

Information for Authors

Mathematics Magazine

About the journal

Mathematics Magazine is an Open Select, international, peer-reviewed journal publishing high-quality, lively, readable, and appealing exposition on a wide range of mathematical topics, including original mathematics, historical content, and connections among mathematics and other disciplines. Please see the journal's Aims & Scope for information about its focus and peer-review policy.

Peer review

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Preparing your paper

Submission types

Mathematics Magazine accepts Articles as well as contributions to the Problems and Solutions. In addition to expository pieces, we accept a limited number of Math Bites, poems, cartoons, Proofs Without Words, and other miscellanea.

A manuscript's publishability depends as much on the quality of exposition as on the mathematical significance. Our general advice is simple: Say something new in an appealing way, or say something old in a refreshing, new way. But say it clearly and directly, assuming a minimum of background. Our [searchable database](#) of past pieces from the *Magazine* and the *College Mathematics Journal* can help you check the novelty of your idea.

Make your writing vigorous, expressive, and informal, using the active voice. Give plenty of examples and minimize computation. Help the reader understand your motivation and share your insights. Illustrate your ideas with visually appealing graphics, including figures, tables, drawings, and photographs.

First impressions are vital. Choose a short, descriptive, and attractive title; feel free to make it funny, if that would draw the reader in. Be sure that the opening sentences provide a welcoming introduction to the entire paper. Readers should know why they ought to invest time reading your work.

Articles

Articles submitted to the *Magazine* should be written in a clear and lively *expository* style. The *Magazine* is not a research journal; papers in a terse "theorem-proof" style are unsuitable for publication. The best contributions provide a context for the mathematics they deliver, with examples, applications, illustrations, and historical background. We especially welcome papers with historical content, and ones that draw connections among various branches of the mathematical sciences, or connect mathematics to other disciplines.

Every article should contain interesting *mathematics*. Thus, for instance, articles on mathematical pedagogy alone, or articles that consist mainly of computer programs, would be unsuitable.

The *Magazine* is an *undergraduate* journal in the broad sense that its intended audience is teachers of collegiate mathematics and their students. One goal of the *Magazine* is to provide stimulating supplements for undergraduate mathematics courses, especially at the upper undergraduate level. Another goal is to inform and refresh the teachers of these courses by revealing new connections or giving a new perspective on history. We also encourage articles that arise from undergraduate research or pose questions to inspire it. In writing for the *Magazine*, make your work attractive and accessible to non-specialists, including well-prepared undergraduates.

Problems and Solutions

We invite readers to submit original problems that will appeal to students and teachers of advanced undergraduate mathematics. Problem proposals must be accompanied by solutions and any bibliographical information that will assist in their review. A problem submitted as a Quickie should have an unexpected, succinct solution. Submitted problems should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors of proposals and solutions should send their contributions using the *Magazine's* submission system hosted at mathematicsmagazine.submittable.com.

Reviews

Articles, books, and other materials are selected for this section to call attention to interesting mathematical exposition that occurs outside the mainstream of mathematics literature. Readers are invited to suggest items for review to the Reviews editor.

Structure

Mathematics Magazine articles do not have an abstract. A short summary should be included at the end of each article. Summaries are used in various places to advertise the articles. Therefore, summaries for manuscripts should entice the prospective reader into exploring the subject of the paper and should make it clear to the reader why this paper is interesting and important. The summary should highlight the concepts of the paper rather than summarize the mechanics. Excessive use of notation is discouraged as it can limit the interest of the broad readership of the MAA.

Formatting and templates

Papers may be submitted in any standard file format, including Word and LaTeX. Figures should be saved separately from the text.

A LaTeX template is available for this journal. Simple LaTeX template files are available for articles. This template offers advice about style, as well as technical help. Using the template requires only the most rudimentary knowledge of LaTeX. The template is available in .pdf and tex formats. Click on the appropriate filename(s) to obtain copies ([MM_template.tex](#) and [MM_template.pdf](#)).

