How to Write and Publish a Research Paper in Chemical Engineering Fields

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25th SEPTEMBER 2021

Manuscript Preparation

Types of Scientific Writing

Research/Technical Paper

- Document that describes the process, progress, or results of technical or scientific research.
- 3000 – 8000 words (6-8 Figures, 1-3 Tables)

Review Paper

- Previous literature written in a narrative way about the state of the art in a field
- Normally NOT exceed 12000 words and 20 Figures (18 journal pages)

Letter or Short Communication

- Short descriptions of current research findings which are considered as urgent
- Normally NOT more than 2500 - 3000 words and 4 - 7 Figures & Tables (depends on Journal)

Proceeding

- Collection of research articles that are published in the context of an academic conference

Book Chapter

- Chapter in book

General structure of a research article

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords

informative, attractive, effective

How do you search for a paper?

Main Text

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results and
- Discussion

Make sure each section fulfills its purpose clearly and concisely

- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting materials

The process of writing – building the article

Title and abstract

Conclusion **Introduction**

Methods **Results** **Discussion**

Figures/Tables (your data)

Title

- Concise (**NOT** more than 12 words) and informative
- Simple and brief statement but **NOT** a sentence
- Reflect the investigation
- Avoid abbreviations, acronyms and formula (if POSSIBLE)
- Don’t use question words

Abstract

- Word limit: 150 – 250 words
- 1 paragraph only
- Self-contained (**MUST** be able to stand alone)
- The abstract should **INCLUDE**:
    1. Objective, scope or significance of the study
    2. Method (research design, procedure or simulation)
    3. Most **IMPORTANT** results
    4. Conclusions and recommendation or practical applications (If APPLICABLE)
- Abstract should **NOT** include: Diagrams & Tables, References, Abbreviations, Footnotes & Equations
- Do **NOT** use general words such as “high”, “low” and “small”. Results should be specific in terms of values (e.g.: specific values of conversion, yield and selectivity).

Abstract: Example

Synthesis of silver nanoparticles in green binary solvent for degradation of 2,4-D herbicide: Optimization and kinetic studies

A B S T R A C T

In this study, well-dispersed and diminutive Ag nanoparticles have been successfully synthesized in binary solvent of *Orthosiphon stamineus* (OS) leaves extract and ionic liquids (ILs) via electrochemical method. ILs namely [BMIM Tf_2N], [BMIM BF_4] and [EMIM $EtSO_4$] were used as solvent in the synthesis process to produce Ag_{Tf2N}, Ag_{BF4}, and Ag_{EtSO4}. The characterization of Ag nanoparticles revealed that the particle size of the silver nanoparticles can be easily altered depending on the size of IL alkyl chain and anion, to produce ultrafine particles ranging from 8 to 25 nm. Meanwhile, the photocatalytic activity of Ag_{Tf2N} nanoparticles effectively degraded the highest amount of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) herbicide at 65.61%. The optimized model gave high removal percentage of 2,4-D at 97.80% (pH = 3.24; catalyst dosage = 0.009 g/L; 2,4-D concentration = 8.15 mg L^{-1}) with validation experiments of 1.28% error. Investigation of kinetic reaction showed the applicability of pseudo-first order kinetic to the process of 2,4-D degradation ($R^2 > 0.98$) which positively predicted the constant elimination amount of 2,4-D throughout the photocatalytic process. Overall, the studies construed the crucial role of binary solvent in synthesizing and controlling the size of Ag nanoparticles for pollutant degradation.

Aim

Method

Important Result & discussion

Conclusion

Kamarudin, N. S., Jusoh, R., Jalil, A. A., Setiabudi, H. D., & Sukor, N. F. (2020). *Chemical Engineering Research and Design*, *159*, 300-314.

Abstract: Example

Facile synthesis of tunable dendritic fibrous SBA-15 (DFSBA-15) with radial wrinkle structure

A B S T R A C T

In this study, typical mesoporous hexagonal rod-typed SBA-15 was successfully transformed into spherical shape with additional dendrimers, namely Dendritic Fibrous SBA-15 (DFSBA-15) by employing microwave-assisted microemulsion system. Physiochemical properties of DFSBA-15 were greatly influenced by aging temperature, urea/TEOS ratio, co-surfactant types, and aging time. It was found that the co-surfactant types were insignificant in controlling the pore size, while the aging conditions (temperature and time) were significant in controlling the fiber density. The analysis results (XRD, N_2 physisorption, FTIR, and TEM) confirmed the optimal conditions for DFSBA-15 synthesis were at aging temperature of 100 °C, urea/TEOS ratio of 0.5, *n*-butanol as co-surfactant, and aging time of 12 h. The as-synthesized optimized DFSBA-15 was compared with the conventional SBA-15 via XRD, N_2 physisorption, FTIR, CO_2-TPD, NH_3-TPD, TGA, TEM, and FESEM-EDX. As compared, DFSBA-15 rendered vast accessibility to the adsorption sites, higher basicity (≈86% enhancement) and acidity (≈66% enhancement), abundant siliceous framework and higher thermal stability (≈19% enhancement), owing to its radially oriented pores which elongated to the outer surface from the nucleus of its sphere. The outcome of this study anticipated the wide applications of DFSBA-15 in catalysis and biomedical fields by revealing the facile protocols of optimal DFSBA-15 synthesis.

Aim

Method

Important Result & discussion

Conclusion

Chong, C. C., Bukhari, S. N., Cheng, Y. W., Setiabudi, H. D., Teh, L. P., & Jalil, A. A. (2020). *Microporous and Mesoporous Materials*, *294*, 109872.

