



PHYSICAL REVIEW JOURNALS (/)

Published by the American Physical Society

[Journals \(/about\)](#) [Authors \(/authors\)](#) [Referees \(/referees\)](#) [Collections \(/collections\)](#)
[Browse \(/browse\)](#) [Search \(/search\)](#) [Press \(/press\)](#) [RSS \(/feeds\)](#)

December 2017

APS Copyright Policies and Frequently Asked Questions

- [What is copyright?](#)
- [What does copyright protect?](#)
- [How is a copyright different from a patent or a trademark?](#)
- [What is the difference between copyright infringement and plagiarism?](#)
- [Why should I transfer copyright to APS?](#)
- [Does transferring copyright affect my patent rights?](#)
- [As the author of an APS-published article, may I post my article or a portion of my article on my own website?](#)
- [What happens if the author has posted an APS-published article on a free access e-print server or on the authors' or institutions' web pages and subsequently a fee is imposed for access to those sites?](#)
- [As the author of an APS-published article, may I post my article or a portion of my article on an e-print server?](#)
- [As the author of an APS-published article, can I post my article or a portion of my article on a web resource like wikipedia or quantiki?](#)
- [As the author \(or the author's employer\) of an APS-published article, may I use copies of part or all of my articles in the classroom?](#)
- [As the author of an APS-published article, may I use figures, tables, graphs, etc. in future publications?](#)

- As the author of an APS-published article, may I include my article or a portion of my article in my thesis or dissertation?
- As the author of an APS-published article, may I give permission to a colleague or third party to republish all or part of the article in a print publication?
- As the author of an APS-published article, may I give permission to a colleague or third party to republish all or part of the APS-published version in an online journal, book, database compilation, etc.?
- As the author of an APS-published article, may I provide a PDF of my paper to a colleague or third party?
- As a third party (not an author), may I republish an article or portion of an article published by APS?
- As a third party, may I use articles published by APS for lecture and classroom purposes?
- How do I request permission to republish APS-copyrighted material?

What is copyright? <http://www.copyright.gov/> (<http://www.copyright.gov/>)

Copyright is a form of legal protection for original works of authorship. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works.

What does copyright protect?

Copyright, a form of intellectual property law, protects original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright does not protect facts, ideas, systems, or methods of operation, although it may protect the way these things are expressed. See Circular 1, Copyright Basics, section "What Works Are Protected", see <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf> (<http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf>)

How is a copyright different from a patent or a trademark?

Copyright protects original works of authorship, while a patent protects inventions or discoveries. Ideas and discoveries are not protected by the copyright law, although the way in which they are expressed may be. A trademark protects words, phrases, symbols, or designs identifying the source of the goods or services of one party and distinguishing them from those of others.

What is the difference between copyright infringement and plagiarism?

Copyright infringement occurs when an author's work is reused or republished without the permission of the copyright owner, whether or not author attribution accompanied the reuse.

Plagiarism occurs when an author's work has been reused or republished in such a manner as to make it appear as someone else's work, e.g., without quotation marks and citation of the original work.

Why should I transfer copyright to APS?

Like many other scientific publishers, the American Physical Society (APS) requires authors or their employers to provide transfer of copyright prior to publication. This permits APS to publish the article and to defend against improper use (or even theft) of the article. It also permits APS to publish the article online and to use the article in other forms or media, such as PROLA. By the APS transfer agreement, authors and their employers retain substantial rights in the work, as specified in the agreement <https://journals.aps.org/authors/transfer-of-copyright-agreement> (<https://journals.aps.org/authors/transfer-of-copyright-agreement>) and discussed in your copyright permission letter.

Does transferring copyright affect my patent rights?

No. Copyright is separate from any patent rights, and the APS transfer agreement specifically states that patent rights are not affected. However, you should be aware that submitting a manuscript to a journal without first taking steps to protect your patent rights (e.g., filing for a patent) could endanger those rights. Consult your patent attorney.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I post my article or a portion of my article on my own website?

Yes, the author or the author's employer may use all or part of the APS published article, including the APS-prepared version (e.g., the PDF from the online journal) without revision or modification, on the author's or employer's website as long as a fee is not charged. If a fee is charged, then APS permission must be sought. In all cases, the appropriate bibliographic citation and notice of the APS copyright must be included.

This site uses cookies. To find out more, read our [Privacy Policy \(https://www.aps.org/about/privacy.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/about/privacy.cfm). What happens if the author has posted an APS-published article on a free access e-print server or on the author's or institutions' web page and subsequently a fee is imposed for access to those sites?

