



Jürgen Jost

## Editorial

JEMS is a new mathematical research journal, founded by the EMS, aiming at the highest international scientific level, and edited by Jürgen Jost (managing editor), Luigi Ambrosio, Gerard Ben Arous, John Coates, Helmut Hofer, Alexander Merkurjev and a board of about 30 associate editors. It will be published by Springer. The first issue will appear in January 1999. The current editorial wishes to present JEMS by answering some questions that will naturally be posed.

### **Why a new mathematical journal, and why one founded by the EMS?**

The EMS wants to disseminate mathematical knowledge in all countries of Europe and to support a common mathematical culture among European mathematicians. JEMS will support this enterprise as a mathematical research journal. It will cover all important areas of mathematical sciences. In this regard, it will also include ideas, results, and approaches from other fields that can stimulate mathematical research, provided of course that strict criteria of scientific quality and depth are satisfied. It aims at preserving the unity of mathematical thinking by presenting profound and important advances in both pure and applied mathematics, without recognizing any preconception about a distinction or division between these two areas. We hope that JEMS will contribute to a cross-fertilization between different mathematical fields and cultures. I believe that these aims are not completely adequately fulfilled by existing mathematical journals which rather have a tendency towards a fragmentation of mathematics into specialized subdisciplines. It is also my belief that working for these aims will support the task that the EMS has set itself.

### **Who will decide about papers to be published, and what will be the criteria?**

While JEMS has been founded by the EMS, all scientific decisions will be taken exclusively by the editors. The journal aims at publishing substantial

research articles in all active areas of mathematical sciences of the highest quality according to international standards. In cases where a profound impact for further mathematical research is expected, also survey articles can be published. Submissions of outstanding results by young European researchers are particularly encouraged. All submitted papers, however, will be evaluated by a distinguished international board of editors and associate editors on an equal and fair basis regardless of the authors' country of origin or employment.

### **Why do we prefer English as the language of publication?**

The editors wish to create a mathematical research journal that will be accepted and recognized internationally, and not only in Europe. While there are other European languages, like French, German, or Russian, with a distinguished tradition of mathematical publishing, unfortunately many mathematicians in other areas of the world that are centers of mathematical research, like the United States or Eastern Asia, are not able to read those languages. Even in Europe, it seems that while almost every mathematician is able to read a mathematical article in English, knowledge of other languages is not similarly widespread. We realize that preferring English as the language of publication does not agree with the cultural policy of the European Union and that of certain European countries, and that this may offend the national pride of some individuals, but we believe that our aim of realizing as wide a distribution as possible of articles published in JEMS is of higher importance.

### **What about the subscription prices? Can mathematicians from all European countries afford JEMS?**

It would be incompatible with the aims of the EMS to support a journal that would be prohibitively expensive for many European countries. It is rather expected that affordable prices should lead to high subscription numbers. Thus, the subscription price will be lower than for other comparable research journals. In addition, there will be:

- 1) Special institutional subscription rates for Central and Eastern European libraries that will be substantially lower than the standard institutional subscription rates for several years, in order to account for the economic difficulties that those countries are presently facing during their period of economic transition.
- 2) Personal subscription rates for individual EMS members that are only a fraction of the institutional subscription rates, in order to encourage private subscription by EMS members.

- 3) Special personal subscription rates for individual EMS members from Central and Eastern Europe, initially set at 50% of the ordinary personal subscription rate.

We hope that this pricing scheme will also encourage individual mathematicians earning western salaries to donate gift subscriptions to mathematical departments, libraries, and individuals in Eastern and Central Europe.

An electronic version of JEMS will become available free of charge on the EMIS server three years after the printed version.

In any case, we hope to achieve a wide distribution of JEMS in Europe and in the world.

### **How long does one have to wait to have a paper published in JEMS?**

The editors will make every effort to reach a rapid decision about submitted papers. The journal aims at publishing papers within six months after acceptance and receipt of the author's final version.