

## Preface

At the annual meeting of the *Journal of Computational Physics* editorial board earlier this year, the current editor, Jerry Brackbill, raised the possibility of doing something to mark the journal's 30 years of history. He suggested a special issue containing reprinted versions of papers from the past. The suggestion was greeted enthusiastically both by the editors and by the staff of Academic Press, with the result that you now hold in your hands.

Selection of the papers to appear provoked animated discussion, but a fair degree of consensus. No single objective criterion was thought to be decisive, but papers were to be chosen that had been widely influential in the style that JCP seeks to achieve. Many of the selected papers have been cited four or five hundred times, but this was not in itself a criterion. Inevitably, there are many papers whose omission is an occasion for regret, but there were financial limits to be respected.

Each paper is presented here (reset to meet the journal's new format) accompanied by an appreciation from an expert in the field. Thanks are due to the authors of these, who responded willingly to a task that was set to them with a very short deadline. These are labors of love. Together with the original articles, they should give some of the journal's younger readers a sense of the brief but eventful history from which today's computational methods have evolved. If they also serve to inspire contributions that can be reprinted the next time the journal presents an anniversary issue, the torch will indeed have been passed on.

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Editor, 1992–1994

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