When a fee is imposed, the author must either obtain permission from APS or withdraw the article from the e-print server or Institutional Repository.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I post my article or a portion of my article on an e-print server?

The author has the right to post and update the article on a free-access e-print server using files prepared and formatted by the author. Any such posting made or updated after acceptance of the article for publication by APS should include a link to the online APS journal article abstract.

In all cases, the appropriate bibliographic citation and notice of the APS copyright must be included.

As the author of an APS-published article, can I post my article or a portion of my article on a web resource like wikipedia or quantiki?

Sites like wikipedia and quantiki are strict about permissions and require that authors hold copyright to articles that they post there. In order to allow authors to comply with this requirement, APS permits authors to hold copyright to a “derived work” based on an article published in an APS journal as long as the work contains at least 10% new material not covered by APS's copyright and does not contain more than 50% of the text (including equations) of the original article. The APS will extend the author of a “derived work” the right to all papers published in APS journals.

As the author (or the author's employer) of an APS-published article, may I use copies of part or all of my article in the classroom?

Yes, the author or his/her employer may use all or part of the APS-prepared version for educational purposes without requesting permission from the APS as long as the appropriate bibliographic citation is included.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I use figures, tables, graphs, etc. in future publications?

Yes, as the author you have the right to use figures, tables, graphs, etc. in subsequent publications using files prepared and formatted by you or the APS-prepared versions. The appropriate bibliographic citation must be included.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I include my article or a portion of my article in my thesis or dissertation?

Yes, the author has the right to use the article or a portion of the article in a thesis or dissertation without requesting permission from APS, provided the bibliographic citation and the APS copyright credit line are given on the appropriate pages.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I give permission to a colleague or third party to republish all or part of the article in a print publication?

Yes, as the author you may grant permission to third parties to republish print versions of the article provided the APS-published version (e.g., the PDF from the online journal, or a copy of the article from the print journal) is not used for this purpose. The article may not be published in another journal, and the third party may not charge a fee. The appropriate bibliographic citation and notice of the APS copyright must be included.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I give permission to a colleague or third party to republish all or part of the APS-published version in an online journal, book, database compilation, etc.?

No, an author may not grant permission in this case. To request permission to republish APS-copyrighted material, please refer to the “Reuse & Permissions” link that can be found on each APS article page.

As the author of an APS-published article, may I provide a PDF of my paper to a colleague or third party?

The author is permitted to provide, for research purposes and as long as a fee is not charged, a PDF copy of his/her article using either the APS-prepared version or the author prepared version.

As a third party (not an author), may I republish an article or portion of an article published by APS?

Yes, APS will grant permission to republish articles or portions of articles (e.g., tables, graphs, excerpts) published by APS. Depending on the reuse and medium APS has the right to grant permission subject to APS terms and conditions and a fee may be assessed.

As a third party, may I use articles published by APS for lecture and classroom purposes?

Yes, you may use photocopied articles published by APS for lecture and classroom purposes without asking permission from APS as long as you remain an Authorized User of the APS online research per your institution’s site license. Also, there is no limitation on the use of APS articles using links to the material accessible through institutional subscriptions.

How do I request permission to republish APS-copyrighted material?

APS uses Aptara's SciPris™ platform to manage rights and permission requests. APS will continue to support the STM guidelines for all copyright needs. To request permission to republish APS-copyrighted material, please refer to the “Reuse & Permissions” link that can be found on each APS article page.

Once directed to the SciPris™ platform, the following information is required:

1. The format in which the material will be republished, e.g., print, online, CD-ROM, and/or other format
2. How much of the article you want to republish, e.g., all or portion of article; if a portion describe the specific material, e.g., figure numbers, excerpt
3. How the material will be used, e.g., in a book, journal, proceeding, thesis, etc.

4. The title of the article/thesis/chapter etc., and the name of the publication in which your work will appear
5. The name of the publisher
6. Indicate whether or not a fee will be charged for the publication

Upon submission, a letter of permission will be generated, specifying all guidelines and regulations to follow.

Blanket permissions are not granted. Please note all requests are subject to APS [terms and conditions](#) ([/info/terms.html](#)) and a fee may be assessed.

If your questions have not been addressed and you need further assistance, please email customercare@aps.org (<mailto:customercare@aps.org>).

