

## Foreword

Active Galactic Nuclei radiate over the electro-magnetic spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays. Understanding the physics of these objects therefore requires the synthesis of results from many different domains of Astronomy. It was the aim of the conference "Active Galactic Nuclei across the Electromagnetic Spectrum" to provide a forum where this exchange could take place.

Some 300 astronomers participated to the conference, 250 of them presented results either as oral papers or in the form of posters. Observations in all domains of the electro-magnetic spectrum in which astronomical observations can be made from the ground or from space were presented. Many theoretical contributions were also given.

There has been a tremendous growth in the number and quality of Astronomical observations in many spectral domains over the past several years. Students of Active Galactic Nuclei have been particularly keen to make use of the available facilities (both space born and on the ground), often in a very organised way, in order to obtain repeated simultaneous data covering large bands of the spectrum. This approach has produced a qualitatively new set of data for understanding the physics of Active Galactic Nuclei. The task of the meeting was to review this data in a coherent way.

Models of Active Galactic Nuclei were often devised in the past from observations in a single spectral domains. These models can now be confronted with much more comprehensive sets of data and often showed the need for changes or improvements. As a result there was a very open debate during the conference between different viewpoints for example on the physical origin of the optical and ultraviolet emission.

The meeting was hosted by the Observatory of Geneva in one of the buildings of the University of Geneva in the center of the city. It took place August 30 to September 3 1993. There were no parallel sessions, in line with the aim of the meeting to provide a synthesis of present knowledge rather than a set of particular views. Half of the posters were displayed from Monday to Wednesday, while the second half were presented from Wednesday to Friday. The quality of the posters was quite impressive.

The State of Geneva offered the participants a reception in the Palais Eynard, a magnificent building few hundred yards from the University. M. D. Föllmi, member of the Government of the State of Geneva gave a very warm welcome to all participants, insisting on the value of Astronomy for Peace in the world.

The conference dinner took place during a cruise on the lake of Geneva. Prof. L. Woltjer gave the after dinner speech, showing how (little) our fundamental knowledge on Active Nuclei has evolved in the 30 years since their discovery.

These proceedings contain almost all the presentations given at the conference both as posters and as oral invited and contributed papers. We offered all participants the possibility to publish their contribution so that the subjects reviewed during the conference are all presented and no arbitrary choices had to be made by the organisers. As a consequence, and to keep this volume to a reasonable size, the poster contributions are limited for most of them to one page. This implies that the posters must be viewed as a hint to a new development and/or as the pointer towards more detailed descriptions of the work presented here.

The meeting was supported by the Observatory of Geneva, the University of Geneva, the University of Lausanne, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Academy of

Sciences, the Swiss Bank Corporation, the International Science Foundation the European Astronomical Society and the International Astronomical Union. We are grateful for this support which allowed us to welcome a large number of participants from all over the world in excellent conditions. Many of the invited speakers could arrange for independent funding of at least part of their expenses. This permitted us to support a larger number of astronomers who could not have participated otherwise.

The meeting could not have taken place without the generous help of a large number of people. Our secretary, Ms E. Teichmann, worked very hard and successfully to handle the large amount of administrative tasks related to the organisation. G. Simond and D. Mégevand devised numerous informatic tools to help us handle efficiently the data we needed from registrations to the publication of these proceedings. Several Ph.D. Students and Post Docs of the Geneva Observatory spent time helping at the registration desk and handling slides and microphones. All these people and several more are to be thanked for the smooth running of the meeting.

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