EDITORIAL

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Abstract. We are pleased to announce to the authors and readers of *Mathematical Modelling of Natural Phenomena* (MMNP) a number of changes for 2020. These changes concern: the indexing of the journal, the format of publication, and the structure of the editorial board.

Indexing

Mathematical Modelling of Natural Phenomena is a journal whose primary focus is mathematics, applied to non-mathematics disciplines. Yet, this was not reflected in the categories in which the journal is indexed in the major citation databases: Web of Science and Scopus.

• Web of Science

In Web of Science, MMNP was indexed in the categories Mathematical & Computation Biology (Q4); Mathematics, Interdisciplinary Applications (Q4); and Multidisciplinary Sciences (Q4). In August 2019, we sent a request to Clarivate Analytics, which maintains Web of Science, to add MMNP in the category Mathematics, Applied. The Editorial team of Clarivate evaluated the change of category request and determined that Mathematics, Applied "is a sufficiently relevant category for this journal and as a result have added this category to the journal's categorization. The decision was also made to drop the Multidisciplinary Sciences category because of the primary focus of the journal being on mathematical methods." Clarivate publishes the Impact Factor, which is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a two-year period, based on the Journal Citation Report database. The Impact Factor of MMNP in 2018 is 0.949.

• Scopus

A similar request was sent to Scopus in August 2019. Until then, MMNP was indexed in a single category in Scopus: Modeling and Simulation (Q3). We requested the addition of the category Applied Mathematics. Scopus evaluated and approved this request, so that the journal is now indexed in both categories: Modeling and Simulation, and Applied Mathematics. Furthermore, we are pleased to report that in the new category of Applied Mathematics, MMNP is ranked #222/461, which puts the journal in the second quartile in the category of Applied Mathematics (Q2). The CiteScore is a measure of a frequency in which the average article

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in a journal has been cited in a three-year period, based on the Scopus database. The CiteScore for MMNP in 2018 is 1.12.

With these changes in the categorization of MMNP in the two major indexing databases, we expect that MMNP will be more visible to the applied mathematics community which constitutes its primary authorship.

Format of publication

Up to 2019, MMNP was published following a traditional, bi-monthly format in which 6 issues were published in a yearly volume. From 2020, it will move to an "open volume" format. Issues will disappear, and published articles will be citable with their volume and article number only. This change naturally accompanies the discontinuation of print issues in favour of an online-only format since the beginning of 2016. The new "open volume" publication format will begin with the volume 15 (2020).

MMNP is a journal which has historically published mainly topical issues. One "physical" issue corresponded to a given topical issue. For example, volume 14 issue 1 of 2019 contained all the papers on "Economics and the environment: distributed optimal control models". From 2020, MMNP will continue to publish a proportion of topical issues. These will however be "virtual" topical issues. Articles included in topical issues will be published as they are accepted, in the open volume. They will also continue to be identified in the online platform and at the article-level as belonging to a given topic. This change will give the team of scientific Editors and the production team at EDP Sciences more flexibility in opening and closing topical issues, and will facilitate the planning of topical issues that overlap two publication years. For authors, this change will eventually result in lower delays until the final publication of their articles.

Importantly, publication in an "open volume" will also facilitate the more flexible publication of articles which are outside of topical issues.

Structure of the editorial board

In 2020, MMNP will continue to publish a number of topical issues every year. This format has made the strength and uniqueness of this journal over the years. From 2020 however, submissions of high quality articles outside of topical issues will also be encouraged. Following the peer review process, these articles will be published as they are accepted, in the open volume, outside of a topic.

To manage the expected increase in unsolicited submitted articles, both within and outside of planned topical issues, the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Publisher has made the decision to create a new board of editorial members. The Editorial Board Members of MMNP will work alongside the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors to manage the peer review process of articles submitted to the journal. The new editorial board of MMNP, under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, will thus comprise: Associate Editors whose principal role is the organisation of topical issues, Guest Editors who handle specific topical issues, and editorial board members who will principally handle manuscripts outside of topical issues.

The Editor-in-Chief and Publisher will start issuing invitations to prospective editorial board members in the coming months. We thank in advance the researchers who will respond favourably to these invitations and agree to join us in this new direction for the journal. We also take this opportunity to thank the researchers who have fulfilled an editorial role for MMNP, both as Associate Editors, and as Topical Issue Editors working on specific issues, over the years. Their outstanding contribution has made the success of MMNP as it stands today.