Special Issue

Twinned Crystals

Message from the Guest Editors

Twinning and related crystallographic transformations have always been an exciting subject for mineralogists and materials scientists. Range of conditions trigger twinning of crystals—from mechanical deformation, phase transformation, chemical stabilization to topotaxial replacement and self-assembly. While the formation mechanisms of deformation and transformation twins are well understood, there are many open questions related to the formation of growth twins, often attributed to accidental attachment during crystal growth. Recent advances in electron microscopy methods and theoretical modeling that allow studying the local structure and chemistry of twin boundaries at the atomic scale have provided a unique opportunity to resolve questions related to twin boundary structure, their thermodynamic stability, mechanisms that trigger their formation, and often, an orchestrated assembly of twin-based modulated structures.

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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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