

## Physics – Uspekhi is 90 years old

*Issue One of Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk (UFN, or Physics – Uspekhi) was printed in April 1918, which means that in 2008 UFN will enter its tenth decade. It is very pleasant to point out that the goals pursued by our journal have not changed in the 90 years of its life — we attempt first and foremost to describe the latest achievements in physics and in closely related fields of science, especially astrophysics.*

**As we have done throughout these 90 years, our principal goal is to take good care of our readers!**

*It has invariably been the opinion of every editorial board that has taken part in the publishing of our journal over the past nine decades that our journal must appeal not only to mature physicists but also to the younger generation — senior students and undergraduates, postgraduates, and in general anyone who is just beginning their way in science, or anyone switching to a new field of science. This is why we request (as we always have) that even authors of monographic reviews intended mostly for specialists must begin their paper with an introduction that would allow any physicist to understand what it is all about. We also ask our authors to explain every notation, even if it is widely used in special literature. Our authors are advised not to assume that our readers are well acquainted with the history of the subject involved, and, among other things, of the contribution of Russian and Soviet authors. There is no doubt, of course, that “the best is the enemy of the good”, so that these wishes of ours do not have clear-cut boundaries. We urge our authors to try and better understand the critical remarks made by referees, members of the editorial board, and other members of staff who are trying to do their jobs well.*

*We also need to stress the principal difference between a journal like UFN and those which publish original research papers. UFN cannot and will not publish even very valuable original papers, nor review articles if they are devoted to too narrow a subject, to aspects that have already had sufficiently detailed coverage in the journal earlier, and so forth.*

*We wish to note that the editorial policy that we have pursued for decades has brought our journal a sufficiently stable reputation in the world scientific community; we see this in the high rating of UFN/Physics – Uspekhi — we are No. 13 in the world in the category “Physics, Multidisciplinary” (data of the Institute of Scientific Information, USA for 2006) and have the highest impact factor (IF) among all natural science journals of the former Soviet Union (IF = 2.675 for 2006). The statistics on the number of hits on UFN’s site [www.ufn.ru](http://www.ufn.ru) (over the last decade we have placed on it the entire full-text archive of the journal UFN in Russian from 1918 onwards, as well as the tables of contents of every issue, plus abstracts of papers in English published in UFN since 1994) are also an indication of the popularity of our journal. High demand for Physics – Uspekhi articles also follows from statistics on the UFN server. In 2007, an average of 75 thousand visitors ‘dropped in on our server’ every day. The total number of visits between December 1994 and the end of 2007 exceeded 65 million, arriving from 826 thousand different internet addresses; of these, 62.5% were from the Russian Federation, 29.9% were from the USA, and, in decreasing order, hits came from the following countries: Austria, Ukraine, Germany, Portugal, Belarus, Israel, Japan, and Great Britain, which tells us a lot about the significant interest the scientific communities of many countries have in publications in Physics – Uspekhi.*

**We are grateful to all readers for their interest in the journal UFN!**

*In the past, UFN printed numerous translations of articles published abroad and also reviewed a number of books. In recent years, this has become undesirable and impossible. We shall continue publishing translations of Nobel lectures in Physics and in some cases lectures in other disciplines, inasmuch as they concern physics topics — but nothing else. In principle, other exceptions are possible — one cannot foresee everything — but our general orientation is clear.*

*As for book reviews, so many books on physics, astrophysics, biophysics, etc. are published in the world, mostly in English, that it would be absolutely infeasible to keep track of this cascade of books in UFN, while arbitrary or random selection of titles would be inadvisable. Therefore, Physics – Uspekhi shall review foreign-published books only in those cases when their content happens to be closely related to the progress of physics in Russia or to something similar. Contrary to this, we wish to continue to spread information about books published in Russia, using our specialized section “New books on physics and related sciences”. At the same time, critical notes on pseudoscientific publications are perfectly welcome on our pages.*

*We intend to celebrate the 90th anniversary of UFN at the end of 2008. How shall we do it? It is not clear yet. One possible format could be a joint session of the Physical Sciences Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences combined with a Verbal Issue of UFN plus physics reports by members of the editorial board; the material from such a jubilee session could then be published in UFN.*

*We are grateful to readers for useful suggestions and critical comment. We shall always try to take them into account.*

**Do write to us — improving UFN is in the interest of every physicist!**

*Editorial Board*