

Reviews of Modern Physics Style Guide

IX. STYLE OF REFERENCES

Reviews of Modern Physics arranges the reference sections of its papers alphabetically by author. This enables the reader to scan the list of references easily and to see at a glance when the work of one person or group is represented by several articles.

Since the references are not numbered, citations in the text must identify them by authors' names and year of publication. While some contributors to *RMP* have complained that this form of reference is cumbersome, we believe that it actually saves the reader time by giving the essential information—author and year—where the work is mentioned, thus sparing the reader the effort of turning to the end of the paper to decode each reference number. In a typical review paper, with 200 or more references, this saving becomes nontrivial.

The tools of \LaTeX are again valuable in handling references and can accomplish much of the following formatting automatically. See Sec. IX.E below for information on using \BIBTeX for references. Another option is \LaTeX 's `natbib` package, but this is somewhat less flexible than \BIBTeX and is more useful for shorter articles.

A. Citations in the text

The authors and years of individual references may be cited in the text in several ways, all of which employ parentheses. Here are some examples:

- (1) The object N 157B in the Large Magellanic Cloud shows a filled center and nonthermal spectrum at both radio and x-ray wavelengths (Clark *et al.*, 1982).
- (2) The interested reader will find good discussions of much of this work in Potter (2000), Hockney and Eastwood (2001), and Birdsall and Langdon (2005).
- (3) The field of nonlinear transport, which had been initiated long before by a few pioneer papers (Landau and Kompanejev, 1934; Davydov, 1936, 1937), then entered a period of rapid development.
- (4) The constant C can be obtained from Cohen and Keffer (1955; see also Osheroff *et al.*, 1980, and Roger, 1980).

In example (1), *et al.* has been used, signifying that there are three or more co-authors. Of course, the names of all co-authors will be given in the list of full references at the end of the paper. However, there are cases in which it would be preferable to name the co-authors in

the text as well, for example, if two papers by Clark and co-workers were listed in the references for 1982, one by Clark, Jones, and Smith, and the other by Clark, Lewis, and Jones. These could not be labeled 1982a and 1982b because they are not by the same group.

In example (2), only the year of the reference appears in parentheses. It is unnecessary to repeat the author's name in parentheses when it occurs naturally as part of a sentence.

In example (3), a list of references is given within parentheses. Note that they are arranged chronologically, with the earliest first, and that a semicolon separates one reference from the next.¹ When the list contains more than one work that appeared in the same year, these should be arranged alphabetically by authors' names. Commas separate authors' names from years. When more than one work by the same author is cited, the years are separated by commas. No “and” is used before the last citation.

The relevant \LaTeX commands are `\cite`, for citations in parentheses (as in example 1 above), and `\textcite`, for citations that include the author's name as part of the sentence (as in example 2 above).

Consult \LaTeX documentation for more details on handling citations.

B. Citations in footnotes

We encourage authors to put long lists of references in footnotes if it would be cumbersome and detrimental to the flow of the article to keep them in the text. Of course, single citations are always made in the text. As footnotes should be notes and not just lists, incorporate your list of citations into a sentence, e.g.,

¹For historical background on this problem, see Adams and Withey (2001, 2005), ...

²A number of theorists have proposed alternatives to this model which we shall not discuss here. They include ...

³See, for example, ...

See also section X.B on textual footnotes.

¹ A venerable “bug” in the \REVTeX macros for *RMP* arranges lists of reference citations alphabetically rather than chronologically. Until this can be corrected, we advise our authors not to worry about it. Our compositors know to rearrange such lists.

C. Format of full reference entries

Because *Reviews of Modern Physics* is an archival journal and we know that our bibliographies get heavy use, we attach considerable importance to providing references that are as helpful as possible. To this end we ask our authors to be generous with the information they supply, including names of all co-authors and editors, subtitles of books and conference proceedings, titles of preprints when an article is not yet published, etc. Authors may choose between a standard, short format and a longer format that gives titles of articles and inclusive page numbers. Whichever style is used, all journal entries in the reference section must follow the same format. Examples of both styles are given below.

1. Journal articles

a. Long format

Zutic, Igor, Jaroslav Fabian, and S. Das Sarma, 2004, “Spintronics: Fundamentals and Applications,” *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **76**, 323-410.

b. Short format

Abe, F., *et al.* (CDF Collaboration), 2000, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **84**, 5716.

