

Announcement: Adding “chemical physics” to the title of the “Atomic and molecular structure and dynamics” section of the journal

Starting with volume 113 in January 2026, the section “Atomic and molecular structure and dynamics; high-precision experiments” will be renamed to “Atomic and molecular structure and dynamics; high-precision experiments; chemical physics.” We are not changing the sectioning scheme, but we make explicit that there is significant overlap between AMO physics and chemical physics. We welcome manuscripts from the chemical physics community that are of interest to the readership of *Physical Review A* (PRA) with its scope on “atomic, molecular, and optical physics and quantum science”. Typical examples include electronic structure and first-principles molecular dynamics calculations, density functional theory, chemical reaction mechanisms and dynamics, spectroscopy and imaging techniques, ultracold chemistry and quantum chemistry, and, more generally speaking, conceptual advances that can be generalized beyond a specific system. This list is not exhaustive, but rather meant to illustrate the broader point. As is often the case, boundaries are fluid and sometimes subjective, and editors will use their discretion in limiting the scope of the journal and deciding which manuscripts are suitable for consideration.

Putting this change of the section title in context, we note that the sections, and their titles, of scientific journals are not set in stone. If they are to adequately represent the vibrant communities that journals such as PRA serve, they must change periodically in order to reflect the scope of the journal, its readership, and authorship. Sometimes, such a change is triggered by a shift in the size of subfields; some grow while others shrink. As a consequence, sections may be split or combined to mirror the evolving interests of authors and readers. Examples of such changes are the reorganizations of PRA’s sectioning scheme in January 2014 [1] and July 2020 [2]. At other times, changes may be more minor; they do not involve restructuring, but just a name change to better reflect the actual content of the section(s). An example of this kind of change is the expansion of the name of the “Atomic structure and dynamics” section in July 2018 [3]. The current change belongs to the latter category and makes clear that we welcome articles with a chemical physics background as detailed above.



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[1] Announcement: Changes to the Sections of *Physical Review A*, *Phys. Rev. A* **89**, 010001 (2014).

[2] Announcement: Changes to the sections of *Physical Review A*, *Phys. Rev. A* **102**, 010001 (2020).

[3] Announcement: The Fundamental Role of Precision Measurement in Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics—a New Section Heading for *Physical Review A*, *Phys. Rev. A* **98**, 010001 (2018).