

PHYSICAL REVIEW A
INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

(Revised July 2009)

This journal, and more detailed information about it, can be found at <http://pra.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 at <http://forms.aps.org/author.html>.

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.

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[®]) 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 should download the form, available via <http://authors.aps.org/>, and send a signed hard copy to the Editorial Office (we cannot accept forms sent via email). Be sure to use the current version, available via the above URL.

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://authors.aps.org/ESUB/>. Properly prepared electronic submissions are **exempt from publication charges**.

Those that use APS macro packages may qualify for the computer-processed 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 to the Editors, Physical Review, 1 Research Road, Ridge, NY 11961-2701. The manuscript, including the abstract, references, and captions, should be neatly printed (double-spaced, on one side of the paper only) in English, on good letter-size (e.g., 8½ × 11 in. or A4) white paper with ample margins. 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 one copy of the revised manuscript (with figures). For any resubmission, please state whether or not the figures have been modified, and supply new electronic 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://authors.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>.

Readability of the journal is an important consideration. Authors are urged to take special care in assuring that their manuscripts are well-organized and clearly written in good scientific English. **Accessibility** of papers is a matter of significant concern, and at least the abstract and introduction of each article should be written so as to be understandable by a broad spectrum of readers.

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. They should be designated and cited in text by on-line Arabic numerals in square brackets. As an option, footnotes may appear separately from references and be placed at the bottom of the page on which they are cited. They should be designated by superscript numbers and numbered consecutively throughout the paper. Footnotes within tables should be designated by lower-case letter superscripts and given at the end of the table.

For the proper form for references, see the *Physical Review Style and Notation Guide* (especially Table I and the list of Journal Title Abbreviations). The names of all authors of cited papers should normally be given except when the number of authors is very large (say, more than 10). If length constraints are a problem, the name of the first author followed by *et al.* may be used for cited papers with four or more authors. When reference is made to internal reports or other items not available in the open literature, it is the responsibility of the author to provide sufficient information to enable the reader to obtain a copy of the referenced material. 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*.

Photographic images (either grayscale or color) should be submitted electronically as high-resolution JPEG or PNG files.

In preparing figures, care should be taken to present the scientific results accurately. If images used in any of the figures have been **manipulated**, except for adjustments that affect the picture as a whole (e.g., overall brightness), the modification should be described clearly in the caption or text.

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.

If color is desired in the print version of the journal as well as in the online version, the author must clearly indicate which figures are intended to be printed in color as part of the submission process. Information about our pricing and payment policy for color figures in the print journal may be found at <http://authors.aps.org/tips.html>.

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.)