

AN APOLOGY FROM THE FORMER ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Daniel V. Schroeder

Citation: [American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 405 (2017); doi: 10.1119/1.4981790

View online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1119/1.4981790>

View Table of Contents: <http://aapt.scitation.org/toc/ajp/85/6>

Published by the [American Association of Physics Teachers](#)

Articles you may be interested in

[2017 Oersted Medal Presentation: The changing face of physics and the students who take physics](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 409 (2017); 10.1119/1.4980008

[Deep learning for teaching university physics to computers](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 311 (2017); 10.1119/1.4977792

[A quantitative analysis of the chain fountain](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 414 (2017); 10.1119/1.4980071

[A Student's Guide to Python for Physical Modeling](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 399 (2017); 10.1119/1.4973375

[Rotating and rolling rigid bodies and the “hairy ball” theorem](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 447 (2017); 10.1119/1.4979343

[Deconstructing Cosmology](#)
[American Journal of Physics](#) **85**, 478 (2017); 10.1119/1.4975074



American Association of **Physics Teachers**

Explore the **AAPT Career Center** – access hundreds of physics education and other STEM teaching jobs at two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

<http://jobs.aapt.org>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The downloaded PDF for any Letter in this section contains all the Letters in this section.

Letters are selected for their expected interest for our readers. Some letters are sent to reviewers for advice; some are accepted or declined by the editor without review. Letters must be brief and may be edited, subject to the author's approval of significant changes. Although some comments on published articles and notes may be appropriate as letters, most such comments are reviewed according to a special procedure and appear, if accepted, in the Notes and Discussions section. (See the "Statement of Editorial Policy" at <http://ajp.dickinson.edu/edPolicy.html>.) Running controversies among letter writers will not be published.

AN APOLOGY FROM THE FORMER ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This year my dean, for the first time ever, required all the science faculty to report the impact factor of each journal in which we had published a paper.

When I saw this requirement it hit me: Our little regional university is undoubtedly the last to catch up with this trend. The vast majority of AJP's authors have surely been under the thumbs of bean-counting administrators¹ for many years. And that means I owe those authors an apology.

You see, throughout my recent five-year stint as AJP's associate editor, and my many years as a reviewer² before that, I just never understood that the criterion for accepting a paper should be not whether other *readers* will use it, but whether other *authors* will cite it.³ Similarly, I never realized that AJP should expect its authors to cite as many other AJP papers as possible—relevant or not⁴—in order to help our

other authors run up their citation counts and h-indexes. Preferably these citations should be to papers published within the previous two years,⁵ so they'll count toward AJP's all-important impact factor.

I sincerely apologize to all AJP authors whose careers have been held back by my thoughtlessness.

Daniel V. Schroeder
 Weber State University
 Ogden, Utah 84408

¹Just as AJP itself has been under the thumbs of bean-counting librarians, as described by D. P. Jackson, "Appropriate journal use in the modern age," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(1), 5–6 (2016).

²Please take note, all reviewers listed in D. P. Jackson and D. V. Schroeder, "AJP reviewers," *Am. J. Phys.* **83**(12), 989–990 (2015); and D. P. Jackson, "AJP reviewers," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(12), 901–902 (2016).

³For instance, AJP really should publish fewer regular papers and more of its highly citable Resource Letters, such as B. W. Dreyfus, B. D. Geller, D. E. Meltzer, and V. Sawtelle, "Resource letter TTSM-1: Teaching thermodynamics and statistical mechanics in introductory

physics, chemistry, and biology," *Am. J. Phys.* **83**(1), 5–21 (2015); D. T. Jacobs, "Resource letter SOP-1: Self-organizing physics," *Am. J. Phys.* **83**(8), 680–687 (2015); D. N. Baker and L. J. Lanzerotti, "Resource letter SW-1: Space weather," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(3), 166–180 (2016); F. W. Strauch, "Resource letter QI-1: Quantum information," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(7), 495–507 (2016); B. C. Reed, "Resource letter MP-3: The Manhattan project and related nuclear research," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(10), 734–745 (2016); and M. C. Goodman, "Resource letter ANP-1: Advances in neutrino physics," *Am. J. Phys.* **84**(12), 907–916 (2016). However, it would be best if all future Resource Letters cite only articles in AJP itself. It does not serve this journal's interest to pump up the impact factors of other journals.

⁴And it can't possibly hurt to cite a paper by the editor himself, such as D. P. Jackson, D. Mertens, and B. J. Pearson, "Hurricane balls: A rigid-body-motion project for undergraduates," *Am. J. Phys.* **83**(11), 959–968 (2015).

⁵More precisely, within the two calendar years preceding the year of publication, so there's still time to cite A. Schetnikov, V. Matiunin, and V. Chernov, "Conical shape of frozen water droplets," *Am. J. Phys.* **83**(1), 36–38 (2015), but it's too early to bother citing T. Opatrný, L. Richterek, and P. Bakala, "Life under a black sun," *Am. J. Phys.* **85**(1), 14–22 (2017).

MAKE YOUR ONLINE MANUSCRIPTS COME ALIVE

If a picture is worth a thousand words, videos or animation may be worth a million. If you submit a manuscript that includes an experiment or computer simulation, why not make a video clip of the experiment or an animation of the simulation. These files can be placed on the Supplementary Material server with a direct link from your manuscript. In addition, video files can be directly linked to the online version of your article, giving readers instant access to your movies and adding significant value to your article.

See <http://ajp.dickinson.edu/Contributors/EPAPS.html> for more information.