

Guidelines for Authors – *Acta Crystallographica Section B*

Scientific scope

Section B of *Acta Crystallographica* welcomes papers in which structure is the primary focus of the work reported. The central themes of *Section B* are the acquisition of structural knowledge from novel experimental observations or from existing data, the correlation of structural knowledge with physico-chemical and other information and applications of this knowledge to solve problems in the structural domain. *Section B* has broad chemical coverage encompassing metals and alloys, inorganics and minerals, metallo-organics and organic compounds.

Categories of contributions

Research Papers are full-length articles that form the core of *Section B*. They should not normally exceed 15 journal pages (about 15 000 words or 60 double-spaced manuscript pages).

Short Communications are intended for the presentation of topics of limited scope or for preliminary announcements of novel research findings. They are not intended for interim reports of work in progress. They are limited to two journal pages (about 1500 words or six double-spaced manuscript pages) and to a maximum of two figures and two tables of appropriate size. If the paper is available on diskette, this should be sent with the manuscript. All *Short Communications* receive enhanced processing to publication.

Lead Articles are comprehensive and forward-looking reviews of a major area of interest in structural science. They are commissioned by the Section Editor on behalf of the Editorial Board.

Topical Reviews are short and highly focused reviews of current activity in a narrower field of structural science research. They are commissioned by the Section Editor, either personally or on the basis of proposals received from prospective authors. *Topical Reviews* are restricted to ten journal pages (10 000 words or 40 double-spaced manuscript pages).

Section B also publishes *Letters to the Editor* and *Book Reviews*.

Submission and handling

Manuscripts should be prepared on one side of the paper in double-spaced format and with wide margins. They should conform to the editorial style of *Acta Crystallographica*, as detailed in the full 'Notes for Authors' published in the first issue of *Section B* in any year. Manuscripts for all contributions should be submitted in triplicate.

Research Papers should be submitted to one of the Co-editors, taking into account firstly their advertised areas of expertise and secondly their geographical proximity. Papers in French, German or Russian must be sent to one of the Co-editors in the appropriate country.

Short Communications should be sent to the Section Editor, who will also handle *Lead Articles* and *Topical Reviews*.

Authors who have used \TeX , \LaTeX , WordPerfect or Word to prepare their manuscripts are invited to send a machine-readable version with their submission. The formats currently supported are: 3.5" and 5.25" IBM-compatible, 3.5" Apple Macintosh and 3.5" Sun OS diskettes.

All submissions must be made over the signature of at least one author. Except as required by national law, one author must sign and submit a copy of the Transfer of Copyright Agreement form.

Abstract and synopsis

All contributions must be preceded by an *Abstract* in English and accompanied by a one- or two-sentence synopsis of the main findings of the paper, which will be included in the Contents listing for the relevant issue. The *Abstract* should state as specifically and as quantitatively as possible the principal results obtained. It should not refer to tables, diagrams or formulae in the body of the paper and literature references are discouraged. If these are unavoidable then they should be given in full in the *Abstract*, e.g. [Harata (1993). *Acta Cryst.* D49, 497–504].

Diagrams

Good quality line diagrams or highly glazed and unmounted photographic prints are required. Each diagram should be provided on a separate sheet of approximate A4 size (210 × 297 mm). They will normally be reduced by the printer to a single column width of 80 mm. Lettering must be sufficiently large so that, after reduction, a minimum height of 1.2 mm is maintained. Stereofigures should normally fit a single column and the centre-to-centre separation should be 40–55 mm after reduction to column width. Lettering should appear on both halves of the stereoview. Every figure should have a legend and a list of legends should form part of the manuscript. Colour figures are printed free of charge. A chemical structural diagram must accompany novel structure determinations of metallo-organic or organic compounds.

Nomenclature

Chemical and biochemical nomenclature should follow the guidelines of the guidelines of IUPAC, IUBMB, the International Mineralogical Association or other appropriate bodies. Chemical and crystallographic atom numbering should agree wherever possible. The SI system of units must be used, except that the ångström is preferred to the nanometre or picometre.

References

Literature citations must be indicated *via* the authors' names and the year of publication, e.g. Smith & Jones (1982) or (Smith & Jones, 1982). A reference list at the end of the paper must give full details of all references, arranged in alphabetical order of authors' names and giving inclusive page numbers. Where more than ten references are taken from a data base, a condensed reference notation of the Coden type should be used.

Supplementary publication (deposition)

Normally, structure factors and atomic displacement parameters associated with a novel structure determination will be deposited. Other lengthy tables and figures can also form part of the deposition document.

Reprints

Twenty-five free reprints of each article published in *Section B* are provided to a nominated author (usually the communicating author).