THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL VIDEOTAPES

There are some types of illustrations that are not well suited to single frames or figures but are very informative in videotape format. Examples are hydrodynamic calculations (e.g., jets moving through a medium), n -body simulations (e.g., interacting galaxies, clustering, and galaxy formation), and lapse-time photography (e.g., solar activity and sequences of spectra of an evolving or orbiting object). Furthermore, almost all readers of the Journal have access to video readers (VCRs), at least in their homes. Therefore it seems reasonable to include occasional videotapes that will provide illustrations for some of the papers in a specific issue and that will be distributed to all subscribers.

The first such videotape will be distributed separately (by airmail abroad) to all subscribers and will provide five video segments for selected papers in the 1992 July 10 issue. They will be supplied in VHS to US subscribers and in either VHS, PAL, or SECAM format to subscribers in other nations, depending upon which system is predominant there. Each author's institution will be asked to contribute \$1000 in "page charges" for the videotape.

We anticipate that we may distribute future videotapes at half-year intervals, depending upon the number of authors submitting them. The manuscripts and videotapes are refereed in the usual way, with the added stipulation that the videotapes must provide unique and important contributions to the scientific content of the papers; they are not intended only for tutorial information. When sufficient papers with video segments (usually three to six) have been accepted for publication, we will schedule the next issue with an accompanying videotape. That means that initially, at least, such issues will occur at irregular intervals.

We welcome comments and suggestions regarding this new venture in the astronomical literature.

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