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Advances in Optics and Symmetry/Asymmetry

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Message from the Guest Editors

Symmetry plays an important role in optics. The light field is substantially influenced by different types of space symmetries, such as mirror symmetry, lateral inversion, and translational and rotational symmetry. The careful design of symmetric or asymmetric structures and lattices can lead to many extraordinary optical effects, including the photonic spin Hall effect, super chirality, and robust unidirectional propagation, and they each have promising applications in metamaterials, plasmonics, and photonic integrated circuits. On the other hand, broken symmetries in space–time induce coalescence of the eigenstates at exceptional points, where rich topological features are exhibited, and these systems have great potential for use in many application areas, such as sensing, lasing, optical isolation, and so on.

In this Special Issue of Symmetry, we are interested in topics related to symmetry/asymmetry problems in optics, and ask for your help to explore the extraordinary properties of the systems with specific symmetries/asymmetries, and their applications in all fields of optics.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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