the Mexican interior, nearby many interesting archaeological sites. Oaxaca is famous for its colourful markets and interesting cuisine (boasting the best mezcal, and well known for its Chocolate Street, and delicious dried grasshoppers, called ‘chapulines’).

The workshop brought together over 50 researchers with particular interest in geometric, topological and combinatorial objects that have large symmetry groups. There were five invited speakers: Marston Conder (University of Auckland), John Conway (Princeton University), Chaim Goodman-Strauss (University of Arkansas), Dragan Marušič (University of Primorska), and Daniel Pellicer (Instituto de Matemáticas Unidad Morelia, UNAM). The programme of 30 excellent talks was arranged very cleverly to allow participants to watch many of the matches in the football World Cup finals. With participants coming from over 10 of the countries playing in the finals, this and a ‘calenda’ (a parade along the main street) organised especially in honour of the workshop made SIGMAP’10 a very memorable event.

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Editors-in-Chief