CAMBRIDGE | Instructions for Contributors

LMS Journal of Computation and Mathematics

Click here for the most current version of these Instructions available from The London Mathematical Society's server.

Formatting and Submitting Papers to the LMS JCM

The language of the journal is English. (It may be possible to provide non-native English speakers with additional help with language editing of papers that meet the LMS criteria for acceptance in terms of their mathematical content.)

Send the paper for initial review in the form of a Postscript or PDF file.

To submit your work, upload it by anonymous ftp to ftp://ftp.lms.ac.uk/pub/jcm-submissions/. If your method of accessing ftp requires a username, please log in as "anonymous" or "ftp", with your email address as the password. Further information on various methods of using FTP to transfer files is available at ftp://ftp.lms.ac.uk/pub/instructions.txt. Add files containing any material that you wish to have published as a part of the paper (such as appendices or other add-ons), and also any material that is not for publication, but which you believe might be useful to editors or referees. Then send an e-mail to submit-jcm@lms.ac.uk confirming that you wish the paper to be considered for publication, and giving: the title and authors of the paper, the full address details of the corresponding author (including e-mail address), the text of the abstract, the names and types of the files that you have submitted by anonymous FTP, indicating any that are not intended for publication, and the name of the main .ps or .pdf file. You will be sent an acknowledgement when the Executive Editor has checked that your main file has printed out successfully.

If you run into difficulties in the course of submitting the paper, please inform Sue Rodd (the Executive Editor) at jcm@lms.ac.uk.

PLEASE NOTE: Although initial submission is by means of Postscript or PDF files, final papers are accepted for publication subject to the proviso that **authors** are responsible for providing LaTeX files that can be successfully compiled and edited using the ***JCM***'s own class file. Authors are therefore strongly advised to use this class file as early as possible in the preparation of a paper, preferably using LaTeX version 2e (version 2.09 is also acceptable, however). Notes on LaTeX usage and a LaTeX stylefile are provided.

Clear mathematical writing: Desiderata and suggestions

1. Try to draft the first couple of paragraphs of your paper (and the whole of your *Abstract*) so as to be comprehensible to any professional computer scientist or mathematician.
Try to ensure that editors and referees who read your work find it more a pleasure than a chore. It is your job to be understood. Responsibility for the accuracy of your results and for the quality of the exposition rests with you, not with the referee or the editor.

2. Do not use mathematical symbols and formulae in the title of your paper, and avoid the use of symbols or formulae in the abstract.

A title that includes symbols or formulae is usually incomprehensible except by a small number of specialists. Symbols in titles make for bibliographical difficulties, and the font used for titles does not usually accommodate formulae satisfactorily or easily.

3. Do not attach footnote markers to titles or authors' names. They are rarely necessary, and are an unsightly distraction. (The ***JCM*** style file puts author addresses, as well as acknowledgements, at the end of the paper.) The symbol † is unfortunately similar to the sign which, in many cultures, is used to indicate that the named person has died.

4. Ensure that formulae are not perverted or distorted by adjacent material, and that they can be parsed at first reading.
Avoid the use of footnotes.
Never allow formulae to coalesce. For example, never begin a sentence with a formula or a mathematical symbol when the preceding sentence has ended with a symbol---the eye will first read the concatenation of symbols as one formula. (In fact, it is a useful rule always to try to organise your writing so that sentences never, or rarely, begin with a technical symbol.)
Ensure that reference citations do not pervert formulae. 'The same theorem has been proved for M_{12} (see [**4**])' is easier to read than `The same theorem has been proved for M_{12} [**4**].'
Avoid the use of abbreviations such as 'i.e.' or 'e.g.'. Avoid inverted commas (apostrophe, quotation marks) adjacent to formulae.
Never try to make plurals from symbols using 'apostrophe s'. Even the printed form g_i's looks like one formula. Besides, it is ungrammatical, and (since 'apostrophe s' usually indicates a possessive) it is misleading.
Quantifiers should be properly attached to the appropriate variables. For example, the natural first reading of the assertion 'every $0 \neq x \in F$ has an inverse' is obviously not what is intended.

5. Ensure that phrases, sentences and paragraphs are formed according to standard grammatical rules. It is understood that the usual rules of language have to be modified to incorporate formulae in mathematical writing. If you modify them unreasonably, or break them too frequently, your paper will be unreadable. And, even if your research is good, your paper may be rejected. Mathematics must not only be done, it must be seen to be done.