Leading JMP into the Future

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I am honored to have been given the opportunity to take over the leadership of the Journal of Mathematical Physics (JMP) after Bruno Nachtergaele’s 13 year tenure as Editor in Chief of the journal. JMP has become synonymous with Bruno, and he has improved the journal tremendously during this period. JMP and the whole Mathematical Physics community are indebted to Bruno for all of his contributions to the journal. In particular, Bruno has consolidated the role of JMP within the community. Beyond being the largest journal (in terms of number of published papers), JMP is very visible in the mathematical physics community with the large number of special issues published and its support of the community through sponsorships and presence at conferences. I hope to be able to learn from Bruno’s example and do as much for JMP and its role within the mathematical physics community as he did. I took over from Bruno on January 1, 2019, and it is already now clear that Bruno has passed on a journal in excellent shape. I am really happy that Bruno has agreed to continue his involvement in JMP as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. At the same time, I am lucky that most of the fantastic team that has aided Bruno in the daily running of JMP will be staying on. With approximately 1500 submissions a year, it is important that the journal runs smoothly. In this respect, the journal benefits greatly from the journal management at AIP Publishing (AIPP). The assistant journal manager, Brian Solis, takes great pride in ensuring that JMP is a high-quality journal, and Karen Beverlin from the editorial office runs the day-to-day business of JMP. It has been invaluable to me in the transition period that Karen decided to stay with JMP; I am indebted to her. Most of the Associate Editors that worked under Bruno are also staying on. Alexander Soshnikov, Rafael Benguria, Yasuyuki Kawahigashi, Edriss Titi, Michael Wolf, and Benjamin Schlein will continue their tireless work in handling papers for the journal. Unfortunately, Manfred Salerno has decided to step down as Associate Editor. Manfred has done a tremendous amount of work for JMP, and because of this and because of his broad expertise in mathematical physics, it became clear that it would be very difficult, in fact, impossible, to replace Manfred. I am therefore happy that AIPP has allowed me to sign on three new Associate Editors, and I am very pleased to welcome Stephan de Biève, Marcello Porta, and Hans Ringström to the team of Associate Editors. Stephan will help the journal with his expertise in the areas of Classical Mechanics and Classical Fields but also in the areas of Quantum Mechanics and Methods of Mathematical Physics. Marcello will contribute his expertise in the areas of Many-Body and Condensed Matter Physics, as well as the area of Relativistic Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Field Theory. Hans Ringström will cover the area of General Relativity and Gravitation, and I hope that by assigning a true expert to this area we can improve the quality of this section of the journal in much the same way that the section on Quantum Information and Computation has benefitted from the expertise of first Mary-Beth Ruskai and now Michael Wolf. Indeed, one of Bruno’s triumphs is how well JMP has adapted to the changing landscape of mathematical physics. We should not forget that JMP is the oldest mathematical physics journal with a long and proud tradition. JMP has had its ups and downs, but I truly believe that JMP today is a journal in a very healthy state. It should however continue to develop. It is very important that JMP has a well-defined profile as a mathematical physics journal. It should neither be a pure mathematics journal nor a journal in theoretical physics. It should publish high-quality papers of interest to both mathematics and physics, and this criterion should be applied vigorously in the review of papers. It does not matter if this will mean a reduction in the number of published papers. We should put quality before quantity. The landscape of scientific publishing is changing fast, and it is important that JMP is versatile enough to adapt to these changes. There will be changes to both how we publish, to the review process, but in particular, to the whole subscription system. In this respect, I believe it is important that JMP is a journal published by a non-profit organization. As researchers, we should all welcome the push for open access to scientific publications. It is, of course, in our interest that our publications are as widely accessible as possible.
Many commercial publishers, however, try to set the agenda of open access in ways that I am not sure will benefit the scientific community. I am proud to say that JMP has a very healthy publication policy which allows researchers to publish open access in what I find is the best way. Authors can keep copyright of their published papers and immediately without embargo archive their own version of the published manuscript. I hope and believe that this will be a strong incentive for researchers to choose JMP for their high-quality work. I do encourage everybody in the mathematical physics community to continue supporting JMP, and I am very much looking forward to receiving all your ground-breaking research as submissions to JMP in the years to come.

Let me end by wishing you all a happy and productive 2019.