POLYMER

The International Journal for the Science and Technology of Polymers

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISSN: 0032-3861

- **Description** **p.1**
- **Audience** **p.1**
- **Impact Factor** **p.1**
- **Abstracting and Indexing** **p.2**
- **Editorial Board** **p.2**
- **Guide for Authors** **p.4**

DESCRIPTION

Polymer publishes original research from all areas of **polymer science** and **technology** with emphasis on molecular or meso-scale interpretation of data. Papers from new emerging areas of the field are particularly welcome. In addition to regular articles and communications, the journal also publishes review articles - usually invited by the Editors.

Frequency: every 2 weeks, 26 times per year.

Index bound in last issue of calendar year.

Benefits to authors
We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our support pages: http://support.elsevier.com

AUDIENCE

Scientists and engineers at academia, industry, government and consultancies working in all areas of polymer science and technology.

IMPACT FACTOR

2013: 3.766 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2014

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Abstract Bulletin of the Institute of Paper Science and Technology
Chemical Abstracts
Chemical Titles
Current Contents
Engineering Index
FIZ Karlsruhe
Physics Abstracts
Polymer Contents
Science Abstracts - Physics Abstracts
Scopus

EDITORIAL BOARD

Senior Editors

S.Z.D. Cheng
A.H.E. Müller

Honorary Editors

Y. Imanishi
I.M. Ward

Asian Editors

C.C. Han, Inst. of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Zhongguancun North First Street 2, 100190 Beijing, China
K. Ito, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa-no-ha 5-1-5-603, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8561, Japan
A. Takahara, Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University, CE11 Ito Campus, 744 Motooka Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan
T. Yokozawa, Department of Material and Life Chemistry, Kanagawa University, Rokkakubashi, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama 221-8686, Japan

Associate Editors for China

Y. Chen, Dept. of Polymer & Material Sciences, Sch. of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering,Sun Yat-Sen University, No. 135, Xingang Xi Road, 510275, Guangzhou, China
E.-Q. Chen, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Peking University, No. 5 Yiheyuan Road, Haidian District, 100871, Beijing, China

Editors for the Americas

S.Z.D. Cheng, Goodyear Polymer Center, University of Akron, 170 University Ave, Akron, OH 44325-0044, Ohio, USA
S.R. Turner, Macromoleculars & Interfaces I, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2 Davidson Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061, Virginia, USA

European & Rest of the World Editors

M. Ballauff, Soft Matter and Functional Materials, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie, Glienicker Straße 100, 14109, Berlin, Germany
G. Krausch, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Forum Universitatis 2, 55128, Mainz, Germany
A.H.E. Mueller, Inst. für Organische Chemie, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Duesbergweg 10-14, D-55099, Mainz, Germany

Editorial Advisory Board

L. An, Changchung Institute of Applied Chemistry, Changchun, China
T. Bunning, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, AFB, Dayton, Ohio, USA
A. Böker, DWI an der RWTH Aachen e.V., Aachen, Germany
N.R. Cameron, Durham University, Durham, UK
B. Charleux, Saint-Gobain Innovative Materials R&D, La Défense Cedex, France
R.J. Composto, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
C. De Rosa, University of Naples Federico II, Napoli, Italy
B.D. Freeman, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
Q. Fu, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China
J. Genzer, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
M. Geoghegan, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
E. Giannelis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA

J.P Gong, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan
A. Greiner, Universität Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
R.H. Grubbs, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA
T. Hashimoto, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
B.S. Hsiao, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton, Binghamton, New York, USA
C.-S. Hsu, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, ROC
S. Ito, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
E-T. Kang, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore
F. Khoury, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
K. Landfester, Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Polymer Research, Mainz, Germany
L. Leibler, École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI), Paris, France
C. Li, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Z. Li, Peking University, Beijing, China
D-J. Liaw, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC
K. Loos, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
B.A. Lotz, Institut Charles Sadron, Strasbourg, France
A.J. Lovinger, Bell Laboratories Alcatel-Lucent, Murray Hill, New Jersey, USA (Retired)
C. Macosko, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
J.E. Mark, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
T. Masuda, Fukui University of Technology, Fukui, Japan
K. Matyjaszewski, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
J.E. McGrath, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA
M. Muthukumar, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA
D.R. Paul, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
R.E. Prud'homme, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada
J. Pyun, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA
P. Pötschke, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research, Dresden, Germany
R.A. Register, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
G.C. Rutledge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
A.J. Ryan, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
R. Shenhar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
M. Shibayama, University of Tokyo, Naka-Gun, Japan
M.S. Silverstein, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
S.L. Simon, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA
M. Stenzel, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
G. Strobl, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
B.S. Sumerlin, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0314, Texas, USA
B.-Z. Tang, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Hong Kong, China
K. Tashiro, Toyota Technological Institute, Tempaku, Nagoya, Japan
E. L. Thomas, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
T. Thurn- Albrecht, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany
V. Tsukruk, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
M. Ulbricht, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany
F. Wang, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China
Z.Y. Wang, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K.I. Winey, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
C. Wu, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, China
Y. Yagci, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
Y. Yang, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
X. Zhang, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Q.-F. Zhou, Peking University, Beijing, China
L. Zhu, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
ypyw-gfa-banner.gifyour paper your way