Keywords

- 3-6 keywords
- Should complement the keywords in the title
- Use only established abbreviations (e.g. DNA)
- Avoid using “and”, “of”

Example

Title: Greenhouse gas mitigation and hydrogen generation via enhanced ethylene glycol dry reforming on La-promoted Co/Al_2O_3 catalyst

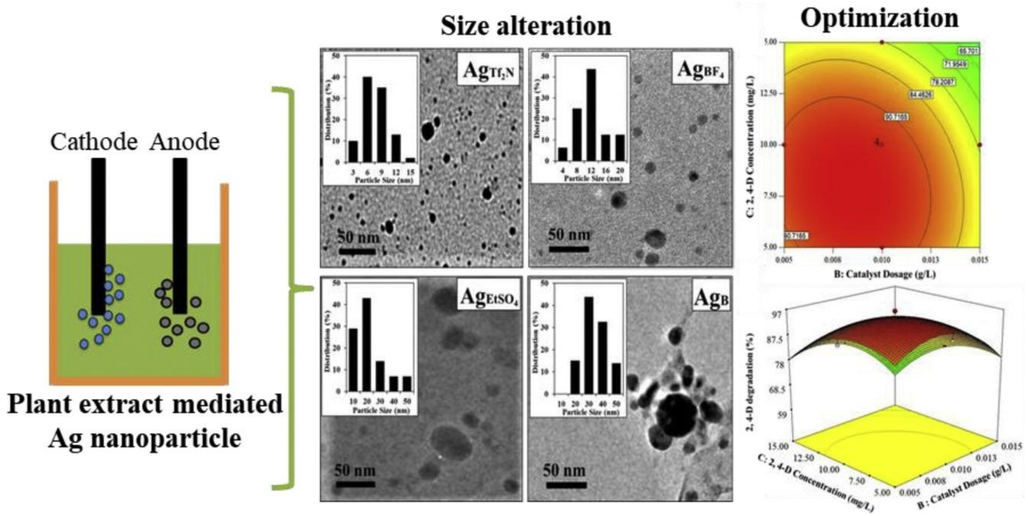
Keywords: Ethylene glycol; Cobalt; La promoter; CO_2 conversion; Hydrogen

Jun, L. N., Bahari, M. B., Setiabudi, H. D., Jalil, A. A., & Vo, D. V. N. (2021). Process Safety and Environmental Protection, 150, 356-364.

Graphical Abstract

- Summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership online.
- Optional or Compulsory depending on journals

Examples



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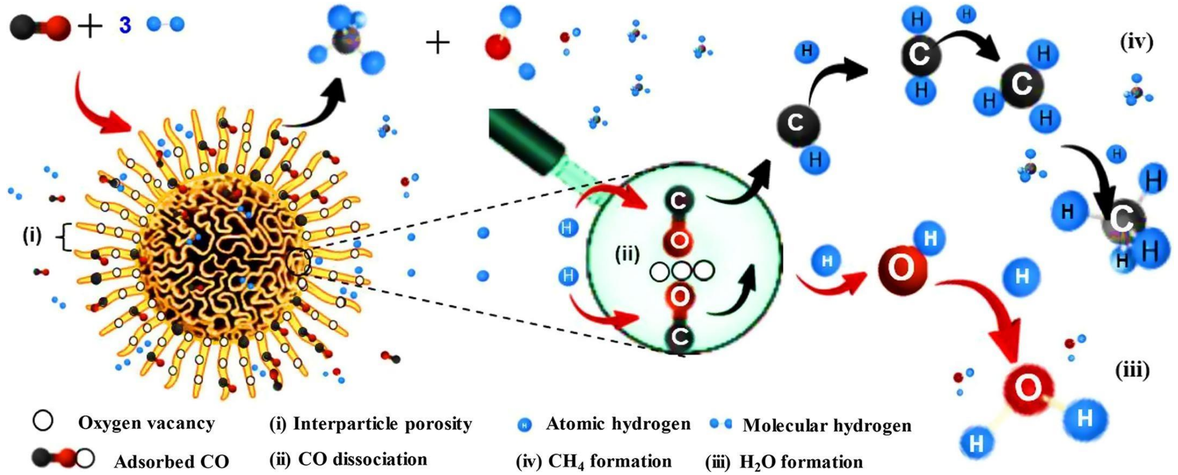


Hussain, I., Jalil, A. A., Fatah, N. A. A., Hamid, M. Y. S., Ibrahim, M., Aziz, M. A. A., & Setiabudi, H. D. (2020). *Energy Conversion and Management*, *211*, 112754.

Research Highlights

- 3 to 5 bullet points (about 85 characters per bullet point)
- Result-oriented points (main findings)
- Cover qualitative and quantitative findings

Examples

Article title	Research Highlights
Coke-resistant Y_2O_3-promoted cobalt supported on mesoporous alumina for enhanced hydrogen production	• 3%Y–10%Co/MA exhibited small particle size, high dispersion, and high oxygen vacancy. • Activity: 3%Y–10%Co/MA > 2%Y–10%Co/MA > 5%Y–10%Co/MA > 1%Y–10%Co/MA > 10%Co/MA. • Highest activity of 3%Y–10%Co/MA credited to its favorable physicochemical properties. • Excess amount of Y_2O_3 loading (>3%) covers the active site, thus lowering catalytic activity.

Bahari, M. B., Setiabudi, H. D., Nishino, T., Ayas, N., & Vo, D. V. N. (2021). *Journal of the Energy Institute*, *94*, 272-284.

Introduction

- Provide a brief context to the readers or background of study
- Address the problem based on literature (within 5-10 years)
- Finding the **GAP** in literature
- Identify the solutions and limitations
- Introduce your work (highlight the novelty and importance)
- Offer clear hypothesis and proposed solution

Note: Introduction should not be longer than 10% of the total length of the manuscript. Should NOT add results, discussion or conclusion.

Introduction: Writing Style

Synopsis of literature:

- Previous studies have reported
- Recent evidence suggests that
- Author X reported / found that
- Recent study conducted by Author X showed that

Establishing the importance of the topic:

- X is a fundamental property of ….
- X plays an important role in the maintenance of ….
- X has been considered as a promising approach …

Highlighting a problem:

- However, a major problem with this kind of application is ….
- However, X may suffer from …
- There is an increasing concern about …

Methods

- Describe how the problem was studied
- Include detailed information to ensure the experimental procedure can be reproduced. May include flowchart, experimental set-up, table of experimental conditions, equation/formula
- Do not describe previously published procedures
  - Cite methods and note any changes to the protocol
- Identify the equipment and describe materials used

Methods: Example

"SBA-15 support was prepared by the dissolution of about 16 g of triblock-poly(ethylene glycol)-block-poly(propylene glycol)-block-poly(ethylene glycol), commonly known as Pluronic® P-123 ($EO_{20}PO_{70}EO_{20}$ with an average molecular weight of 5800 purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemicals) in 416 mL of 2 M HCl solution (with pH of about 1) at 303 K. The white mixture was rigorously stirred at 1000 rev min^{-1} for 2 h followed by the dropwise addition of 32 g of tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS supplied by Merck Millipore). The resulting mixture was further stirred thoroughly for 24 h at 310 K. The precipitated powder was subsequently filtered out and rinsed with deionized water. After being dried in an oven at 373 K overnight, it was calcined in stagnant air at 823 K for 6 h in the same oven with a ramping rate of 2 K min^{-1} to obtain SBA-15 support."

