Chapitre 2

La correspondance avec les revues en mathématiques

Ce chapitre traite de la communication entre l'auteur et l'équipe éditoriale des revues en mathématiques. Il abordera le processus à suivre pour publier un article en mathématiques ainsi que les moyens de communication utilisés (messagerie, courrier électronique, plateforme, ...). Ce processus reste, en grande partie, valable pour d'autres types de publications (livres, chapitre, survey, ...) et couvre essentiellement la communication avec l'éditeur et le référée au sein d'une revue en mathématiques. Des exemples seront donnés au fur et à mesure de l'avancement des points traités. D'autres part, le lecteur peut élargir le champs de sa vision en consultant les références [6,13] et en regardant les nombreux exemples sur Internet.

2.1 Généralités sur le processus de publication

Que ce soit par courrier traditionnel, messagerie éléctronique ou par plate-forme dédiée, le jargon utilisé lors du processus de publication d'un article en mathématiques reste le mêm. On donne ici avec brève description l'essentiel des termes que l'on rencontre dans l'élaboration et la publication d'un article en mathématiques.

- Manuscript=Manuscrit: A manuscript is a written, typed, or word-processed document submitted to a publisher by the researcher.
- Author=Auteur: An author is the writer of an article. Generally: An author is the person who originated or gave existence to anything and whose authorship determines responsibility for what was created.
- Authorship=Paternité: Authorship confers credit and has important academic, social, and financial implications. Authorship also implies responsibility and accountability for published work.

- Co-author=Co-auteur: Any person who has made a significant contribution to a journal article. They also share responsibility and accountability for the results of the published research.
- Corresponding author=Auteur de correspondance: The corresponding author is the person who handles the manuscript and correspondence during the publication process, including approving the article proofs. (A ne pas confondre avec l'auteur principal ou le premier auteur!)
- Affiliation=Affiliation: Is the address of the institution where the author conducted the research.
- **▼ Editor=Éditeur:** Is someone with an understanding of science and typically a background as a scientist. The primary role of an editor is to act as a liaison between the author and the future readers of the paper (the audience). His job is to decide what papers are appropriate to publish in the journal.
- **▼** Editor-in-chief=Éditeur en chef: The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) for a scientific journal is typically a highly experienced scientist who has a larger vision within the discipline to guide the journal.
- Cover letter=Lettre d'accompagnement: A cover letter is a letter written by the corresponding author to the Editor to submit a paper for publication. It should explain why the work is perfect for their journal and why it will be of interest to the journal's readers. When writing for publication, a well-written cover letter can help the paper reach the next stage of the manuscript submission process (to be sent out for peer review).
- Referee=Référée=Arbitre: The referee of a scientific journal is a scientists expert in the field to review or "referee" the paper. The referee is designated by the editor to recommend either acceptance or rejection of the paper, and furthermore provides extensive comments on how the work could be improved or its description clarified. The author must respond to each of the points raised by the referee when submitting a revised version of the paper.
- **▼ Reviewer=Rapporteur :** The same as a referee, but the term can be used in other areas such publishing books, Ph.D. thesis, ...
- Preprint=Prépublication : A preprint is a version of a scientific manuscript prior to formal peer review. It can be posted on a public server, and in some cases, it can be citable.
- Peer review=Examen par les pairs: It is the process of reviewing a paper by referees or reviewers.
- Proofs=Preuves: The proofs are the last version of the paper written and formatted by the journal to be published. It is sent to the corresponding author author to check for typesetting or conversion errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables and figures. The typesetter will insert queries in the proofs wherever clarifications are required from the corresponding author.

- DOI=Digital Object Identifier: A DOI is a string of numbers, letters and symbols used to permanently identify an article or document and link to it on the web. A DOI will help your reader easily locate a document from your citation.
 - Les articles publiés par les revues comprennent, au moins, trois principaux éléments, qui sont à la fois indispensables et complémentaires :
 - 1. l'idée d'ensemble,
 - 2. l'exécution du travail et
 - 3. la présentation de ce dernier.

Ainsi, une idée médiocre ou une étude mal conçue ne pourra pas être sauvée par une excellente présentation du travail, tout comme une excellente idée bien étudiée pourra être mise en échec par une mauvaise présentation.

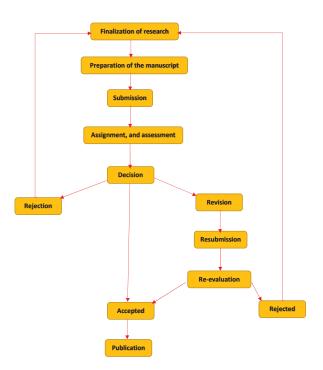
2.2 Description du processus de publication

By using some special platforms of journal called "Editorial Manager", the process from submission to publication of a paper is described in the following steps:

- 1. **Step 1:** The author (corresponding author) sends a manuscript with a cover letter to the journal.
- 2. **Step 2**: An editor is informed by the staff of the journal and handles the paper.
- 3. **Step 3**: A first decision is made by the editor:
 - reject the paper,
 - ✓ ask the author to make modifications, or
 - ✓ send the paper to one, two or more referees (reviewer).
- 4. **Step 4**: The referee handles the paper,
- 5. **Step 5 :** The referee sends to the editor an opinion, which can be of the following form :
 - accept the paper,
 - ✓ ask for minor correction before decision,
 - ✓ ask for major correction before decision, or
 - reject the paper
- 6. **Step 6 :** The editor collects the decisions of the different referees and inform the corresponding author of his decision, which can be of the following form :
 - accept the paper,
 - ✓ ask for the required corrections, or
 - reject the paper

- 7. **Step 7:** When the editor asks for corrections, the author sends a revision version of the paper with letters to both the editor end the referees. Depending on the corrections made to the paper, this step looks like a "re-submission" of the paper.
- 8. **Step 8**: The process returns to the Step 2.
- 9. **Step 9:** After acceptation of the paper, the paper is rewritten by the team charged by publication in the form of the journal and a copy is sent to the corresponding author for checking. This operation is called "typesetting the paper" and the copy is called "proofs".
- 10. **Step 10:** When the corresponding author returns the proofs, the paper is given a DOI by the journal and first published online.
- 11. **Step 11:** Later, the paper is given a pagination (*pages, volume, number, ...*) and published in a print format. This information will constitute what is called "the reference" to the paper.

