

FAQs

Forum of Mathematics, Pi and *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma* are an exciting new development in journal publishing. Together they offer fully open access publication combined with peer-review standards set by an international editorial board of the highest calibre, and all backed by Cambridge University Press and our commitment to quality. Strong research papers from all parts of mathematics will be welcomed: *Pi* will be the home for papers of the broadest interest and *Sigma* the home for more specialized articles. All published papers will be free online to readers in perpetuity. A publication charge for authors will be set at a rate justified by real publishing costs, and for the first three years Cambridge University Press will underwrite the publication costs.

What is the scope of *Pi*?

Pi is the open access alternative to the leading generalist mathematics journals. Papers will be of a high quality and of real interest to a broad cross-section of all mathematicians.

What is the scope of *Sigma*?

Sigma is the open access alternative to the leading specialist mathematics journals. Editorial decisions are made by dedicated clusters of editors concentrated in the following areas: foundations of mathematics, discrete mathematics, algebra, number theory, algebraic and complex geometry, differential geometry and geometric analysis, topology, analysis, probability and stochastics, differential equations, computational mathematics, applied analysis, mathematical physics, and theoretical computer science. This classification exists to aid the peer review process. Contributions which do not neatly fit within these categories are still very welcome.

Who are the Editors of *Pi* and *Sigma*?

Pi and *Sigma* do not have a single Editor-in-Chief, and decision making will be assigned to a forum of Editors, common to both journals, with a Managing Editor to coordinate activity. The confirmed editors are listed below, and further individuals will be added. A broader editorial board will also be appointed to support the Editors.

Managing editor: Rob Kirby, University of California, Berkeley

Editors: Doug Arnold, University of Minnesota
Henry Cohn (Microsoft Research New England)
Ingrid Daubechies, Duke University
Tim Gowers, University of Cambridge
Arieh Iserles, University of Cambridge
Bruce Kleiner (NYU)
Peter Olver, University of Minnesota
Gilles Pisier, University of Paris, Pierre et Marie Curie
Andrew Pitts, University of Cambridge
Terence Tao, UCLA
Richard Taylor, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton
Ravi Vakil, Stanford University
Günter M Ziegler, Freie Universität Berlin

What is Open Access?

'Open access' is a general catch-all term covering various policies and mechanisms for making published research free to all in some form or another and at some appropriate time. 'Open access publishing' or 'gold open access' is a stronger and more specific acknowledgment that the published 'version of record' (i.e. the publisher's final PDF) be made freely available to all immediately upon publication. As no subscriptions are sold to view the content, such open

access journals are financially supported either by grants, or more typically through a charge levied on the submitting author's institution or funding body.

What is so good about Open Access?

There are many stakeholders in the publication of research: the researchers, the users and the funders. Different stakeholders have different views but many accept the fact that if you want, for example, validation, proper copyediting, presentation, sustainability, functionality (usability, reference linking, usage information, discoverability, etc), then all this has to be paid for. Traditionally this payment has been made via subscriptions. In open access publishing, the payment is made up-front, via article processing charges (APCs). APCs can be seen as a fairer payment mechanism, provided that the costs on which the charges are based reflect accurately the services offered, and provided that the acceptance process is based on peer review, rather than financial considerations.

Open access can therefore provide an opportunity to relate costs more directly to the means of publication, and it can provide a mechanism for publication that preserves the best aspects of traditional publishing whilst offering greater ease of use and more liberal copyright and ownership. Moreover, APCs mean that costs are not being met by an ever-decreasing number of libraries that are willing to subscribe, and that the costs of publication are therefore being shared more fairly, while at the same time maximizing dissemination.

Finally, publishing is competitive: authors compete for journal space, publishers compete for papers and for library budgets. Open access and APCs are a viable alternative for those authors who want to bring closer together the decisions about where to publish and how to pay, decisions that are divorced in the traditional subscription-based model.

Why is Cambridge University Press launching this initiative?