"The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area measurement for both SBA-15 support, and 10%Ni/SBA-15 catalyst was performed in a Micromeritics ASAP-2010 apparatus employing N_2 adsorption and desorption isotherms data at 77 K. The aforementioned BET measurement was performed after the samples were degassed in N_2 flow at 573 K for 1 h for eliminating residual moisture and volatile impurity. The Rigaku Miniflex II system using Cu monochromatic X-ray radiation (with wavelength, λ of 1.5418 Å) was employed for measuring X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of both fresh and spent catalysts at 30 kV and 15 mA. Moderately small step size of 0.02^o and scan speed of 1^o min^{-1} were implemented in order to obtain a high resolution throughout the scanning within the range of $2\theta = 3^o$-80^o."

Omoregbe, O., Danh, H. T., Nguyen-Huy, C., Setiabudi, H. D., Abidin, S. Z., Truong, Q. D., & Vo, D. V. N. (2017). *international journal of hydrogen energy*, *42*(16), 11283-11294.

Results & Discussion

Results

- Be clear and easy to understand
- Provide ONLY meaningful data
- Include illustrations and figures

Figures and Tables

- Easy to read – maximize space
- Consistent formatting between figures
- Raw data should NOT be included (BUT provide analyzed or calculated data)
- Self-explanatory captions and legends – clear take home point

Discussion

- Critical interpretation of results
- Make the discussion correspond to the results
- Do not make statements unsupported by your data.
- Compare your results with the published results

Results & Discussion: Writing Style

- Stating the results:
  - ✓ Figure X shows …
  - ✓ As seen in Table Y, …
  - ✓ (cf. Figure X) or (see Figure X) or (as shown in Figure X) or (referring to Figure X)
- Describe the results
- Explain the meaning of results
  - ✓ Provide supporting references
  - ✓ Your own explanation suggested or ideas (may NOT need references BUT NOT too much)
- Relate or compare your findings with literature
  - ✓ are consistent with / in agreement with / in line with …
  - ✓ agree with / confirm / corroborate / match / support

Results & Discussion: Example

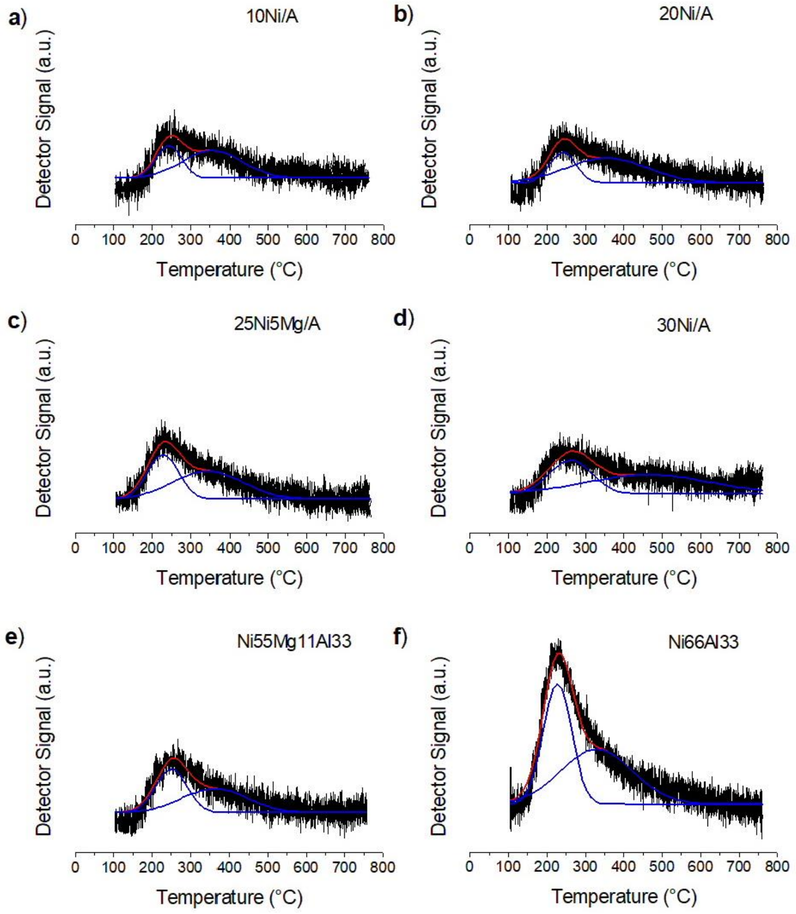


Table 2
Deconvolution of NH_3-TPD profiles for all the samples.

Catalyst	Temperature (°C)		Relative fraction of the total sites (%)		Total acids sites (μmol/g_{cat})
	1st peak	2nd peak	Weak acids sites	Medium acids sites	
10Ni/A	244	355	33.9	66.1	198
20Ni/A	242	357	28.6	71.4	234
25Ni5Mg/A	229	343	41.9	58.1	267
30Ni/A	263	466	37.4	62.6	320
Ni55Mg11Al33	250	362	47.0	53.0	245
Ni66Al33	227	330	46.4	53.6	606

The deconvolution results are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. The results of the deconvolution show two overlapped peaks, indicating two types of sites. The first peak, centered at 220–250 °C, is attributed to weak acid sites, whereas the second peak at temperatures above 300 °C may be related to the moderate acid sites. Among the impregnated samples, it is observed that the amount of total acid sites as well as their acid strength increase as the Ni content increases. The first and second peak temperatures were 244 and 355 °C, respectively, for 10Ni/A, and then shifted to 263 and 466 °C, for 30Ni/A. However, the partial substitution of Ni by Mg, in the 25Ni5Mg/A catalyst, shifts these peaks to lower temperatures, notably for the second peak from 466 to 343 °C, thus decreasing the acidic strength of these sites. In addition, the total amount of acid sites was decreased from 320 μmol/g_{cat} for 30Ni/A to 267 μmol/g_{cat} for 25Ni5Mg/A, which corresponds to the same decrease of the Ni amount on the catalysts. The Ni66Al33 co-precipitated catalyst showed the highest density of total acid sites among all the samples. However, it is evident from the deconvolution that the acid strength of this catalyst is weak compared to the other samples, since desorption temperatures of both peaks were significantly lower. The partial substitution of Ni by Mg led to a strong decrease (around 60%) in the total amount of acid sites of Ni55Mg11Al33 compared with Ni66Al33. It should be noted that in the samples prepared by co-precipitation, the partial replacement of Ni with Mg had a greater effect on the decrease of the acidity than that on the impregnated samples, in agreement with findings in literatures [42-43].

