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The discipline of statistics has deep roots in both mathematics and in substantive scientific fields. Mathematics provides the language in which models and the properties of statistical methods are formulated. It is essential for rigor, coherence, clarity and understanding. Consequently, our policy is to continue to play a special role in presenting research at the forefront of mathematical statistics, especially theoretical advances that are likely to have a significant impact on statistical methodology or understanding. Substantive fields are essential for continued vitality of statistics, since they provide the motivation and direction for most of the future developments in statistics. We thus intend to also publish papers relating to the role of statistics in interdisciplinary investigations in all fields of natural, technical and social sciences. A third force that is reshaping statistics is the computational revolution, and the *Annals* will also welcome developments in this area. Submissions in these two latter categories will be evaluated primarily by the relevance of the issues addressed and the creativity of the proposed solutions.

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