

PREFACE

Mathematicians frequently do not understand each other's work even when they are members of a symposium on a special aspect of mathematics.

Doubtless this is attributable in part to the rapid development of mathematics in widely divergent directions, but to a great extent also to the fact that most mathematicians write exclusively for the specialist. This applies not only to research papers but also to books which are accessible, in the sense that they presuppose little, but are written in an exceedingly condensed style and begin with innumerable definitions and propositions which are of no interest in themselves. While this type of book is useful for those who intend to work in the particular area, it is of no help to the many active mathematicians who like to obtain an insight into fields other than their own without committing themselves to them.

The need for expository articles addressing either all mathematicians or only those in somewhat related fields has long been felt, but little has been done outside of the USSR.

The serial publication *Advances in Mathematics* was created in response to this demand. It will appear in fascicles containing one or more articles, which will be combined into volumes.

It is hoped that *Advances in Mathematics* will contribute to the universality of individual mathematicians and to a sense of unity in mathematics.

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