

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Physical Science* is a refereed journal published by Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM Press). The aim of the journal is to disseminate latest scientific ideas and findings in the field of physical science among scientists globally. Three issues are published per year; in April, August and November. This journal is devoted to the publication of papers dealing with research works in chemistry, physics, material and engineering. Review articles will also be considered. Papers must be of scientific value and will be submitted to independent referees for review.

General

Manuscripts submitted for publication must be original, previously unpublished and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Its publication must be approved by all Authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the publisher, USM Press. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the Author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article.

Please read and follow the instructions carefully. USM Press reserves the right to return or decline manuscripts that are not prepared in accordance with these instructions.

Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted through the online submission and refereeing system, ScholarOne Manuscripts. New authors must first register at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jpsci>, while returning authors can use their existing ID credentials. This online submission system will facilitate the submission of manuscripts and streamline the review process as well as publisher's decision.



Figure 1: Main dashboard of the journal's online system

Preparation of Manuscript

Manuscripts must be prepared using MS Word and must be typed using Times New Roman 12 pt and double-spaced. Word counts of the original manuscript should be between 2,000 and 3,000 (including references). Manuscripts should be clearly and concisely written in English (UK). Manuscripts may be declined on the basis of unsatisfactory command of language.

Manuscript should be organised in the following order:

- a. Title
- b. Abstract
- c. Keywords
- d. Introduction
- e. Experimental
- f. Results and Discussion
- g. Conclusion
- h. Acknowledgements (include grant provider and number)
- i. References
- k. Table(s) and corresponding captions
- m. Figure(s) and corresponding captions

Title

Should be as concise as possible but informative enough to facilitate information retrieval and try to avoid abbreviations. Provide also a suitable running head (within 50 characters) derived from the title.

Example

Title: Influence of Polymer Blending of Cellulose Acetate Butyrate for CO₂/N₂ Separation

Running head: Polymer Blending of CAB

Authorship and Affiliations

Complete name of author(s) and affiliation (institutional) address must be provided. The corresponding author should be indicated together with the e-mail address. Please give first, middle and last name but omit titles. Name must be in full, without initials. Provide the affiliation of each author and complete mailing address of the institution where the work was conducted.

Abstract

The abstract should be between 200–300 words. The abstract should give a clear, concise and informative summary with scope and purpose, significant results and major conclusions as well as an indication of any new findings. Abstract should not contain literature citations that refer to the main list of references attached to the complete article nor allusions to the illustrations. Define all nonstandard symbols,

abbreviations and acronyms on their first use. The abstract should be written as one paragraph and should not contain displayed mathematical equations or tabular material.

Keywords

Keywords are to facilitate the retrieval of articles by search engines and will be used for indexing purposes, therefore do not use general terms. Provide 5 specific and suitable keywords related to the manuscript.

Example

Keywords: Staghorn coral, catalyst, methanolysis, palm olein, biodiesel

Figures and Tables

Be sure to cite every figure and table in the text. Each figure and table must have a caption that is complete and intelligible by itself without references to the text. Number figures and tables in the order in which they appear in text, and each must be provided as a separate file. Please do not combine figure/table and caption in a textbox or frame.

Figures/electronic illustration

Place the figures in sequence after the collected captions. Label all figure parts with (a), (b), etc. Avoid any large disparity in size of lettering and labels used within one illustration. Ensure that lettering and lines are dark enough, and thick enough, to reproduce clearly, especially if reduction is necessary. Remember that fine lines tend to disappear upon reduction. Please make sure that artwork files are in acceptable format (TIFF, JPG or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. The table below shows the image specifications.

