

INFORMATION FOR CONTEMPORARY PHYSICS BOOK REVIEWERS

About the Journal

Contemporary Physics publishes unique, high quality review articles on important recent developments in physics. The papers are specially commissioned from experts in their field, and are essential reading for any serious physical scientist from student to experienced researcher. Each paper gives a comprehensive review of the current state of the subject and places it within a broader context of industrial and research possibilities and applications. **Contemporary Physics** also contains a major section in each issue devoted to substantive reviews of books of interest in physics.

The articles and reviews in Contemporary Physics are aimed at a wide audience including students, academics and physicists working in an industrial environment. Many of the books that we handle are rather specialised and a review will, of necessity, be directed to a minority. However, we are anxious that, wherever possible, the interests of the wider category of reader be met and it would be most appreciated if you could bear this in mind when preparing a review.

Prospective Book Reviewers

If you would like to become a Contemporary Physics book reviewer and be added to the Reviewer database, please apply online via the '**Become a Book Reviewer**' application form. Please follow the 'Books for Review' link on the Contemporary Physics homepage, <http://www.informaworld.com/CP>, and then select the option to become a Book Reviewer. You will be asked to complete your contact details and research interests on the form that appears next. Once submitted, you will be advised of the status of your application by e-mail. These details will not be passed on to any third parties.

Types of Book Reviews

There are three different types of book reviews:

- A **Short Review** is unattributed, generally having a length of only 100-200 words.
- **Regular** (or standard) **Reviews** have in general a length of between 400 and 750 words (say 1 – 2 sides of A4). However, it may be appropriate for the review to be longer for books with a broad appeal. Similarly, highly specialised books (e.g. conference proceedings) may only warrant around 300 words.

An **Essay Review** discusses a book or area which has a very wide appeal. Reviews of this type are typically 2000-3000 words long and of a level that is broadly comparable with the general, full length articles that appear in the journal. They give more opportunity to discuss general aspects of a field than is possible with a standard review. Examples of past essay reviews are available ([essay1](#), [essay2](#), [essay3](#)).

Please include the Scope (e.g. textbook, monograph, reference, etc) and Level (e.g. general reader, undergraduate, postgraduate, specialist, etc) at the top of your review.

Preparation of Book Reviews

Objectives

The objectives of the book review section are:

- (1) To give an appropriate assessment of recently published books of interest to physicists;
- (2) To gain the interest of the readership in the subject matter of the books;
- (3) To indicate what value there may be in purchasing such books.

The book review section is an important part of the journal and we publish reviews of typically 200 books each year.

Style

Book reviews should be informative, but not dull. Where necessary, essential information should be given (such as intended readership, contents and scope) but chapter headings or names of contributors should not be listed as such.

No matter how short, reviews should always be more than an abstract of the contents. Please attempt to write around the subject, personalities or ideas involved (particularly in Essay reviews), but at the same time try to convey the flavour of the book and to include a critical evaluation of how well the author(s) or editor(s) have succeeded in their task. It may be of value to comment on the general quality of production of a book, but lists of minor typographical errors are not constructive and can be merely annoying to the reader.

Proceedings of conferences or symposia can be especially difficult to review. Often it is possible only to discuss in general the "state of the art" and pick out some high points in the book.

Please bear in mind that Contemporary Physics is an international journal, and that parochialisms can be irritating to readers in other countries.

"This book..." is regularly used as an opening to a book review, but should be avoided if possible.

Electronic Submission of Book Reviews

Contemporary Physics uses the online submission system Manuscript Central where the book reviews can be uploaded, submitted and managed, <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tcph>. Once a prospective book reviewer's application is accepted, they will be sent an e-mail with login information that will enable them to upload reviews. Manuscript Central is quick and easy to use and has a number of online guides which take the book reviewers through the system step-by-step. You will need Adobe Acrobat viewer in order to view the pdfs. The Book Review Editor's decision is final.

Publication

Reviews should be acknowledged within 2 months of their receipt in the Production Department, as all the reviews for one issue of the journal are processed together. Publication then follows within 4-6 months. You should receive copies of the published review at that stage.

Please feel free to contact the Book Reviews Editor at any point if you need more details.

Many thanks for your help.

Dr Peter Török

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