
Preface

The International Conference “Ultraviolet Properties of Evolved Stellar Populations” held in Puerto Vallarta, México on April 16-20, 2007, is the second “New Quests in Stellar Astrophysics” event, sponsored by the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE) and the University of Guadalajara (U. de G.). In 2001 we organized the first meeting aimed at stressing the importance of stellar physics to understand the properties of stellar systems at different scales. We have now focused on the ultraviolet interval to review our current knowledge on the properties of evolved stellar populations. The conference represented a unique opportunity to collect an up-to-date view of the outcomes from various satellites, from the long-lived *International Ultraviolet Explorer* to current facilities, such as the *Galaxy Evolution Explorer*. This fresh panorama will undoubtedly impact on the preparation of planned ultraviolet space missions, such as the *World Space Observatory* and the *Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope*.

The conference was also motivated by the recent access to the rest frame UV light of distant red galaxies, gained through large optical facilities. This driveway has derived in a renewed interest on the stars that presumably dominate or have important effects on the integrated UV characteristics of evolved nearby systems. The conference intended to convene scientists interested in some of the main issues associated with the ultraviolet properties of old populations. Nearly 60 participants from 10 countries reviewed and discussed, through about 50 oral and poster presentations, the relevant aspects that embraced topics from atomic physics to galaxies in the relatively young Universe.

An important component of the meeting was that numerous graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Guadalajara actively participated by showing the results of their first steps in science. Their enthusiasm and the commitment of the authorities will certainly emerge as an important contribution for supporting the development of basic sciences at this institution.

We would like to thank all the participants for their efforts in preparing their contributions which, no doubt, provide a fresher global picture on

the impact of stellar physics in understanding aged stellar aggregates. The strengthening of existing collaborations and new ones that sprouted among the participants is, unquestionably, a major output of the event.

We are indebted to INAOE and CONACyT for its generous financial and logistics support. A word of gratitude also goes to the U. de G., in particular to the Institute of Astronomy and Meteorology of the Department of Physics of the Centro Universitario de Ciencias Exactas e Ingenieria (CUCEI) and to the Centro Universitario de la Costa (CUC), for its invaluable collaboration.

Finally, we deeply thank the admirable organizing work from our colleagues of the Scientific and Local Committees, as well as the technical staff of INAOE. Their efforts “crystallized” in a successful meeting.

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New Quests in Stellar Astrophysics II

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