

**PHYSICAL REVIEW B**  
**INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS**  
(Revised January 2005)

This journal, and more detailed information about it, can be found on the **World Wide Web** at the URL <http://prb.aps.org>. Prospective authors are particularly advised to consult the information accessible via the Authors and Manuscript Submission subpages. Those looking for a specific known file may find it more convenient to consult the alphabetical listing available at the Author Forms subpage of <http://forms.aps.org>.

Manuscripts may be **submitted** by a variety of electronic modes (including via e-print servers, direct Web upload, and email), or by conventional mail, but not by fax. Web or e-print submission is strongly preferred. Interactive submission forms are an integral part of the submission process for the e-print and Web modes. These forms aid authors in supplying all the information needed in a structured format which furthers efficient processing; they also provide a location for additional “free form” information. Authors submitting via email or conventional mail should download the form available (in ASCII or PDF format) via the Author Forms subpage of [forms.aps.org](http://forms.aps.org), fill it out, and include it with their submission; though less efficient than the interactive Web form, this will aid in ensuring the completeness of the submission, and assist processing.

Please specify the author to whom correspondence should be addressed, and give all available communications information for this individual (postal and email addresses, phone and fax numbers), since in various circumstances they may all be useful. Please specify journal and section to which the paper is submitted, and give PACS (Physics and Astronomy Classification Scheme<sup>®</sup>) index categories if possible. The scheme is available at <http://publish.aps.org/PACS/>. If an important subject of your paper cannot be appropriately classified in the PACS scheme, please give an appropriate keyword or phrase, and indicate approximately where in the scheme this topic would be best placed.

A **copyright-transfer** form should be sent as part of your submission, and will be required before publication. While the transfer of copyright takes effect only upon acceptance of the paper for publication in an APS journal, supplying the form initially can prevent unnecessary delays. Authors submitting via the Web may fill out and submit the form electronically as part of the submission process. Authors submitting via email or conventional mail can find the form at the back of the 12 November 2004 issue of *Physical Review Letters*, or on the Web via the Author Forms subpage of [forms.aps.org](http://forms.aps.org); a signed hard copy should be sent to the Editorial Office (we cannot accept forms sent via email). Be sure to use the latest (7/02 or later) version of the form.

Normally, manuscripts and figures are *not returned* to authors. Authors should indicate (preferably on initial submittal) if they want the manuscript and/or figures returned when correspondence is sent during the editorial process, and/or after a final decision has been made.

For detailed information about **electronic submissions**, see <http://publish.aps.org/ESUB/>. Properly prepared electronic submissions are **exempt from publication charges**. Those that use APS macro packages may qualify for the computer production program, under which author-supplied files are converted directly to production format and coding, rather than being rekeyed for publication. Receipt of an electronic submission will be acknowledged by email within 24 hours. Copies of the manuscript should not be sent by conventional mail unless the electronic transmission has not been successful. **Figures** for an electronic submission must be received in at least review-quality form before editorial processing can begin. The figures may be sent electronically (preferred) or by overnight mail, or review-quality figures may be sent by fax while the “originals” are sent by conventional or overnight mail as soon as possible. Refer to the online documentation for more detailed instructions.

Manuscripts sent by **conventional mail** should be submitted in triplicate to the Editors, Physical Review, 1 Research Road, Box 9000, Ridge, NY 11961-9000. The manuscript, including the abstract, references, and captions, should be neatly printed in English, on good letter-size (e.g.,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$  in. or A4) white paper with ample margins. (The first copy, used for production purposes if the paper is accepted for publication, must be printed on one side of the paper only; additional copies, used for review purposes, may be printed on both sides of the paper.) The type size and line spacing should be sufficient to accommodate editorial markings and should be legible to our keyboarders (no more than three lines per inch and no more than 88 characters per 6 inches). It should be carefully proofread by the author. Poor reproductions are unacceptable, as are unclear or excessive handwritten insertions.

When a manuscript is **resubmitted**, please include a summary of changes made and a brief response to all recommendations and criticisms. The interactive resubmission forms available on our Web server may be used for electronic-mail, Web-upload, and hard-copy transmission of modified manuscripts and figures. These forms should also be used when a manuscript previously submitted to one APS journal is resubmitted to another. When **resubmitting electronically**, send the complete file for the text if there have been any changes. Please refer to the online documentation for more detailed instructions. If the resubmission is by conventional mail, send three copies of the revised manuscript (with figures) and include the resubmission form or equivalent information. For any resubmission, please state whether or not the figures have been modified, and supply new PostScript-formatted figures or scanner-reproducible figures if there have been such changes. It is only necessary to resend the “original” figures if the previous versions are no longer valid. Please update any other information (e.g., address and communication information) that has changed or will change since initial submission.