Barrett, R. F., B. A. Robson, and W. Tobocman, 1983, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **55**, 155; **56**, 567(E).

Berman, P. R., 2004, *Phys. Rev. A* **69**, 022101.

Einstein, A., B. Podolsky, and N. Rosen, 1935, *Phys. Rev.* **47**, 777.

Kobayashi, S., and R. Sari, 2001, *Astrophys. J.* **551**, 934.

The first example shows the longer style, giving both the title of the article, in quotes, and inclusive page numbers. While it is not required, we encourage our authors to provide this information.² The remaining examples are in the shorter style.

Note that only the first author’s name is inverted. Each author’s name is followed by a comma, and the

name of the last author is preceded by “and.” All co-authors are named for papers with ten or fewer co-authors. When there are eleven or more, they may be represented by *et al.* in italics.

The journal volume number is in boldface. When a journal has more than one section (e.g., *Nucl. Phys. A* or *B*), separate the section letter A, B, etc. from the volume number by a space.

The Barrett *et al.* entry shows an original article followed by an erratum that appeared in a later issue. For references requiring more than one line, indent the second and subsequent lines one space. See Appendix B for a list of standard journal abbreviations.

2. Russian journal articles with English journal translations

Maximov, A. V., and V. P. Silin, 1993, *Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz.* **103**, 73 [*JETP* **76**, 39 (1993)].

List the translation journal after the original Russian journal; it is not necessary to say that the second reference is a translation. Enclose the translation reference in square brackets. Since translations sometimes appear in a later year than the original, give the year of the translation in parentheses at the end. When translation and original appear in different years, the citation in the text should be to the earlier of the two, i.e., the original Russian journal.

3. Books

Braunstein, S., and H.-K. Lo, 2000, Eds., *Scalable Quantum Computers – Paving the Way to Realization* (Wiley, Berlin).

Feynman, R. P., and A. R. Hibbs, 1965, *Quantum Mechanics and Path Integrals* (McGraw-Hill, New York).

Guzzo, L., 2002, in *Modern Cosmology*, edited by S. Bonometto, V. Gorini, and U. Moschella (IOP, Bristol), p. 344.

Mathieu, H. J., 1984, in *Thin Film and Depth Profile Analysis*, edited by H. Oeschner, Topics in Current Physics No. 37 (Springer, Berlin), p. 39.

When a book is listed under the name(s) of its editor(s), use the abbreviation Ed. (Eds.) after the year. When the reference is to an article in a collection, use the words “edited by” after the title of the collection, and give the page number of the article at the end. Enclose the names of publishers and cities of publication in parentheses. If the book is published in more than one city, the cities of publication should be separated by

² As of late Spring 2005, the *RMP* style file (apsrmp.bst) for use with $\text{BIB}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ did not support including titles in reference entries. A newer style file, called *apsrmp long.bst*, is available from the *RMP* editors. The longer reference style will become available in future $\text{BIB}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ distributions.

slashes. The words “Press,” “Verlag,” etc. should be omitted from the publisher’s name.

4. Conference proceedings

Lehar, F., 1991, in *Proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on High Energy Spin Physics*, Bonn, edited by K.-H. Althoff and W. Meyer (Springer, Berlin), Vol. 1, p. 113.

Bayanovsky, D., and A. J. de Vega, 2005, in *Magnetic Fields in the Universe: from Laboratory and Stars to Primordial Structures*, Angra dos Reis, Brazil, 2004, AIP Conference Proceedings No. 784, edited by E. M. de Gouveia Dal Pino, German Lugones, and A. Lazarian (AIP, Melville, NY), p. 148.

Matsuoka, N., K. Hatanaka, T. Saito, T. Itahashi, K. Hosono, A. Shimizu, M. Kondo, F. Ohtani, and O. Cynshi, 1983, in *Proceedings of the 1983 RCNP International Symposium on Light Ion Reaction Mechanism*, edited by H. Ogata, T. Kammuri, and I. Katayama (Research Center for Nuclear Physics, Osaka, Japan), p. 527.

The general treatment of proceedings follows that of books. Proceedings, however, can be much more difficult to locate, making it doubly important that you provide the reader with every possible clue. Spell out the whole title, including subtitle, if any, as it appears on the title page. When the proceedings are part of a series, give the series name and number after the title. Be sure to include the name and city of the publisher. If the proceedings are to be published in a special issue of a journal, say so. Do not abbreviate the words “proceedings” and “international.”