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Submissions to *Mathematics Magazine* should follow the style guidelines described in *Stylebook* (# ed.). Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed.) should be consulted for spelling.

References

References should be presented in a separate section at the end of the document. The references should be listed alphabetically by the first author's last name, then, as needed, by the co-author's last names and the resource's title. Once placed in alphabetical order, the references should be numbered sequentially. References should not be repeated in the list, nor should multiple references be combined under a single reference number. Digits in square brackets (e.g., [1, 2]) should be used for in-text citations of the numbered references. Bracketed citations should precede terminal (e.g., periods, commas, closed quotation marks, question marks, exclamation point) and non-terminal punctuation (e.g., semicolons, colons).

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International Organization for Standardization 4 List of Title Word Abbreviations (ISO 4-LTWA) models should be employed for abbreviating journal titles and conference names in the reference section. Examples of common reference types appear below:

Journal	[12] Cairns, G. (2017). Equitable candy sharing. <i>Amer. Math. Monthly</i> . 124(6): 518–526. doi.org/10.4169/amer.math.monthly.124.6.518
Book	[2] Johnson, A. S. A., Madden, K. M., Şahin, A. A. (2017). <i>Discovering Discrete Dynamical Systems</i> . Washington, DC: Mathematical Association of America.
Book with titled volume and edition	[18] Heath, T. (1981). <i>From Aristarchus to Diophantus. A History of Greek Mathematics</i> , Vol. 2, 2nd ed. Mineola, NY: Dover.
Edited book chapter	[34] Sholten, P., Simonson, A. (2010). The falling ladder paradox. In: Diefenderfer, C. L., Nelson, R. B., eds. <i>The Calculus Collection: A Resource for AP* and Beyond</i> . Washington, DC: Mathematical Association of America, pp. 149–154.
Edited book chapter with volume and edition (translation)	[26] Faddeev, D. K. (1969). Linear algebra. In: Aleksandrov, A. D., Kolmogorov, A. N., Lavrent'ev, M. A., eds. <i>Mathematics: Its Content, Methods, and Meaning</i> , Vol. 3, 2nd ed. (Gould, S. H., Hirsch, K. A., Bartha, T., trans.) Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 37–96.
Online/Website	[8] United States Census Bureau. (2014). American housing survey: 2013 detailed tables. census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps78.html
Dissertation/Thesis	[26] Jenssen, M. (2017). Continuous optimisation in extremal combinatorics. PhD dissertation. London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK.
Conference presentation	[4] Baranov, A. (2016). Spectral synthesis in Hilbert spaces of entire functions. Presented at the 7th European Congress of Mathematics, Berlin, Germany, July 18.
Paper/Report	[55] Grigg, W., Moran, R., Kuang, M. (2010). National Indian education study. NCES 2010-462. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.
Newspaper	[22] Chang, K. (2017). Ancient homework: Trigonometry in Babylon? Go figure. <i>New York Times</i> , September 5, p. D2.
Patent	[67] Pfeifer, A., Muhs, A., Pihlgren, M., Adolfsson, O., Van Leuven, F. (2017). Humanized tau antibody. U.S. Patent 9,657,091. May 27.
Computer software with developer	[10] Noguera, J., Cumby, C. (2017). <i>SigmaXL</i> , Version 8.0. Kitchener, ON, Canada: SigmaXL, Inc.
Computer software without developer	[76] <i>SPSS Amos</i> , Version 22.0. (2013). Armonk, NY: IBM.
Film	[44] Menéndez, R. (1988). <i>Stand and Deliver</i> . Burbank, CA: Warner Bros.
Television episode (recorded)	[6] du Sautoy, M. (2013). The music of the primes. In: <i>The Story of Math Collection</i> . Silver Spring, MD: Athena.
Song (album recording)	[13] Lehrer, T. (1965). New math. In: <i>That Was the Year That Was</i> . Burbank, CA: Reprise.

Checklist: what to include

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