

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Reviews of Modern Physics aims to publish articles that review developing areas of physics in a form that is useful to both practitioners and people entering the field.

Developing areas of physics certainly need reviews that are understandable to those outside the field, and accessibility is desirable in traditional areas as well. The vitality of physics as a discipline depends on a shared understanding as a framework for analyzing the physical world. With this goal in mind, we ask that authors give considerable attention to the presentation of their material, making introductions accessible to intermediate graduate students and readers from other fields. The body of each paper should be economically and thoughtfully organized. Notation should follow the common physics conventions established in graduate-level textbooks, unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise.

For the practitioner, the review presents the current status of a given topic. It provides a historical background and a literature survey, of course, but an ideal review is more than a catalog of work done. It is a critical distillation of the progress on the topic, giving guidance to the successful methods and pointing out areas for future development.

While most of our articles will be traditional scholarly reviews in the sense described above, we also seek outstanding tutorial articles stemming from topical schools in areas of advanced physics. Finally, we would like to keep RMP's tradition of publishing articles that provide a broad new framework for understanding the phenomena in a given field, as did the papers of Feynman, Bethe, and Fermi. We should be highly selective of such articles, however.

A good review article need not be very long, and RMP must resist the trend in the opposite direction. We publish only 1300 pages a year, and unfortunately we cannot cover all physics adequately without imposing a bound on the length of articles. There have been many fine manuscripts that have come in recently, creating a backlog, and we regrettably must now impose a length limit on new submissions of 50 journal pages or roughly 150 double-spaced typed pages. This will help us to serve a wider audience by publishing more articles and to schedule accepted articles more promptly.

COLLOQUIUM GUIDELINES

With the January 1992 issue, *Reviews of Modern Physics* began a new section, RMP Colloquia, featuring short articles intended to describe recent research of interest to a broad audience of physicists. It is hoped that these articles will do for the published literature what colloquia do for institutions and laboratories, that is, communicate to one's colleagues, including junior graduate students, research results at the frontier and offer new insights into concepts that link many different subfields of physics. Talks prepared for departmental colloquia or for invited presentations at workshops or conferences may serve as the basis for an RMP Colloquium article.

Some guidelines for prospective authors are offered here:

- **Subject:** Identify a subject in which recent progress has been especially noteworthy and which is likely to be of interest to a broad audience of workers in other fields. The introduction of your article should make clear to readers why the subject should be of interest to nonspecialists.
- **Brevity:** Focus on a topic that can be absorbed readily in about 40 minutes and adequately summarized in about 10 printed RMP pages, or about 30 double-spaced typewritten pages. (If you find that your chosen subject cannot be covered adequately within this compass, consider writing a longer article for RMP!) Manuscripts judged to have a length greater than 20 printed RMP pages will not be considered for publication.
- **Accessibility:** Discuss the topic in a way that is accessible to graduate students and nonspecialists. Authors must, therefore, aim for clarity and focus of presentation and keep subfield jargon and abbreviations to a minimum, defining and illustrating any terms that might be unfamiliar to the nonspecialist.
- **Broad perspective:** Be sure that your Colloquium describes the relationship of particular results (your own or others') to a broader area of research, i.e., put the research results you present in a broader perspective.
- **Referencing:** Unlike comprehensive reviews, Colloquia are not expected to present a balanced treatment of all points of view on a given subject. The introduction of a Colloquium article, however, should properly set the subject presented within the context of related work by others.
- **Editing:** Be prepared for the possibility that editing may be required to bring your article into line with the above-stated goals. In particular, note that each article is reviewed not only for technical content, adequacy of references, etc., but also for clarity and accessibility.