

Author's Guide for Submission to Applied Physics Express

Editorial Board, Applied Physics Express

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1 About APEX

1.1 Letter journal with impact

Applied Physics Express (APEX) is a letter journal devoted solely to the rapid dissemination of up-to-date and concise reports on new findings in applied physics. This is published daily online and monthly for the printed version.

APEX is the successor to the Japanese Journal of Applied Physics (JJAP) letter section, JJAP Part 2, and not only has inherited the international recognition of JJAP Part 2 (Letters and Express Letters), but also further promotes its strength in terms of high scientific quality and prompt publication. In the journal policy, special emphasis is placed on high scientific and/or technological impact of its published papers.

APEX is a sister journal of JJAP and is published by the Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP).

1.2 High-quality publications in faster procedure

The motto of APEX is high scientific quality and prompt publication. Letters for APEX will be published online within 2 weeks, in the fastest case, from receipt to online publication. The motto is further strengthened by introducing a new editorial team dedicated to APEX.

Comments and replies are also published. This section includes the comments on papers previously published in APEX, and replies to them.

2 Scope of APEX

2.1 Subjects covered by APEX

The journal publishes articles dealing with the applications of physical principles as well as articles concerning the understanding of physics with particular applications in mind. However, as a letter journal, emphasis will be given to developing and emerging fields in applied physics. A work of high originality but concerning a field not in a competitive area may be suggested for submission to the JJAP Rapid Communication section. Examples of fields of current interest includes

- Semiconductors, dielectrics, and organic materials
- Photonics, quantum electronics, optics, and spectroscopy
- Spintronics, superconductivity, and strongly correlated materials
- Device physics including quantum information processing
- Nanoscale science and technology
- Crystal growth, surfaces, interfaces, thin films, and bulk materials
- Plasmas, applied atomic and molecular physics, and applied nuclear physics
- Device processing, fabrication and measurement technologies, and instrumentation
- Cross-disciplinary areas such as bioelectronics/photronics, biosensing, environmental/energy technologies, and MEMS

2.2 Category of papers

Letters

- The maximum length is four printed pages, including tables and figures (about 4120 words).
- Abstract of no more than 100 words should be provided.
- A Letter should not be divided into sections.

- Full color printing for figures is without extra charge.

Manuscripts should be written in clear and correct English. Manuscripts will be returned to the authors without review if the English presentation is unacceptable. No English language correction services will be provided in the editorial process.

Comments and replies

- Exchange of comments and replies on papers previously published in APEX is available.
- Abstract is not necessary.
- The maximum length for comments or replies is two printed pages.

2.3 Citation format

APEX uses a citation format based on six-digit article IDs instead of conventional page numbers.

The structure of the six-digit article ID is as follows:

- The first two digits indicate the **issue number**.
- The middle two digits indicate the **article type and/or subject area**.
 - 1*n*: Semiconductors, dielectrics, and organic materials
 - 2*n*: Photonics, quantum electronics, optics, and spectroscopy
 - 3*n*: Spintronics, superconductivity, and strongly correlated materials
 - 4*n*: Device physics (including quantum information processing)
 - 50–52: Nanoscale science and technology
 - 55–58: Crystal growth, surfaces, interfaces, thin films, and bulk materials
 - 60–64: Plasmas, applied atomic and molecular physics, and applied nuclear physics
 - 65–67: Device processing, fabrication and measurement technologies, and instrumentation
 - 7*n*: Cross-disciplinary areas (such as bioelectronics/photonics, biosensing, environmental/energy technologies, and MEMS)
 - 91: Comments and Replies
 - 92: Errata
- The last two digits are assigned according to **publication order**, within that issue and section.

An example of the correct citation format for an article in APEX is:

A. Oyo and B. Buturi: *Appl. Phys. Express* **1** (2008) 011001.

In the full-text PDF file available online and in the printed issue, the article ID appears on each printed page. A hyphen followed by a page number added consecutively is appended at the end of the article ID. For the sample article above, the printed pages would appear with this page numbering: 011001-1, 011001-2, and 011001-3. The hyphen and page numbers should not be used when citing or searching for an article.

