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PREFACE

Strongly Coupled Coulomb Systems

This special issue contains papers presented at the International Conference on Strongly Coupled Coulomb Systems (SCCS), held from 29 July–2 August 2008 at the University of Camerino. Camerino is an ancient hill-top town located in the Apennine mountains of Italy, 200 kilometres northeast of Rome, with a university dating back to 1336.

The Camerino conference was the 11th in a series which started in 1977:

- 1977: Orleans-la-Source, France, as a NATO Advanced Study Institute on Strongly Coupled Plasmas (hosted by Marc Feix and Gabor J Kalman)
- 1982: Les Houches, France (hosted by Marc Baus and Jean-Pierre Hansen)
- 1986: Santa Cruz, California, USA (hosted by Forrest J Rogers and Hugh E DeWitt)
- 1989: Tokyo, Japan (hosted by Setsuo Ichimaru)
- 1992: Rochester, New York, USA (hosted by Hugh M Van Horn and Setsuo Ichimaru)
- 1995: Binz, Germany (hosted by Wolf Dietrich Kraeft and Manfred Schlanges)
- 1997: Boston, Massachusetts, USA (hosted by Gabor J Kalman)
- 1999: St Malo, France (hosted by Claude Deutsch and Bernard Jancovici)
- 2002: Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (hosted by John F Benage and Michael S Murillo)
- 2005: Moscow, Russia (hosted by Vladimir E Fortov and Vladimir Vorob'ev).

The name of the series was changed in 1996 from Strongly Coupled Plasmas to Strongly Coupled Coulomb Systems to reflect a wider range of topics. 'Strongly Coupled Coulomb Systems' encompasses diverse many-body systems and physical conditions.

The purpose of the conferences is to provide a regular international forum for the presentation and discussion of research achievements and ideas relating to a variety of plasma, liquid and condensed matter systems that are dominated by strong Coulomb interactions between their constituents. Each meeting has seen an evolution of topics and emphases that have followed new discoveries and new techniques. The field has continued to see new experimental tools and access to new strongly coupled conditions, most recently in the areas of warm matter, dusty plasmas, condensed matter and ultra-cold plasmas.

One hundred and thirty participants came from twenty countries and four continents to participate in the conference. Those giving presentations were asked to contribute to this special issue to make a representative record of an interesting conference.

We thank the International Advisory Board and the Programme Committee for their support and suggestions. We thank the Local Organizing Committee (Stefania De Palo, Vittorio Pellegrini, Andrea Perali and Pierbiagio Pieri) for all their efforts. We highlight for special mention the dedication displayed by Andrea Perali, by Rocco di Marco for computer support, and by our tireless conference secretary Fiorella Paino. The knowledgeable guided tour of the historic centre of Camerino given by Fiorella Paino was appreciated by many participants. It is no exaggeration to say that without the extraordinary efforts put in by these three, the conference could not have been the success that it was. For their sustained interest and support we thank Fulvio Esposito, Rector of the University of Camerino, Fabio Beltram, Director of NEST, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, and Daniel Cox, Co-Director of ICAM, University of California at Davis. We thank the Institute of Complex and Adaptive Matter

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ICAM-I2CAM, USA for providing a video record of the conference on the web (found at http://sccs2008.df.unicam.it/). Finally we thank the conference sponsors for their very generous support: the University of Camerino, the Institute of Complex and Adaptive Matter ICAM-I2CAM, USA, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics ICTP Trieste, and CNR-INFM DEMOCRITOS Modeling Center for Research in Atomistic Simulation, Trieste.

David Neilson and Gaetano Senatore

Guest Editors