

Guide to Authors

About the Journal

Aims and scope of the journal

Photonics — the scientific study and application of light — has evolved to become a key technology behind many devices found in the modern home, factory and research lab. Today, the field is both a Nobel-Prize-winning science and a billion-dollar industry, underpinning applications such as fibre-optic communication, data storage, flat-panel displays and materials processing.

Nature Photonics is a new monthly journal dedicated to this exciting field that will publish top-quality, peer-reviewed research in all areas of light generation, manipulation and detection.

Coverage extends from research into the fundamental properties of light and how it interacts with matter through to the latest designs of optoelectronic device and emerging applications that exploit photons. The journal covers topics including:

- Lasers, LEDs and other light sources
- Imaging, detectors and sensors
- Optoelectronic devices and components
- Novel materials and engineered structures
- Physics of light propagation, interaction and behaviour
- Quantum optics and cryptography
- Ultrafast photonics
- Biophotonics
- Optical data storage
- Spectroscopy
- Fibre optics and optical communications
- Solar energy and photovoltaics
- Displays
- Terahertz technology

In common with other Nature Publishing Group (NPG) journals in the physical sciences, *Nature Photonics* publishes review articles, research papers, News and Views pieces and research highlights summarizing the latest scientific findings in optoelectronics. This is complemented by a unique mix of articles dedicated to the business side of the industry covering areas such as technology commercialization and market analysis.

Editors and contact information

Like the other *Nature* titles, *Nature Photonics* has no external editorial board. Instead, all editorial decisions are made by a team of full-time professional editors, who are PhD-level physicists.

Click here for [information about the scientific background of the editors](#).

General editorial inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, at naturephoton@nature.com.

Inquiries about the status of a manuscript should be addressed to the Editorial Assistant, at naturephoton@nature.com.

Relationship to other *Nature* journals

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) has a rich history in publishing prestigious photonics research. For example, over the past 50 years *Nature* has featured seminal papers on topics such as the first experimental LASER (Maiman, 1960) and the first polymer LED (Burroughs, 1990): see [photonics highlights](#).

Launched in January 2007, *Nature Photonics* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research of the highest quality and combines this with in-depth analysis of important emerging optical technologies, their applications and status of commercialization. In essence, *Nature Photonics* publishes leading photonics research that will enable the applications of tomorrow. The result is a unique publication that will be an invaluable information resource for scientists in both academia and industry.

Alongside *Nature Photonics*, *Nature* will continue to publish photonics papers of exceptional quality that appeal to its wide and multidisciplinary readership. *Nature Physics* will focus on those photonics papers which deal with fundamental science; *Nature Materials* those which address the underlying properties of optical and photonics-related materials; and *Nature Nanotechnology* those which involve engineered structures on the nanoscale.

If a paper is rejected from one *Nature* journal, the authors can use an automated manuscript transfer service to submit the paper to *Nature Photonics* via a link sent to them by the editor handling the manuscript. Authors should note that referees' comments (including any confidential comments to the editor) and identities are transferred to the editor of the second journal along with the manuscript. The journal editors will take the previous reviews into account when making their decision, although in some cases the editors may choose to take advice from additional referees. Alternatively, authors may choose to request a fresh review, in which case they should not use the automated transfer link, and the editors will evaluate the paper without reference to the previous review process. For more information, please consult the following:

- [Details of the manuscript transfer service](#)
- [Listing of all NPG journals and subject areas](#)
- [A general explanation of the relationships between Nature titles](#)

Editorial and publishing policies

Please see [authors and referees @ npg](#) for detailed information about author and referee services and publication policies at the *Nature* family of journals. These journals, including *Nature Photonics*, share a number of common policies including the following:

- [Author responsibilities](#)
- [Licence agreement and author copyright](#)

- [Embargo policy and press releases](#)
- [Use of experimental animals and human subjects](#)
- [Competing financial interests](#)
- [Availability of materials and data](#)
- [Digital image integrity and standards](#)
- [Security concerns](#)
- [Refutations, complaints and corrections](#)
- [Duplicate publication](#)
- [Confidentiality and pre-publicity](#)
- [Plagiarism and fabrication](#)

Impact factor

The 2008 ISI impact factor for *Nature Photonics* is 24.982, according to the ISI Journal Citation Reports. This places *Nature Photonics* first among all primary optics journals but also across all the primary research journals in physics and chemistry.