If the long style is used for journal article entries giving titles of the articles, it can also be used for proceedings entries, placing the article title after the year and before “in.”

5. Theses, preprints, and other references

Allori, V., 2001, Ph.D. thesis (University of Geneva).

Polchinsky, J., and E. Witten, 1996, “Evidence for Heterotic Type-I String Duality,” hep-th/9510169.

Binette, L., 1984, “Photoionisation models for liners: gas distribution and abundances,” European Southern Observatory Scientific Preprint No. 350.

Cowley, C. E., 2005, Phys. Rev. A (in press).

Wagner, Z., 1994, unpublished.

If a preprint exists, but the paper has not yet been accepted for publication, give the e-print arXiv number.

For the long form, include the preprint title, in quotation marks. Do not say, “submitted to . . .,” “in preparation,” or “to appear.”

When a paper has been accepted by a journal but not yet published, give the journal name followed by “(in press).” Frequently such entries can be updated in proof to include volume and page numbers.

If a preprint of the work is not available, the work should be cited as “unpublished” or “private communication,” with the year. There is no need to add “unpublished” to a thesis or report reference.

D. Order of reference list

The reference section is arranged alphabetically by author. When several works by the same author are included, these are arranged chronologically. When more than one work by the same author is listed in the same year, they are distinguished by labeling the first, say, 1996a, the second 1996b, etc.

If all papers were by single authors, the above guidelines would be sufficient. However, multiple authorship introduces the need for a few further distinctions. Consider the following list:

Smith, G. F., 1987

Smith, G. F., 1990

Smith, G. F., 1996

Smith, G. F., H. T. Dietrich, and W. K. Lee, 1998a

Smith, G. F., H. T. Dietrich, and W. K. Lee, 1998b

Smith, G. F., W. K. Lee, and H. Sorenson, 1998

Smith, G. F., W. K. Lee, and A. T. Washington, 1989

Smith, G. F., and L. M. Young, 1988

All works by Smith as a single author are listed first, in chronological order. The remaining references are arranged alphabetically by surname of the second author (Dietrich, Lee, Young). When the first two authors are the same, alphabetize according to the surnames of the third authors (e.g., Sorenson, Washington).

Two works by the same group in the same year are distinguished by labeling the first 1984a and the second 1984b. The work by Smith, Lee, and Sorenson should not be labeled 1998c, because the makeup of the group is different from that of 1998a and 1998b.

Occasionally the use of a and b is extended to groups of four or more co-authors that are similar but not identical in makeup. This is done to simplify the task of discriminating among several choices or when the alternative would be a cumbersome citation listing all co-authors in the text. Feel free to consult the editorial office about cases for which you think such a bending of the rules might be warranted.

E. Use BIB_TE_X for references

Much of the above formatting can be accomplished automatically through the use of BIB_TE_X, a program that creates a reference list for a given paper based on (a) a master list of references and (b) the citations in the particular paper, which begin with the `\cite` command.

Typically, one will keep a master list of references in one's field of interest, placing them in one `.bib` file. Each entry in this file contains full information on the reference, although not all of it may be called for in the style of one journal or another. Then, as one writes an article, one uses the `\cite` command to cite references from the master list.

Two commands complete the process. At the beginning of the article, in the front matter, one enters the instruction `\bibliographystyle{apsrmp}`. At the point where the reference list is to appear, one inserts `\bibliography`. To compile a L^AT_EX document using BIB_TE_X one must follow the following steps (note that

L^AT_EX must be run twice at the end):

1. Run L^AT_EX: `latex <file>`
2. Run BIB_TE_X: `bibtex <file>`
3. Run L^AT_EX: `latex <file>`
4. Run L^AT_EX: `latex <file>`

When BIB_TE_X runs, it scans the `.bib` file and assembles the cited references. It will automatically format the new list according to the journal style specified. In the above example, `apsrmp` was specified, but other options such as `apspr1` (for *Physical Review Letters*) or `apsprb` (for *Physical Review B*) are available as well.

This is by far the preferred method of constructing a bibliography. For more information, consult BIB_TE_X documentation, either in official L^AT_EX books or on the web, for example, at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BibTeX>.