

## **Double-Blind Review Discontinued by APS Journals**

For a number of years, *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters* offered the option of “double-blind” reviewing. At the request of authors, their identities were withheld from referees. This option has now been discontinued.

This decision was made after a recent study by the editors and discussion with the APS Publications Oversight Committee. It was found that very few authors (0.06%) used the option, and there was no evidence that the option benefited them: 94% of the papers handled this way were rejected. We judge that the use of double-blind review had no effect on the ultimate result for these papers.

Although the option was rarely used, as long as it was offered, it was necessary to maintain, at significant cost, procedures and software to suppress the author’s identity for these few papers. Given that the process appeared to benefit neither the journals nor the authors who used it, it has been eliminated.