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Post of Timothy Gowers on Google +

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I've just looked through Issues 8 and 7 of Volume 120 of Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series A. Issue 8 contains 12 articles and is the first I have discovered of any subscription-based Elsevier journal to have all its articles easily available online in preprint form. Issue 7 contains 37 articles, of which the following seven do not appear to be easy to read.

Towards a characterization of subfields of the Deligne–Lusztig function fields by Alp Bassa, Liming Ma, Chaoping Xing and Sze Ling Yeo

On the number of transversal designs, by D.M. Donovan and M. J. Grannell

t-Designs with the number of blocks close to the Fisher type lower bound by Eichi Bannai and Etsuko Bannai

On the number of spanning trees of some irregular line graphs by Weigen Yan

Alternating mapping functions by Alois Panholzer

A second infinite family of Steiner triple systems without almost parallel classes by Darry Bryant and Daniel Horsley

G-Ham Sandwich Theorems: Balancing measures by finite subgroups of spheres by Steven Simon

Taken together, that gives us a strike rate of 6 in 7, or about 85%. So I think it's fair to say that JCTA has reached the point where libraries would not need to subscribe to it if they took out subscriptions to individual journals rather than to huge bundles.

Two small points of interest. First, the article "Covering and packing for pairs" by Yeow Meng Chee, Charles J. Colbourn, Alan C.H. Ling and Richard M. Wilson does not seem to be on arXiv, but the journal version appears to be posted here: <http://www1.spms.ntu.edu.sg/~ccrg/documents/covpack.pdf>

So another case where a takedown notice might be on its way.

Secondly, if you Google the title of that same paper, then some of the results a little way down the first page are quite interesting (or at least they are for me -- perhaps, given that Google searches are now somewhat personalized, I am accidentally giving away sensitive personal information by writing this, but if you don't get the same results then I suppose you won't know what that information is).