3 Editorial Policy of APEX

3.1 High quality papers with prompt review/publication procedures

APEX publishes brief original papers with highly timely and novel research results, and with sufficiently strong impact in the relevant fields and society to merit priority handling in the review and publication processes. A new editorial team dedicated to APEX and a strict review policy for critical and prompt evaluation strengthen the publication of high-quality papers in a short time after their submission.

3.2 Publication criteria

(Contents) APEX is a letter journal devoted solely to the prompt dissemination of up-to-date and concise reports on new findings in applied physics. Letter articles dealing with the applications of physical principles as well as those concerning the understanding of physics in view of particular applications in mind can be considered for publication in APEX. However, as a letter journal, emphasis will be given to original research studies that are timely and have strong impact particularly in developing and emerging fields of applied physics. A work of high originality but concerning a field not in a competitive area may be suggested for submission to the Rapid Communication section of the Japanese Journal of Applied Physics (JJAP).

APEX intends to accept articles that can significantly contribute to the applied physics community. The journal's intention is illustrated in a few examples of subject areas as follows:

Articles dealing with materials must contain physics to interpret and analyze the properties of materials under discussion. Report on material growth, formation or synthesis followed by routine characterization without significant physical interpretation will not be accepted. Articles dealing with devices and processing must describe the underlying physics that is novel and interesting. Description of new devices designed or fabricated using already known procedures are usually not sufficient. Articles dealing with systems, subsystems and instruments must provide a new concept or function based on physical principles. Articles describing new systems constructed essentially using existing design methods such as circuit design tools must be sent to other technology-oriented journals.

(Novelty and originality) The journal does not accept papers that have been either published or accepted for publication, or are under consideration for publication elsewhere. Articles presenting new but obvious results, concealing too much substantial information of the research work described, and presenting only incremental progress of the work without producing any significant advancement in applied physics, will not be accepted for publication.

The journal may accept a paper that has appeared in a similar form in publications not available to the general public, such as conference books for on-site use, internal reports, and abstracts for international conferences. However, the author(s) must cite the previous publication in the reference section of the manuscript and must also provide at the time of manuscript submission a cover letter stating the previous publication with reprint(s) attached.

The use of material previously published in an abbreviated form, such as a Rapid Communication, or in a letter journal or conference proceedings, can be permitted as a part of a new article to be published in APEX, only if the new article presents significantly more detailed data and/or results, leading to a substantially improved understanding of the subject. An explicit note should be given when another work is cited in an article.

(Confidentiality) All articles submitted for publication in the journal are given unbiased, objective assessment by peer review. Evaluation is given solely on its scientific contributions without regard to the race, gender, religion, or political belief of the author(s). All articles are treated as confidential until they are published.

(Authors and coauthors) Authors of articles are not restricted to members of The Japan Society of Applied Physics. All those who have made significant contributions to the research work may be listed as coauthors. When a manuscript has multiple authors, one of them should be designated as the corresponding author to receive and respond to correspondence from the editors. The corresponding author is responsible for representing all the coauthors involved in the work.

The submission of a manuscript indicates that the corresponding author certifies the following:

- The article represents original work of the listed authors.
- All the coauthors made significant scientific contributions to the research work reported, and agreed to submit the manuscript. All significant scientific contributors to the work were given

the opportunity to be included as coauthors.

- The manuscript has not been published nor submitted to other journals for publication.
- The authors accept the journal's established paper review procedures.

(References) Readers benefit from complete references to position the described work in the context of the current research. Moreover, it is vitally important to fully acknowledge all relevant works in view of the ethical policy of the journal. Authors should therefore ensure that their citations of previously published works are comprehensive at the time of submission. This includes references to books and to published conference proceedings containing abstracts. Authors may have to cite unpublished works such as preprints, internal reports, or results that have been reported orally at meetings. Any work that appears during the course of the review process should be added to the references. The authors should take particular care to ensure that the resource information is correct so that links to referenced articles can be made successfully.