The 2008 impact factor represents the average number of citations per paper in 2008 and is calculated on the basis of the previous two years' worth of a particular journal's publications. A more detailed explanation of impact factors appears on the [ISI web site](#).

Abbreviation

The correct abbreviation for abstracting and indexing purposes is *Nature Photon*.

ISSN

The international standard serial number (ISSN) for *Nature Photonics* are 1749-4885, and the electronic international standard serial number (EISSN) is 1749-4893.

Content Types

Primary research formats

A **Letter** reports an important novel research study, but is less substantial than an Article. Letters typically occupy four printed journal pages. The text is limited to 1,500 words, excluding the introductory paragraph, Methods, references and figure legends. Letters should have no more than 3-5 display items (figures and/or tables). References are limited to 30.

This format begins with a title of, at most, 15 words, followed by an introductory paragraph (not abstract) of approximately 150 words, summarizing the background, rationale, main results (introduced by "Here we show" or some equivalent phrase) and implications of the study. This paragraph should be referenced, as in *Nature* style, and should be considered part of the main text, so that any subsequent introductory material avoids too much redundancy with the introductory paragraph.

Letters include received/accepted dates and may be accompanied by supplementary information. Letters are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

An **Article** is a substantial novel research study of high quality and general interest to the photonics community. The main text (excluding abstract, Methods, references and figure legends) is 2,000-

3,000 words. Articles have 4-6 display items (figures and/or tables). References are limited to 50.

The maximum title length is 15 words. The abstract is typically 150 words and is unreferenced; it contains a brief account of the background and rationale of the work, followed by a statement of the main conclusions introduced by the phrase "Here we show" or some equivalent. An introduction (without heading) of up to 500 words of referenced text expands on the background of the work (some overlap with the summary is acceptable), followed by a concise, focused account of the findings, ending with one or two short paragraphs of discussion.

Articles include received/accepted dates and may be accompanied by supplementary information. Articles are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

Other formats

A **Review** is an authoritative, balanced survey of recent developments in a research field. Although reviews should be recognized as scholarly by specialists in the field, they should be written with a view to informing nonspecialist readers. Thus, reviews should be presented using simple prose, avoiding excessive jargon and technical detail. Reviews are approximately 3,000-4,000 words long and typically include 4-6 display items (figures, tables or boxes). References are limited to 100; citations should be selective. Footnotes are not used. The scope of a Review should be broad enough that it is not dominated by the work of a single laboratory, and particularly not by the authors' own work.

When the discussion is focused on a developing field that might not yet be mature enough for review, a **Progress** article is more appropriate. Progress articles are up to 2,000 words in length, with up to 4 display items (figures, tables or boxes). References are limited to 50.

Reviews and Progress articles are commissioned by the editors, but proposals including a short synopsis are welcome.

Reviews and Progress articles are always peer-reviewed to ensure factual accuracy, appropriate citations and scholarly balance. They do not include received/accepted dates. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

News and Views articles inform readers about the latest advances in photonics, as reported in recently published papers (in *Nature Photonics* or elsewhere) or at scientific meetings. Most articles are commissioned, but proposals can be made to the Editor in advance of publication of the paper or well before the meeting is held. News and Views articles are not peer-reviewed, but undergo editing in consultation with the author. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

Industry perspectives are short articles (1 or 2 pages) written by authors working within industry. They describe the status and likely impact of a

specific photonics technology on an application of wide appeal to the photonics community. They are by prior arrangement only, although prospective authors are welcome to make proposals. Industry perspectives are not peer-reviewed. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

Correspondence provides readers with a forum for comment on papers published in a previous issue of the journal or to discuss issues relevant to photonics. A Correspondence is never more than one printed page and typically is 250-500 words; it is limited to one display item and 10 references. Article titles are omitted from the reference list. Titles for correspondence are supplied by the editors.

In cases where a correspondence is critical of a previous research paper, the authors of the criticized paper are given the opportunity to publish a brief reply. Criticism of opinions or other secondary matter does not involve an automatic right of reply.

