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Advances in Visual Psychophysics: Symmetry and Symmetry Groups

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

31 August 2024

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The aim of the present Special Issue is to compile a comprehensive psychophysics of the visual perception of 2D and 3D symmetries and symmetry groups. Stimulus features to be considered include the underlying mathematical parameters (e.g., unit cells, generating regions) as well as surface characteristics (e.g., shapes of tiles, pattern motifs, and space fillers). Of special interest are multiple symmetries as they are seen in tilings and patterns, and also in colored designs, in which the symmetry groups of elements and wholes, or shapes and colors, do not coincide. With regard to responses, the focus is on detection, discrimination, and identification, which can be measured using various psychophysical procedures, but which can also be described in terms of signal detection theory.

(1b) A more detailed exposition:

In mathematics, symmetry (isometry) is well defined for the Euclidean plane and Cartesian space. The concept can be extended to other surfaces (e.g., the surface of a sphere) and to higher-dimensional spaces. In any case, there are a limited number of operations that can algebraically be combined to yield symmetry groups...



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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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