Intro
Results
Critical Analysis & Discussion
Compare with literature

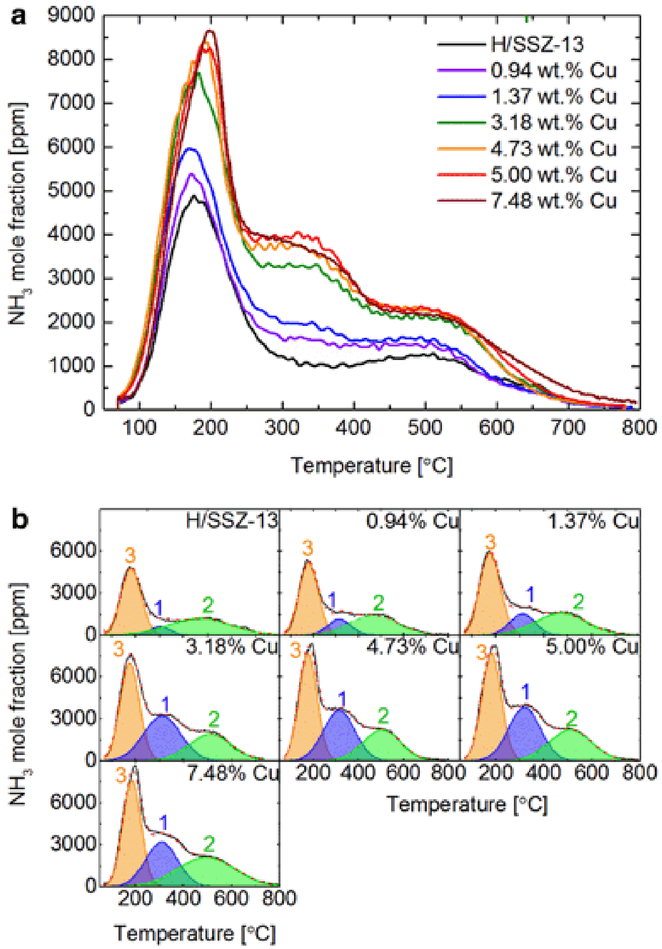
Boost your Results & Discussion!

1. Provide analysed data
2. Compare with other sample
3. Observe the changes
4. Justify the observation
5. Support with literature

Lima, D. S., Calgaro, C. O., & Perez-Lopez, O. W. (2019). *Biomass and Bioenergy*, *130*, 105358.

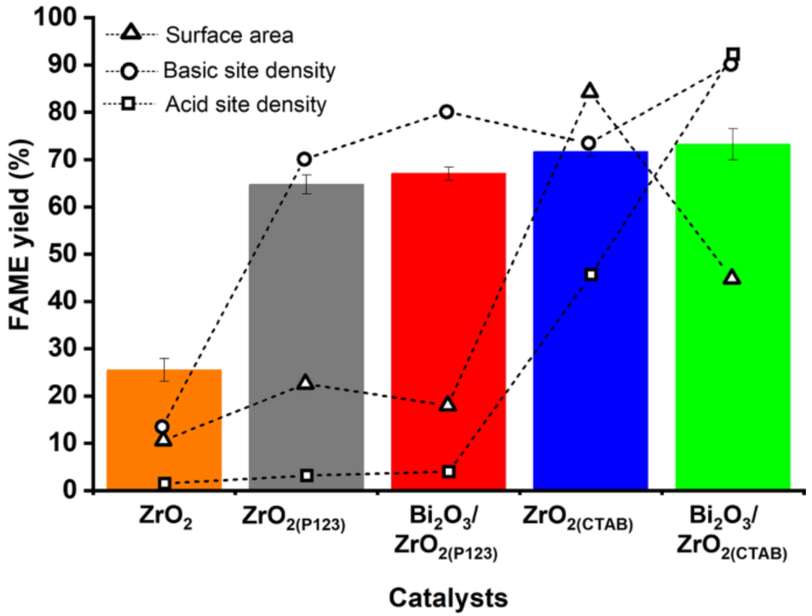
Results & Discussion: Example

Sample 1



Leistner, K., Xie, K., Kumar, A., Kamasamudram, K., & Olsson, L. (2017). Catalysis Letters, 147(8), 1882-1890.

Sample 2



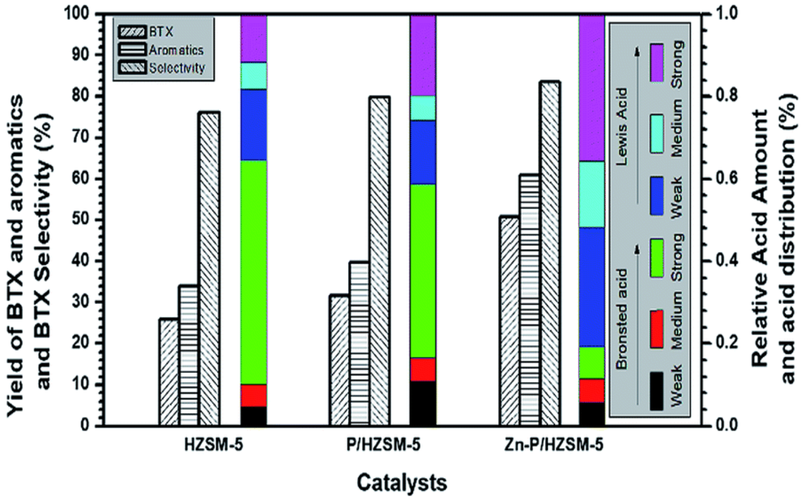
Catalytic activity of the synthesized catalysts for biodiesel production from *Nannochloropsis* sp. lipid.