Refutations are always peer-reviewed. Other types of Correspondence may be peer-reviewed at the editors' discretion. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

Commentary articles focus on policy, science and society or purely scientific issues related to photonics. Single-author articles are preferred as this is an 'opinion' section of the journal. Commentaries are usually commissioned by the editors, but proposals are welcome. The main criteria are that they should be of immediate interest to a broad readership and should be written in an accessible, non-technical style. Because the content is variable, the format is also flexible. Figures and diagrams are encouraged, but are not a requirement. Commentaries are typically no longer than 1,500 words and include up to 25 references. Article titles are omitted from the reference list.

Commentaries may be peer-reviewed at the editors' discretion. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

Book Reviews are by prior arrangement only. Suggestions for appropriate books are welcome. Book reviews are not peer-reviewed. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

How to Submit

Online submission

Owing to the volume of manuscripts we receive, we must insist that all submissions (including presubmission inquiries) be made via our online submission system at mts-nphot.nature.com. Using this system, authors can upload manuscript files (text, figures and supplementary information, including video) directly to our office and check on the status of their manuscripts during the review process. In addition, reviewers can access the manuscript (in a highly secure fashion that maintains referee anonymity) over a direct internet link, which speeds up the review process. Revisions, including manuscripts submitted after a [presubmission inquiry](#), should be uploaded via the link provided in the

editor's decision letter. Please do not submit revisions as new manuscripts.

Submission policies

Submission to *Nature Photonics* is taken to imply that there is no significant overlap between the submitted manuscript and any other papers from the same authors under consideration or in press elsewhere. (Abstracts or unrefereed web preprints do not compromise novelty.) The authors must include copies of all related manuscripts with any overlap in authorship that are under consideration or in press elsewhere. If a related manuscript is submitted elsewhere while the manuscript is under consideration at *Nature Photonics*, a copy of the related manuscript should be sent to the editor.

The primary affiliation for each author should be the institution where the majority of their work was done. If an author has subsequently moved, the current address may also be stated.

If the manuscript includes personal communications, please provide a written statement of permission from any person who is quoted. E-mail permission messages are acceptable. For information on the review process and how editors make decisions, please see www.nature.com/nphoton/authors/ed_process.

A high priority of *Nature Photonics* is that all the papers it publishes are accessible to nonspecialists. Manuscripts are subject to substantial editing, in consultation with the authors, to achieve this goal. After acceptance, a copy editor may make further changes so that the text and figures are readable and clear to those outside the field, and so that papers conform to our style. Contributors are sent proofs and are welcome to discuss proposed changes with the editors, but *Nature Photonics* reserves the right to make the final decision about matters of style and the size of figures.

The editors also reserve the right to reject a paper even after it has been accepted if it becomes apparent that there are serious problems with the scientific content or with violations of our publishing policies.

Additional editorial policies can be found on the *Nature* journals joint policies page at www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies. This page includes information on manuscripts reviewed at other *Nature* journals, competing financial interests declarations, pre-publication publicity, deposition of data as a condition of publication, availability of data and reagents after publication, human and animal subjects, digital image integrity, biosecurity, refutations, complaints, and correction of mistakes in the journal, duplicate publication, confidentiality and plagiarism.

Nature Photonics uses Oxford English spelling.

Costs

For original research manuscripts, there is a charge of \$525 for the first colour figure and \$262.50 for each additional colour figure. Please note that we are unable to offer to publish greyscale in print and colour online. Otherwise, there are no submission fees or page charges (for example, for figures contained within invited review articles).

Advance online publication

Nature Photonics provides Advance Online Publication (AOP) of research articles, which benefits authors with an earlier publication date and allows our readers access to accepted papers before they appear in print. Note that papers published online are definitive and may be altered only through the publication of a print corrigendum or erratum, so authors should make every effort to ensure that the page proofs are correct. All AOP articles are given a unique digital object identifier (DOI) number, which can be used to cite the paper before print publication. More details about advance online publication are available at www.nature.com/authors/author_services/about_aop.html.

Cover and other artwork

Authors of accepted papers are encouraged to submit images for consideration as a cover. 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 prints or electronic files (rather than slides) in the first instance. Please also include a clear and concise legend explaining the image.

