EDITORIAL: STYLE CHANGES FOR MOST ASTRONOMICAL JOURNALS

Because of the rapid increase in international collaborations in research, individual authors find that they are publishing papers in an ever larger variety of journals. Each journal has its peculiar style requirements. Many of these requirements are due to custom rather than need. For instance, some journals use roman numerals for tables or sections, while others use arabic numerals; either would serve the purpose. Authors and secretaries try to remember and obey these differences in style, but this makes their work more difficult.

The editors of several of the major astronomical journals (A&A, ApJ, MNRAS) met under the auspices of Commission 5 of the IAU to see whether these style differences could be reduced. Surprisingly, they reached agreement quickly on nearly all issues. Each editor relinquished some customary policies in order to achieve greater uniformity of style. The goal was not to make all journals appear the same, but rather to reduce the differences in requirements for the authors.

We list below the set of common requirements that we wish to use, starting early in 1991. Papers submitted after the publication of this editorial should try to conform to these new requirements. Because reviewing times vary, we may accept both the old and the new styles early in 1991; thereafter the copyeditors will make changes according to the new set of requirements. Items 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 represent no changes from the current policies of this *Journal*.

1. Abstracts should be headed ABSTRACT rather than SUMMARY.
2. The affiliations for the research and current postal addresses should be placed on the title page, rather than partly at the end of the manuscript. Affiliations and addresses can be listed under the authors' names (e.g., if the affiliation and the address agree) or in footnotes called for with arabic numerals (e.g., if the current address differs from the affiliations or if the order of the authors would require too much duplication of addresses).
3. Section headings will have arabic numerals rather than roman numerals and letters, e.g., § 4.2.1 rather than § IVb(i).
4. Footnotes on the title page and in the text should be called for with arabic numerals, while footnotes to the tables should be called for with lowercase letters (because numerical superscripts in tables might be confused with exponents).
5. Equations can be numbered consecutively throughout the text or by section number, e.g., equation (57) or equation (4.12), where the latter means "equation (12) of section 4."
6. Tables should be numbered with arabic numerals.
7. In appendices the tables and equations can either continue with the previous numbering sequence or begin a new sequence, e.g., Table 5 or Table A1.
8. Delete all vertical lines in tables and all horizontal ones except those defining the headings and the end of the table.
9. Figures (graphs) containing quantitative information, i.e., not merely schematic, should have four borders each and fiducial marks along all four to allow readers to derive numbers more easily.
10. In the citation of references within the text, (1) for one author use no comma, e.g., Brown 1986; (2) for two authors use an ampersand, e.g., Brown & Jones 1984; and (3) for three or more authors use "et al.," e.g., Brown et al. 1982, except that this *Journal* will continue to include all the names in three-author references the first time they are cited.
11. In reference lists forgo paper titles and closing page numbers. We realize that these provide useful information, but with 60,000 references per year in this *Journal*, these additions would take too much space (and time in manuscript preparation).
12. For conference proceedings give the conference number, title, and editor.
13. For monographs (books) give only the publisher's city if the country is obvious. Some obvious abbreviations (e.g., Univ., Inc.) are acceptable.
14. For journal papers in reference lists, eliminate all boldface, italics, underlining, colons, and semicolons. Instead, depend upon position in the sequence for identification: names (family name first), year, journal name, volume, and page, e.g., Brown, A. B., and Jones, C. D. 1984, AJ, 89, 472 (with no closing period). In cases of possible confusion, add words or abbreviations, e.g., Ser. A, No. 6, as needed for clarity.
15. Use the IAU system of abbreviations (as given in the IAU Style Manual in *Trans. IAU*, Vol. 20B) for journals outside of astronomy. However, this *Journal* and several others will use acronyms for the well-known astronomical journals, e.g., A&A, A&AS, AJ, ApJ, ApJS, ARA&A, Ap&SS, AZh, BAAS, JRASC, MNRAS, MmRAS, PASJ, PASP, QJRAS, S&T. This list will evolve with time and usage, and an explanation of the abbreviations will be published in the Instructions to Authors. These acronyms are also being adopted in some data bases—hence the avoidance of punctuation. Note that in the spirit of the acronyms used throughout astronomy and in journal papers, the representations are arbitrary and not unique, e.g., "A" can represent astronomy, astrophysics, American, annual, etc., while "S" can represent space, society, Soviet, supplements, etc.

We ask for your patience and cooperation during the transition of styles, and we thank the many people involved in the planning and conversion, especially Dr. George A. Wilkins, President of IAU Commission 5, who organized the deliberations, and the other editors.

HELMUT A. ABT
Managing Editor