

PREFACE

I.A.U. Symposium No. 110 on VLBI and Compact Radio Sources was held in Bologna, Italy from June 27 to July 1, 1983. 166 participants from 19 countries were registered and 106 invited and contributed papers were registered.

The scientific presentations and discussion concentrated on VLBI observation and interpretation of galactic and extragalactic radio sources, including topics as diverse as quasars and galactic nuclei, interstellar masers, pulsars, and astrometry. Geodetic applications and technical development were treated only briefly, as these topics have been the subject of other recent international symposia.

Since the first VLBI observations in 1967, sensitivity, resolution, and image quality have improved dramatically. Radio maps shown at the symposium were of comparable quality to conventional synthesis maps being made at the time of the first VLBI experiments 15 years ago, but with a resolution more than a factor of 1000 better.

We wanted to accommodate the large number of contributed papers in this rapidly developing field, but there was inadequate time for normal oral presentations and discussion. We therefore asked that all contributed papers be put on display for at least 24 hours prior to a brief oral summary. A question and discussion period followed groups of oral presentations on the same or similar topic. In this way the opportunity for interactive discussion, not available in conventional poster displays, was preserved.

The Symposium was sponsored by IAU and the National Research Council of Italy and to these bodies the organisers express their grateful thanks.

On June 29th the group had the opportunity to see the new 32 meter Italian antenna at Medicina - the first in the world dedicated to VLBI research. Following the observatory visit, more than 150 were the guests of the Mayor and village of Medicina for a never-to-be-forgotten "home-cooked dinner" followed by some hours of merriment.

We thank the authors and participants who have contributed to the symposium and to these proceedings. Special thanks go to the local participants who worked so hard to keep the symposium running smoothly. We also wish to express our gratitude to the secretarial staff and, in particular, to Mrs. S. Buckley, to Mr. L. Baldeschi and to N. Primavera, of the Istituto di Radioastronomia, for their invaluable help.

R. Fanti
K.I. Kellermann
G. Setti