Preparing the manuscript

Nature Photonics is read by scientists from diverse backgrounds within the optics community. In addition, many are not native English speakers. Authors should therefore give careful thought to how their findings may be communicated clearly. Technical jargon should be avoided as far as possible and clearly explained where its use is unavoidable. Abbreviations, particularly those that are not standard, should also be kept to a minimum, and should be defined at their first occurrence. The background, rationale and main conclusions of the study should be clearly explained. Titles and abstracts in particular should be written in language that will be readily intelligible to any optical scientist. We strongly recommend that authors ask a colleague with different expertise to review the manuscript before submission, in order to identify concepts and terminology that may present difficulties to non-specialist readers.

Information about the different types of contributions, along with their length and figure limits can be found in the Content Types section above. The journal's format requirements are described below.

Manuscripts should be prepared for [online submission](#). Online submissions include a cover letter, a manuscript text file, individual figure files and optional supplementary information files.

Cover Letter

Authors should provide a cover letter that includes the affiliation and contact information for the corresponding author. Authors should briefly discuss the work's importance and explain why the work is considered appropriate for the diverse readership of *Nature Photonics*. Any prior discussions with a *Nature Photonics* editor about the work described in the manuscript should also be mentioned.

Manuscript text

All textual content is provided in a single file, prepared using either Word or TeX/LaTeX; figures are provided in individual files (see below).

The manuscript text file should include the following parts, in order: a title page with author affiliations and contact information (the corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk); the sections required for each content type (see information for Letters and Articles) then References, Acknowledgements (optional), Author Contributions, Competing Financial Interests statement, Figure Legends, and Tables.

Word: *Nature Photonics* does not use a manuscript template for Word documents. The manuscript file should be formatted as double-spaced, single-column text without justification. Pages should be numbered using an Arabic numeral in the footer of each page. Standard fonts are recommended and the 'symbols' font should be used for representing Greek characters.

TeX/LaTeX: Authors submitting LaTeX files may use any of the standard class files such as article.cls, revtex.cls or amsart.cls. Non-standard fonts should be avoided; please use the default Computer Modern fonts. For the inclusion of graphics, we recommend graphicx.sty. Please use numerical references only for citations. There is no need to spend time visually formatting the manuscript: *Nature Photonics* style will be imposed automatically when the paper is prepared for publication. References should be included within the manuscript file itself as our system cannot accept BibTeX bibliography files. Authors who wish to use BibTeX to prepare their references should therefore copy the reference list from the .bbl file that BibTeX generates and paste it into the main manuscript .tex file (and delete the associated \bibliography and \bibliographystyle commands). As a final precaution, authors should ensure that the complete .tex file compiles successfully on their own system with no errors or warnings, before submission.

Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements should be brief, and should not include thanks to anonymous referees and editors, or effusive comments. Grant or contribution numbers may be acknowledged.

Author contributions: *Nature Photonics* requires an Author Contribution statement as described in the [Authorship](#) section of our joint [Editorial policies](#).

Competing financial interests: A competing financial interests statement is required for all content of the journal, but will be published only if a competing financial interest is reported.

References: References are numbered sequentially as they appear in the text, tables and figure legends. Only one publication is given for each number. Only papers that have been published or accepted by a named publication or recognized preprint server should be in the numbered list; preprints of accepted papers in the reference list should be submitted with the manuscript. Published conference abstracts and numbered patents may be included in the reference list. Grant details and acknowledgments are not

permitted as numbered references. Footnotes are not used.

BibTeX bibliography files cannot be accepted. LaTeX submission must contain all references within the manuscript .tex file itself (see above TeX/LaTeX section for more details).

Nature Photonics uses standard *Nature* referencing style. All authors should be included in reference lists unless there are more than five, in which case only the first author should be given, followed by 'et al.'. Authors should be listed last name first, followed by a comma and initials (followed by full stops) of given names. Article titles should be in Roman text, the first word of the title should be capitalized and the title written exactly as it appears in the work cited, ending with a full stop. Book titles should be given in italics and all words in the title should have initial capitals. Journal names are italicized and abbreviated (with full stops) according to common usage. Volume numbers and the subsequent comma appear in bold.

Titles of cited articles are required for Articles, Letters, Reviews and Progress articles. Example: Eigler, D. M. & Schweizer, E. K. Positioning single atoms with a scanning tunnelling microscope. *Nature* **344**, 524–526 (1990).

For Commentaries or News & Views contributions, titles of cited articles are not included. Example: Iijima, S. *Nature* **354**, 56–58 (1991).