INTRODUCTION

The International Journal for the Science and Technology of Polymers.

In order to achieve rapid publication, it is essential precisely to follow these instructions. Failure to do so can result in a substantial delay in publication.

Types of paper

Polymer publishes *original* research from all areas of polymer science and technology, with emphasis on molecular or mesoscale interpretation of data. Papers from new emerging areas of the field are particularly welcome. The journal publishes *regular articles*, *communications* (novel, unexpected experimental results or interpretation presented within 4 printed pages) and *feature articles* (usually invited by the Editors).

Contact details for submission

Since 1 September 2005, manuscripts can only be submitted online via the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) at http://ees.elsevier.com/jpol.

During the online submission, authors are requested to choose the appropriate Editor from a drop down menu, according to the geographical location of the corresponding author and the subject matter of the paper.

Papers from the Americas should be submitted online via EES to one of the following editors, according to the subject matter:
Professor S.Z.D. Cheng, *Physics and Physical Chemistry*
The Maurice Morton Institute of Polymer Science, University of Akron, Goodyear Polymer Centre, Room 936, Akron, OH 44325-3909, USA
E-mail: scheng@uakron.edu
Professor S.R. Turner, *Chemistry and Synthesis*
Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute, 2 Davidson Hall (0201), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA
E-mail: srturner@vt.edu

All papers from China (in all subject areas) should be submitted online via EES to:
Professor C.C. Han
Joint Laboratory of Polymer Science and Materials, Institute of Chemistry , The Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhongguancum, Beijing, 100080, China
E-mail: c.c.han@iccas.ac.cn

Papers from the rest of Asia should be submitted online via EES to one of the following Editors, according to the subject matter:
Professor A. Takahara, *Physics*
Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University,CE11 Ito Campus, 744 Motooka Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan
E-mail: takahara@cstf.kyushu-u.ac.jp
Professor K. Ito, *Physical Chemistry and functionality*
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences,The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa-no-ha 5-1-5-603,Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8561, Japan
E-mail: kohzo@k.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Professor T. Yokozawa, *Chemistry and Synthesis*
Department of Material and Life Chemistry,Kanagawa University, Rokkakubashi, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama 221-8686, Japan
E-mail: yokozt01@kanagawa-u.ac.jp

Papers from Europe and the rest of the world should be submitted online via EES to one of the following editors:
Professor Dr. M. Ballauff, *Physical Chemistry*

Soft Matter and Functional Materials, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie, Glienicker Straβe 100, 14109 Berlin, Germany
Email: matthias.ballauff@helmholtz-berlin.de
Professor G. Krausch, *Physics*
Johannes Gutenberg-Universitat Mainz, Forum universitatis 2, 55099 Mainz, Germany
Email: krausch@uni-mainz.de
Professor A.H.E. Müller, *Chemistry and Synthesis*
Institute of Organic Chemistry, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Duesbergweg 10-14, D-55099 Mainz, Germany
Email: axel.mueller@uni-mainz.de

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before starting work on their manuscript authors should familiarise themselves with our Ethics in Publishing guidelines.

Ethics in publishing

For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see http://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics and http://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics.

Conflict of interest

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. See also http://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/p/7923.

Submission declaration

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

If revision of the original manuscript is required, authors will have a maximum of two months (from receipt of the referees comments) to revise and re-submit. A revised manuscript received by the Editor later than two months after the authors receipt of the referees comments will be treated as a new submission. Authors are allowed to revise the original manuscript only once. If further revisions are requested the manuscript will be treated as a new submission.

Submission declaration and verification

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see http://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service CrossCheck http://www.elsevier.com/editors/plagdetect.