(Citation) Authors should not use, without attribution, text, concepts, data, figures or tables in another work published by others or by themselves. Plagiarism of the others' works and self-plagiarism are serious breaches of ethics and never permitted. If a direct quotation is appropriate, the original source should be properly cited. Figures, tables and other images reproduced from another source normally require the publisher's permission. Articles violating this rule will be rejected.

3.3 Editorial procedures

(Review process) The following review process will take place when a manuscript is received by the Editor-in-Chief.

1. When a manuscript has been received by the Editor-in-Chief, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the author(s) via e-mail. The Editor-in-Chief chooses an editor to handle the manuscript review.
2. The submitted manuscript will be subjected to screening review for its scope, novelty, completeness, English level, and conformation to APEX policies. A manuscript not passing the screening review will immediately be returned to the authors.
3. The editor in charge will select an expert reviewer to evaluate the manuscript.
4. As a result of review, if the editor determines that minor revision by the author(s) is necessary (only once in principle), the manuscript will be returned to the authors for revision. Papers that require major revisions will be rejected.
5. Manuscripts returned to authors for revision should be resent promptly. If the revision cannot be finished within one month, the manuscript will be regarded as having been withdrawn.
6. The Editor-in-Chief will finally decide whether to accept the manuscript for publication.
7. Authors can submit a written appeal against rejection only once.

(Manuscript revision) If the editor decides that minor revision by the author(s) is necessary, the manuscript will be returned to the authors for minor revision only once. To ensure timely publication, more than one round of reviewing should be avoided, in principle. Papers that require major revisions, as evaluated by the editor, will be rejected.

For revising a manuscript after the first review process, authors are requested to respond promptly to the reviewer's comments that have been sent by the editor. If the revision cannot be finished within one month, the manuscript will be regarded as having been withdrawn.

On submitting the revised manuscript, authors are encouraged to attach a concise reply to all the reviewer's recommendations and criticisms together with a list of the manuscript changes. These materials will normally be forwarded to the reviewer. Some authors copy out each of the reviewer's comments and include their response immediately after. It is helpful for the reviewer if the locations of manuscript changes are indicated, for example, in the attachment of a second copy of the manuscript with the changes highlighted or underlined.

(Acceptability decision) When the manuscript is revised after the first round of reviewer's reports and the editor finds that the authors' responses and revisions are persuasive, the manuscript is judged to be acceptable for publication by the editor. The Editor-in-Chief makes the final decision on a paper that has been judged to be acceptable by the editor, after considering the contents of the paper and the review records.

(Reviewer candidate list) Authors may submit a list of experts who are considered to be especially suited to review their article. This is particularly welcome when a highly specialized expertise is required for reviewing the article. The editor is, however, not obliged to select a reviewer from that list.

3.4 Author appeal

Authors may appeal a rejection of the article judged by the Editor-in-Chief. For making an appeal, a request in written form together with all relevant information should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief. On the Editor-in-Chief's request, the Editorial Board members may review the case on the existing record or may ask for additional expert opinion. The Editor-in-Chief will make the final decision on the appeal, which will be sent to the authors and/or reviewers. This appeal process is carried out only once.

4 Ethical Policy for JJAP/APEX

The following statement of ethical standards applies to all authors, reviewers and editors of scientific papers that are published in JJAP and APEX.

4.1 Research results

Source material of experiments and research results should be recorded and retained for a reasonable time after publication, in a manner that allows analysis and review by other scientists. Exceptions may be appropriate to preserve privacy or to assure patent protection.

Fabrication or falsification of data or reporting intentionally selective data to mislead or deceive the readers is a serious departure from professional conduct. Authors should strive not to allow misrepresentation of their data, and not to include other's data or research results without permission from the original authors or publishers. Plagiarism is a serious breach of ethics and is defined as the substantial replication, without attribution, of significant elements of another article already published by others or by themselves. Explicit acknowledgement should always be given when another work, by others or by themselves, is used in an article.

