

## Introduction

This special issue of the *International Journal of Thermophysics* is devoted to the publication of some papers presented at the Fourth Japan Symposium on Thermophysical Properties and at the Japan–United States Joint Seminar on Thermophysical Properties. Seven of the papers presented by the Japanese researchers at the Joint Seminar were published in the previous issue (Vol. 5, No. 1, 1984) of this journal.

The Fourth Japan Symposium on Thermophysical Properties was held on October 20–22, 1983, in Yokohama, Japan, under the auspices of the Japan Society of Thermophysical Properties. K. Katayama of the Tokyo Institute of Technology was the chairman of the symposium. The 3-day symposium brought together over 150 engineers and scientists in the field of thermophysical properties. There were 55 papers presented, covering a wide range of topics in the realm of thermodynamic and transport properties of solids and fluids. In addition to several analytical papers, there were a number of papers describing new and/or improved techniques for the measurements of thermal properties of solids and fluids over wide temperature and pressure ranges. Throughout the symposium, significant emphasis was placed on measurements of thermophysical properties of materials having practical applications, such as building materials, insulators, refractory materials, dispersed materials, molten salts, rocks, coal, frozen beds, foods, and biomaterials.

A synopsis of the coverage of the Japan–United States Joint Seminar on Thermophysical Properties appears in the Introduction of the previous issue (Vol. 5, No. 1, 1984) of this journal.

On behalf of the journal, we acknowledge the excellent contributions by all the authors. We also wish to extend our appreciation to N. Seki of Hokkaido University for his invaluable help in coordinating the editing and submission of the papers from our colleagues in Japan.

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