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Overview of the Peer Review Process for the
Journal of Topology

This guide provides an overview of the review process for papers submitted to the *Journal of Topology*, which is owned by the London Mathematical Society (LMS). This journal uses single-blind peer review, in which the names of the referees are not known to the author.

1) Submissions are initially assessed by an Editor, who determines whether the paper is suitable for further consideration by the journal.

2) Papers may be rejected early in the review process by the Editor, if they are judged to be unsuitable.

3) If an Editor does not decide to reject the paper immediately, then it will be sent to multiple experts in the subject field, who will advise the Editor whether the paper is perceived to meet the mathematical and editorial standards of the *Journal of Topology*.

4) If, based on this advice, the Editor is not confident that the paper will be accepted, they will recommend either rejection or revision to the Editorial Board.

5) If the Editor decides that the paper does merit serious consideration, they will seek a referee who will provide an in-depth report about the paper.

6) Following this, the Editor will make a recommendation to the Editorial Board.

7) The Editorial Board will then agree whether the paper should be accepted, revised, or rejected. If the Editorial Board feels that more information is required before a decision can be made, they will sometimes solicit further quick opinions from experts.

8) Once a decision has been made, this is then communicated to the authors by the Managing Editor.

Experts and Referees
It should be noted that, whilst the Editors aim to review papers with minimum delay, it can take time to find experts who are both able and willing to review papers. Once a referee is secured, waiting times can vary depending on the length of the paper and the subject area.

As the LMS's referees are volunteers, there is a limit on the pressure that can brought to bear by Editors on referees who are unable to return their reports within the agreed time period.

Withdrawals

On rare occasions, Editors are unable to find suitable referees, or are unable to obtain a report from a referee long after the agreed deadline has passed. Both scenarios can lead to long delays, which are unacceptable to authors and Editors alike. In such circumstances, as a last resort, the Editor may offer the author the option to withdraw the paper and submit it elsewhere, and authors maintain the right to withdraw the current version of their article at any time during the review process.

Additional Information

Privacy Policy

When submitting a paper, an author will have agreed to allow the LMS to store their personal data and will have been informed of the LMS's data protection policy. Under UK law, the LMS is required to explain how author personal data stored on its system will be subsequently used.

The LMS submission portal privacy policy can be found here: http://edf.lms.ac.uk/ef/docs/DPA.html

Ethical Policy

Any paper found to be submitted to and still under consideration by another journal, or published elsewhere will be rejected automatically, and may prejudice acceptance of future submissions.

If asked to revise a paper, any author who has submitted a co-authored paper should ensure that all authors have read and approved any revision before a new version of a paper is uploaded.

The full ethical policy can be found at: https://www.lms.ac.uk/sites/lms.ac.uk/files/Publications/EthicalPolicy.pdf

Contact the LMS

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