The following figure shows the process a scientific manuscript goes through from submission to publication in a mathematical journal.

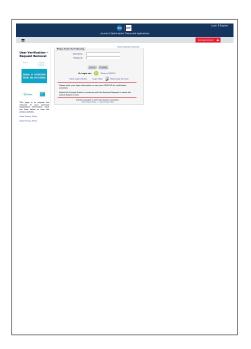


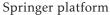
Evaluation process of a scientific manuscript

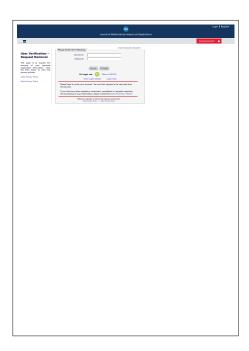
2.3 Exemples de types de communication avec les revues en mathématiques

Bien que la ca communication reste en soi inchangée, les moyens utilisés sont en perpétuelle évolution. Après l'époque des lettres écrites et envoyées par la poste, l'ère du numérique est venu métamorphoser les habitudes. Et après la période des simples emails, l'ère du Web a tout bouleversé et on est passé aux plate-formes et sites dédiés à la soumission et au suivi de la publication par l'auteur, le reviewer (référée) et l'éditeur.

Les deux figures suivantes montrent les plate-formes de Springer et Elseivier. Bien entendu, il y a une multitude de revues et de plate-formes dans le monde, mais le principe reste pratiquement le même.





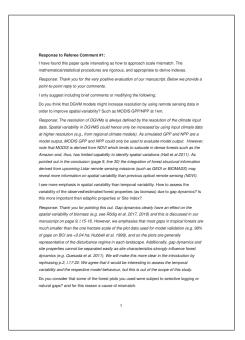


Elsevier platform

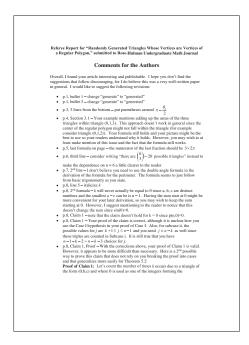
Voici maintenant quelques exemples de lettres, messages ou autres textes utilisés dans les différentes étapes de la soumission (et la liste n'est évidemment pas exhaustive).



A cover letter to the editor of a mathematical journal



A response to a referee of a mathematical journal



A referee report of a mathematical journal



Proofs before final corrections

2.4 Types de phrases dans la communication avec l'éditeur

Voici ici quelques types de phrases que l'on utilise lors de l'écriture d'un message ou lettre à l'éditeur d'une revue en mathématiques.

- I would like to submit the enclosed manuscript "..." for publication in the Journal "...".
- I am submitting the enclosed manuscript "..." for publication in the Journal "...".
- I have also included a reprint of my article for the convenience of the referee.
- I wish to withdraw my paper ... as I intend to make a major revision of it.
- I regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.
- I am very pleased that the paper will appear in the Journal "...".
- Thank you very much for accepting my paper for publication in in the Journal "...".
- Please find enclosed two copies of the revised version.
- As the referee suggested, I inserted a reference to the theorem of ...
- We have followed the referee's suggestions.
- I have complied with almost all suggestions of the referee.

2.5 Types de phrases dans la communication avec le référée

Voici ici quelques types de phrases que l'on reçoit habituellement de la part des référées des revues en mathématiques.

- The author proves the interesting result that ...
- The proof is short and simple, and the article well written.
- The results presented are original.
- The paper is a good piece of work on a subject that attracts considerable attention.
- I am pleased to recommend it for publication in ...
- Tt is a pleasure to to recommend it for publication in ...
- I strongly to recommend it for publication in ...
- The only remark I wish to make is that condition B should be formulated more carefully.
- A few minor typographical errors are listed below.
- I have indicated various corrections on the manuscript.
- The results obtained are not particularly surprising and will be of limited interest.
- The results are correct but only moderately interesting.
- The results are rather easy modifications of known facts.
- The example is worthwhile but not of sufficient interest for a research article.
- The English of the paper needs a thorough revision.

- The paper does not meet the standards of your journal.
- Theorem 2 is false as stated in this generality.
- Lemma 2 is known (see ...)
- Accordingly, I recommend that the paper be rejected.
- For all these reasons, I strongly recommend the acceptance of the paper for publication in the Journal "...".

2.6 Activités d'atelier

Atelier 2.1

- 1. Consult the Web site of *Elsevier* at the address https://www.elsevier.com/en-xm.
- 2. Consult the Web site of *Springer* at the address https://link.springer.com/.
- 3. Choose a mathematical journal at both Elsevier and Springer.
- 4. Look at the platforms "Editorial Manage" of both Elsevier and Springer.

Atelier 2.2

- 1. Consider the paper you have written in Chapter 1.
- 2. Write a cover letter to the editor.
- 3. Suppose you have submitted the paper to a mathematical journal.
- 4. Suppose you have received a report from a referee.
- 5. Write a *response* to the editor.
- 6. Write a *response* to the referee.

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44 Bibliographie