

Information for Authors

- ◆ [About the Journal](#)
- ◆ [Manuscript Submission](#)
- ◆ [Categories of Contributions](#)
- ◆ [Authorship](#)
- ◆ [Reviewing Policy](#)
- ◆ [Manuscript Format](#)
- ◆ [Preparing Figures for Publication](#)
- ◆ [Disclosure of Conflict of Interests](#)
- ◆ [After Acceptance](#)
- ◆ [Research Data Policy](#)
- ◆ [Open Choice](#)
- ◆ [Contact Information](#)

About the Journal

SCIENCE CHINA Materials (SCMs) is an international peer-reviewed journal that covers all aspects of materials science. The journal is supervised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. It is jointly published monthly in both printed and electronic forms by Science China Press and Springer.

The mission of SCMs is to encourage communication of high quality, innovative research results at the cutting-edge interface of materials science with chemistry, physics, biology and engineering, especially focusing on breakthroughs made by Chinese and international scientists, and it is aimed to become a world-leading academic journal of materials science.

Categories of contribution accepted for the journal are Letters, Articles, Reviews, Perspectives, Concepts and Highlights. Contributions to all sections are usually written on invitation; however, authors are welcome to submit unsolicited articles.

The abbreviation for abstracting and indexing purposes is **Sci China Mater**.

Manuscript Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be

any claims for compensation.

The manuscript should be submitted online via the journal's website at <http://mater.scichina.com> or <http://www.springer.com/materials/journal/40843>, or directly through the ScholarOne Manuscript System (<http://mc03.manuscriptcentral.com/scms>). Complete instructions and an overview of the electronic online submission process are available through the general submission site.

In order to submit a manuscript, the authors will need a single MS Word (recommended), or PDF file that contains the text, all figures and tables, and any Supplementary Information associated with the manuscript.

To help speed the review process, authors are requested to provide a list of potential reviewers and may request the exclusion of particular reviewers. Each manuscript should also be accompanied by a cover letter that summarizes the main findings of the work and its novelty.

Authors wishing to include figures, tables, or text passages that have already been published elsewhere (including in the authors' own previous papers) are required to **obtain permission** from the copyright owner(s) [the publisher(s) of the journal, not the authors of the paper] and to state clearly in the figure/table caption or other appropriate locations in the manuscript that such permission has been obtained. For example: Reprinted with permission from Ref. [xxx]. Copyright 2010, American Chemical Society. Any content received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the author(s). It is the authors' responsibility to retain an electronic or hardcopy of the permission.

Categories of Contributions

Letters present short reports on important novel research studies and findings. The research reported in a Letter must stand on its own in the absence of its Supplementary Information. The first paragraph should summarize the reasons for undertaking the work and the main conclusions which can be drawn. The final paragraph should summarize the major conclusions of the paper. Supplementary Information in the form of additional figures, experimental details, movies, and so on may accompany a manuscript, and will be published online only.

Articles are peer-reviewed, in-depth reports of outstanding novel findings which also have important

and general implications for specialists working in other fields. The introduction should summarize the reasons for undertaking the work and the main conclusions which can be drawn. The final section should summarize the major conclusions of the paper. A short abstract should be given.

Reviews are peer-reviewed and give a general overview of a particular field, providing the reader with an appreciation of the importance of the work, a summary of recent developments, and a guide to the relevant literature. A short abstract should be included.

Perspectives are concise reports on recent exciting research of interest to materials scientists worldwide, including discussions of research breakthroughs and interpretations of important science and funding policies. They may provide context for the findings within a field or explain potential interdisciplinary significance. As these are meant to express a personal viewpoint, with rare exceptions, Perspectives should have no more than two authors.

Concepts report conceptual advances of new materials, focusing on innovative ideas of structure design and synthesis approaches that may inspire future research directions and breakthroughs. A Concept article is more appropriate for a developing field that might not yet be mature enough and needs more experimental demonstration. Some preliminary results should be presented.

Highlights describe very important new results of original research, in general given by a third person, with a view to instruct and to highlight their significance. The results should be presented clearly, but as succinctly as possible, without the comprehensive details required for an original article.

Letters, Perspectives, Concepts and Highlights should have no section levels in the main text.

