

## Preface of the special issue dedicated to Anthony To-Ming Lau on his 80th birthday

This special issue of *Annals of Mathematical Sciences and Applications* is devoted to Professor Anthony (Tony) To-Ming Lau on the occasion of his 80th birthday. It includes 9 research papers authored by 18 researchers; some of them are students, collaborators and friends of Tony.



Professor Anthony (Tony) To-Ming Lau

Tony was born in Hong Kong on August 29, 1943. He received an A. B. degree at the University of California at Berkeley in 1965. He earned his PhD from the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Ed Granirer in 1969, and continued as a postdoctoral fellow for May–August, 1969. Tony joined the faculty of the University of Alberta at Edmonton in September 1969, and retired from there in 2021. He was the chairman of

the math department (2001-2005) and a distinguished university professor of Alberta (since 2004).

Tony has supervised 31 PhD students, from Keith Taylor (1975) to Yan Ge (2021) and Bui Ngoc Muoi (2021). With 184 published papers and 3126 citations recorded in Mathscinet, Tony has a broad research interest, covering abstract harmonic analysis on topological groups and semigroups, fixed point theory, and operator theory. In particular, people call a *Lau algebra*, while Tony calls it an  $F$ -algebra, to refer to a Banach algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  with a von Neumann algebra dual  $\mathcal{A}^*$  such that the identity of  $\mathcal{A}^*$  is a character of  $\mathcal{A}$ . For more details about Tony's research, see, e.g., the excellent survey,

M. S. Moslehian<sup>1</sup> and M. Neufang, The mathematical work of Anthony To-Ming Lau, *Ann. Funct. Anal.* **7** (2016), no. 1, 206–216.

Tony has also made a great contribution to the mathematical society. He served as the President of the Canadian Math Society from 2008–2010, and joined the editorial boards of 12 math journals. He received the David Borwein Distinguished Career Award from the Canadian Math Society (2018). He also got the University Cup (2003) and the McCalla Professorship (1991–1992) from the University of Alberta, and the NSERC Discovery (previously NRC) Grant awards (1971–2020).

Tony continues his academic service and research after his retirement. We are sure that Tony will make more contributions in the future. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to him.

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