Further information

For further information about copyright in general, please refer to the Library of Congress FAQ at <https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/> (<https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/>).

Journals published by the American Physical Society can be found at <https://journals.aps.org/> (<https://journals.aps.org/>).

FAQ Version: December 12, 2017

Sign up to receive regular email alerts from *Physical Review Journals*

Sign up [_ \(<https://info.aps.org/journals-emails>\)](https://info.aps.org/journals-emails)

[APS \(https://www.aps.org/\)](https://www.aps.org/) | [News & Announcements \(/edannounce\)](/edannounce) | <https://twitter.com/APSphysics>
[Join APS \(https://www.aps.org/membership/join.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/membership/join.cfm) | <https://www.aps.org/publications>

AUTHORS

[General Information \(/authors\)](/authors)
[Submit a Manuscript \(https://authors.aps.org/Submissions/\)](https://authors.aps.org/Submissions/)
[Publication Rights \(/pub_rights.html\)](/pub_rights.html)
[Open Access \(/open_access.html\)](/open_access.html)
[Tips for Authors \(/authors/tips-authors-physical-review-physical-review-letters\)](/authors/tips-authors-physical-review-physical-review-letters)
[Professional Conduct \(/authors/professional-conduct-ethics\)](/authors/professional-conduct-ethics)

REFEREES

[General Information \(/referees\)](/referees)
[Submit a Report \(http://referees.aps.org/\)](http://referees.aps.org/)
[Update Your Information \(http://referees.aps.org/\)](http://referees.aps.org/)
[Referee FAQ \(/referees/faq.html\)](/referees/faq.html)
[Outstanding Referees \(/OutstandingReferees\)](/OutstandingReferees)

LIBRARIANS

[General Information \(https://librarians.aps.org/\)](https://librarians.aps.org/)
[Subscriptions \(https://librarians.aps.org/subscriptions\)](https://librarians.aps.org/subscriptions)
[Online License Agreement \(https://librarians.aps.org/sitelicense.pdf\)](https://librarians.aps.org/sitelicense.pdf)
[Usage Statistics \(https://librarians.aps.org/login\)](https://librarians.aps.org/login)
[Your Account \(https://librarians.aps.org/account\)](https://librarians.aps.org/account)

STUDENTS

[Physics \(https://physics.aps.org\)](https://physics.aps.org)
[PhysicsCentral \(http://www.physicscentral.com/\)](http://www.physicscentral.com/)
[Student Membership \(https://www.aps.org/membership/student.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/membership/student.cfm)

APS MEMBERS

[Subscriptions \(https://www.aps.org/membership/aps-publications.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/membership/aps-publications.cfm)
[Article Packs \(https://journals.aps.org/article-packs\)](https://journals.aps.org/article-packs)
[Membership \(https://www.aps.org/membership/index.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/membership/index.cfm)
[FAQ \(https://www.aps.org/membership/faq.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/membership/faq.cfm)
[APS News \(https://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/index.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/index.cfm)
[Meetings & Events \(https://www.aps.org/meetings/index.cfm\)](https://www.aps.org/meetings/index.cfm)

[Privacy \(https://www.aps.org/about/webpolicies.cfm#privacy\)](https://www.aps.org/about/webpolicies.cfm#privacy) | [Policies \(/policies\)](/policies) | [Contact Information \(/contact.html\)](/contact.html)
[Feedback \(mailto:feedback@aps.org\)](mailto:feedback@aps.org)

©2024 American Physical Society. (https://www.aps.org/) All rights reserved. *Physical Review*[™], *Physical Review Letters*[™], *Physical Review X*[™], *Reviews of Modern Physics*[™], *Physical Review A*[™], *Physical Review B*[™], *Physical Review C*[™], *Physical Review D*[™], *Physical Review E*[™], *Physical Review Applied*[™], *Physical Review Fluids*[™], *Physical Review Accelerators and*

*Beams*TM, *Physical Review Physics Education Research*TM, *Physical Review Materials*TM, *Physical Review Research*TM, *PRX Energy*TM, *PRX Life*TM, *PRX Quantum*TM, *APS Physics logo*, and *Physics logo* are trademarks of the American Physical Society. Information about registration may be found [here](#) ([/legal](#)). Use of the American Physical Society websites and journals implies that the user has read and agrees to our [Terms and Conditions](#) ([/info/terms.html](#)) and any applicable [Subscription Agreement](#) (<https://librarians.aps.org/sitelicense.pdf>).