Journal of Optical Society of America A (JOSA A) Review Criteria

The Journal of the Optical Society of America A (JOSA A) is devoted to developments in any field of classical optics, image science, and vision. JOSA A includes original peer-reviewed papers including, but not limited to: atmospheric optics, clinical vision, color, diffraction and gratings, image processing, machine vision, physiological optics, polarization, scattering and coherence theory, signal processing, statistical optics, thin films, and visual optics. JOSA A publishes several special paper types, including discussion papers, mini-reviews, and tutorials.

Submitted papers are subjected to critical review according to the criteria listed below. Note the special criteria for discussion papers, mini-reviews, and tutorials.

Quality of Scientific/Technical Content Does the manuscript report on important new findings related to classical optics, image science, or vision? Is the paper an original and significant contribution to the field? Are the conclusions supported by the data presented, and is the work placed in proper context? Is prior or related work adequately referenced? Note that papers considered to be incremental, incomplete, or lacking in scientific/technical relevance are likely to be rejected. Does the work warrant publication in an archival journal? Is it likely to be cited by others?

Additionally/alternatively,

For Discussion Papers: A discussion paper should inject to the community valuable observations and discussion that might not fit neatly in a normal research paper. Rather than novelty of results, reviewers should consider the following questions: Is the discussion of current interest to optics researchers, and does it raise awareness about important but neglected findings? Does it provide a scholarly overview of the material? Does the discussion serve as a material reference for future work? Will the paper positively contribute to work in the optics and imaging community?

For Mini-Reviews: Rather than novelty, reviewers should consider the following questions: Does the manuscript provide a comprehensive overview of recent advances on a topic within the Journal’s scope? Is the review a valuable contribution to the field? Is the bibliography sufficient? Does the manuscript present a balanced view of recent work by active groups in the subject area?

For Tutorials: A JOSA A tutorial should not be a review or survey, but should be instructive and enable further research by the JOSA A readership. Rather than novelty, reviewers should consider the following questions: Does the tutorial cover a subject not readily accessible in text books or other single-source journal articles? Is that subject of utility to a significant part of the JOSA A community? Does the tutorial make the subject understandable for a broad audience of students and non-specialists?

Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Quality of Presentation Is the title accurate and does it clearly identify the subject matter? Is the abstract succinct and comprehensible to a non-specialist? Is the manuscript clearly written and logically organized? Are figures and tables understandable and readable as submitted, including all captions and labels? Is the quality of English language usage and grammar appropriate for an archival journal? If there
is multimedia content, is it clearly presented and does it contribute to presentation of the research? Is the manuscript formatted according to the journal style guide? Are the OCIS codes selected by the authors appropriate for indexing the article?

*Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low*

**Appropriateness for JOSA A** Does the subject material fall within the scope of the journal? Will the paper be of interest to the optics community?

*Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low*

**Overall Impact** Reviewers are asked to rate the overall impact of submitted papers assuming appropriate revisions are made. How likely is this paper to make a major impact on the research field covered? Papers can make an impact through novel results, through enabling new applications, by solving important problems, by providing new theoretical insights, or presenting clear methods, procedures, or reviews to help other researchers perform similar work.

*Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low*