

Editorial Article

Thai Journal of Physics: The First 40 Years

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Abstract

This article presents a historical overview of the Thai Journal of Physics, tracing its development from its founding in 1983 to its 40th anniversary in 2023. It highlights the journal's contributions to the Thai physics community, editorial evolution, and adaptation to the digital era. The article also reflects on the journal's role in shaping national scientific discourse and explores its future prospects in a rapidly evolving academic landscape.

Keywords: Thai Journal of Physics, Thai Physics Society, Scholarly publishing, Academic journals, Thai-Journal Citation Index

Introduction

The Thai Journal of Physics is a peer-reviewed publication of the Thai Physics Society, covering a wide range of topics in theoretical, experimental, and applied physics. As an open-access journal with no publication charges, it welcomes submissions in both Thai and English. In 2023, the journal celebrated its 40th anniversary with the release of Volume 40.

While it may fly under the radar internationally, its four-decade longevity is a testament to the dedication of Thailand's physics community and the Thai Physics Society's commitment to advancing physics research and education. This article documents the journal's journey, celebrates its achievements, and reflects on its ongoing contributions to the national scientific conversation.

Founding and Early Years

The Thai Journal of Physics was established in 1983 by the then Institute of Thai Physics as a platform for physicists in Thailand to share research findings and foster collaboration. Initially published in print, the journal served as a scholarly companion to the TIP Newsletter, which disseminated community news and events. The early contributors to the journal were prominent figures in the history of Thai physics, instrumental in shaping the academic community and establishing foundational works in both theoretical and experimental physics for the country [1-4]. Over time, the journal underwent several editorial transitions and became an official publication of the Thai Physics Society. Its editorial board has gradually expanded to include experts from diverse subfields. Occasionally, the journal published contributions from national meetings of physicists and spun off conference proceedings for the Siam Physics Congress, reflecting the breadth of Thai

physics research. The journal has also played a formative role in nurturing early-career scientists—many contributors from their student years have since become distinguished physicists in Thailand.

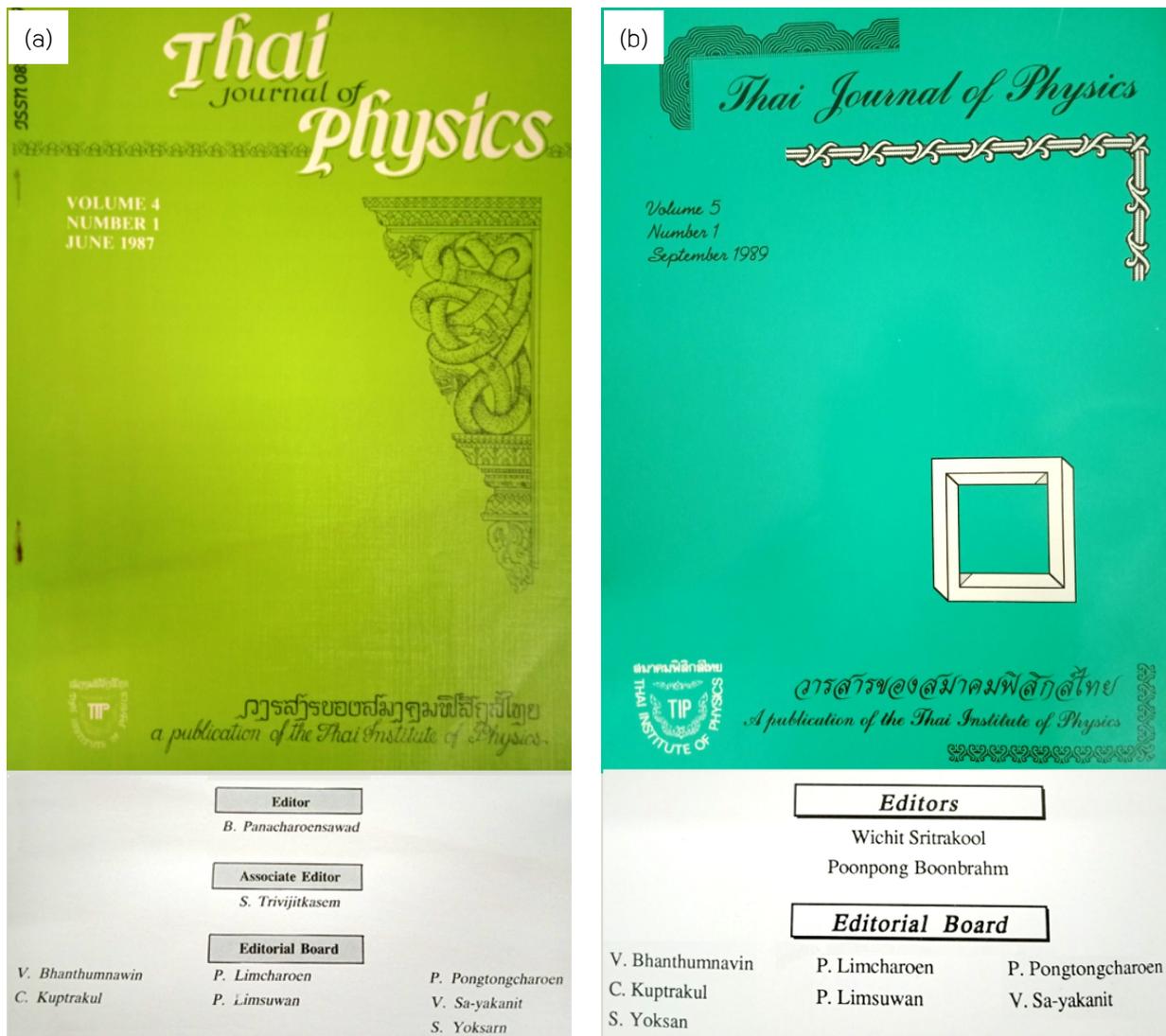


Figure 1 Covers and editorial board of Thai Journal of Physics; (a) Volume 4(1) and (b) Volume 5(1)