For **general format and style** consult recent issues of this journal and the *Physical Review Style and Notation Guide* at <http://publish.aps.org/STYLE/>. Additional style guidelines can be found in the Fourth Edition of the *AIP Style Manual*, available at <http://www.aip.org/pubservs/style.html>.

The **title** should be concise but informative enough to facilitate information retrieval. The **abstract** should be self-contained (contain no footnotes). It should be adequate as an index (giving all subjects, major and minor, about which new information is given) and as a summary (giving the conclusions and all results of general interest in the article). It should be about 5% of the length of the article, but less than 500 words.

**Notation** should be clear, compact, and consistent with standard usage. **Equations** should be neatly formatted, punctuated, and aligned to bring out their structure, and numbered on the right. (a) Diacritical marks (tildes, etc.) can be put over any symbol, including indices. (b) Three-vectors are generally set in roman boldface type. More general vectors, matrices, etc., are usually set in lightface italic type, although boldface may alternatively be used. (c) Be careful when using the solidus (/) in fractions. For example,  $1/2a$  means  $1/(2a)$ , not  $(1/2)a$ . Use appropriate bracketing if needed to ensure clarity.

**References and footnotes** to text material must be combined in a single list, numbered consecutively in their order of first appearance in the paper, and placed in a double-spaced list at the end of the text material. References within tables should be designated by lower-case letter superscripts and given at the end of the table.

For the proper form, see the *Physical Review Style and Notation Guide* and recent issues of this journal. The names of all authors of works cited should be given in the references. The use of “*et al.*” is discouraged, and should never be used if the number of authors is less than four. When reference is made to material not available in the published literature, it is denoted as “unpublished.” References to papers published in peer-reviewed journals are considered primary references. References to e-print archives should not be used in place of primary references. References to classified reports or other documents with restricted circulation should be avoided. It is important to confirm the accuracy of bibliographic information in references. This has become more important now that the journal is online. Hyperlinks will be programmed to enable readers to “click” on references and jump directly to the material cited. If your reference citations are incorrect or incomplete (e.g., missing author name, or an incorrect volume number or page), the associated hyperlinks may fail, and the usefulness of your paper in the online environment may be diminished. Since at the present time such links work only from the reference section, work cited anywhere in the paper, including in figure and table captions and in “Note(s) added,” should be included in the reference section.

Footnotes to an author’s name or address are intended to facilitate locating or communicating with an author. In many cases, it can be helpful to identify an author as “spokesperson”

or “author to whom correspondence should be addressed.” Footnotes giving email addresses of one or more corresponding authors are strongly encouraged. All information concerning research support should appear in the acknowledgments. Footnotes which describe an author’s position or title are not acceptable.

Separate **tables** (numbered in the order of their first appearance) should be used for all but the simplest tabular material; they must have captions, which should make the tables intelligible without reference to the text. The structure should be clear, with simple column headings giving all units.

The decision on whether results should be published in long tables depends on the precision of the data, i.e., whether they can be read accurately enough from a figure, and on how many readers are likely to use the numbers relative to the space needed in the journal. Material more extensive than is appropriate for the journal article, or of special types (e.g., color figures, multimedia, program files) may be deposited in the Electronic Physics Auxiliary Publication Service (EPAPS) of the American Institute of Physics; information regarding EPAPS is available on our Web server. If additional numerical data can be obtained from a data center, from the author, or from another source either as tables or on tape, indicate how and in what format they can be obtained.

**Figures** should be planned for the column width (8.6 cm or  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in.) of the journal. If the detail shown requires it, 1.5 or 2 columns may be used. A note should be left on or with such figures. *Final-journal-size* originals or prints are preferable to oversized originals. Authors are encouraged to submit all figures electronically, even if the text of the manuscript is not submitted electronically; refer to the online instructions for more details. Figures submitted on paper should be of high quality and suitable for digital scanning, which is done at 600 or 1200 dpi depending on the level of detail; original ink drawings or glossy prints are acceptable. Be advised that the scanner reproduces all imperfections (e.g., correction fluid, tape, smudges, writing on the back of the figure, etc.). All figures must be prepared so that the details can be seen after reproduction. They must have a clear background and unbroken lines with as much black-white contrast as possible. The symbol width and lettering height on the journal page should be at least 2 mm. Avoid small open symbols that tend to fill in, small dots and decimal points, and shading or cross-hatching that is not coarse enough to withstand reproduction. Curves should be smooth; curves and lines should have consistent line widths of sufficient weight [final weight of at least 0.18 mm (0.5 point)]. The resolution of the drawing software and output device should be set as high as possible (preferably 600 dpi or higher).