Cambridge University Press is the not-for-profit publishing arm of the University of Cambridge, and any surplus generated from our publishing operations is reinvested back into the Press and the University. We have established the *Forum of Mathematics* in order to offer the community an open-access journal outlet which stands as a genuine and sustainable alternative to the journals currently owned by the leading commercial publishers. We see this as part of our commitment to support the dissemination of scholarly knowledge.

Are submitted articles peer-reviewed?

Yes, all submitted articles will be peer-reviewed, and the decision to accept will be made by the Editors independently of the publisher.

When will the journals be open to submissions?

Pi and *Sigma* will be formally open to new submissions on 1st October 2012.

When will the first issue of *Pi* and *Sigma* be published?

Pi and *Sigma* will not have issues; instead papers will be published online as soon as possible after acceptance. There will be yearly online volumes which will include papers published in a given year. We expect the first accepted papers to be published from 1st January 2013. For more information on how articles are cited, see [How are published papers going to be cited?](#)

Can I or my institution get a print copy of *Pi* or *Sigma*?

At the end of each year, a collected volume of the published articles will be available to purchase via a print-on-demand option.

Do I need to choose whether to submit to *Pi* or *Sigma*?

Yes, you will need to choose whether to submit to *Pi* or *Sigma*. In particular, when submitting a paper to *Pi*, an extended abstract will be required, explaining the methodology of the paper and the significance of the research.

I would like to submit a paper to *Pi/Sigma*. Where can I find information on the submission process?

An online submission system will be provided, and will have separate interfaces for *Pi* and *Sigma*. Further details will be posted on the journal websites when available.

How do *Pi* and *Sigma* differ from arXiv?

Pi and *Sigma* are fully peer-reviewed journals. They offer all the functionality associated with modern journal publishing: copyediting, typesetting, reference linking, usage statistics, etc. As with arXiv, articles will be made freely available to all in perpetuity. We openly encourage authors to post their submissions to *Pi* and *Sigma* on arXiv, to maximize dissemination and visibility.

If I submit a paper to *Pi* and the paper is not accepted for publication in *Pi*, will I still be able to submit it to *Sigma*?

If a paper is rejected from *Pi* on the grounds that its interest is more specialised, then you will be able to submit it to *Sigma*.

How long will the online journals' content be free to view for?

The journals' content will be free to view online in perpetuity. In addition to the long-term security of being published by Cambridge University Press, content will also be archived through Portico and CLOCKSS to ensure perpetual availability.

Production Information

Is there a LaTeX class file?

A LaTeX class file will be provided.

Will papers published in *Pi* and *Sigma* be copyedited?

Yes, all papers published in *Pi* and *Sigma* will be copyedited.

Will papers published in *Pi* and *Sigma* be typeset?

Yes, all papers published in *Pi* and *Sigma* will be typeset.

Metrics and Citations

How are published papers going to be cited?

Articles will be cited in the normal way, but in place of a page number, articles will be cited by article number (each article will begin on page 1). The article number is the standard citation form for online-only journals, and will each year follow the sequence e1, e2, e3, etc, in order of acceptance.

A paper published in *Pi* would be cited as follows, for example:

Smith J S (2013). A general solution to all Hilbert problems *Forum of Mathematics, Pi* **1** e17

There will be no issues, and accepted papers will be published online as soon as copyedited and typeset.

Do *Pi* and *Sigma* have an Impact Factor?

New journals are not allocated an Impact Factor immediately upon publication. Cambridge University Press is applying for these titles to be indexed by Thomson-Reuters in their Web of Science, the pre-requisite for attaining an impact factor.

Will *Pi* and/or *Sigma* collect usage statistics?

Yes. Usage statistics will be collected and will be made freely available online.

Charges

What is the publication charge for accepted papers?

