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- ephemeris astronomy; classical and relativistic celestial mechanics; geodynamics and space geodesy;
- radio astronomy and very long baseline interferometry (VLBI), including the creation of radio astronomical equipment;
- the dynamics of large and small bodies of the solar system, including asteroids and comets approaching the Earth;
- fundamental coordinate/time and navigational support, including the global satellite navigation system – GLONASS;
- construction of fundamental celestial and terrestrial reference systems and determination of Earth rotation parameters;
- preparing and issuing astronomical and special yearbooks, almanacs and other official coordinate/time and navigation publications;
- development of astronomical software and information support; and means of automation in astronomical research;
- upgrading the hardware and software of the radio interferometric network QUASAR, including means of monitoring navigation and geodetic satellites.

The "Transactions of the Institute of Applied Astronomy RAS" includes the results of scientific research carried out both by the staff of the IAA RAS and by the staff of other institutes of the Federal Agency for Scientific Organizations of Russia, as well as research institutions of the Russian Defense Ministry and other divisions. In fact, this is the only collection of articles where works are devoted both to the fundamental aspects of astronomy and the techniques of experiments and practical application of the results obtained, which allows for participation of a wide range of authors, and also increases the citation index of all articles included.

The journal is intended for specialists in astronomy, radio physics and radio engineering.