

## GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORS

### Selection criteria

The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and interest across disciplines within mathematical, physical and engineering sciences.

The maximum limit is 20 printed pages (about 540 words or two figures per page). Papers over this limit will be considered, up to a maximum of 28 pages, but will also be subject to page charges.

The Editors are responsible for all editorial decisions and they make these decisions based on the reports received from the referees and/or Editorial Board members. Many more good manuscripts are submitted to us than we have space to print, and we give preference to those that present significant advances of broad interest. Submission of preliminary reports, of articles that merely confirm previous findings, and of articles that are likely to interest only small groups of specialists, is not encouraged. All articles are sent to Editorial Board members for an initial assessment of their suitability, and may be returned to authors without in-depth peer review if this assessment makes it seem unlikely that they will be accepted.

### Publishing format

*Proc. R. Soc. A* articles are published regularly online and in monthly print issues. Along with all Royal Society journals, we are committed to archiving and providing perpetual access. Although papers are limited to 28 journal pages in length, there is the facility for including Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM). Contents of the ESM

might include details of methods, derivations of equations, large tables of data and computer programs. However, the printed version must include enough detail to satisfy most non-specialist readers. Supplementary data up to 10Mb is placed on the Society's website free of charge. Larger datasets must be deposited in recognised public domain databases by the author.

### Conditions of publication

Articles must not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The main findings of the article should not have been reported in the mass media. Like many journals, *Proc. R. Soc. A* employs a strict embargo policy where the reporting of a scientific article by the media is embargoed until a specific time. The Editor has final authority in all matters relating to publication.

### Electronic Submission details

The Royal Society's electronic-submission and peer-review service provides *Proc. R. Soc. A* authors with the facility to submit their papers online. The service allows you to upload files in a reliable and user-friendly way, using a Web-based system. When your paper is received, an immediate acknowledgement is sent that details how you can track your contribution online.

For full submission guidelines and access to all journal content please visit the *Proc. R. Soc. A* website, see [rspa.royalsocietypublishing.org](http://rspa.royalsocietypublishing.org) for further details.

The Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is at the cutting edge of scientific progress. We support many top young scientists, engineers and technologists, influence science policy, debate scientific issues with the public and much more. We are an independent, charitable body and derive our authoritative status from over 1400 Fellows and Foreign Members.

Our mission: to expand knowledge and further the role of science and engineering in making the world a better place.

The Royal Society's strategic priorities are to:

- invest in future scientific leaders and in innovation,
- influence policymaking with the best scientific advice,
- invigorate science and mathematics education,
- increase access to the best science internationally, and
- inspire an interest in the joy, wonder and excitement of scientific discovery.

For further information on the Society's activities, please contact the following departments on the extensions listed by dialling +44 (0)20 7839 5561, or visit the Society's Web site ([royalsociety.org](http://royalsociety.org)).

### Research Support (UK grants and fellowships)

Research Appointments (Fellowships): 2542

Research Grants: 2223

International travel Grants: 2555

Newton International Fellowships: 2559

### Science Policy Centre

General enquiries: 2550

### Science Communication

General enquiries: 2573

### Library and Information Services

Library/archive enquiries: 2606

Front cover: Mount St Helens, Washington, USA in 2007, showing a growing dacite lava dome in the crater created by the explosive eruption of May 1980. The stratovolcano Mount Hood is in the background. Image courtesy of Hugh Tuffen.