

Editorial

Annales Geophysicae recently published a paper entitled “Electromagnetic ion-cyclotron instability in the presence of a parallel electric field with general loss-cone distribution function - particle aspect analysis”, Ann. Geophys., 24, 1919–1930, 2006, by Ahirwar, G., Varma, P., and Tiwari, M. S.

Soon after, our attention was drawn to the fact that parts of this paper were simply copied from the article by Lund, E. J., et al.: “Transverse ion acceleration mechanisms in the aurora at solar minimum: Occurrence distributions”, J. Atmos. Solar Terr. Phys., 62, 467–475, 2000. Four paragraphs of Lund et al., JASTP (p. 467, 470, 468, 469) are almost word-for-word reproduced in Ahirwar et al. Ann. Geophys. (p. 1920 and 1921).

Copying, or plagiarism, is of course prohibited by copyright laws and is against scientific ethics.

It is clear that the discovery of misconduct is mainly fortuitous; no one knows all the literature sentence by sentence or figure by figure; it can only be detected when the assigned referee is in some way involved in the specific piece of work. I wish here to reiterate the U.S. White House Office of Science and Technology Policy definition of scientific misconduct as “*fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results*”. The copyright law prohibits copying parts of text without clear indication of the source and quotation marks, and without explicit permission from the Publisher (even for our own papers).

In addition I would like to emphasize that Annales takes a very poor view of authors submitting papers to us that have been rejected by other journals – unless the authors tell us about the previous history of the paper and why they now think it is worthy for being considered for publication in Annales.

Once we had been informed by Lund that he had been plagiarized, we contacted M. S. Tiwari, corresponding author of the paper published and asked him to explain himself. His letter is reproduced hereafter. I personally find Prof. Tiwari’s response surprising, by not clearly acknowledging the plagiarism. In addition he seems to forget that the student su-

pervisor holds a significant degree of responsibility for the students’ actions. I think the scientific community will make its own opinion about his behaviour.

The Journal has decided to publish this short editorial and Professor Tiwari’s letter to inform the scientific community and the other scientific journals, and also to apologize to Dr. Lund and co-authors as well as to the Journal of Atmospheric and Solar Terrestrial Physics.

W. Kofman

Editor in Chief

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Editor in Chief, Annales of Geophysicae

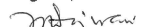
Dear Prof. Kofman;

In reference to the publication of Ahirwar et al., Ann. Geophys. 24, 1919-1930 (2006), we would like to inform as under :

In the above publication the research paper of Lund et al., J. Atmos. Solar-Terr. Phys. 62, 467-475 (2000) has been referenced and cited at many places and given in the reference list of the paper. However, in the introduction part, second paragraph on p. 1920, which is taken from the paper of Lund et al. (2000), their reference is missing. This is not the correct way of presentation which one of the graduate students (G. Ahirwar, the first author) working for his Ph. D. degree has presented and has gone unnoticed by co-authors. Mr. Ahirwar was in wrong opinion and practices in his this first publication that giving the reference in reference list is enough.

Thus, we sincerely apologise to Lund et al (2000) and to Annales for this fault of presentation and will take precautions in future.

Regards,



Prof. M.S.Tiwari