The five selected papers are presented from the 3rd Japan – Central Europe Joint Workshop held in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 27–30 September 1998. This workshop activity is managed and supported by the international science and technology exchange program of the Science and Technology Agency of Japan. The 1st, 2nd workshops were held in Pultusk, Poland, on 25–29 September 1994, and in Budapest, Hungary, on 7–9 November 1996, respectively. The 3rd workshop consisted of the following four sessions.

2. Superconductivity
3. Inverse Problem
4. Combustion

The five papers were selected from the sessions 1, 2, 3, while the selected papers from the session 4 are to be published in Journal Archivum Combustionis. The 4th workshop is going to be held in Brno, Czech Republic, on 10–13 November 2000. After this cycle over all central European countries has been successfully fulfilled, we plan to proceed to international research collaborations. We are sure that those papers will contribute to the realization of fruitful international collaborations in the second stage.

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