

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Submission of manuscripts

Regular contributions Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate to the Editor-in-Chief or to the member of the editorial board most familiar with the topic of the paper. A list of the members of the board of editors together with their special fields can be found on page 3 of the journal. Each manuscript should be prepared according to the instructions given below and must be accompanied by a completed and signed *copyright transfer statement* (springerlink.com).

Rapid communications Important new results may be considered as a rapid communication. The length of those papers is restricted to 4 printed pages. Manuscripts should be sent in triplicate directly to the Editor-in-Chief and are handled by the editorial office in a special procedure that ensures rapid reviewing. Rapid communications appear in print within 2 months after acceptance.

In order to speed up publication, authors are urged to submit the **final version** of all papers not only as hard copies in triplicate but also in electronic form, preferably in \LaTeX . For details please refer to the following section.

Once a manuscript is accepted, it will be published quickly and free of page charges up to a prescribed maximum length: 4 printed pages for rapid communications, 8 printed pages for contributed papers. A standard page contains approx. 4000 characters.

\LaTeX manuscripts

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Figures illustrate and enrich the text and should conform to the following quality criteria: Line illustrations (only black and white elements) should have a resolution of 800 dpi; for greyscale figures 300 dpi is sufficient (with reference to final size). Please include all fonts used when saving the figures to ensure exact reproduction of special characters. The preferred figure format is .eps. Other formats such as .tif, .jpg or .doc are also acceptable. Figures should be consecutively numbered and have a brief descriptive caption. Each figure must be cited in the text.

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