Challenges and Adaptations

Originally available only in print, the Thai Journal of Physics transitioned to an online format in 2014 (Volume 31). Current and past issues, including original research articles, are now accessible via its official website hosted on the ThaiJo platform [5], which also serves as a portal for manuscript submission and peer review. This digital shift required significant adaptation but expanded the journal's outreach and visibility. Some articles have recorded over a thousand downloads, a reflection of the growing readership. The journal's bilingual policy has helped bridge local and international audiences, and the proportion of English-language submissions continues to rise. A number of articles have been cited by publications indexed in the Scopus database.

Currently published biannually, the journal has adhered to a double-blind peer review process and improved editorial standards to meet the criteria of the Thai-Journal Citation Index (TCI) [6]. Consequently, the contents has been indexed in the TCI database since 2021. From 2022, the journal has adopted a continuous publication model, with articles published online within two weeks of acceptance.



Figure 2 Covers of the Thai Journal of Physics featuring articles on Nobel Prize winners in Physics

Despite challenges common to local academic journals—such as maintaining visibility and attracting submissions of high-quality research—the Thai Journal of Physics remains distinctive for its community-centered content with articles on physics education, national facilities, and obituaries.

Additionally, articles on Nobel Prize winners in Physics, written in Thai language, gained broad readership. The journal occasionally published thematic issues on emerging research areas such as photonics, acoustics, and nanomagnets. Notably, the special issue on Thailand Tokamak-1 in 2021 marked a milestone for Thailand’s nuclear fusion research infrastructure. The journal also continues to support interdisciplinary research, with contributions spanning nuclear engineering, wind energy, and forensic science.

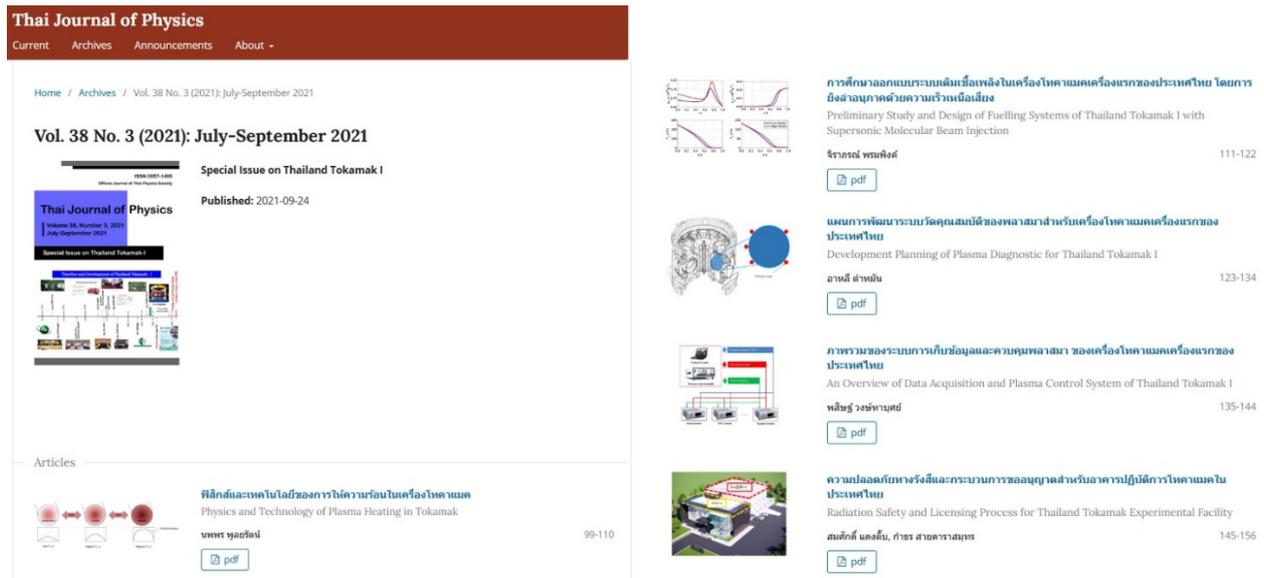


Figure 3 Contents of Thai journal of Physics Vol. 38(3): Special issue of on Thailand Tokamak-1

Future Outlook

Reaching its 40th year is a remarkable milestone for the Thai Journal of Physics. Its enduring presence reflects the resilience and dedication of Thailand’s scientific community. As an open-access journal without publication fees, it upholds its mission to make scientific knowledge widely accessible and to serve as a cornerstone of the Thai physics ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the journal aspires to enhance its international visibility by encouraging submissions from abroad and pursuing indexing in global academic databases. As it enters its fifth decade, the Thai Journal of Physics remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering research, education, and collaboration in physics—both nationally and beyond.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to the Thai Journal of Physics over the past 40 years. This enduring journey would not have been possible without the dedication of our editorial board members, the trust and scholarship of our authors, the thoughtful insights of our peer reviewers, and the continued engagement of our readers. Your collective support has been instrumental in sustaining and advancing the journal’s mission.

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