Abd Rahman et al. (2019). Scientific reports, 9(1), 1-12.

Boost your Results!

- Be creative to present your data and be up-to date
- Correlate the results with activity/performance

Sample 3



Relationship between yields of BTX, aromatics and BTX selectivity, in MTA reaction, and the distribution of different type of acidic sites in weak, medium and strong acidic strength for HZ, PHZ, and ZnPHZ respectively.

Qiao, J., Wang, J., Frenkel, A. I., Teng, J., Chen, X., Xiao, J., & Yang, W. (2020). *RSC Advances*, *10*(10), 5961-5971.

Conclusion

- Highlight the results and findings of the study
  - Reflect the originality of the work
- Summarize achievements
  - Consistent with objectives
  - Focus on significance or importance
- Suggest future work (IF APPLICABLE)

Acknowledgements

- Acknowledge research grant, financial support & scholarship

- Appreciate support / discussion / measurement from other contributors (NOT co-authors)

References

MUST follow "**Guide for Authors**" & check the recent published paper in same journal.

- Number reference system or Author-year system – depends on journal
- Do not use too many references
- Always ensure you have fully absorbed material you are referencing
- Cite recent papers (within 10 years)
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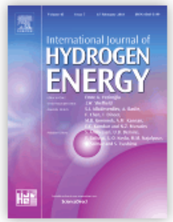

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Supplementary data

Purpose of using Supplementary Data:

- Reduce the No. of Figures and Tables in manuscript.
- Provide extra or detailed explanation
- Comply with journal rules and format

How to refer to Supplementary Data:

- As seen in Fig. S1 (supplementary data)
- As shown in Table S1 (supplementary data),
- … (see Fig. S1 in supplementary data) …

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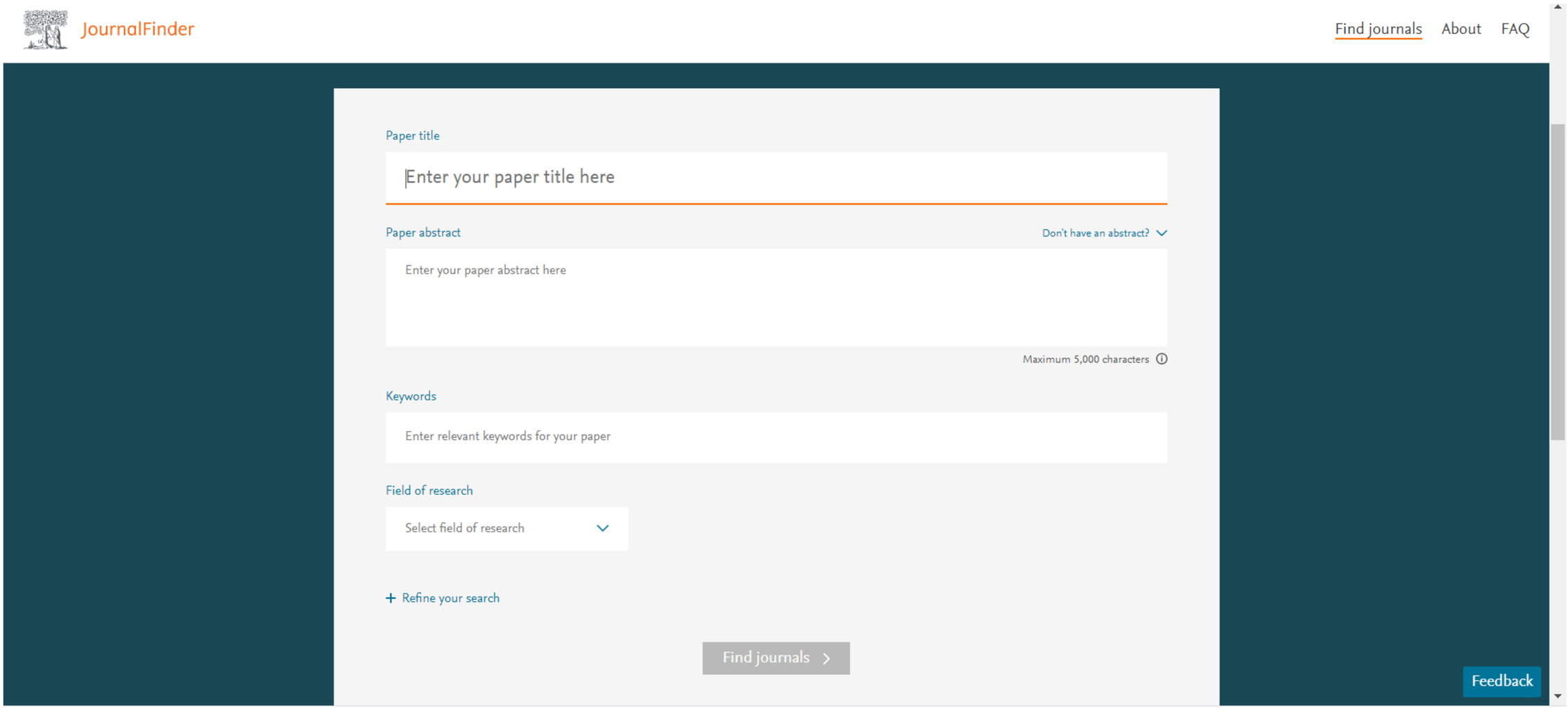

Key in paper title & paper abstract

Paper title

Synthesis of silver nanoparticles in green binary solvent for degradation of 2, 4-D herbicide: Optimization and kinetic studies

Paper abstract

Don't have an abstract?

