

Physics

Newsletter

October | 2022

New Members of the Department

Dr. Yi Yang

Assistant Professor, HKU-100 Scholar
B.Sc. Peking; M.Sc. Peking; Ph.D. MIT



- I am very excited to join HKU Physics! I was fortunate enough to briefly visit HKU several times when my wife pursued her degree here back then. Now, it feels so good that I can explore HKU much more thoroughly being a faculty member. My group works on optical physics and nanophotonics that study light at the nanoscale. When I am free, I enjoy sports like swimming, football, and basketball. I listen to rock music, and I am a supporter of Arsenal in the Premier League.

Prof. Xiaobo Yin

Professor (by courtesy)
(Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering)

- Professor Xiaobo Yin received his BS and MS in Physics from Nanjing University. He obtained his PhD from Stanford University in 2008. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and later a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the University of California Berkeley and at the Stanford Photonics Research Center at Stanford University. In 2013 he joined the University of Colorado Boulder as an Assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Physics. He was the Bruce S. Anderson Faculty Fellow of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Boulder before joining the University of Hong Kong in December 2021. He is a fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA) and the International Society of Optical Engineering (SPIE). His research is primarily focusing on optics and optical materials. He also won the 2022 Xplorer Prize.



Other Staff Movement

- Prof. Shijie Xu has left HKU around the end of Aug 2022. He joined HKU in 1998 and has been appointed as an Honorary Professor in the department since 29 Aug 2022.
- Dr. Binzheng Zhang, Department of Earth Sciences, has been appointed as Assistant Professor (by courtesy) of our department.
- Mr. Christa Woo, Clerk II of general office, has left the department. He joined us in 2020.
- Ms. Rachel Liu, Clerk I of general office, has left the department. She first joined us in 2016.
- Mr. Chin Ming Lee, Technician, has left the department. He joined us in 1989.
- Mr. Ken Chow of general office has just joined the department as Clerk II.

Editors:

Dr. Kai-Ming Lee
Dr. Shizhong Zhang (acting)



<https://www.physics.hku.hk/>

Awards, Research Highlights and Other News

- Colleagues in Physics department received 13 GRF grants with the successful rate ~72% in the 2021-22 round.
- Dr. Chenjie Wang and Dr. Yi Yang were awarded the National Excellent Young Scientist Fund (HK and Macau). <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/the-national-excellent-young-scientists-fund>
- Dr. Shizhong Zhang received the RGC Research Fellow Scheme award 2022-23 on his research in dilute quantum gases with high partial wave scatterings. <https://awards.ugc.edu.hk/award/rgc-research-fellow-scheme?page=2>
- Dr. Zi Yang Meng's research team (in the photo, from the left: Dr. Zheng Yan, Mr. Jiarui Zhao and Dr. Bin-Bin Chen, courtesy Science Faculty, HKU) discovered clear evidence of the topological order from the quantum entanglement of quantum spin liquid models. <https://www.hku.hk/press/press-releases/detail/24821.html>. The paper is published in npj Quantum Materials. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41535-022-00476-0>
- Dr. Zi Yang Meng's research team (same as above) also developed a new algorithm that could compute the quantum entanglement with high efficiency and precision compared with previous methods. <https://www.hku.hk/press/press-releases/detail/24042.html>. The paper is published in Physical Review Letters. <https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.128.010601>
- Prof. Gang Chen and collaborators have published a paper in Physical Review Letters on anomalous spin liquid. <https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.129.017202>
- Dr. Jane Dai has written an article for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum to broadcast her research about astrophysical black holes to the public: <https://hklaureateforum.org/en/giant-black-holes-devouring-stars>
- Prof. Gang Chen served as the major organizer for The 4th International Workshop on Quantum Matter – Quantum Many-body Dynamics <https://tdli.sjtu.edu.cn/EN/events/1118>, and he also served in the program committee in the 11th International Conference on High Frustrated Magnetism in Paris, France 2022. <https://hfm22.physics.cnrs.fr/>
- The team of undergraduate students, Tixuan Tan, Suying Liu and Tianyi Jian, was designated as the Winner of PLANCKS Hong Kong Preliminary 2022, organized by Physical Society of Hong Kong. <https://www.physics.hku.hk/about/intro/awards-students>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MR. OULTON WALKER



Mr. Oulton Walker (center, sitting), a long-term staff in the department, recently celebrates his 90th birthday, with friends and family. He joined the department in 1962 and retired in 1993 as a Reader.