Open Access publishing has to be funded somehow, and the prevailing model is through the levying of an article processing charge (APC) on each individual author's institution or funding body. For *Pi* and *Sigma* we are committed to maintaining the APC at a level justified by real publishing costs, and both *Pi* and *Sigma* will have an associated APC of £500/\$750 per article. However, we appreciate that there is at present little financial support within the community to cover APCs for open access publishing. Therefore, for the first three years Cambridge University Press will underwrite the APC for all authors, though we will encourage payment from those authors who do have appropriate funding through their institution or a funding body. After the first three years we will adopt an ongoing waiver policy for authors from eligible countries (see [appendix](#) for current list), and to others who can demonstrate a lack of access to appropriate funds.

Are taxes included in the publication charge?

No. Authors resident in any of the countries of the European Union have to add Value-Added Tax. Institutions paying the fee on behalf of the author can in most cases have the VAT refunded, or, by providing their VAT registration number (except UK), avoid paying VAT altogether.

When will the publication charge be billed?

In the appropriate cases, the publication charge will be billed on acceptance.

What currency will I be charged in?

Authors will be quoted and charged in US Dollars, or GB Pounds rate based on location as follows:

- GB Pounds £: United Kingdom, Euro Zone
- US Dollars \$: All other countries

How has the publication charge been determined?

The publication charge has been determined on the basis of genuine publication costs and overheads. It is significantly lower than charges typically levied by most other journals which offer open access publishing.

My article has been accepted for publication but I/my institution do/does not have the funding to pay the publication charge. What happens in this case?

In the first three years, the publication costs of all such papers will be underwritten by Cambridge University Press. After this time, a more restrictive waiver policy will operate, but Cambridge will still meet the costs for those from eligible countries (see [appendix](#)). Others who genuinely have no access to funds will also be able to apply for a waiver. The decision whether to accept a paper for publication will rest solely with the Editors, and without reference to the funding situation of the authors.

If the author has to pay to publish an article, isn't this just vanity publishing?

No. The decision whether to accept or reject papers will be based solely upon the peer-review process and the opinion of the eminent group of mathematicians which comprise the editorial forum. An emphasis will be placed upon quality, and Cambridge University Press will exert no influence upon the editorial decision making. There is also no financial incentive for those responsible for the decision making to accept a higher number of papers. The publication charge is levied in order to cover the costs associated with publication and ensure that the journal operates on a sustainable financial basis.

Is there a colour charge?

No. Any figure provided in colour will be reproduced in colour online at no extra cost.

Copyright Information

Who will hold the copyright for published papers?

The author will hold the copyright of published papers.

Under which licence will papers be published?

Articles will be published under a creative commons attribution licence (cc-by). See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/> for more information.

Can I text-mine the journals' content?

Yes. The metadata for both journals will be freely available.

If I publish a paper in *Sigma* or *Pi*, can I also post a final published version anywhere else?

Yes, you will be able to post the final published version anywhere (e.g. personal webpage, institutional repository, arXiv), providing the work is fully attributed. We note, however, that we can currently only track usage statistics for views and downloads from our own site.

Appendix. Fee-waiver Eligible Nations

Afghanistan	Guyana	Rwanda
Angola	Haiti	Samoa
Belize	Honduras	São Tomé and Príncipe
Benin	Iraq	Senegal
Bhutan	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Bolivia	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Burkina Faso	Kosovo	Somalia
Burundi	Kyrgyz Republic	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Lao PDR	Sudan
Cameroon	Lesotho	Swaziland
Cape Verde	Liberia	Syrian Arab Republic
Central African Republic	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Chad	Malawi	Tanzania
Comoros	Mali	Timor-Leste
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Marshall Islands	Tonga
Congo, Rep.	Mauritania	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Turkmenistan
Djibouti	Moldova	Tuvalu
El Salvador	Mongolia	Uganda
Eritrea	Mozambique	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Myanmar	Vanuatu
Gambia	Nepal	West Bank and Gaza
Ghana	Nicaragua	Yemen, Rep.
Guatemala	Niger	Zambia
Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Zimbabwe
Guinea-Bissau	Paraguay	
