Guest Editorial

Special Issue on Images in Plasma Science

VISUALIZATION of computer simulations and experimental data is becoming an increasingly more important aspect of research in plasma science. It is now common for computer simulations to be two or three dimensions and time dependent. Experimental diagnostics using probes, laser-induced fluorescence, or charge-coupled device (CCD) detectors produce similar two- or three-dimensional images. Even direct photography is a multidimensional data acquisition technique. The proper visualization of these data transmits vast amounts of information in a single or sequence of images. In addition to the scientific benefits of proper visualization, the images which result are often works of art in their own right.

In acknowledgment of the increasing importance of visualization, this volume of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PLASMA SCIENCE includes a special issue section entitled "Images in Plasma Science." The intent of this special issue is to present unique multidimensional experimentally or computationally generated images of plasma phenomena, which both provide insight to the physics of the process and are aesthetically pleasing. This special issue contains many examples of such images from a broad spectrum of plasma science including: tokamaks, lasers, laser-produced plasmas, material processing reactors, beams, cathode and plasma-surface interactions, particles in plasmas, and basic plasma phenomena. Authors were

requested to limit their contributions to a maximum of two pages. The authors should be complimented on the scientific and artistic content of their contributions, as well as their succinct prose which met the stringent page limit.

It is our hope that the images presented in this special issue will also help to educate the general public in both the science and artistry of plasmas, and in doing so promote the field of plasma science to our mutual benefit.

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