

Astrophysics & Space Science editorial

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Readers of *Astrophysics & Space Science* will already be familiar with the new format of the journal, which offers a much more professional feel than its predecessor. In particular, this allows authors more flexibility in presentation of their work through both the double-column format, and the provision of free publication of color figures both on-line and in the printed journal. Publication in color is something that is still rather special, if not unique, in the field of Astrophysics journals. In many cases (such as complex hydrodynamic computations) color carries information which cannot be captured in gray scale images.

As part of its search for excellence and its efforts to both develop and achieve high professional standards, *Astrophysics & Space Science* will be introducing further reforms and innovations over the coming months and years. We have pleasure in announcing a number of these in this editorial.

1 Home page

Since in the past, it has been somewhat difficult for authors or others to find our home page in the Springer corporate network, we have introduced a one-stop alias to the home page of the journal:

<http://www.springer.com/apss>

This provides all the basic information on the aims and scope of the journal, and provides links to instructions to authors, LaTeX templates, and electronic submission procedures.

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2 Invited reviews

In many areas of modern Astrophysics we are seeing remarkably rapid advances, which make it difficult for the majority of non-specialists to keep up. Obvious examples include the galaxy evolution in the early Universe, the study of the spectral energy distributions of galaxies, and the metallicity evolution of galaxies throughout cosmic time. These fields are developed and enriched by availability space facilities such as the *Spitzer* and *Hubble* space telescopes, and the GALEX facility in the ultraviolet, and should be further enhanced by the ALMA and SKA facilities when these come on line.

In order to capture some of these exciting developments, *Astrophysics & Space Science* has introduced a new class of submission, that of Invited Review, with a typical length in the range 15–45 printed pages. In coming months, readers should expect to see the first of these, written by young leaders in their respective fields, authors who have already established a world-class reputation in their speciality area. These should make for some exciting reading!

3 Space science in the journal

Astrophysics & Space Science is one of the few journals to contain space science explicitly in the title. However, currently we receive very few articles specifically dealing with this exciting field. We are seeking to change this situation.

Currently most instrument developers provide descriptions of their instruments, current and planned, in the pages of the various SPIE conferences. However, these do not count as refereed journals, and in many cases either the instrument description of planned space missions, or the proposed science that they can cover is restricted by page allowances.

Here, I wish to announce that *Astrophysics & Space Science* is actively seeking to publish descriptions of planned or approved space missions, and of their science missions. In some cases these could be published as invited reviews.

4 Ap&SS letters

For some years, *Astrophysics & Space Science* has had a category of publication entitled “Brief Report”. A recent Editor’s meeting has determined that this class is rather meaningless and is to be removed. A class of “Letter” will be substituted. In line with other journals, this class will be reserved for brief descriptions of exciting new developments or breakthroughs in a particular field. As a guideline these should be shorter than 5 journal pages, and contain not more than 2 figures. However, we do not intend to be prescriptive, and all submissions in this class will be considered. Those that, in the opinion of either the Editors or the Referees do not conform to the objectives of the “Letter” class will be re-assigned to the “Original Research” class.

5 LaTeX submission

Those authors who already use LaTeX for submission will have noticed that this is now offering accelerated page proof availability and on-line publication. Springer is using VTeX

Ltd. of Vilnius, Lithuania for this work, and Orinta Skackauskiene is to be particularly thanked for the excellent service he is providing to the journal.

Recently we have started to use the LaTeX class file developed by the American Astronomical society, *aastex.cls*, and we have enhanced this by the supply of a pair of *Astrophysics and Space Science* specific files *spr-astr-addons.sty* and, for those of you who use BibTeX, *Spr-mp-nameyear.bst*. These files, and an instructional sample LaTeX file which uses them are now available as the ASTR LaTeX Package for download from our home page.

The advantage of the Springer ASTR LaTeX package is that it offers a LaTeX flavor that will be familiar to many of our authors. Transforming from a *aastex* preprint style to an *Astrophysics and Space Science* look-alike format is as simple as adding a single line;

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\usepackage{spr-astr-addons}
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to your LaTeX file.

In view of its notable advantages in assisting the rapidity of typesetting of both the on-line and paper journals, its flexibility in the inclusion of formulae tables and figures, and the fact that it avoids issues of incompatibility of fonts between different platforms, we are strongly encouraging *all* authors to use the ASTR LaTeX package for their submissions. Use of this format will minimize delays in refereeing, proof typesetting and in the eventual publication of your article.

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