

**Appendix:**  
**Advice to referees of submissions to**  
***High Primes and Misdemeanours***

**Alf van der Poorten and Andreas Stein**

**General.** A paper should add to the state of the art.

- \* Useful survey, insightful explanation, and instructive speculation will be gladly entertained.
- \* One recommends publication enthusiastically if one enjoys reading the contribution and feels oneself a better and wiser person for the effort.
- \* A relatively self-contained paper with useful or elegant hints reminding the reader of the well-known background is more likely to enthuse the reader than is a paper fiercely presuming that everything well known is known widely.
- \* The quality of papers published in an edited volume/conference proceeding should be that of papers published in reputable fairly respected journals.
- \* The style of papers published in an edited volume/conference proceeding should be more friendly to the reader than that of typical papers published in academic journals.
- \* There is a nominal limitation on the size of the eventual volume so more is not necessarily better.

**Policy.** The three objects of peer review are

- (1) to produce a referee's report so as to justify the allegation that the paper has indeed been peer refereed\* (and which can be sent, or can readily be edited so as to be suitable for sending, to the authors)
- (2) to give wise advice and provide helpful mentoring to the authors so as to ameliorate [improve] the submitted paper
- (3) to give an opinion on whether the paper does indeed add to the state of the art and is indeed sufficiently enjoyable reading etc.

**Things to Do.**

- (a) to act on the policy by writing a brief critical review of the paper
- (b) to do this promptly (and certainly to take no more than a fortnight [that's 10 working days for US English speakers] to do it)
- (c) to send your report to [alf@math.mq.edu.au](mailto:alf@math.mq.edu.au) (Alf van der Poorten) and to [andreas@uiuc.edu](mailto:andreas@uiuc.edu) (Andreas Stein).

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\*In this spirit, the purpose of holding a formal committee meeting is to justify the creation of an agenda for the event and to cause the production of minutes of the meeting.

We have come to realise that it would have been better to have sent the present advice to prospective authors (rather than just to their referees) and will do that in our respective next lives.