For book citations, the publisher and city of publication are required. Example: Jones, R. A. L. *Soft Machines: Nanotechnology and Life* Ch. 3 (Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, 2004).

Figure legends: Figure legends for Articles or Letters begin with a brief title for the whole figure and continue with a short description of each panel and the symbols used; they should not contain any details of methods. Text for figure legends should be provided in numerical order after the references.

Tables: Please submit tables at the end of your text document (in Word or TeX/LaTeX, as appropriate). Tables that include statistical analysis of data should describe their standards of error analysis and ranges in a table legend.

Figures: Figures should be numbered separately with Arabic numerals in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript. One- or two-column format figures are preferred. 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.

Figure lettering should be in a clear, sans-serif typeface (for example, Helvetica); if possible, the same typeface in approximately the same font size should be used for all figures in a paper. Use symbol font for Greek letters. All display items should be on a white background, and should avoid excessive boxing, unnecessary colour, spurious decorative effects (such as three-dimensional 'skyscraper' histograms) and highly pixelated computer drawings. The vertical axis of histograms should not be truncated to exaggerate small differences. Labelling must be of sufficient size and contrast to be readable, even after appropriate reduction. The thinnest lines in the final figure should be no smaller than one point wide. 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.

Figures divided into parts should be labelled with a lower-case bold a, b, and so on, in the same type size as used elsewhere in the figure. 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 (for example, ms rather than msec) or the nomenclature common to a particular field. Thousands should be separated by commas (1,000). Unusual units or abbreviations should be spelled out in full or defined in the legend. Scale bars should be used rather than magnification factors, with the length of the bar defined in the legend rather than on the bar itself. In legends, please use visual cues rather than verbal explanations, such as "open red triangles".

Unnecessary figures should be avoided: data presented in small tables or histograms, for instance, can generally be stated briefly in the text instead. Figures should not contain more than one panel unless the parts are logically connected; each panel of a multipart figure should be sized so that the whole figure can be reduced by the same amount and reproduced on the printed page at the smallest size at which essential details are visible.

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. See below for details of digital image production and submission.

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)".

Supplementary information: Supplementary information should be submitted with the manuscript and will be sent to referees during peer review. Supplementary information is not copy-edited by *Nature Photonics*, so authors should ensure that it is clearly and succinctly presented, and that the style and terminology conform with the rest of the paper. The following guidelines detail the creation, citation and submission of supplementary information. Please note that modification of supplementary information after the paper is published requires a formal correction, so authors are encouraged to check their supplementary information carefully before submitting the final version.

Where there is supplementary information to be included exclusively in the online version of a paper published in *Nature Photonics*, please follow these guidelines, or publication may be delayed.

Refer to each piece of supplementary information at least once within the text of the main article (the article that is published in the print issue of the journal), as follows:

- Designate each item as Supplementary Table, Figure, Video, Audio, Note, Data, Discussion, Equations or Methods. Number Supplementary Tables and Figures as, for example, "Supplementary Table 1". This numbering should be separate from that used in tables and figures appearing in the

main printed article. Supplementary Note or Methods should not be numbered; titles for these are optional.

- Refer to each piece of supplementary material at the appropriate point(s) in the main article. Be sure to include the word "Supplementary" each time one is mentioned. Please do not refer to individual panels of supplementary figures.

Figure files should be submitted as web-ready files through the [online submission system](http://mts-nphot.nature.com) at mts-nphot.nature.com.

Submit separate electronic files (each including a brief title and legend) in any of these formats:

.txt	Plain ASCII text
.gif	GIF image
.htm	HTML document
.doc	MS Word document
.jpg	JPEG image
.swf	Flash movie
.xls	MS Excel spreadsheet
.pdf	Adobe Acrobat file
.mov	QuickTime movie
.ppt	MS Power Point slide
.wav	Audio file

File sizes should be as small as possible, with a maximum size of 3 MB, so that they can be downloaded quickly. All panels of a figure or table (for example, Fig. 1a, b and c) should be combined into one file; please do not send as separate files. Image files should be just large enough to view when the screen resolution is set to 640 x 480 pixels. Audio and video files should use a frame size no larger than 320 x 240 pixels. Remember to include a brief title and legend (preferably incorporated into the image file to appear near the image) as part of every electronic figure submitted, and a title as part of every table.

