Capitalization

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Capitalization is the writing of a word with its first letter in uppercase and the remaining letters in lowercase. Experienced writers are stingy with capitals. It is best not to use them if there is any doubt [2].

The following list gives a short explanation on three cases where capitalization should be used.

**Title**  In general, all words except articles and prepositions are capitalized [1].

- Imaging without Mirrors or Lenses: The Pinhole Camera and Its Relatives.

- However, some journals capitalize only the first letter,
- Imaging without mirrors or lenses: the pinhole camera and its relatives.

- or capitalize the first letter in each line of the title.

- Imaging without mirrors or lenses:  
  The pinhole camera and its relatives.

To assure a proper capitalization style, look at an issue or the *style manual* of the journal you are intending to publish to. For referencing other publication, choose one style consistently disregarding the original capitalization style.

**Proper nouns**  Capitalize proper nouns—and adjectives derived from proper nouns [2].

- the Golden Gate Bridge, the Grand Canyon, a Russian song, a Shakespearean sonnet, a Freudian slip

**Abbreviations and acronyms**  Abbreviations consisting of initials (SNR for signal to noise ratio) are usually capitalized and omit the periods. Abbreviations which are pronounced as a word are called acronyms. An acronym is usually capitalized when the letters are initials of proper nouns (NATO for North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Some acronyms, like “radar”, are not capitalized. This is particularly the case when the origin of the acronym has been mostly forgotten [1].

**References**

