XIV. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviations and acronyms should be kept to a minimum in articles written for Reviews of Modern Physics. Use only a handful of the best known or most widely used, keeping in mind that a broad audience including physicists from other subfields will be reading the article and should not be forced to learn a code at the same time. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind.

1. Define all abbreviations and acronyms the first time you use them.

2. Do not use an acronym as the subject of a sentence, even though it has been previously defined or is well known. For example, replace “CDWs provide . . . ” with “Charge-density waves provide . . . ”

3. Generally it is unnecessary and distracting to assign a special acronym to a paper, using the initials of its co-authors, and it may be seen as a bid for attention if one is citing one’s own work. Only classic papers that are already widely known by such acronyms justify this treatment. A simple citation of the form Smith et al. (1997) is less obtrusive than four or five capital letters and takes very little additional effort to type.

4. When using an abbreviation of a proper name as a superscript or subscript, retain the initial capital letter: $E_{\text{Coul}}$ or $E_C$ for Coulomb.

5. Do not use multiletter abbreviations as mathematical variables. Use the conventional symbol instead, e.g., $E_k$ or $T$, not $KE$ for kinetic energy. An exception is the Reynolds number, conventionally written $Re$.

6. Avoid “abbreviations” that have more syllables than the original term, e.g., FW (four syllables) for framework.