In case an error is discovered in a published or submitted article, the authors are obliged to make a prompt correction, by publishing an erratum or retraction of the article with approval by all the authors of the article published or submitted.

4.2 Authorship

All individuals who have made significant scientific contributions to the research work should be given the opportunity to be included as coauthors. Other persons who have contributed to the study should be acknowledged, but not identified as coauthors. The sources of financial support for the research project should be disclosed.

Every coauthor should be aware of the content of an article to be submitted, agree to its submission, and share appropriate responsibility for the work. Any individual unable to take appropriate responsibility for the article should not be included as a coauthor.

Duplicate submission is the most common ethics violation encountered. It is unethical for authors to publish articles describing essentially the same research result in more than one journal. It is also unacceptable for authors to submit the same manuscript concurrently to more than one journal.

4.3 Peer review

Peer review provides advice to the editors concerning the publication of research results, and this is an essential step of the scientific publication process. Although reviewing manuscripts is time-consuming and sometimes difficult to pursue, all scientists have an obligation to do their fair share of reviewing.

Reviewers' names are kept confidential and may only be disclosed to journal editors, who are also obliged to maintain confidentiality. All ideas and information that have been obtained during the review process must be kept strictly confidential and not used for competitive advantage.

Reviewers should give unbiased, objective assessment to all manuscripts offered for publication. Reviewers should disclose to the editorial office any potential conflicts of interest due to direct competitive or collaborative relationships with an author(s), and avoid cases in which such conflicts preclude an objective reviewing.

Comments made by reviewers may be seen by the authors. Reviewers should refrain from subjective personalized criticism of the authors. Reviewers' comments should be given in a way whereby authors can understand the basis of the comments and judgments.

Reviewers are expected to provide relevant references that have not been cited in the article. They should also call the journal editors' attention to any substantial similarity between the manuscript and any paper already published or being submitted elsewhere.

4.4 Conflict of interest

All authors are requested to inform the editorial office of any potential conflicts of interest in advance of submitting an article (e.g., employment, stock ownership, patent licenses, etc). Similarly, all reviewers are requested to inform the editorial office of any potential conflicts of interest in advance of reviewing an article (e.g., being a collaborator of one of the authors, etc.). When it is recognized that objectivity and fairness cannot be ensured, the activity should be avoided or discontinued.

5 Submission Guideline

APEX welcomes letter papers with high scientific quality and strong impact to current applied physics research. The journal publishes papers that significantly contribute to advancements in the applications of physical principles as well as in the understanding of physics in view of particular applications in mind. It is very important to ensure that the content of your paper fits well with the scope and policy of the journal. Papers that do not meet these standards will be rejected. Before preparing your manuscript, you are advised to read this Submission Guideline as well as the descriptions in About APEX (p. 2) and Editorial Policy of APEX (p. 3).

As a letter journal, APEX publishes original papers exhibiting timeliness and sufficiently strong impact in the relevant fields and society to merit priority handling in the review and publication processes. You are recommended to abide by this criterion of the journal in preparing your manuscript. To understand what the reviewer looks for in your paper, it may be useful to read the Reviewer Guideline for reference.

5.1 Originality

As a basic rule of scientific publication, a manuscript to be submitted to the journal should be original. A manuscript having essentially the same content as what was or will be published elsewhere will not

be considered for publication in APEX. On submission of manuscripts, please pay careful attention to the following:

- Manuscripts should not have been published elsewhere.
- Duplicate submission is unethical. Do not submit manuscripts that have been accepted or are under active consideration for publication elsewhere.
- The journal may accept a paper that has appeared in a similar form in publications not available to the general public, such as conference books for on-site use, internal reports, and abstracts for international conferences, but the author(s) must cite the previous publication in the reference section of the manuscript and also must provide at the time of manuscript submission a cover letter stating the previous publication with reprint(s) attached.