In this study, well-dispersed and diminutive Ag nanoparticles have been successfully synthesized in binary solvent of Orthosiphon stamineus (OS) leaves extract and ionic liquids (ILs) via electrochemical method. ILs namely [BMIM Tf2N], [BMIM BF4] and [EMIM EtSO4] were used as solvent in the synthesis process to produce AgTf2N, AgBF4, and AgEtSO4. The characterization of Ag nanoparticles revealed that the particle size of the silver nanoparticles can be easily altered depending on the size of IL alkyl chain and anion, to produce ultrafine particles ranging from 8 to 25 nm. Meanwhile, the photocatalytic activity of AgTf2N nanoparticles effectively degraded the highest amount of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) herbicide at 65.61%. The optimized model gave high removal percentage of 2,4-D at 97.80% (pH = 3.24; catalyst dosage = 0.009 g/L; 2,4-D concentration = 8.15 mg L–1) with validation experiments of 1.28% error. Investigation of kinetic reaction showed the applicability of pseudo-first order kinetic to the process of 2,4-D degradation (R2 > 0.98) which positively predicted the constant elimination amount of 2,4-D throughout the photocatalytic process. Overall, the studies construed the crucial role of binary solvent in synthesizing and controlling the size of Ag nanoparticles for pollutant degradation.

Maximum 5,000 characters

Keywords

Silver Nanoparticles × Plant Extracts × Ionic Liquid × Photocatalysis ×

Field of research

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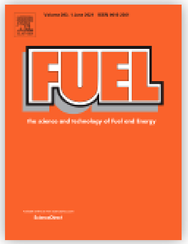

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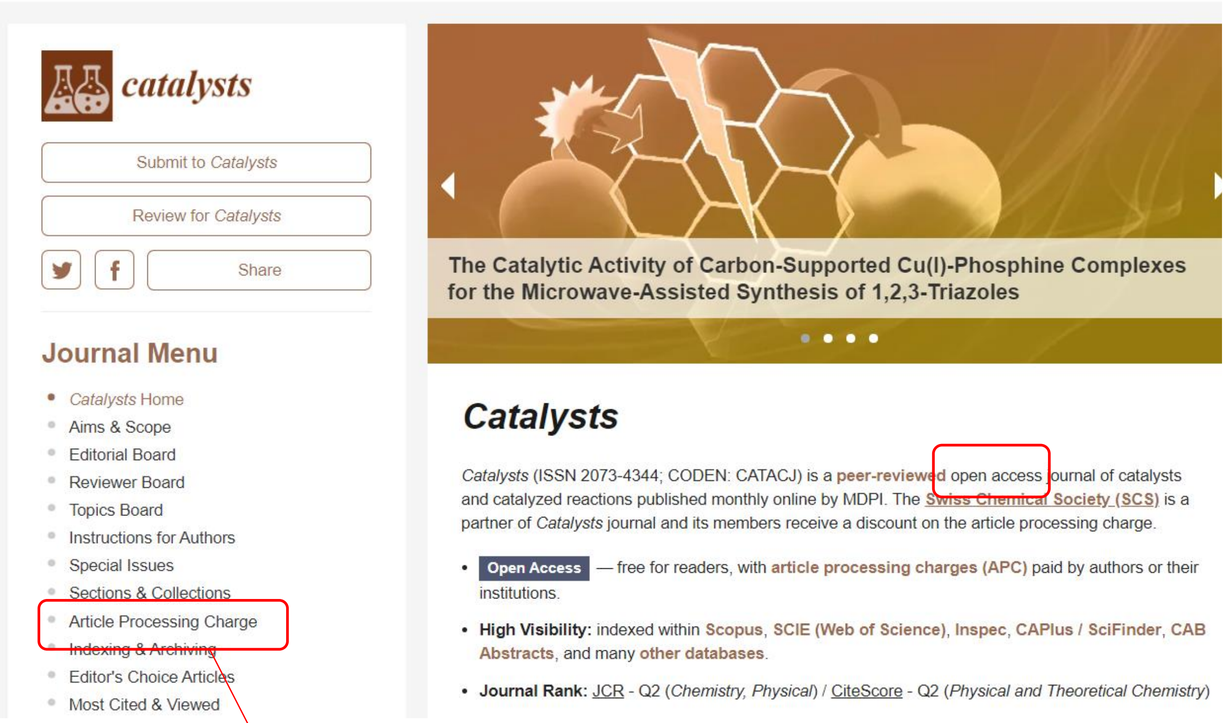
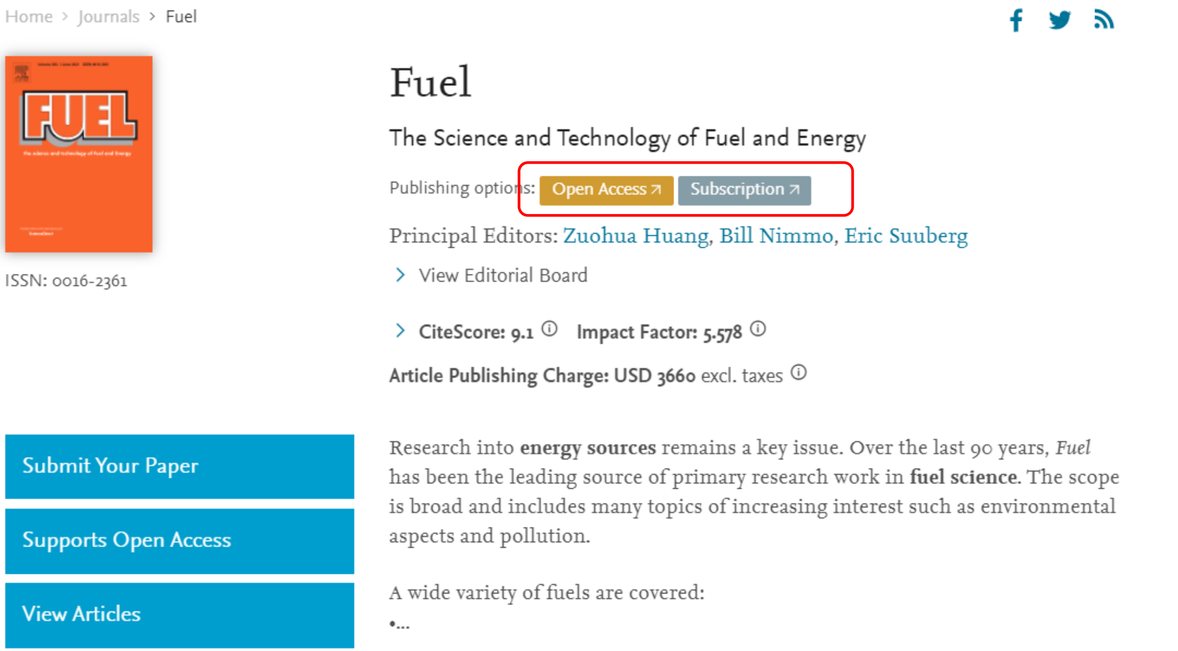
- Video
- Data visualization
- Supplementary material
- Research data