Changes to authorship

This policy concerns the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship of accepted manuscripts:
Before the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Requests to add or remove an author, or to rearrange the author names, must be sent to the Journal Manager from the corresponding author of the accepted manuscript and must include: (a) the reason the name should be added or removed, or the author names rearranged and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, fax, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will be forwarded by the Journal Manager to the corresponding author, who

must follow the procedure as described above. Note that: (1) Journal Managers will inform the Journal Editors of any such requests and (2) publication of the accepted manuscript in an online issue is suspended until authorship has been agreed.
After the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Any requests to add, delete, or rearrange author names in an article published in an online issue will follow the same policies as noted above and result in a corrigendum.

Article transfer service

This journal is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf with no need to reformat. More information about this can be found here: http://www.elsevier.com/authors/article-transfer-service.

Copyright

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research: Open access and Subscription.

For subscription articles
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (for more information on this and copyright, see http://www.elsevier.com/copyright). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.
Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations (please consult http://www.elsevier.com/permissions). If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases: please consult http://www.elsevier.com/permissions.

For open access articles
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (for more information see http://www.elsevier.com/OAauthoragreement). Permitted reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license (see http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesslicenses).

Retained author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) retain certain rights. For more information on author rights for:
Subscription articles please see http://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/author-rights-and-responsibilities.
Open access articles please see http://www.elsevier.com/OAauthoragreement.

Role of the funding source

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Funding body agreements and policies

Elsevier has established agreements and developed policies to allow authors whose articles appear in journals published by Elsevier, to comply with potential manuscript archiving requirements as specified as conditions of their grant awards. To learn more about existing agreements and policies please visit http://www.elsevier.com/fundingbodies.

Open access

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Open access
- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or their research funder

Subscription
• Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our access programs (http://www.elsevier.com/access)
• No open access publication fee

All articles published open access will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download. Permitted reuse is defined by your choice of one of the following Creative Commons user licenses:
Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY): lets others distribute and copy the article, to create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), to text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA): for non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, to create extracts, abstracts and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), to text and data mine the article, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation, and license their new adaptations or creations under identical terms (CC BY-NC-SA).
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND): for non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

To provide open access, this journal has a publication fee which needs to be met by the authors or their research funders for each article published open access.
Your publication choice will have no effect on the peer review process or acceptance of submitted articles.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **$2500**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing.

Language services
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who require information about language editing and copyediting services pre- and post-submission please visit http://www.elsevier.com/languageediting or our customer support site at http://epsupport.elsevier.com for more information.

Manuscripts which are not written in fluent English will be rejected automatically without refereeing.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/jpol/

Referees
Please submit, with the manuscript, the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of 5 potential referees. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

PREPARATION

NEW SUBMISSIONS
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.
As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or lay-out that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

Please note that the instructions related to Units still apply to all new submissions.

Nomenclature

Nomenclature should conform to current scientific usage. Author(s) should use systematic names similar to those used by Chemical Abstracts Service and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Chemical Abstracts (CA) nomenclature rules can be found in Appendix IV of the Chemical Abstracts Index Guide.

IUPAC Guidelines for Polymer Nomenclature

Authors are invited to follow IUPAC recommendations for naming and drawing polymers. A two-page guide is available here: http://www.iupac.org/nc/home/projects/project-db/project-details.html?tx_wfqbe_pi1%5Bproject_nr%5D=2

Introduction

For full-length manuscripts, a proper *introduction* is required. The purpose of the introduction is to briefly summarise previous work and recent progress in the field and not to repeat information found in previous publications. The introduction must be kept to a minimum length and only references that pertain to the information in the manuscript should be used. For shorter articles, introductions should be correspondingly brief.

The title should be concise, informative and representative of the contents of the manuscript.

Abstract

An abstract of approximately 100 to 150 words identifying the new and significant results of the study must be provided for all manuscripts, including articles, reviews, and communications. The abstract should comprise a brief and factual account of the contents and conclusions of the paper as well as an indication of any new information presented and its relevance. Abstracts should be self-contained. References to formulae, equations or references that appear in the main text are not permissible.

Graphical Abstract

In addition to the Abstract, which will appear at the beginning of the text, the author should provide a graphical abstract (TOC). The TOC graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the essence of the paper. It should be in the form of a structure, graph, drawing, TEM/SEM/AFM micrograph, or reaction scheme without any added text. Tables or spectra are not acceptable. Color is encouraged. Type size of labels, formulas, or numbers within the graphic must be legible. The graphic should be submitted as a separate file in either TIFF, JPG, Word, or Powerpoint format.

Experimental

The *experimental* section should provide sufficient detail of the materials, methods and equipment to allow repetition of the work elsewhere, but should not contain excessive detail of commonly used procedures. Precautions for handling dangerous material or for performing hazardous procedures should be explicitly stated.

References

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

Formatting requirements

There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.
If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.
Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Figures and tables embedded in text
Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file.

