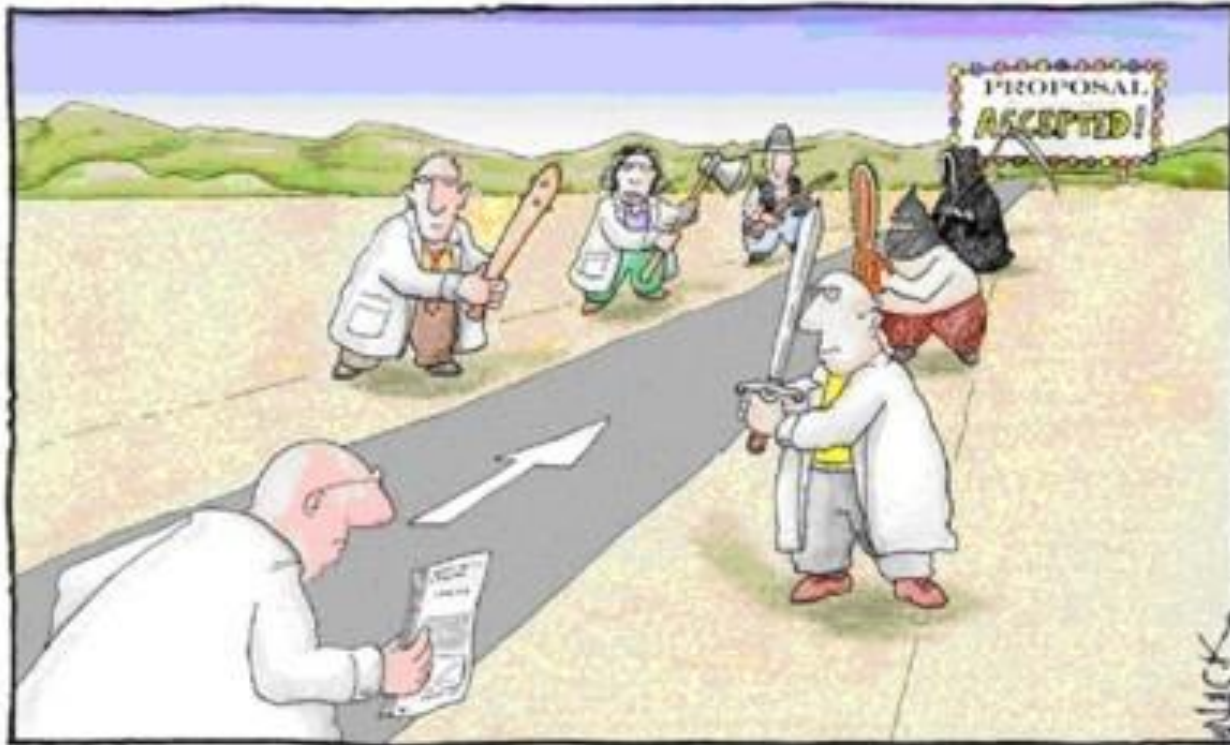


Editorial Review and Writing an Editor Cover Letter

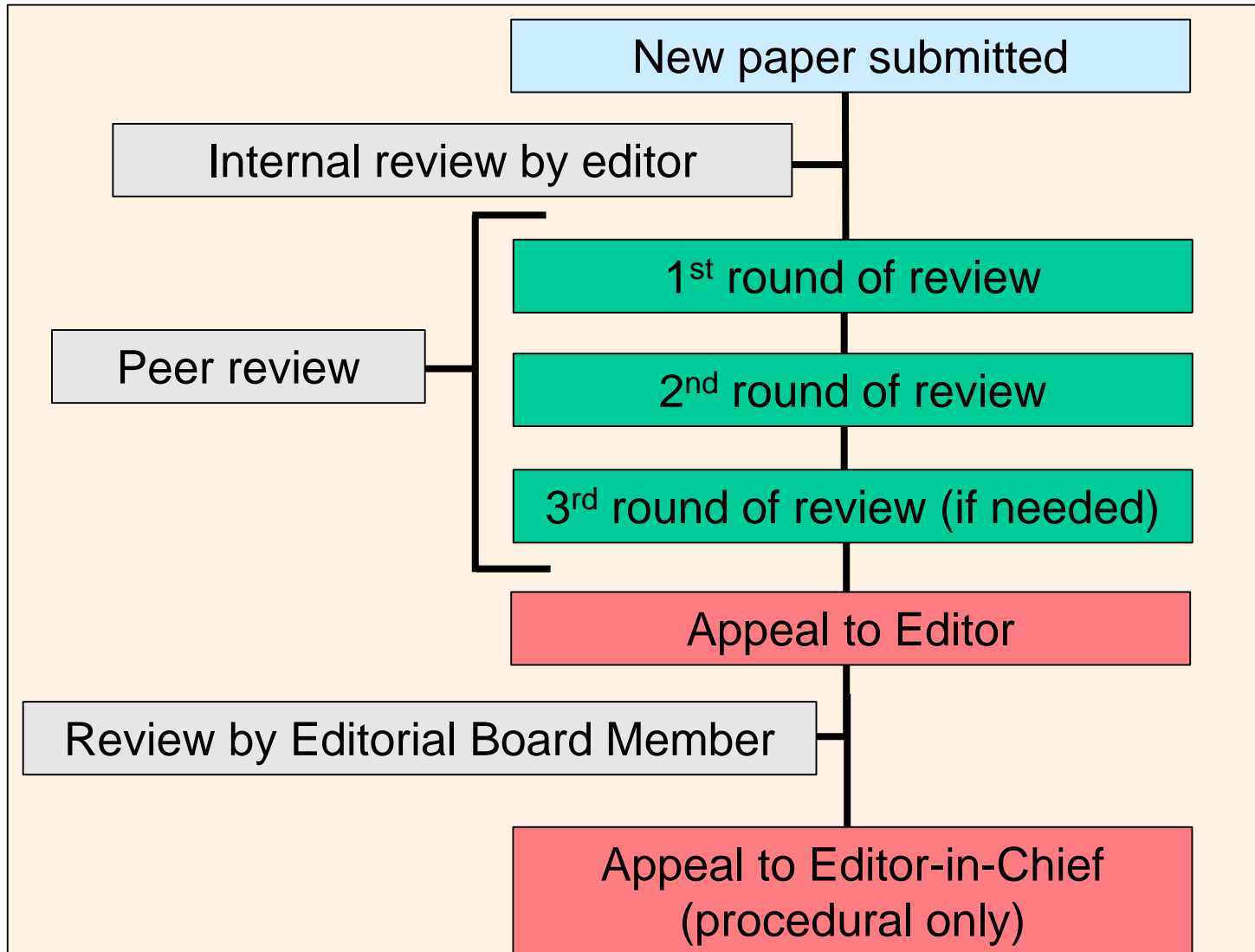
Peer-Review



References:

“Peer review meets analytics,” M. Antonoyiannakis, https://physics.illinois.edu/careers-seminar/UIUC_Physics_Career_Seminar_Antonoyiannakis.pdf

Summary of the *Physical Review* Review Process



The Internal Editorial Review Process

What Is Internal Review?

- Editors assess the paper and decide whether to send out to external referees or **Reject Without External Review**
- If external review is needed, editors select the referees
- Typically, the handling editors makes these decisions themselves; occasionally, they will consult editorial colleagues, an Editorial Board Member, or a trusted expert for a yes/no opinion on whether the paper merits external review

To see full lecture, go to: https://physics.illinois.edu/careers-seminar/UIUC_Physics_Career_Seminar_Antonoyiannakis.pdf

Dr. Manolis Antonoyiannakis
Associate Editor, *Physical Review B*



The Internal Editorial Review Process

What Do Editors Look For to Make This Decision?

- They typically focus on the ***abstract, introduction, and conclusions***
- Is the quality of writing high?
- Is the subject matter suitable for the journal?
- What is the overall importance and quality of the paper?
- What's the punchline of the paper, and is this of interest and appeal to the journal's readership?

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Associate Editor, *Physical Review B*



Rejection Without External Review

How Do Editors Decide to Reject Without Review?

- Paper is **too specialized**, a **marginal extension**, or **incremental advance**
- Subject matter of paper doesn't match journal readership
- Presentation is sloppy, writing is opaque
- **The introduction:** lacks clarity, no context, describes prior work poorly, no broad picture, too many technical details, no motivation
- **References:** too many old, specialized references, or self-references
- **Conclusions:** no punch-line in the conclusions

What is the main message of the paper?

Why is the paper important?

How does the paper advance the field?

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Drafting a Cover Letter to the Editor

Typical organization of a cover letter to the editor:

Paragraph 1:

- Give title of manuscript and author list, journal name, type of paper you're submitting (regular article, Rapid Communication, Letter, etc.)
- Briefly explain the question your study sought to address and why this question is important

Paragraph 2:

- Concisely explain what was done in your study, the main findings, and why these findings are significant

Paragraph 3:

- Briefly explain why readers of the journal would be interested in your research. This explanation should closely follow the journal's scope and readership.

Conclusion:

- List corresponding author and provide list of recommended referees and referees you'd like to avoid.