

ANNOUNCEMENT

Electronic-First Publication and Article Numbers

In recent years, the physics community, particularly in the fields covered by Physical Review D, has become increasingly accustomed to accessing the current literature electronically. In keeping with this trend, Physical Review D has changed its production process so that all articles are first published electronically, with the printed version appearing at a subsequent date. The printed and online versions will continue to be visually identical.

In making this change, we have moved from a batch mode that focused on the production of an entire printed issue to one that allows each article to be published as soon as it is ready. New articles are added daily to the online journal (<http://publish.aps.org/PRDO/prdohome.html>), with the date of posting being listed as the publication date of the article. At monthly intervals these articles are collected together to make up the printed issues that appear, according to the same division by subject area as previously, on the 1st and 15th of each month.

In order to allow articles to be fully citable from the time that they are published electronically, we have switched from the traditional system in which articles were identified by volume and page number to one that uses volume and article number, beginning with the articles appearing in Volume 58. In this system, each article is assigned a six-digit article number. The algorithm for constructing these article numbers has been designed to allow the numbers to be assigned at the time of electronic publication, while at the same time preserving the usual ordering of articles by article type and subject matter in the printed journal. In citing these papers,

the article number should be used instead of a page number, e.g., Phys. Rev. D **58**, 012013 (1998).

In the online version of the journal, articles can be accessed by going to the Table of Contents for the appropriate issue (indicated by the first two digits of the article number). Articles are listed in the Table of Contents according to increasing article number. Alternatively, if the article number is known, one can use the Volume/Article Number search that can be found on the home page just above the lists of Tables of Contents.

In the printed version of the journal, articles are placed in order of increasing article number. Instead of page numbers, the article number appears on the upper right-hand corner of the page and one locates an article much as one navigates a dictionary or encyclopedia.

Although there is no global page numbering, pages are numbered (bottom center of the page) within each article (e.g., 012013-1, 012013-2, ...). The hyphen and additional digits should not be used when citing the article.

Although knowledge of the algorithm is not necessary for navigating the journal, it may be of interest. The first two digits of the article number correspond to the issue number and are determined by the date of electronic publication and by whether the subject matter corresponds to D1 (odd-numbered issues) or D15 (even-numbered issues). The next two digits are determined by the article type and subject (an article is placed in one of the categories shown below, generally by using the principal PACS number). The last two digits are assigned sequentially as articles in a given subject area are published within an issue.

D1	Categories:
1	Experiment
2	Electroweak interactions
3A	Strong interactions
3B	Lattice methods
4	Beyond the standard model
5	Field theory, general methods

D15	Categories:
1	Experiment
2A	Astrophysics
2B	Cosmology
3	General relativity, gravitation
4	Field theory, formal particle theory
5	String theory

Two-digit section numbers:

11	Rapid Communication, Category 1
13	Rapid Communication, Category 2
15	Rapid Communication, Category 3
17	Rapid Communication, Category 4
19	Rapid Communication, Category 5
20	Regular Article, Category 1
30	Regular Article, Category 2 (D1) or 2A (D15)
35	Regular Article, Category 2B (D15 only)
40	Regular Article, Category 3 (D15) or 3A (D1)
45	Regular Article, Category 3B (D1 only)
50	Regular Article, Category 4
60	Regular Article, Category 5

71	Brief Report, Category 1
73	Brief Report, Category 2
75	Brief Report, Category 3
77	Brief Report, Category 4
79	Brief Report, Category 5
81	Comment, Category 1
83	Comment, Category 2
85	Comment, Category 3
87	Comment, Category 4
89	Comment, Category 5
99	Errata