Table 1: Image specifications

Image Format (file extension)	Tagged Image File Format (.tif)	Encapsulated PostScript (.eps)	Joint Photographic Experts Group, JPEG (.jpg)
Image width	Greater than or equal to intended display size	Greater than or equal to intended display size	Greater than or equal to intended display size
Resolution	Colour/Halftones: min 300 dpi Bitmapped/Line art: min 1000 dpi	–	Minimum of 500 dpi
Colourspace	RGB	RGB	RGB
Alpha Channels	None	–	–
Layers	Flattened	Flattened	–
Compression quality	–	–	Maximum

Colour figures

When preparing illustrations that will appear in colour in the online journal and in black and white in the printed journal, authors must ensure that: (1) colours chosen

will reproduce well when printed in black & white; and (2) descriptions of figures in text and captions will be sufficiently clear for both print and online versions. This is the author's responsibility.

Tables

Column heading for the tables should be clear and concise with appropriate units. Units of measurement should be placed in parentheses on the line below the appropriate heading. Place footnotes to table below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters (^a, ^b, ^c, etc., with a new sequence starting with ^a for each table). Use En-dash (–) to indicate missing values. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate described elsewhere in the article.

Graphs

Graphs should be self-explanatory, their purpose evident without reference to the text. Indicate clearly what is being plotted, in both horizontal and vertical directions. Include appropriate units. Orient letters and numbers so that they may be easily read from the bottom or the right-hand side of the graph. Relevant non-graphic material, such as the key to the symbolism in the graph, maybe included within the confines of the graph frame if it will fit without crowding; otherwise put the explanatory material in the caption.

Nomenclature and Units

The use of units and symbols provided by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) [The International System of Units (SI)] is recommended. Commonly used unit: - g (gram), ml (millilitre), m (meter), mol (mole), min (minute), candela (cd), lux (lx). All similar-looking letters, numbers, and unusual/special symbols whose identity may not be obvious must be identified the first time they appear, and at all subsequent times when confusion might arise [for example, the number 'one' (1) and the letter 'ell' (l); the Roman letter 'kay' (k) and the Greek letter 'kappa' (κ); the 'proportional to' symbol (∝) and the Greek 'alpha' (α)].

References

All references made to publications in the text should be presented in a list of reference following the text of the manuscript. References in the list must be numbered in the order in which they were cited. Journal articles should include the digital object (DOI) identifier, where applicable (https://doi.org/doi_identifier). The manuscript should be carefully checked to ensure that the information given in the text is exactly the same as that given in the reference list. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. References to the literature should be made according to the system described below:

References in text (the corresponding number should be superscripted and appear after punctuation): -

... referring to Nadal.^{1,2} OR

...as explained by Matthews et. al.³⁻⁶

List of references at the end of article. Examples: -

Book

No. Author, A. A., Author, B. & Author, C. C. (year). *Title of Book*. Place of publishing: Publisher, page numbers.

5. Perry, L. M. (1980). *Medicinal plant of East and Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Chapters in book

No. Author, A., Author, B. & Author, C. (year). Title of article/ chapter. In Author, X. Author, Y. & Author, Z. (Eds.). *Title of Book*, nth ed (if applicable). Place of publishing: Publisher, page numbers.

10. Fitch, R. M. & Tsai, C. H. (1971). Polymer colloids. In R. M. Fitch (Ed.). *Polymer colloids*. New York: Plenum Press, 73–85.

Journal

No. Author, A. A., Author, B., Author, C. C., Author, D., & Author, E. E. (year). Title of article. *Name of Journal* (abbreviated), volume number (issue number), page numbers. https://doi.org/doi_identifier

13. Kyung, H. R. & Yinzhe, J. (2006). Recovery of catechin compounds from Korean tea by solvent extraction. *Bioresour. Technol.*, 97(5), 790–793. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2005.04.001>

Forthcoming

No. Author, A. A. & Author, B. B. (year). Title of article. *Name of Journal* (abbreviated), forthcoming.

7. Puganesh, S., Azlina, N. M. A. & Normisbah, W. C. (2015). How to prepare a manuscript for submission in a physical science journal. *J. Phy. Sci.*, forthcoming.

Web References

No. Author, A. A. (year). Title of article. *Name of Journal* (abbreviated), volume number (issue number), page numbers (if applicable). Retrieved date month year, from url.

