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Preface

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Preface

The present special issue of the journal is concerned with the problem of laser action of complex organic molecules. This scientific problem stands on the borderline of spectroscopy and quantum electronics and is of great interest for scientists in different fields of research. Specialists in lasers are attracted by the possibility of the continuous tuning of laser radiation frequency, of the achievement of laser action in a wide frequency range, and of the creation of broad-band amplifiers. On the other hand, spectroscopists consider this phenomenon from the point of view of utilizing qualitatively new possibilities for determining spectroscopic parameters of substances and especially their nonlinear optical properties.

The editors of the issue endeavoured to draw the largest number of outstanding names in this field of science to the issue. However, not all our attempts proved successful. Nevertheless, we believe that practically all the most important aspects of the problem under consideration have been reflected in the issue. Most of the papers are of a survey nature and generalize the results obtained by large scientific teams.

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