AFTER ACCEPTANCE
- Online proof correction
- Offprints

AUTHOR INQUIRIES

Article Processing Charge





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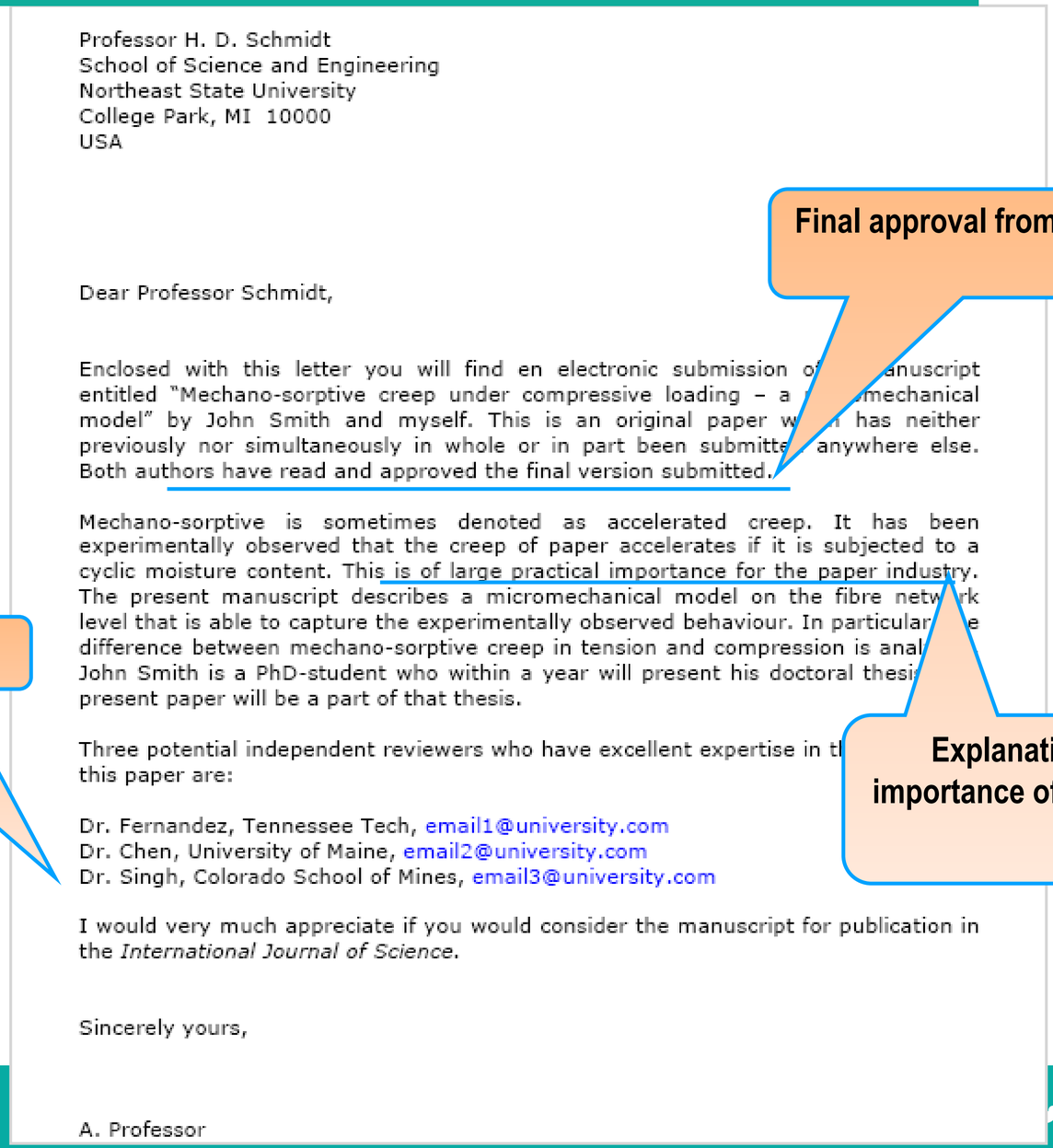
Cover Letter

- Emphasize the paper's originality and novelty, also pointing out its potential interest to the journal's readers

Suggested Reviewers

- List 3-5 reviewers from different countries/continents (**NOT** your country/university)
- Expert in the same field (***Active Reviewer***)
- Affiliation and **official** email address (**NOT** Yahoo or Gmail)
- Reasons of selection

Dr. Herma Dina Setiabudi
Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang
Email: herma@ump.edu.my
Reason: expert in catalysis, advanced materials and hydrogen production



Professor H. D. Schmidt
School of Science and Engineering
Northeast State University
College Park, MI 10000
USA

Dear Professor Schmidt,

Enclosed with this letter you will find en electronic submission o anuscript entitled "Mechano-sorptive creep under compressive loading – a mechanical model" by John Smith and myself. This is an original paper w has neither previously nor simultaneously in whole or in part been submitte anywhere else. Both authors have read and approved the final version submitted.

Mechano-sorptive is sometimes denoted as accelerated creep. It has been experimentally observed that the creep of paper accelerates if it is subjected to a cyclic moisture content. This is of large practical importance for the paper industry. The present manuscript describes a micromechanical model on the fibre netw rk level that is able to capture the experimentally observed behaviour. In particular e difference between mechano-sorptive creep in tension and compression is anal John Smith is a PhD-student who within a year will present his doctoral thesi present paper will be a part of that thesis.

Three potential independent reviewers who have excellent expertise in t this paper are:

Dr. Fernandez, Tennessee Tech, email1@university.com
Dr. Chen, University of Maine, email2@university.com
Dr. Singh, Colorado School of Mines, email3@university.com

I would very much appreciate if you would consider the manuscript for publication in the *International Journal of Science*.