Authorship

Authorship should be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work, and every author has responsibility for the data and argument mentioned in the paper. Author contributions should be specified in the manuscript. The corresponding author must have obtained permission from all authors for the submission of each version of the paper and for any change in authorship. In addition: changes of authorship or in the order of authors are not accepted after acceptance of a manuscript; requests to add or delete authors at revision stage or after publication is a serious matter, and may be considered only after receipt of written approval from

all authors and detailed explanation about the role/deletion of the new/deleted author. The decision on accepting the change rests with the Editor-in-Chief of the journal; upon request authors should be prepared to send relevant documentation or data in order to verify the validity of the results. This could be in the form of raw data, samples, records, etc.

Reviewing Policy

Authors of all articles will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their manuscript. All contributions are subject to assessment by the editors and/or refereeing. To help speed the review process, authors should provide a list of potential reviewers, and ensure that their reviewer suggestions do not include any researchers with whom they have recent or on-going collaborations or other close ties. The decision of acceptance or rejection of a manuscript is made by the editorial board based on the referees' reports.

Manuscript Format

Manuscripts should be well organized, with concise language and avoiding redundant tables and figures. Authors are advised to use standard international nomenclature, express all measurements in SI units (i.e., the International System of Units). A manuscript template is available at the journal's homepage (<http://mater.scichina.com>). If the authors preferred not to use the template, the manuscript file should be formatted as double-spaced, single-column text without justification.

The manuscript text file should include the following parts, in order: a title page with author affiliations and contact information; the sections required for each content type (see information for Articles, Reviews and Letters); then References, Acknowledgements (optional), Author contributions, Conflict of interest statement, Figure Legends, and Tables.

Title page

The title should be as short and informative as possible, and should not contain non-standard acronyms or abbreviations. Titles are usually limited to no more than 20 words. The first letter should be capitalized.

The names of all authors and the affiliations of all the authors should be listed, with complete mailing address information, including a postal code. The corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk, and the email address of the corresponding author should be provided.

Abstract

It should be a single paragraph of 150 to 250 words, succinctly and clearly describing the major findings reported in the manuscript, and comprehensible to readers who did not read the paper. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references.

Keywords

A maximum of five keywords should be supplied, which can be used for indexing purposes.

Headings

Headings should not be used in Letters, Perspectives, Concepts and Highlights. For Articles and Reviews, please use the decimal system of headings with no more than three levels (1st level: bold, all caps; 2nd level: bold; 3rd level: not bold, italic).

Numbered headings should be avoided. If manuscript contains numbered headings, please remove the numbers and amend all references to numbered sections to use the section title rather than section number.

Introduction

It should briefly introduce the relevant background of the research conducted (not a comprehensive review of the specific field), purpose of the study reported, and provide a brief summary of the major findings. Please do not use subtitles in the introduction.

Results

Major observations and conclusions of the reported study should be clearly and logically described here. Informative subtitles should be used in this part.

Discussion

The significance of the reported discoveries in the paper should be discussed with historical and future perspectives. Hypotheses or theories supported by solid evidences might be proposed here.

Experimental section

This part should only contain sufficient detail so that all experimental procedures can be repeated by others, in conjunction with cited references. Only truly new procedures should be described in detail here.

Statement of human and animal rights

Manuscripts containing animal experiments must include a statement in the Experimental Section to state that permission was obtained from the relevant national or local authorities. The institutional committees that have approved the experiments must be identified and the accreditation number of the laboratory or of the investigator given where applicable. If no such rules or permissions are in place in the country where the experiments were performed, then this must also be clearly stated.

Manuscripts with experiments with human subjects or tissue samples from human subjects must contain a disclaimer in the Experimental Section to state that informed signed consent was obtained from either the patient or from next of kin.

Acknowledgements

This is for the authors to express their gratitude to those who have helped during their research. Information concerning funding organizations (including the grant numbers) for the reported research is also usually provided here. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

Author contributions

Authors are required to include a statement of responsibility in the manuscript that specifies the contribution of every author. See below examples:

Fu R designed and engineered the samples; Smith G conceived the post-fabrication tuning of random modes; Lee C and Rechar V performed the experiments; Smith G and Zhang C performed the data analysis; Fu R and Smith G wrote the paper with support from Joseph V; Low W and Wang G. contributed to the theoretical analysis. All authors contributed to the general discussion.

References

Only published or in-press papers and books may be cited in the reference list. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list. References to the literature are cited by number in square brackets at appropriate locations (before a period, comma, etc.) in the text. The full title for each cited article should be included. Please provide inclusive page ranges for journal articles and book chapters. Databases should be cited in the text. All authors should be included in reference lists unless there are more than five, in which case only the first three authors should

be given, followed by 'et al.'.

