

Broadening the Visualization Frontier



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The Journal of Visualization is now in its 10th year. The JOV has published 350 peer reviewed papers and 210 frontispieces over the past nine years, with more than 60% of these articles from authors outside Japan. For Japanese academic societies, publishing English journals is one measure of a leading association. In spite of its small size, VSJ has consistently accomplished this in both quantity and quality for nearly a decade. This could not have happened without the early and continuous effort of Prof. Yasuki Nakayama, Prof. Yoshimichi Tanida, Prof. Toshio Kobayashi, and many other society members.

Fluid flow visualization has been and is the major subject of the articles. The wide range of intensive work which appeared in the journal has made JOV a unique international source of knowledge on flow visualization. I believe it will continue to be a core competence of JOV for the near future. Meanwhile the application area of visualization is being extended owing to the recent boost in computing power. Information visualization and scientific art are such typical areas.

From my background in the information technology business, the potential demand for information visualization especially looks promising to me. As fluid flow is a chaotic natural phenomenon, today's explosion of digital information happening in the Internet ocean often expresses chaotic, organic behavior. As researchers need to draw insight from flow analysis to control the vortex of turbines, people need the means to extract both the right and the most indicative and stimulating information from a number of veins while controlling the surge of accompanying garbage. Search engines are one area of focus. Visualization will provide people with more useful means to deal with the chaos here as it has with flow analysis.

VSJ is promoting another approach to enlarge the visualization frontier. It is a new organizational framework for the academic-industrial alliance. Several special interest groups have already been formed early this year, each with a core funding company. I hope that many of their results will appear in the future issues of this journal.

JOV has made a couple of changes and additions from this issue. One of them is the launch of the e-Journal, with which you can access PDF files of each paper from www.jov.jp if you register. I hope, with your support, JOV will continue to be a more valuable resource for our members and the field as a whole. As president of VSJ, I would like to thank all past and present authors, editors, and anonymous voluntary reviewers for making possible and supporting the 37 issues including this first issue of Vol. 10.

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