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| ARTICLE in ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY · APRIL 2007                  |       |  |  |
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# Author's Guide to Analytical Chemistry

(Revised June 2015)

## Contents (click on the topic)

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Analytical Chemistry publishes a range of manuscripts. Research manuscripts include Comments, Letters, Technical Notes, and Articles. In addition, we publish Features, Perspectives, and Reviews. More details on these manuscript types can be found below.

## **Scope**

The journal is devoted to the dissemination of original knowledge in all branches of analytical chemistry. Fundamental articles may address the general principles of chemical measurement science and need not directly address existing or potential analytical methodology. Articles may be entirely theoretical with regard to analysis, or they may report experimental results. They may contribute to any phase of analytical operations, including sampling, chemical reactions, separations, instrumentation, measurements, and data processing. Papers dealing with known analytical methods should offer a significant, original application of the method, a noteworthy improvement, or results on an important analyte.

## **Manuscript Types**

## Common to all

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically via the ACS Paragon Plus Environment. Instructions and an overview of the submission process are available (<a href="http://paragonplus.acs.org/login">http://paragonplus.acs.org/login</a>) and optional electronic manuscript templates are available in several word processing versions (<a href="http://pubs.acs.org/page/ancham/submission/authors.html">http://pubs.acs.org/page/ancham/submission/authors.html</a>).

For research articles, submitted work must not be previously published or under review elsewhere, including publicly accessible preprint sites. Features and Reviews should only contain material that already has been peer reviewed as a part of a prior publication.

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A properly completed and signed Journal Publishing Agreement must be submitted for each manuscript. ACS Paragon Plus provides an electronic version of the Agreement that will be available on the **My Authoring Activity** tab of the Corresponding Author's Home page once the

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## Research Manuscripts

Research manuscripts include Comments, Letters, Technical Notes, and Articles.

Correspondence to the Editor should be addressed to: Jonathan V. Sweedler, Editor, *Analytical Chemistry*, Department of Chemistry 63-5, University of Illinois, Urbana IL 61801 (217-244-7866; fax 202-513-8699 or 217-265-6290; eic@anchem.acs.org).

**Articles**. The maximum length of Articles is **eight** journal pages. Rarely, a longer submission may be justified. If so, a convincing justification for the extra length must be made by the authors in their cover letter. The Editor will normally require condensation of longer papers but will consider the justification details provided by the authors.

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See the <u>Calculating manuscript length</u> section below for details. If a submission exceeds the length guidelines, it will be returned to the authors to be shortened or modified to fit another manuscript category. Although it may be appropriate that some experimental detail be included in the Supporting Information (see <u>Supporting Information</u> section below), it is not acceptable to place important details of the experiments there in order to circumvent the length guidelines.

## Features, Perspectives, and Reviews

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**Perspectives.** Perspectives point out the authors' vision of the character and importance of a new direction in analytical chemistry, analyze research reports that provide the foundation for the new direction, and discuss the nature of the opportunities perceived. They can also be articles in which authors synthesize research results with ideas and needs for additional work, as indicated by the results. Perspectives are neither reports of original research nor reviews with the traditional objective of summarizing progress in a field. They are aimed at specialists and experts in the field. The content should reflect the sophistication of the author's understanding of the topic. Perspectives are not intended to be accounts or analyses of an individual's personal research. The manuscript must be balanced, fair, and accurate in its treatment of the contemporary literature. Perspectives are typically **six** pages and have a maximum length of **ten** pages. Although most Perspectives are invited, they can be submitted without invitation. The Editor encourages a preliminary contact by prospective authors for unsolicited submissions (eic@anchem.acs.org).

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Submitted manuscripts should not be published or under consideration elsewhere and may be examined using software to detect duplication of already published material (see <u>Professional</u> Ethics section below).

**Reject with editorial review.** The Editors identify submissions that in their expert opinions would not fare well during the review process; these manuscripts are rejected without additional external reviewers. Oftentimes, more than one Editor will be consulted during this initial screening. This shortens the time to decision and ensures a manageable workload for reviewers. Examples of manuscripts that would not be peer reviewed include the following: the paper is a routine extension or minor technical improvement of research already published; the science lies outside the scope of *Analytical Chemistry*; the science does not meet *Analytical Chemistry* standards; insufficient data are provided to properly substantiate the claims and conclusions made; closely related work has already been published and few, if any, new insights are provided; the work is narrowly focused and not of broad, general appeal to the readership of *Analytical Chemistry*; the manuscript is a resubmission of a paper that has been previously declined, without the addition of adequate new science and/or without notification in the cover letter of previous submission; or the manuscript deals with known analytical methods and does not offer a significant, original application of the method, a noteworthy improvement, or results on an important analyte.