REVISED SUBMISSIONS

Supplementary data
Elsevier accepts electronic supplementary material to support and enhance your scientific research. Supplementary files offer the author additional possibilities to publish supporting applications, high-resolution images, background datasets, sound clips and more. Supplementary files supplied will be published online alongside the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com. In order to ensure that your submitted material is directly usable, please provide the data in one of our recommended file formats. Authors should submit the material in electronic format together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

Authors should be encouraged to submit their supplementary data in PDF format and include a note at the end of the manuscript with a link to the materials free of charge.

Subdivision - unnumbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply "the text".

The main text should include introduction, experimental section, results, discussion and conclusion. All footnotes (except for table footnotes) should be identified with superscript Arabic numbers. Headings and subheadings for different sections of the papers should be used and clearly identified. If each section needs to be numbered, a sequence such as 2., 2.1., 2.1.1., etc should be used. All tables and figures must be mentioned in the text. Trade names should have an initial capital letter.

Math formulae

Detailed mathematical discussion should be placed in an appendix. Equations and formulae should be typewritten.

Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section. Please note that the conclusions should not repeat the summary.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF, EPS or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color on the Web (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article**. Please indicate your preference for color in print or on the Web only. For further information on the preparation of electronic artwork, please see http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.
Please note: Because of technical complications which can arise by converting color figures to "gray scale" (for the printed version should you not opt for color in print) please submit in addition usable black and white versions of all the color illustrations.

At the editors discretion colour may be provided at no cost to the author, if it is deemed essential to the clarity and presentation of the article. Colour illustrations should be scanned at 300 dpi (500 dpi for halftones/line art combinations).

Use of word processing software
Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier: http://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article structure

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Essential title page information

• ***Title.*** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
• ***Author names and affiliations.*** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
• ***Corresponding author.*** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. **Ensure that phone numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
• ***Present/permanent address.*** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Units

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many wordprocessors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.
Table footnotes
Indicate each footnote in a table with a superscript lowercase letter.

Artwork

Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
• For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
• Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files.
A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website:
http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.
You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.
Formats

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Figure captions

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

References

Citation in text

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Web references

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Reference management software

This journal has standard templates available in key reference management packages EndNote (http://www.endnote.com/support/enstyles.asp) and Reference Manager (http://refman.com/support/rmstyles.asp). Using plug-ins to wordprocessing packages, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article and the list of references and citations to these will be formatted according to the journal style which is described below.

Reference formatting

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations: http://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/.

Video data

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 50 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com.

Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages at http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

AudioSlides

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. More information and examples are available at http://www.elsevier.com/audioslides. Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

Interactive plots

This journal encourages you to include data and quantitative results as interactive plots with your publication. To make use of this feature, please include your data as a CSV (comma-separated values) file when you submit your manuscript. Please refer to http://www.elsevier.com/interactiveplots for further details and formatting instructions.

Submission checklist

The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address
- Telephone

All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:

- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)
- Color figures are clearly marked as being intended for color reproduction on the Web (free of charge) and in print, or to be reproduced in color on the Web (free of charge) and in black-and-white in print
- If only color on the Web is required, black-and-white versions of the figures are also supplied for printing purposes

For any further information please visit our customer support site at http://support.elsevier.com.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Use of the Digital Object Identifier

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) may be used to cite and link to electronic documents. The DOI consists of a unique alpha-numeric character string which is assigned to a document by the publisher upon the initial electronic publication. The assigned DOI never changes. Therefore, it is an ideal medium for citing a document, particularly 'Articles in press' because they have not yet received their full bibliographic information. The correct format for citing a DOI is shown as follows (example taken from a document in the journal *Physics Letters B*):

doi:10.1016/j.physletb.2003.10.071

When you use the DOI to create URL hyperlinks to documents on the web, they are guaranteed never to change.

The correct hyperlink to the DOI above is: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2003.10.071

Online proof correction

Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.
We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately - please upload all of your corrections within 48 hours. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility. Note that Elsevier may proceed with the publication of your article if no response is received.

Offprints

The corresponding author, at no cost, will be provided with a personalized link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. This link can also be used for sharing via email and social networks. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's WebShop (http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints). Authors requiring printed copies of multiple articles may use Elsevier WebShop's 'Create Your Own Book' service to collate multiple articles within a single cover (http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/booklets).

AUTHOR INQUIRIES

You can track your submitted article at http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/89/p/8045/. You can track your accepted article at http://www.elsevier.com/trackarticle. You are also welcome to contact Customer Support via http://support.elsevier.com.

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | http://www.elsevier.com