The authors are requested to read also the Ethical Policy of JJAP/APEX to avoid ethical violation.

5.2 Manuscript requirement

When submitting a manuscript, please follow the requirements of content, length limit, English presentation, and style recommendation as stated below.

Letters

- The maximum length is four printed pages, including tables and figures (about 4120 words).
- Abstract of no more than 100 words should be provided.
- A Letter should not be divided into sections.
- Letters should cover all references which are appropriate and adequate to the work. Typical number of references for a Letter is approximately 20.
- Full color printing for figures is without extra charge.
- Manuscripts should be written in clear and correct English. Manuscripts will be returned to the authors without review if the English presentation is unacceptable. No English language correction services will be provided in the editorial process.

Comments and replies

- Exchange of comments and replies on papers previously published in APEX is available.
- Abstract is not necessary.
- The maximum length for comments or replies is two printed pages. (about 2060 words).

Errata

- Errata announce the corrections made to published papers and paper retraction.
- The length should be within one printed page.

5.3 Submission

Papers should be submitted via the web-based editorial system. The authors should prepare the following items before submission, and then follow the instructions on the Web submission page.

- **MS Word (*.doc or *.docx) or LaTeX file; a MS Word (*.doc or *.docx) which must include tables and figures, and a LaTeX source file together with figure files.** Please refer to the “Instructions for Preparation of Manuscript” available at the journal’s Web site for the required format.

- **Agreement Form for Copyright Transfer and Publication Charge Payment:** This form, signed by the author, should be sent to the Editorial Office by fax at the time of paper submission. Papers without this agreement will not be published.
- **List of recommended reviewers:** For rapid and fair reviewing, authors are strongly encouraged to suggest several experts whom they consider particularly suited to review their paper. This recommendation would be very helpful for the editor to speed-up the review process particularly when the work is in an interdisciplinary research area. The editor is, however, not constrained to select a reviewer from that list.
- **Reference materials**, if any.

5.4 Supplementary data

- Supplementary data attachment will enhance a reader's understanding of the article but is not essential to comprehension of the main results of the published article. Supplementary data attachment typically consist of multimedia files of video clips or animations and items including tables of raw or analyzed data, parameters in calculations, derivations of equations, computer codes, sample preparation, extra figures and so on.
- Supplementary data must be submitted at the same time as the main manuscript for peer review. It cannot be altered or replaced after the article has been accepted for publication. It should not be used to avoid a length limit, and a short article accompanied by lengthy supplementary data is not appropriate. Supplementary data should not accompany Comments, Replies, or Errata.
- The supplementary data is referred to in the main manuscript where necessary, for example as "(see supplementary data)".
- The file size of supplementary data should not exceed 3 MB, unless more is required to show the work appropriately. Use popular file format for a multimedia file so that it can easily be accessed by the reader (including the editors and the reviewers). The usage of the following file formats is recommended:
*.avi, *.flv, *.mov, *.mp3, *.mp4, *.mpeg, *.mpg, *.pdf, *.qt, *.rm, *.wav, *.wmv
- The author should take full responsibility for both preparation and contents of supplementary data. All questions and comments on supplementary data should be addressed to the corresponding author of the article. Supplementary data is covered under the same copyright as the associated published article.
- Supplementary data should be reviewed together with the manuscript since it will be attached to the article if accepted. Reference items are used only for reviewing process.

6 Others

6.1 Publication charge

Authors or their institutions are requested to pay the publication charge according to the following rates when the paper is accepted.

¥15,000/printed page (applies to manuscripts submitted from January 1, 2012)

6.2 Copyright

Copyright for an article submitted to APEX is transferred to the Japan Society of Applied Physics when the manuscript is accepted for publication by APEX Editorial Board. For the details, please see The Copyright Policy of JSAP.

The authors may use all or part of their article in compilations or other publications of their own work on the condition that written notice be sent to

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6.3 Contact information

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6.4 Note

This guide is also available in HTML at our Web site and the information will be updated more frequently.