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**Text.** Consult the publication for the general writing style. Write for the specialist (except for Features, which should be written for the scientific generalist). It is not necessary to include information and details or techniques that should be common knowledge to those in the field.

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**Experimental Section.** Use complete sentences (i.e., do not use outline form). Be consistent in voice and tense. For apparatus, list only devices of a specialized nature. List and describe preparation of special reagents only. Do not list those normally found in the laboratory and preparations described in standard handbooks and texts. Because procedures are intended as instructions to permit work to be repeated by others, give adequate details of critical steps. Published procedures should be cited but not described, except where the presentation involves substantial modifications. While an experimental section is required to be in the main article and should provide sufficient detail to understand the experiments, detailed procedures may be presented in the Supporting Information.

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- (1) Ho, M.; Pemberton, J. E. Anal. Chem. 1998, 70, 4915–4920.
- (2) Bard, A. J.; Faulker, L. R. *Electrochemical Methods*, 2nd ed.; Wiley: New York, 2001.
- (3) Francesconi, K. A.; Kuehnelt, D. In *Environmental Chemistry of Arsenic*; Frankenberger, W. T., Jr., Ed.; Marcel Dekker: New York, 2002; pp 51–94.
- (4) Pratt, D. A.; van der Donk, W. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2004**, DOI: 10.1021/ja047915o.

**Acknowledgments.** Authors may acknowledge technical assistance, gifts, the source of special materials, financial support, meeting presentation information, and the auspices under which work was done, including permission to publish. During manuscript submission, the submitting author is asked to select funding sources from the list of agencies included in the FundRef Registry <a href="http://www.crossref.org/fundref/">http://www.crossref.org/fundref/</a>.

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If the total estimated length is close to the length limit for the manuscript type or if the figures and tables are large, then a more accurate estimate may be needed and can be determined as follows (maximum height for all graphics is 9 in, including the caption; please allow 12 pts for each line of caption text). **Single-column graphics (preferred):** Maximum width is 240 points (3.33 in). Measure the height of the graphic (point or inches), divide by 1320 points (18 in), and multiply by 1000 for the word equivalent. Example (in inches) for a single-column figure measuring 4.5 in. high:  $4.5/18 = .25 \times 1000 = 250$  words. **Double-column graphics:** Size can range between 300 to a maximum of 504 points (4.17 to 7 in) wide. Measure the height of the graphic (points or inches), divide by 660 points (or 9 in), and multiply by 1000 for the word equivalent. Example (in inches) for a double-column figure measuring 4.5 in. high:  $4.5/9 = .5 \times 1000 = 500$  words. If you submit tables/figures in **landscape orientation** greater than 3.3 in wide (and thus cannot be presented in a single-column, portrait orientation), an entire page of text (or 1000 words) will be displaced in order to accommodate the landscape presentation. More details and examples on calculating length of a figure are available: http://pubs.acs.org/page/ancham/submission/authors.html.

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The first page of the SI should be a cover page (labeled page S-1) that lists the authors' names and affiliations, the title of the primary article, and an abstract that describes the nature of the materials therein and/or a table of contents. Then, as needed, the SI should include any further discussion germane to the primary research article or novel SI material, such as video clips or other imagery; any expanded description of experimental procedures; any supplementary experimental or theoretical results, given as figures or tables with legends and captions that contain the same level of detail as those in the primary research manuscript and that convey the significance of the result; and supplementary references for either the primary article or SI. Page, figure, and table numbers in the SI should be preceded by "S-" (Figure S-2, Table S-1, etc.). Captions to figures and tables should appear on the same page as the figure or table and should provide full details. Preferable page size is 22 cm × 28 cm (8.5 × 11 in), with material aligned parallel to the 22 cm dimension.

SI must be submitted in a separate electronic file at the same time as the manuscript and be designated as "Supporting Information for Publication". A <u>list of acceptable file types</u> is available on the Web. All SI files of the same type should be prepared as a single file (rather than submitting a series of files containing individual images or structures). The material should be

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