Reference examples are given as follows:

- Journal article
Hu CH, Hu WP, Zhang FB, *et al.* Sediment resuspension in Lake Taihu, China. *Chin Sci Bull*, 2006, 51: 731–737
- Article in press without doi
Lim EK, Ashford DA, Hou B. Arabidopsis glycosyltransferases as biocatalysts in fermentation for regioselective synthesis of diverse quercetin glucosides. *Biotech Bioeng*, 2004 (in press)
- Article in press with doi
Lim EK, Bowles DJ. A class of plant glycosyltransferases involved in cellular homeostasis. *Nat Commun*, Doi: 10.1038/sj.emboj.7600295
- Monograph
Norman IJ, Redfern SJ (eds.). *Mental Health Care for Elderly People*. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1996
- Proceedings
Polito VS. Calmodulin and calmodulin inhibitors: effect on pollen germination and tube growth. In: Mulvshy D L, Ottaviano E (eds.). *Pollen: Biology and Implication for Plant Breeding*. New York: Elsevier, 1983, 53–60
- Conference proceedings
Minor HE. Spillways for high velocities. In: Zurich V E, Minor HE, Hager WH (eds.). *Proceedings of International Workshop on Hydraulics of Stepped Spillways*, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 2000, 3–10
- Dissertation
Tang HJ. Ecological studies on phytoplankton of the shallow, eutrophic Lake Donghu. Dissertation for Doctoral Degree. Wuhan: Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2002
- Technical report
Phillips NA. The Nested Grid Model. NOAA Technical Report NWS22. 1979
- Patent
Zhang WP. Experiment Apparatus of Diffraction Imaging. China Patent, 02290557.X, 2003-12-03
- User manual
Wang DL, Zhu J, Li ZK. User Manual for QTKMapper Version 1.6, 1999

Figure legends

Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. For figures with multiple panels, the first sentence of the legend should be a brief overview of the entire figure. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure must be defined, unless they are common

abbreviations or have already been defined in the text. Experimental details should, where possible, be given in the experimental section, and not repeated in the figure legends. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.

Figures

Figures should be numbered separately with Arabic numerals in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript. Figures divided into parts should be denoted by lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.). One- or two-column format figures are preferred. Figure lettering should be in a clear, sans-serif typeface (for example, Arial); if possible, the same typeface in approximately the same font size should be used for all figures in a paper. Lettering in figures should be in lower-case type, with only the first letter of each label capitalized. Units should have a single space between the number and the unit, and follow SI nomenclature or the nomenclature common to a particular field. Unusual units or abbreviations should be spelled out in full or defined in the legend. When appropriate, figures should include error bars. A description of the statistical treatment of error analysis should be included in the figure or scheme legend.

When a manuscript is accepted for publication, we will ask for high-resolution figure files, possibly in a different electronic format. This information will be included in the acceptance letter. Reasonable requests to enlarge figures will be considered, but editors will make the final decision on figure size. Authors will see a proof of figures. See below for details of digital image production and submission.

Tables

Tables should be included at the end of your text document, and numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3...). Tables should be self-explanatory and include a brief descriptive title. Footnotes to tables indicated by lower-case superscript letters are acceptable, but they should not include extensive experimental detail. Tables that include statistical analysis of data should describe their standards of error analysis and ranges in a table legend.

Equations

Equations and mathematical expressions should be provided in the main text of the paper. Equations that are referred to in the text are identified by parenthetical numbers, such as (1), and are referred to in the manuscript as “Equation (1)”.

Table of contents/abstract graphic

A graphic is required for each manuscript for the table of contents (TOC). This graphic should be placed on the last page of the manuscript upon submission of the paper. The TOC/abstract graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the essence of the paper without providing specific results. The graphic submitted for use on the Table of Contents is used for multiple purposes, including the document abstract and other situations where a representative graphic is required. The TOC graphic should be in the form of a structure, graph, drawing, SEM/TEM photograph, or reaction scheme. Some of the best images are simple, relatively free of text and technical characters, and make use of color for visual impact. It is best to stay away from complex structure schemes and small-sized details. The author must submit a graphic in the actual size to be used for the TOC that will fit in an area of **5 cm × 5 cm**. Larger images will be reduced to fit within those dimensions. Type size of labels, formulas, labels, formulas, or numbers within the graphic must be legible. Tables or spectra are not acceptable.

We recommend the author(s) to provide a **Chinese abstract** (200–300 Chinese characters) for each manuscript, including the title and authors' names in Chinese.

