

## **Guidelines for Supporting Material**

*Biophysical Journal* now receives many more papers than it can publish, and we also receive many more figures and pages of text for papers that we accept than we can print. The limitation on pages arises from both the redaction process and from the additional financial cost to the Society if we publish more pages. In order to redact and publish papers as rapidly as possible, we are limited in the number of pages that can appear in each issue. To deal with this problem we have introduced a strict 10 page cap on published papers. Supporting Material beyond the 10 pages can be published, and this material is tied to the regular text by embedded links that appear in both the online version and the PDF of all published papers. As a result, accessing this Supporting Material is very simple for the reader, and the links stay with the PDF file as it is circulated. Questions have been raised by authors about what material should go into Supporting Material, and these brief guidelines attempt to address this question.

In general, authors should focus on making the regular paper (both text and figures) as readable as possible so that the most technical details, of interest only to the specialist, can be moved to Supporting Material. In some cases, an entire Materials and Methods section might be moved to Supporting Materials. Similarly, mathematical appendices might be moved out of the regular text if they are not going to be read by the average reader. While as authors we typically cherish everything that goes into a manuscript, we need to recognize that a general readership may not have the same level of appreciation for very technical details that are not needed to understand the main point of a paper. Attention needs to be paid to the readability of a paper, so figures and text that might be seen as necessary digressions can be moved to Supporting Material. Supporting Material, however, needs to still be of some general interest, and figures or text that were introduced solely to convince a reviewer should not be in Supporting Material, but might be contained in the Response to Reviewers. Similarly, large amounts of data or figures that add little to the paper itself do not need to be included in Supporting Material. Ultimately, authors must make the decisions about what text and figures should be moved to Supporting Material, what should be kept in the regular paper, and what should simply be eliminated, and editors at BJ cannot make these decisions for the authors.

## SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Supporting material will be published in the online version of *Biophysical Journal*. They should enhance the main article and provide additional substantive material. The supporting material will be evaluated during the peer review process, along with the article manuscript. They will be accepted only if the reviewers and/or the Editorial Board determine that the information provides additional substance to the printed version of the article and enhances the reader's scientific understanding of the article.

### ***Submission***

- Please provide **one Microsoft Word document** containing all additional text, tables, and figures. We will convert this document into a composite PDF available online. Note that this document will not be copyedited or typeset; therefore, please provide a file that you consider ready for publication online.
- Material that cannot reasonably fit within this composite Word document (including tables, databases, and movies) may be submitted as separate files.
- Mention the supporting material in a cover letter which is submitted with the article.
- Supporting material cannot have been published previously.
- Cite each supporting file within the main article. See below for correct citation style.
- Preferred file formats for supporting material:
  - Documents: .pdf, .xls (MS Excel), .doc (MS Word)
  - Movies: .avi, .gif, .mov, .mpg
- Individual file size should not exceed 5 MB. Maximum size of supporting files per manuscript is 10 MB total.
- Visit <http://www.biophysics.org/authors.htm> for instructions on submitting articles online.

### ***In-text citation style***

- The entire composite file can be cited as “Supporting Material,” or individual elements therein can be cited in the following formats:
  - Fig. S1
  - Table S1
  - Movie S1
  - Scheme S1
- Where a component of the supporting material is first cited in the main text, follow that citation with “in the Supporting Material” (e.g., “Fig. S1 in the Supporting Material”)