Refereeing standards

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Refereeing standards

With the help of our referees the journal has grown substantially in recent years. Despite a reject rate of over 50%, we published 40% more pages in 2003 than we did five years ago. Practical considerations mean that we cannot continue to grow at this rate and are now looking to limit the size of the journal. We intend to do this by raising the quality threshold of the journal and rejecting those marginal quality papers which may previously have been accepted.

We are now asking our referees to be particularly strict when judging whether a paper is publishable by rigorously implementing the following criteria. To be acceptable for publication in *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and General*:

- papers must make significant, original and correct contributions to one or more topics within the scope of the journal;
- mathematical papers should be clearly motivated by actual or potential application to physical phenomena;
- the length of a paper must be justified by its contents.

We would like to thank all referees for the work they continue to do for us. Effective peer review is essential to the success of the journal and we greatly appreciate the time and effort that referees give up on behalf of the journal. We hope that we can continue this valued collaboration into the future.

For full details of our scope (see also the subject classification) and refereeing requirements please see the journal homepage (`www.iop.org/journals/jphysa`).

Carl Bender
Editor-in-Chief

Neil Scriven
Publisher