Short biography

A passport-type photo (>300 DPI) and a short biography for each of the first author(s) and the corresponding author(s) and their (current) research interests should be included (75 words maximum). Awards, number of publications, number of patents, etc. should not be included in the biography.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information in the form of additional figures, experimental details, movies, and so on may accompany a manuscript, and will be sent to referees during peer review. This material will be published online only, and will **not** be edited, so should be error free. Supplementary Information pages must be prepared as a single MS Word document and should be uploaded as a separate file with all figures incorporated into the text.

To submit multimedia files, please consult the Editorial Office for recommended formats and file-transfer information.

When a paper contains Supplementary Information,

a statement of availability is required at the end of the manuscript. The following are examples using the preferred format: "**Supplementary Information:** A listing (describe such) (format) is available in the online version of the paper"

Preparing Figures for Publication

It is important to supply production quality figures when requested by the editor. When possible, we prefer to use **original digital figures** to ensure the highest quality reproduction in the journal. For optimal results, prepare figures at actual size for the printed journal. When creating and submitting digital files, please follow the guidelines below.

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to publish any figures or illustrations that are protected by copyright, including figures published elsewhere and pictures taken by professional photographers. The journal cannot publish images downloaded from the internet without appropriate permission.

Line art, graphs, charts and schematics: All line art, graphs, charts and schematics should be supplied in vector format, such as Encapsulated PostScript (.EPS), Adobe Illustrator (.AI), or Portable Document Format (.PDF), and should be saved or exported as such directly from the application in which they were made. This allows us to restyle to our journal house style.

They should not be flattened, compressed, converted or saved as bitmaps, jpegs or other nonvector file types. If line art figures cannot be supplied as vector files they should be supplied at 1200 DPI and as close to print size as possible.

Photographic and bitmapped images: All photographic and bitmapped images should be supplied in TIFF format at a minimum of 300 DPI and as close to print size as possible. For final print size please use our column widths as a guide. A single column width measures at 85 mm and a double column width measures at 170 mm. In practice this means that the absolute width of single column figures should be no less than 1040 pixels wide and double column figures should be no less than 2080 pixels wide (excluding peripheral white space).

We can accept Word and PowerPoint files but please supply any placed images as separate tiffs, prepared as above. If preparing in Adobe Photoshop please type all text on separate text layers so that we can retype in our own house style. If this is not possible please supply two sets of figures—one with labeling for our reference, and one without labeling. Please make sure any scale bars or important

markers are left on both sets.

Where possible please supply color photographic images in CMYK color mode as color detail may be lost converting from RGB to CMYK.

Please do not scan laser printouts of figures and send them to us as digital files. The dot pattern on a laser print often creates a moiré pattern when scanned.

Figures that do not meet these standards will not reproduce well and may delay publication until we receive high-resolution images or high-quality printouts. We cannot be held responsible for assuming the cost of corrected reprints should poor quality images need to be used.

Chemical structure display items: Schemes and figures that contain chemical structures should be produced using ChemDraw or a similar program. All chemical compounds must be assigned a bold, Arabic numeral in the order in which the compounds are presented in the manuscript text. Schemes and figures containing chemical structures should be submitted in a size appropriate for direct incorporation into the printed journal. Authors using ChemDraw should use the following preferences and submit the files at 100% as EPS files.

- Drawing settings: chain angle, 120° bond spacing, 18% of width; fixed length, 14.4 pt; bold width, 2.0 pt; line width, 0.6 pt; margin width 1.6 pt; hash spacing 2.5 pt.
- Text settings: font, Arial or Helvetica; size, 10 pt.
- Preferences: units, points; tolerances, 3 pixel.

For more information about other types of illustrations, please contact the editorial office.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interests

Authors must disclose all relationships or interests that could influence or bias the work. Although an author may not feel there are conflicts, disclosure of relationships and interests affords a more transparent process, leading to an accurate and objective assessment of the work. Awareness of real or perceived conflicts of interests is a perspective to which the readers are entitled and is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation for consultancy work is inappropriate. Examples of potential conflicts of interests that are directly or indirectly related to the research may include but are not limited to the following:

- Research grants from funding agencies (please give the research funder and the grant number)
- Honoraria for speaking at symposia
- Financial support for attending symposia
- Financial support for educational programs
- Employment or consultation
- Support from a project sponsor
- Position on advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships
- Multiple affiliations
- Financial relationships, for example equity ownership or investment interest
- Intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyrights and royalties from such rights)
- Holdings of spouse and/or children that may have financial interest in the work

In addition, interests that go beyond financial interests and compensation (non-financial interests) that may be important to readers should be disclosed. These may include but are not limited to personal relationships or competing interests directly or indirectly tied to this research, or professional interests or personal beliefs that may influence your research.

