

GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORS

Articles

Articles are contributions up to 8000 words containing original scientific research.

Reports

Reports are short, letter-style contributions (up to 2500 words), which are published rapidly. Preliminary and more speculative work of high quality is strongly encouraged.

Both articles and reports should be written for audiences in a wide range of disciplines.

Reviews

Reviews are articles of the highest quality and aim to be of interest to communities working at the physical sciences–life sciences interface. Reviews cover the latest developments in an area of cross-disciplinary research. They put such research into a broader context and are written in a style that makes them accessible to readers in a wide range of disciplines. Reviews are normally published by invitation; however, we are also keen to receive proposals for prospective articles. Complete literature surveys are not encouraged.

Selection criteria

The review process will give equal weighting to sciences on both sides of the interface. The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and potential interest to a wide spectrum of scientists. All papers are peer-reviewed to a high standard and published rapidly under the control of the Editor and his distinguished Editorial Board.

Topics

Interface welcomes articles on a diverse range of topics including, but not limited to

- biocomplexity
- biocomputation
- bioengineering
- bioinformatics
- biomaterials
- biomechanics
- bionanoscience
- biophysics
- chemical biology
- medical physics
- synthetic biology
- systems biology
- theoretical biology
- tissue engineering

Conditions of publication

Papers must not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The Editor has final authority in all matters relating to publication.

Electronic submission details

The Royal Society's electronic-submission and peer-review service provides *Interface* authors with the facility to submit their papers online. The service allows you to upload files in a reliable and user-friendly way, using a Web-based system. When your paper is received, an immediate acknowledgement is sent that details how you can track your contribution online.

Visit rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org for further details.

The Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is at the cutting edge of scientific progress. We support many top young scientists, engineers and technologists, influence science policy, debate scientific issues with the public and much more. We are an independent, charitable body and derive our authoritative status from over 1400 Fellows and Foreign Members.

During 2010, we are celebrating the Royal Society's 350th anniversary. As part of this, there will be an exciting programme of activities – exhibitions, lectures, conferences, a new book, a vast science festival on the South Bank in London, television and radio broadcasting and much more besides.

Our mission: to expand knowledge and further the role of science and engineering in making the world a better place.

The Royal Society's strategic priorities are to:

- invest in future scientific leaders and in innovation,
- influence policymaking with the best scientific advice,
- invigorate science and mathematics education,
- increase access to the best science internationally, and
- inspire an interest in the joy, wonder and excitement of scientific discovery.

For further information on the Society's activities, please contact the following departments on the extensions listed by dialling +44 (0)20 7839 5561, or visit the Society's Web site (www.royalsociety.org).

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Research appointments: 2547

Research grants: 2539

Conference grants: 2540

Science Advice

General enquiries: 2585

Science Communication

General enquiries: 2572

International Exchanges (for grants enabling research visits between the UK and most other countries (except the USA))

General enquiries: 2550

Library and Information Services

Library/archive enquiries: 2606

Cover image: A tensegrity robot consisting of four rigid tubes and thirty-two strings. Tensegrities retain structural stability through a synergy of compressive forces in the tubes and tensile forces in the strings. The complex dynamics that emerge from this "pre-stress stability" allow for some novel and clever forms of locomotion and control. (See pages 613 – 621, Rieffel *et al.* Photograph taken by Jonathan Hiller from Cornell University).