

53rd Meeting of the Italian Astronomical Society **“L’universo quattro secoli dopo Galileo”**

Pisa, May 4-8, 2009

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EGO/VIRGO

FOREWORD

The International Year of Astronomy, 2009, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first astronomical telescopic observations, was also the Year of Galileo and it was in that spirit that the Italian Astronomical Society (Società Astronomica Italiana) chose to hold its annual meeting in Pisa. This is the city where Galileo was born both physically and intellectually, where he held his first teaching position (not without difficulties), and where he began the study of motion that would ultimately produce such epochal results. The SAIt annual meetings are always a chance to show the depth and breadth of the research being done by the Italian community, but to emphasize the enormous progress made in interdisciplinary astrophysics the scientific organizing committee also added several special plenary sessions on multiwavelength astrophysics, new instrumentation, and numerical techniques. There was also a special historical session devoted to the famous *pisano* and his world, open to the public, and as always a section dedicated to astronomy (and science) education. Two public lectures were organized, on the new results in high energy observations highlighting GLAST/Fermi (in which the Pisa University and local INFN section have been central), and on the questions at the borders of modern cosmology, and there was a special a “Galileo walk” around Pisa. You can see for yourself the result of the meeting in the following pages that record the scientific presentations.

An event on the scale of a national meeting requires the labor of many people. Those entities, public and private, who sponsored the meeting are listed on the previous page. But we would want to thank some of the individuals who, through their tireless efforts, made this possible. In particular, the software used for this conference and these proceedings was developed by Matteo Dell’Omodarme (together with Giada Valle). Silvia Ferretti displayed both skill and imagination in designing and creating the posters for the meeting. Giuliana Giobbi, from INAF/Monteporzio, headed the logistics for the Society from Rome. Her help together with the one by Fabrizio Mazzucconi, the SAIt secretary staff (Laura Mazzucconi, Rossella Venturi) and by Susanna Antichi and Adele Saredo Parodi from INFN Pisa was fundamental during the conference. Roberta Amaranti, Federico Quaglierini and Andrea Valassina, from the computer center of the Pisa physics department, managed the computer facilities and wireless connections during the meeting. The DIVA group of the Monte Porzio observatory (thanks to Francesco D’Alessio Marco Faccini e Riccardo Leoni) brought to Pisa their magnificent interactive exhibit on modern astronomy, developed by INAF, for public viewing during and after the congress, and the INFN provided exhibits for display during the conference (thanks to Gloria Spandre). Roberto Buonanno and Ronaldo Bellazzini deserve special thanks for their wonderful public presentations. Thanks to the dean of the science faculty, Umberto Mura, for his administrative help. Finally we would thank all the LOC members for their essential support.

S. Degl’Innocenti, P. Paolicchi, U. Penco, P. G. Prada Moroni, S. Shore and G. Valle