The corresponding author will include a summary statement in the text of the manuscript in a separate section after the reference list. See below examples of disclosures:

Conflict of interest: Author A has received research grants from Company A. Author B has received a speaker honorarium from Company X and owns stock in Company Y. Author C is a member of committee Z.

If no conflict exists, the authors should state:

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

After Acceptance

Copyright transfer

A completed form assigning copyright to Science China Press must be returned to the editorial office *SCIENCE CHINA Materials* when the paper is accepted for publication. The copyright covers the exclusive right to reproduce and distribute the article (in various languages), including reprints, translations, photographic reproductions, microform, electronic form (offline, online) or other reproductions of similar nature. The Copyright Transfer Statement is available at <http://mater.scichina.com>.

Color illustrations

Online publication of color illustrations is free of charge. For color in the print version, authors will be expected to make a contribution towards the extra costs. If approved by the Editor, color reproduction will be provided at no cost to the author. Do not submit color versions of illustrations to be printed in black and white.

Journal cover illustrations

Authors of accepted papers are encouraged to submit images for consideration as a cover of the journal. Cover images are normally linked to a specific paper in that issue, but we may also be able to use other images elsewhere in the journal, such as on the table of contents. Illustrations are selected for their scientific interest and aesthetic appeal. Please send electronic files (rather than slides) in the first instance and also include a clear and concise legend explaining the image.

Proof reading

After typesetting, page proof is usually sent electronically as email attachments or via a secure Web site to the corresponding author. Proofs should be checked with utmost care against the manuscript (in particular, all tables, equations, and formulas). Routine rephrasing of sentences or additions are not permitted at the page proof stage. Alterations should be restricted to serious changes in interpretation or corrections of data. Extensive or important changes on page proofs, including changes to the title or list of authors, are subject to Editorial review. All corrections, revisions, and additions must be listed with their location clearly identified. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all authors listed on the manuscript agree with the changes made on the proofs. The proof plus any minor corrections must be returned to the managing editor within 72 hours. Failure to do this will result in delays in publication.

Advance online publication

The article will be published online after receipt of the corrected proofs. This is the official first publication citable with the DOI. After release of the printed version, the paper can also be cited by issue and page numbers.

Research Data Policy

The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories

and research data policy.

[List of Repositories](#)

[Research Data Policy](#)

General repositories - for all types of research data - such as Figshare and Dryad may also be used. Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite: authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

[DataCite](#)

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors, which can be contacted at researchdata@springernature.com.

This service provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal, book and conference proceedings editorial offices and does not advise on specific manuscripts.

[Helpdesk](#)

Open Choice

Open Choice allows you to publish open access in this journal, making your research more visible and accessible immediately on publication.

Article processing charges (APCs) vary by journal – [view the full list](#)

Copyright and license term-CC BY

Open Choice articles do not require transfer of copyright as the copyright remains with the author. In opting for open access, the author(s) agree to publish the article under the Creative Commons Attribution License.

Contact Information

Editorial Office, SCIENCE CHINA Materials
Science China Press
16 Donghuangchenggen North Street,
Beijing 100717, China
Phone +86-10-64011971
Fax +86-10-64016350
E-Mail: materials@scichina.org

Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

SCIENCE CHINA Materials is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation can be achieved by following the rules of good scientific practice, which includes:

- The manuscript has not been submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- The manuscript has not been published previously (partly or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work (please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the hint of text-recycling (“self-plagiarism”)).
- A single study is not split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (e.g., “salami-publishing”).
- No data have been fabricated or manipulated (including images) to support your conclusions.
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the authors’ own (“plagiarism”). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions are secured for material that is copyrighted.

Important note: the journal may use software to screen for plagiarism.

- Consent to submit has been received from all co-authors before the work is submitted and the corresponding author is responsible for having ensured that this agreement has been reached.
- Authors whose names appear on the submission have contributed sufficiently to the scientific work and therefore share collective responsibility and accountability for the results.



<http://www.springer.com/journal/40843>

Science China Materials

Editor-in-Chief: Li, Y. - Editorial Director: Wang, G.

ISSN: 2095-8226 (print version)

ISSN: 2199-4501 (electronic version)

Journal no. 40843



<http://www.springer.com/journal/40843>

Science China Materials

Editor-in-Chief: Li, Y. - Editorial Director: Wang, G.

ISSN: 2095-8226 (print version)

ISSN: 2199-4501 (electronic version)

Journal no. 40843