

Checklist for Final Illustration Preparation

When preparing final originals of figures for submission to AMS journals, authors should keep in mind the impact that reduction of illustrations to journal size has on detail, particularly thin lines and small symbols and lettering.

It is recommended that authors test the intended size by reducing illustrations to journal size, that is, column, three-quarter page, or full page width, and examining if details of the figure are legible/suitable at the journal size. Avoid using previously scanned illustrations if possible.

Panel letters should be close to the upper-left corner or within the illustration so that the figure detail is not needlessly reduced to include the label. As an alternative to panel letters on illustrations, descriptive wording such as upper (lower), left (right), top, middle, or bottom may be used in text and figure captions although letters are preferred. For line drawings Allen Press uses a 1200-dpi scan; scan rate should be at least 600 dpi. For color illustrations CMYK is their standard.

- Uppercase lettering and numbers for coordinate labeling and graphic symbols used within illustrations and legends should be at least 1.5 mm after size reduction and other internal labeling, such as for isopleth labeling, should be at least 1 mm.
- Line thickness should be at least 1/2 point, or 0.1 mm after reduction to journal size.
- Stipple dot size and density should be large enough to allow adequate resolution when scanned (note that small dots/light shading may disappear and large dot/heavy shading may appear solid). A screen or mesh size of 120 is suitable at 100% size; 60 if reduced 50%. Note that 70% and 90% fill values may both appear as black.
- Grayscale resolution intervals should not be less than 20%. Including clear and solid, this allows six grades of resolution; less than 20% may not be distinguishable.
- Nonessential information, internal grid and external border rules, and redundant headers that appear in the figure caption should be omitted from the graphic illustration.
- Figure citations in text must be in numerical sequence (although preliminary citations to later figures may be made parenthetically).
- Captions should match illustrations.
- A second/backup set of illustrations should be submitted with manuscript.
- Cost for printing color illustrations should be included in the purchase order. Note that color scanning costs are per piece, so that combining multiple panels for one figure onto a single page as one piece reduces the cost; each numbered figure is scanned as a separate piece.

Please return this figure checklist with the final set of original figures. Thank you.