Further queries about submission and preparation of supplementary information should be directed to naturephoton@nature.com.

Preparing figures for publication

It is important to supply production quality figures when requested by the editor. Failure to do so, or to adhere to the following guidelines, can significantly delay publication of your work.

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. Always send a set of high-quality, glossy printouts of your figures along with your accepted manuscript. This enables us to check the quality of the images we produce to ensure that they match your own, and provides a backup in the event that we cannot use your digital files.

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.

We prefer to work with Adobe Illustrator but can accept Word and PowerPoint files.

They should not be flattened, compressed, converted or saved as bitmaps, jpegs or other non-vector 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 88 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 labelling for our reference, and one without labelling. Please make sure any scale bars or important markers are left on both sets.

Where possible please supply colour photographic images in CMYK colour mode as colour 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.

How to send files: Please ensure that the digital versions of all files are sent with the final version of your manuscript. These may be sent on CD, DVD or, under exceptional circumstances, by FTP (see below).

FTP site: Using any type of FTP software, you can place files on our FTP site. Name your files with the corresponding author's name, figure number and letter, and file format (for example, Dr. Smith's figure 3a in TIFF format: smith3a.tiff). Do not use slashes (/,\) or hyphens (-) when naming your file. Please compress your files before uploading.

site address: ftp.nature.com
user name: naturephoton
password: photon

Editorial Process

Presubmission inquiries

Researchers may request informal feedback from the editors on the journal's interest in a particular manuscript. A short 'presubmission inquiry' can be sent through the [online submission system](#). Presubmission inquiries are not a prerequisite for the regular submission process, but are intended as a mechanism for authors to receive rapid feedback on whether a manuscript in preparation is within the scope and likely to be of interest to the journal. If authors have already written the manuscript, they are encouraged to submit it in its entirety via the [online submission system](#).

Researchers should supply a brief paragraph stating the interest to a broad scientific readership, address and contact details, title, a fully referenced summary paragraph, and a list of the references cited in the summary paragraph. Additional material can be included as a separate file if needed. Editors will express interest in presubmission inquiries on the basis of the information provided by the authors. In cases where editors decline a full submission, authors are still free to submit through our [online submission system](#) so that editors have an opportunity to evaluate the paper in full. Papers invited after a presubmission inquiry may be rejected without review once the editors have had a chance to consider the paper in its entirety.

Initial submission

Papers should be submitted via the [online submission system](#). Each new submission is assigned to a primary editor, who reads the paper, consults with the other editors, and decides whether it should be sent for peer review. The author should identify whether the work described in the manuscript has been discussed with a specific *Nature Photonics* editor before submission.

Like other journals in the *Nature* family, *Nature Photonics* has no external editorial board. However, if a paper's importance within the field is unclear, an editor may request advice from outside experts in deciding whether to review it. The novelty of a submitted paper is considered to be compromised if it has significant conceptual overlap with a published paper or one accepted for publication by *Nature Photonics*. Preprint archives do not compromise novelty.

If a paper was previously reviewed at another *Nature* journal, the authors can use an automated manuscript transfer service to transfer the referees' reports to *Nature Photonics* via a link sent by the editor who handled the manuscript. In that case, the journal editors will take the previous reviews into account when making their decision, although in some cases the editors may choose to take advice from additional or alternative referees. Alternatively, authors may choose to request a fresh review, in which case they should not use the automated transfer link, and the editors will evaluate the paper without reference to the previous review process. However, this decision must be made at the time of initial submission and cannot be changed later.

If the authors ask the editors to consider the previous reviews, they should include a note explaining the relationship between the submitted

manuscript and the previous submission and (assuming it has been revised in light of the referees' criticisms) giving a point-by-point response to the referees. In cases where the work was felt to be of high quality, papers can sometimes be accepted without further review, but if there were serious criticisms, the editors will consider them in making the decision. In the event of publication, the received date is the date of submission to *Nature Photonics*.

Peer review

The corresponding author is notified by e-mail when the editor decides to send a paper for review. Authors may suggest referees; these suggestions are often helpful, although they are not always followed. By policy, referees are not identified to the authors, except at the request of the referee.

