

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism, i.e. the appropriation of another person's ideas, words or other forms of creative expression and presenting as one's own, represents a serious violation of scientific and publication ethics. Plagiarism may also involve copyright infringement, which is punishable by law. Plagiarism includes the following:

- 1) The literal or nearly literal reproduction or intentional paraphrasing (with the aim of concealing plagiarism) of parts of texts by other authors, without clearly referencing the source or marking the copied fragments (e.g. using quotation marks);
- 2) Copying figures or tables from others' papers, without properly referencing the source and/or without the permission of the author or copyright holders;

Plagiarism in scientific publications is usually classified in several levels, depending on the degree of the misconduct. The most serious misconduct (Level 1) is the unauthorized verbatim of nearly the full text of the paper, without referencing the source. The second level is the unauthorized verbatim of a large portion ($\geq 50\%$), the third level involves the unauthorized verbatim of certain elements (sentences, paragraphs, illustrations), the fourth level is related to the unauthorized and improper paraphrasing of parts of papers, while the fifth level entails verbatim of another person's work without clearly delineation from one's own text.

The authors have been warned that every received manuscript is checked using plagiarism-checking software for possible (auto)plagiarism.