

Symmetry and Molecular Spectroscopy

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Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue on Symmetry and Molecular Absorption is aimed at highlighting the role of symmetry in structural and reactivity studies performed with spectroscopic methods. Historically, the symmetry classification of molecular states has been of great value in the analysis of absorption spectra and in making predictions on molecular geometries. It was well known that significant structural aspects of molecules, either in the ground or in the excited states, could be investigated making recourse to their symmetry properties. Successively, symmetry arguments were advanced in order to establish a theoretical framework in studies of molecular reactivity and reaction mechanisms. In this respect, the Woodward–Hoffman rules should be at least recalled as an extraordinarily solid attempt to rationalize the photochemical pathways of concerted reactions.





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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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