SIAM JOURNAL ON APPLIED MATHEMATICS

The *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics* (SIAP) depends heavily upon our referees, and we are greatly indebted to them for maintaining the quality and timeliness of our journal. Thank you for whatever help you can give us in assessing the enclosed manuscript.

Instructions for Referees

1. As an author yourself, you doubtless recognize the frustrations of seemingly inexplicable publication delays. Accordingly, please contact me within one week or receiving this package if you will be unable to referee the paper by _____. I can be reached by e-mail at _____.

    SIAM recognizes that occasionally referees are too busy to meet a deadline, and we will regard your returning a manuscript as nothing more than honest cooperation toward avoiding delays. If you are unable to referee the paper, we would be grateful for the names of other qualified referees.

2. Although we attempt to screen out inappropriate papers before sending them to referees, we ask that you take a brief look at the manuscript now. Papers which are poorly prepared or contain well-known results are quickly identifiable. For such papers, detailed comments are not necessary; however, you should state as precisely as possible your reasons for "screening out" the submission. (Example: The result can be found in _____.)

3. Each referee is asked to prepare an unsigned report, in duplicate. If it is sufficiently impersonal and objective, it can be sent directly to the author with a considerable saving of time and effort.

    A specific recommendation for acceptance or rejection should be excluded from the report. The following checkpoints are suggested for consideration.

    * Is the paper consistent with editorial objectives?
    * Is the work correct and original or of wide appeal, if a review paper?
    * Is its presentation clear and well organized?
    * Is the notation well conceived and consistent?
    * How does the paper relate to current literature?
    * Are the references complete, relevant, and accurate?
    * Does the title accurately characterize the paper?
    * Does the abstract properly summarize the paper without being too vague?
    * Does the introduction relate the paper to contemporary work and explain the purpose of the paper?

    When the manuscript fails to meet some explicit requirement, what material should the author develop to improve the presentation?

4. Each referee is asked to write a cover letter recommending rejection or acceptance of the paper, either as it is or after explicit revisions. We ask that you justify the recommendation of acceptance as well as that of rejection. The cover letter should include your candid appraisal of the manuscript, e.g., extremely important, valuable, publishable but not in SIAP, interesting ideas but poorly presented, low quality, etc.

    Please send the cover letter, your unsigned report, and the manuscript to the editor listed below.

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<u>Author rights to unpublished manuscripts</u>. All manuscripts are privileged documents; an author retains the right to the unpublished work. A referee should not use results or ideas obtained exclusively through the refereeing process in his or her own research.

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<u>EDITORIAL POLICY</u>

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The SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics publishes research articles on the mathematics applied to the physical, engineering, and life sciences. Submitted articles should contribute to the mathematical understanding of specific scientific problems or to solution techniques useful in applications. Manuscripts applying known methods to previously solved problems or providing mathematical analysis in the absence of significant scientific motivation or application will not be accepted.

Appropriate subject areas include the physical, engineering, financial, and life sciences. Examples are problems in fluid mechanics, including reaction-diffusion problems, sedimentation, combustion, and transport theory; solid mechanics; elasticity; electromagnetic theory and optics; mathematical biology, including population dynamics, biomechanics, and physiology; linear and nonlinear wave propagation, including scattering theory and wave propagation in random media; inverse problems; nonlinear dynamics; stochastic processes, including queueing theory and finance; signal processing; and image processing. Mathematical techniques include asymptotic methods, bifurcation theory, dynamical systems theory, and probabilistic and statistical methods. The foregoing list is not exhaustive, however, and papers addressing the mathematics involved in new applications areas not listed here are also welcome.

In general, papers that have appeared elsewhere will not be considered. If some form of the paper has appeared previously, even in a conference proceedings, this fact must be indicated clearly in both a cover letter and a footnote on the first page of the paper.

Due to space limitations, papers should usually occupy no more than approximately 20 journal pages. This limit can be exceeded; however, substantial deviations from the page limit require that the referees, editor, and editor-in-chief be convinced that the increased length is both required by the subject matter and justified by the quality of the paper.