9. Rabbani, S. I., Devi, K. and Khanam, S. (2010). Role of pioglitazone with metformin or glimepiride on oxidative stress-induced nuclear damage and reproductive toxicity in diabetic rats. *Malaysian J. Med. Sci.*, 17(1), 3–11. Retrieved 21 March 2010, <http://ernd.usm.my/journal/journal/02-1710A1pioglitazone.pdf>.

No. Author, A. A. (year). Title of article. *Name of article*, date. Retrieved date month year, from URL.

2. Remington, J. P. & Wood, H. C. (1918). *The dispensatory of the United States of America*. Retrieved 23 January 2009 from <http://www.henriettesherbal.com>.

Conferences

No. Author, A. A. & Author, B. B. (year). Title of paper presented. *Name of proceeding*, venue (province/city, country), date(s), page number(s).

8. Goh, E. G., Wan Nik, W. M. N., Fadhli Ahmad, M. & Amran, A. (2009). The assessment of rheological model reliability in lubricating behaviour of vegetable oils. Paper presented at the National Tribology Conference, Universiti of Malaya, NTC, Kuala Lumpur, 4–5 May 2009, 58–65.

Thesis

No. Author, A. (year). *Title of thesis*. Undergraduate/ Masters/ PhD diss., name of university.

6. Abdullah, N. (2005). An assessment of pyrolysis for processing empty fruit bunches. PhD diss., Aston University.

Multiple authors

List all names for 3 authors and less. For more than 3 authors, list the first author followed by “et al.”

No. Author, A. A., Author, B., Author, C. C., Author, D., Author, E. E., Author, F., *et al.* (year). Title of article. *Name of Journal* (abbreviated), volume number (issue number), page numbers.

14. Taniguchi, S. et al. (2007). Evaluation of gambir quality based on quantitative analysis of polyphenolic constituents. *Yakugaku Zasshi*, 127(8), 1291–1300.

Formulae/equations

Subscripts and superscripts should be clearly indicated. Take special care to clearly show the difference between zero (0) and the letter O, and between one (1) and the letter l. Give the meanings of all symbols immediately after the equation in which they are first used. For simple fractions use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal. Equations should be aligned to bring out their structure, displayed on separate lines set off from the text above and below and sequentially numbered (using Arabic numbers in parentheses flush right to the right margin). In general, only equations

explicitly referred to in text need be numbered. Mathematical operation signs indicating continuity of the expression should be placed at the left of the second and succeeding lines. The use of fractional powers instead of root signs is recommended. Also powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp.

Example: -

The values for KIC were calculated using the following equation:

$$y = 1.93 - 3.07 (a/w) + 14.53 (a/w)^2 - 25.11 (a/w)^3 + 25.8 (a/w)^4$$

where,

y = geometrical correction factor

P = load at peak (N)

S = span length (mm)

a = notch length (mm)

t = specimen thickness (mm)

w = specimens width (mm).

Footnotes

The *Journal of Physical Science* does not use footnotes.

Headings

1. First level heading (uppercase, bold, flush left)

Example: - **1. INTRODUCTION**

2. Second level heading (upper lowercase, bold, flush left)

Example: - **1.1 Second Level Heading**

3. Third level heading (upper lowercase only for first word (the rest lowercase) bold, flush left)

Example: - **1.1.1 Third level heading**

4. Fourth level heading (upper lowercase only for first word (the rest lowercase) italic, flush left)

- 5.

Example: - **1.1.1.1** *Fourth level heading*

Listings

Listings in the text should be written as follows: -

The attributes are given as follows: (1) weight, (2) volume, (3) density, and (4) melting point. OR

This study includes discussion of:

1. characteristics evaluated

- (a) weight
- (b) volume
- (c) density

2. type of method used

- (a) electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
- (b) scanning electron microscope – energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy

3. etc...

Offprint

Authors will be provided with the digital offprint of their manuscript once the issue is published online.

For further information please contact:

Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Physical Science
Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia
D34, Universiti Sains Malaysia
11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
E-mail: chlatif@usm.my