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Editorial

This issue of *Proceedings: Mathematical and Physical Sciences* includes the first paper to be produced directly from author's disk using the T_EX typesetting system. Many readers will be familiar with the T_EX program, and may be relying on it as the primary means of producing reports, papers for submission to journals, and books. Increasingly, authors using T_EX are asking why publishers do not use authors' disks. Until very recently, the Royal Society has not done so because the quality of the finished product could not be guaranteed. Now that printers, responding to the acceptance of T_EX as a standard in preparing mathematical papers, are beginning to provide the necessary interfacing between T_EX files and their typesetting systems, we are confident that we can meet the high standards of mathematical typesetting that readers of *Proceedings* have come to expect.

We are therefore delighted to introduce this first T_EX paper, and we expect it to be followed by many more.

Authors interested in learning more about submitting T_EX papers to the Journal should contact either Jonathan Wainwright or Julian Emsley, in the Publications Department of the Royal Society (071-839 5561). A Royal Society style file is available, and although it is preferable that a paper is prepared using this style file, it is not essential. (If you do not use the style file, the most important style parameter to set is the width of the text, by including the line `\textwidth13.5cm` in the preamble.)

J. E. ENDERBY

1. Introduction

Classification of snow crystals collected from aircraft and from cirrus overlying mountain observatories, and the growth of artificial snow crystals in the laboratory, have established that the basic symmetry of the various crystal forms is determined