

Publisher's Note

We are pleased to inform you that the *Journal of Approximation Theory* (JAT) is now available on ScienceDirect (www.sciencedirect.com), the Elsevier online platform. Availability via IDEAL, the former Academic Press platform, will cease as of 1 January 2003.

This signifies that papers published in the *Journal of Approximation Theory* (JAT) will henceforth benefit from a vast and rapidly growing readership, currently comprising around 10 million scientists worldwide, taking all scientific fields together.

At this juncture, we would like to take the opportunity to update you on our most important developments in electronic publishing, ranging from Web submission processes to permanent archiving of ScienceDirect content by the Royal Library in The Netherlands.

First, Elsevier has several Web submission systems available to support the work of authors, referees, and scientific editors. We believe that Web submission will ease and speed up the review process and that it will facilitate the final transmission of accepted files for publication to the Elsevier e-workflow production system. We will introduce you to these systems step-by-step. You will hear more from us on the support for JAT in future announcements.

The Web submission tool will become available from our "author gateway," which provides access to information an author may need:

1. submission guidance;
2. from an author-unique and secure home page, a confidential tracking of submissions, through the review process up to publication;
3. detailed information on our copyright policy, which is generally considered to be rather more liberal than most.

For JAT, the author gateway is accessible at www.authors.elsevier.com/journal/jat.

Second, articles published on ScienceDirect have their bibliographic references linked not only to articles previously published in ScienceDirect itself but also to articles published on electronic platforms of other publishers. Reference linking is facilitated by CrossRef, a collaborative reference linking service that allows the user to click on a citation and be taken directly to the target content, subscription access permitting. To date, 157 publishers participate in CrossRef, among them many major society publishers such as the American Mathematical Society, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, IEEE, ACM, American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, and Optical Society of America, as well as 50 research libraries. Over five million content items have been registered in the CrossRef databases. More information is available from www.crossref.org. You may check out reference linking in JAT by accessing it through www.sciencedirect.com and retrieving a full-text article in HTML. Proceed to the bibliography and you will be only one click away from many of the referenced source articles.

Third, the ScienceDirect *Articles in Press* service provides immediate electronic publication of accepted typeset articles and author-proofed articles, ahead of print publication (similar to the earlier IDEAL*First* functionality), ensuring rapid communication of an author's work to the scientific community.

Additionally and importantly, Elsevier is currently working on including archival material of all its journals, going back to volume 1 issue 1 of every single journal, sometimes dating back to the early 19th century, in ScienceDirect. These so-called backfiles are available in fully searchable, full-text PDF. Abstracts and references are also available in HTML, with linked references (via CrossRef). Furthermore, direct linking is provided through "Cited By," a ScienceDirect facility, to articles published since the original research that have cited that paper. More information is available from www.info.sciencedirect.com/backfiles/. This site also includes planning data for availability of JAT in this archive. These developments represent significant advances in the methodologies for current scientific literature searches, as well as being intense interest for historians of science.

Concluding, in August 2002, Elsevier and Royal Library of The Netherlands (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, KB) signed a contract to arrange for the KB to become the first official digital, independent archive for Elsevier science journals. This signifies that the library will receive digital copies of all Elsevier journals

made available on its Web platform, ScienceDirect, exceeding 7 TB of data. This digital archiving initiative will guarantee to both authors and researchers using the journals that the electronic files will be permanently available. Journals have been called “the minutes of science.” As we move toward journals being available only in electronic form and being held centrally on publishers’ computers, the public has the right to be assured that, should a publisher cease its business, these files will not be lost. This agreement provides this assurance for Elsevier Science titles, which constitute an essential part of the core scientific literature currently published.

We hope that you will continue to find the *Journal of Approximation Theory* (JAT) an invaluable source of information for your research, and that you will appreciate that task we have set ourselves of further improving are functionality and visibility of the journal by our electronic publishing efforts.

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