Figures should be numbered in the order in which they are referred to in the text. They should be identified on the front (outside the image area) by the number, the name of the first author, and the journal. An indication, e.g., “TOP,” of the intended orientation of a figure is helpful, especially in ambiguous cases. Each figure must have a caption that makes the figure intelligible without reference to the text; list captions on

a separate sheet. Text should be placed in the caption, not on the figure. Groups of figures that share a (single) caption must be labeled “(a), (b),” etc. The figure itself should have properly labeled axes with correctly abbreviated units enclosed in parentheses. Use consistent lettering and style as in the body of the text (use correct capitalization, unslashed zeros, proper exponential notation, superscripts and subscripts, decimal points instead of commas, etc.). Use the form  $R (10^3 \Omega)$ , not  $R \times 10^3 \Omega$ . Use half spacing within compound units, not hyphens or periods. Avoid ambiguous usage of the solidus (“/”), e.g., (mb/MeV sr), not (mb/MeV/sr). When possible, integer numbers should be used on the axis scales of figures, e.g., 1, 2, 3, or 0, 5, 10, not 1.58, 3.16, 4.75. Decimal points must be on the line (not above it); do not use commas instead. Use the same number of digits to the right of the decimal point for all numbers on the axis scales. A number must be both before and behind the decimal point, e.g., 0.2, not .2. For complete instructions see the *Physical Review Style and Notation Guide* or the *AIP Style Manual*.

Avoid submitting prescreened prints of photographic material or laser-printed renditions of continuous-tone data; reproduction of such figures is seldom satisfactory and there is a risk of moiré patterns appearing in the final product. If PostScript files are not available, supply glossy or matte-finish photographs or laser prints at the highest resolution possible and in the final published size.

Some figures might be more effective in **color**. The cost of printing illustrations in color, which may be significant, must be borne in full by the respective authors and their institutions. In some cases, it may be feasible to have figures appear in color online but black and white in print, at no charge to the author. To utilize this option, illustrations should be provided in PostScript or Encapsulated PostScript format as part of an electronic manuscript submission. Authors will have the opportunity to review the color figures in the pdf proof of their article. Since the figures will not appear as color in print (unless the author has signed the appropriate color authorization form), authors must begin figure captions with “(Color online)” as an alert to readers of the print journal. Authors also have the responsibility to be sure that the figures are sufficiently clear in both the online color and print black and white versions,

and that the captions and text references are appropriate for both versions. Note that the black and white figure in print will be derived from the color PostScript file.

If color is desired in the print version of the journal as well as in the online version, the author must complete the Color Figure Authorization Form available at <http://publish.aps.org/infoauth.html> or as part of the web submission process, indicating acceptance of the applicable charges. Pricing information may also be found from this site. The form may be completed as part of the submission process. It must be completed before production can begin on an editorially accepted paper that contains color for the print journal.

Authors who submit their manuscripts in hard copy and wish to have their color illustrations appear in color in the print journal should provide 35-mm slides or transparencies, or high-quality glossy prints, which should be close to the final size expected for publication. (Negatives are not acceptable.) Polaroid color prints should be avoided. Artwork must be flexible. If submitting slides, please note that they will be removed from their jackets for the color separator. In some cases, print requirements will prevent figures from being located in the most preferred position. To alert readers of monochrome reproductions of the article that the archive figure is in color, begin the caption with “(Color)” [or “(Color online)” if the figure is to be in color in the online version only]. When submitting electronic figures containing color, please be reminded that they will appear online in color (if the files are properly prepared) and in black and white in print, unless the signed color authorization form is submitted.

To aid the reviewers, provide color copies with each submitted manuscript copy. If a figure is *not* intended for printing in color, then only a black and white version and copies should be submitted, if making a hard copy submission.

In order to **reproduce** figures, tables, etc., from another journal, authors must show that they have complied with the requirements of the publisher of the other journal, possibly including written agreement of both publisher and author of the originally published work. (If the original journal is published by APS, only the written agreement of the original author is required to reproduce a few figures or tables.)