Conceptually similar manuscripts are held to the same editorial standards as far as possible, and so they are often sent to the same referees. However, each of the co-submitted manuscripts must meet the criteria for publication without reference to the other paper. Thus if one paper is substantially less complete or convincing than the other, it may be rejected, even if the papers reach the same conclusion.

Decision after review and revision

When making a decision after review, editors consider not only how good the paper is now, but also how good it might become after revision. In cases where the referees have requested well-defined changes to the manuscript that do not appear to require extensive further experiments, editors may request a revised manuscript that addresses the referees' concerns. The revised version is normally sent back to some or all of the original referees for re-review. The decision letter will specify a deadline (typically a few weeks), and revisions that are returned within this period will retain their original submission date.

In cases where the referees' concerns are more wide-ranging, editors will normally reject the manuscript. If the editors feel the work is of potential interest to the journal, however, they may express interest in seeing a future resubmission. The resubmitted manuscript may be sent back to the original referees or to new referees, at the editors' discretion. In such cases, revised manuscripts will not retain their earlier submission date.

In either case, the revised manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter that includes a point-by-point response to referees' comments and an explanation of how the manuscript has been changed.

An invited revision should be submitted via the revision link to the [online submission system](#) provided in the decision letter, not as a new manuscript.

Final submission and acceptance

A request for final submission is sent when the paper is nearly ready to publish, possibly requiring some text changes but no revisions to the data or conclusions. These letters are accompanied by detailed comments on the paper's format from the copy editor. At this stage, authors may receive an extensively edited manuscript from the editor indicating editorial concerns that must be addressed

in the revision. A high priority of *Nature Photonics* is that all papers be accessible to nonspecialists. Manuscripts are subject to substantial editing to achieve this goal. After acceptance, a copy editor may make further changes so that the text and figures are readable and clear to those outside the field, and so that papers conform to our style. *Nature Photonics* uses Oxford English spelling.

For the final revision, authors should use the revision link to the [online submission system](#) provided in the decision letter to upload a final version of the text with all the requested format changes. Electronic files of the final figures, at high resolution, should be sent separately on disk or via ftp.

When all remaining editorial issues are resolved, the paper is formally accepted. The received date is the date on which the editors received the original (or if previously rejected, the resubmitted) manuscript. The accepted date is when the editor sends the acceptance letter.

Contributors are sent proofs and are welcome to discuss proposed changes with the editors, but *Nature Photonics* reserves the right to make the final decision about matters of style and the size of figures.

Appeals

Even in cases where editors did not invite resubmission, some authors ask the editors to reconsider a rejection decision. These are considered appeals, which, by policy, must take second place to the normal workload. In practice, this means that decisions on appeals often take several weeks.

Decisions are reversed on appeal only if the editors are convinced that the original decision was a serious mistake, not merely a borderline call that could have gone either way. Further consideration may be merited if a referee made substantial errors of fact or showed evidence of bias, but only if a reversal of that referee's opinion would have changed the original decision. Similarly, disputes on factual issues need not be resolved unless they were critical to the outcome. Thus, after careful consideration of the authors' points, most appeals are rejected by the editors.

If an appeal merits further consideration, the editors may send the authors' response or the revised paper to one or more referees, or they may ask one referee to comment on the concerns raised by another referee. On occasion, particularly if the editors feel that additional technical expertise is needed to make a decision, they may obtain advice from an additional referee.

Contact the Journal

General editorial enquiries and correspondence

should be addressed to the Editor at naturephoton@nature.com.

Enquiries about the status of a manuscript

should be addressed to the Editorial Assistant at naturephoton@nature.com.

Submissions

Manuscripts should be submitted through our [online submission system](#) at mts-nphot.nature.com: see the

How to Submit section above for a [general guide to manuscript preparation and submission](#). Please do not send complete manuscripts by e-mail unless specifically requested. Receipt of submitted manuscripts will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Presubmission inquiries

Please send inquiries via our [online submission system](#) at mts-nphot.nature.com, designating them as presubmission inquiries as requested on the form.

Other information

Information about the following topics can be found at www.nature.com/nphoton/contact/:

- If you wish to advertise in the journal or on our website.
- If you wish to advertise jobs or events.
- [If you wish to subscribe](#).
- [If you have questions about an existing subscription](#).
- If you need [technical support](#).