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S. CONTICELLI, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Via Giorgio La Pira 4, 5121 Firenze, Italy
sandro.ejm@unifi.it

P. CORDIER, Université Lille 1, Unité Matériaux et Transformations, UMR CNRS 8207 - Bat C6, 59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France
patrick.cordier@univ-lille1.fr

R. GIÈRE, Institut für Geowissenschaften, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Albertstrasse 23b, 79104 Freiburg, Germany
giere@uni-freiburg.de

S.V. KRIVOVICHEV, Dep. of Crystallography, St. Petersburg State Univ., 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia
skrivovi@mail.ru

M. PRIETO, Departamento de Geología, Universidad de Oviedo, C/Jesús Arias de Velasco, s/n. 33005-Oviedo, Spain
ejm.mprieto@geol.uniovi.es

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Manuscripts presenting the results of crystal-structure refinements must be accompanied by a validated Crystallographic Information File (CIF), in the standard format defined by the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr). CIF files that fail the validation process may be considered if accompanied by a comment on the points that did not pass the validation process. Information about the CIF file and validation tools is available at the following address: <http://www.iucr.ac.uk/iucr-top/cif/home.html>

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Please structure your submission in the following way: cover page, title page, abstract, key-words, text, acknowledgements, references, titles of tables, tables, figure captions, figures and, where appropriate, an appendix or supplementary material.

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The cover page contains the title, the running title (less than 60 characters including spaces, to be printed at the top of each right-hand page), the detailed plan of the article (*i.e.* hierarchy of headings **and** subheadings), the mailing address, e-mail address, phone and **fax numbers** of the corresponding author, **a statement on the type of computer, operating system and word-processor used**, as well as the **number of characters** (including spaces) of the whole text.

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The title page contains:

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3. Abstract

The abstract should summarize the main results giving quantitative data and be as concise and informative as possible. References to published work should be avoided. The abstract is followed by up to ten standard **key-words**, which characterize the subjects, the techniques and the results. Authors are allowed to add an abstract in a European language other than English.

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The text should be clear and concise. Use the line-numbering option of the word-processor for easier reference by the referees. Each page should be numbered and indicate the name of the first author. There are four levels of headings in published papers; note the lower-case characters for *all* headings. Indent all paragraphs. Avoid word-breaks; carry the whole word down to the next line. Indications should be given to avoid possible confusion, *e.g.* between letter O and zero, number 1 and letter l, letter x, chi and kappa, *etc.* For clarity, avoid long adjectival sentences; use hyphens to join words that make adjectives (*e.g.*, high-temperature metamorphism, four-circle diffractometer), but do not join adverbs that end in -ly (*e.g.* rapidly cooled melt). British spelling is preferred, but internal consistency is the rule.

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- **Use preferably Times (or Times New Roman) for the text font and Symbol for the Greek and special characters.**
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Indicate the approximate **position of figures and tables** in the manuscript.

References in the text should appear as follows:

(Guinier, 1956; Halbach & Chatterjee, 1982)

or

according to Guinier (1956) and Halbach & Chatterjee (1982)

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(Conticelli *et al.*, 1992).

If there are several references to the same author(s) with the same publication year, they must be distinguished by a letter as follows:

(Brindley & Robinson, 1947a and b).

Note the lower-case characters for authors' names.

Note that a section labelled "**Conclusions**" should not be a repetition of information already included in the abstract.

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These should be presented as follows in the alphabetic list.

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Brindley, G.W. & Robinson, K. (1947a): Note on the occurrence of anatase in some fire clays deposits. *Mineral. Mag.*, **28**, 244–247.

—, — (1947b): An X-ray study of some kaolinitic fire clays. *Trans. Brit. Ceram. Soc.*, **46**, 49–62.

Conticelli, S., Manetti, P., Menichetti, S. (1992): Mineralogy, geochemistry and Sr-isotopes in orendites from South Tuscany, Italy: constraints on their genesis and evolution. *Eur. J. Mineral.*, **4**, 1359–1375.

For books:

Guinier, A. (1956): *Théorie et technique de la radiocristallographie*. Dunod éd., Paris, 736 p.

For chapters in a book:

Halbach, H. & Chatterjee, N.D. (1982): The use of linear parametric programming for determining internally consistent thermodynamic data for minerals. in "High-Pressure Researches in Geoscience", W. Schreyer, ed., E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart, 475–491.

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References are ordered alphabetically by first author, then two-author papers are ordered alphabetically by second author and followed by papers with three or more authors ordered chronologically (if published the same year, these must be distinguished by a, b, c according to their order of occurrence in the text).

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Compose tables to be as compact as possible, with either single or one-and-half spacing, and no more than two to three spaces between columns of data at their widest. Begin with a single horizontal rule, followed by the column headings (units in parentheses) and another single rule. End the data set with another single rule. No other rules are generally necessary. Use decimal points, not commas. Align the decimal points within each column and ensure that the number of significant digits quoted is realistic with respect to the uncertainty or standard deviation, if given.

Crystallographic data tables must be submitted as electronic files, to be included after publication in the crystal-structure data base maintained (and freely accessible) at University of Arizona, Tucson.

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These must be prepared to allow reduction by a factor 0.5 to 0.7, preferably to one column width (8.6 cm). Make sure that the figures are homogeneous in style (font type, line weight) throughout the paper and that the lettering, line width, etc., are large enough to still be readable after reduction. Use decimal points, not commas, and **only sans-serif fonts** (like Arial or Helvetica). Parts of a composite figure should be labelled a, b, c, *etc.*, in lower-case letters and referred consistently in the figure caption.

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- The nomenclature of polytypes must follow the guidelines of Nickel (*Eur. J. Mineral.*, 1993, **5**, 799-900).
- Powder diffraction data should follow the procedures approved by the International Union of Crystallography (see *Acta Cryst.*, 1983, A39, 174-186, or *Powder Diffraction*, 1987, 1(1), 58-65).

Recommendation

Authors who obtain X-ray powder diffraction data on their samples are encouraged to submit their data to the Data Acquisition Manager at the International Center for Diffraction Data. (Newtown Square Corporate Campus, 12 Campus Boulevard, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, 19073-3273, USA).

- Nomenclatures, new data on minerals and descriptions of new minerals must be approved by the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of the I.M.A. (International Mineralogical Association) before publication. The letter of approval must accompany submission.

This journal follows the rules of the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of the I.M.A. in all matters concerning mineral names and nomenclature.