Sincerely yours,

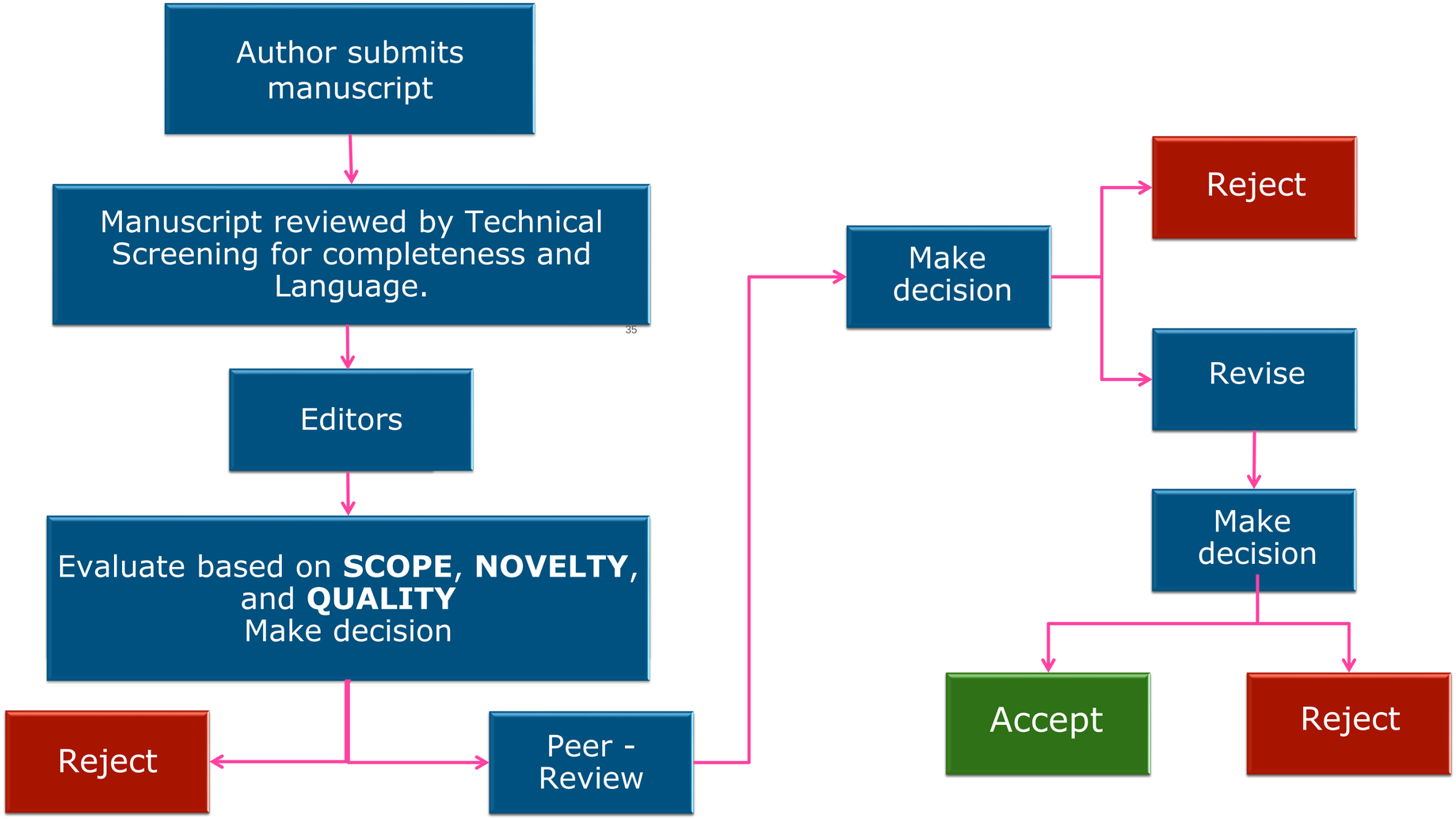
A. Professor

Final approval from all authors

Suggested reviewers

Explanation of importance of research

Understand the peer-review process



Peer-review Decisions

❑ Rejection

- Learn from feedback provided and improve work for re-submission

❑ Minor Revision

- Good job. Make the edits and resubmit quickly.

❑ Major Revision

- Answer comments, one by one, and explain changes made or not made
- If you feel a remark is not justified or a request is unreasonable, say so, but substantiate your response.
- Submit a revised version highlighting where changes have been made

Common Rejection Reasons

1. Similarity Index: **MUST** be **< 15%** & **NO** more than **1%** of a single source.
2. Cover Letter: missing Novelty Statement & Declaration of Interest Statement
3. Format: missing page No., line No., exceeding number of words, Figures and Tables, wrong reference style
4. Typos & low level of English.
5. Out of scope of journal.
6. Lack of Novelty

Submission for Correction

- Revision Letter
- Response to Reviewers
- Revised Manuscript

Example of Revision Letter

December 30, 2014
Xiao-Fan Wang
Associate Editor
The Journal of Biological Chemistry

RE: 2014/610915

Dear Dr. Wang:

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. We also greatly appreciate the reviewers for their complimentary comments and suggestions. We have carried out the experiments that the reviewers suggested and revised the manuscript accordingly

Please find attached a point-by-point response to reviewer's concerns. We hope that you find our responses satisfactory and that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,

Jin Q. Cheng, Ph.D., M.D.
Professor
Department of Molecular Oncology
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
Tampa, FL 33612
Email: jin.cheng@moffitt.org

Example of Response to Reviewer

Reviewer 1	
A number of abbreviations appear not to be defined on first appearance in the manuscript:	Xxx has been defined at first appearance (Pg 2) Xxx has been defined at first appearance (Pg 4)
….	
Comment 2	Response2
Comment 3	Response 3
Comment 4	Response 4

Reviewer 2	
Comment 1	Response 1

Response to Reviewer 1:

Thank you for your review of our paper. We have answered each of your points below.

1. [Write the reviewer's comment]

Response: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (p. 6, lines 2–4).

2. [Reviewer's comment]

Response: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (p. 10, line 4).

What leads to acceptance???

- Attention to details
- Check and double check your work
- Consider the reviewers’ comments
- English must be as good as possible
- Presentation is important
- Take your time with revision
- Acknowledge those who have helped you
- New, original and previously unpublished
- Critically evaluate your own manuscript
- Ethical rules must be obeyed

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