

EDITORIAL

Rules

Ever since our first imposition of explicit limitations on the length of papers that can be considered for publication in Physical Review Letters, there have been some ambiguities of interpretation and inaccuracies in application. We feel, therefore, that it will be helpful if we present another statement of them, worded as clearly and carefully as possible, together with some added comments that may aid in their use.

(1) All material to be set in type, including references, figure captions, and any table which is estimated to take up no more than one-quarter of a printed page, as well as the main text, must be typed double spaced, that is, not closer than three lines to the inch. Large or complex tables, intended for direct photographic reproduction, may be single-spaced. (Note: On typewriters equipped with half-line ratchets, the No. 2 position of the line-spacing lever produces $1\frac{1}{2}$ -spacing rather than true double spacing; this is not acceptable.)

(2) The entire paper must be of such a length as to occupy no more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ journal pages. For the purpose of estimating the length of a paper, use should be made of the fact that one journal page contains about 800 words of solid text. (This replaces the old conversion factor of $3\frac{1}{3}$ typescript pages per journal page, which was inaccurate even for standard "pica" type and was seriously in error for "elite" type.) Note also that a single-line displayed equation that fits within the width of one column is the equivalent of about fourteen words of text; if it contains a built-up fraction, this increases to 21 words, and if it must be continued to a second line, up to 42 words; an equation that must be spread across two columns takes space equivalent to a minimum of 42 words.

(3) For papers reporting new experimental results, the number and size of figures and tables is not restricted apart from the restrictions on overall length. We take this opportunity to announce a relaxation in the corresponding rule for any other paper: There may be unlimited figures, but not more than two tables. In any case, we strongly discourage presentation of data in both tabular and graphical form. When the data lend themselves to graphical display, it is highly preferable; the precise tabulation should appear in the follow-up Article.

(4) For every paper containing extratextual material, the author must provide an