Special Issue

Latent Space in Polymer Materials

Message from the Guest Editors

Polymeric materials play a key role in supporting the ever-increasing demand for electronics, medicines, plastics, sensors, and the transition to renewable energy sources. This is achieved through polymers' distinct features at different structural and temporal scales. However, the design of new polymeric materials is still a lengthy process. This grand challenge is related to the lack of capability to comprehensively bridge phenomena that occur at temporal scales from tens of nanoseconds to seconds or spatial scales from nanometers to meters. Indeed, scientific datasets in this field are sparse and include only directly observable quantities, while the underlying processes are either too complex to observe directly or are completely unknown. To move towards an accelerated on-demand design for polymeric materials, novel approaches are needed to explore the latent space in scientific datasets and bridge the interactions of physics at different spatial and temporal scales. In pursuit of this objective, we designed this Special Issue to bring together researchers working on advanced computational and experimental methods and data science to exchange ideas.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.7.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker
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