

ATLAS 12 and related codes

Trieste, July 11-15, 2005

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FOREWORD

We want to thank Dr. Danziger for his words of welcome. We also want to acknowledge the participation of Dr. Robert L. Kurucz without whose scientific and computing skills this meeting could not have been held. We will have a communal opportunity to thank him for his efforts and generosity towards the stellar astronomy community.

We are meeting in the historic city of Trieste. As Tergeste it likely dates to the prehistoric period. Octavius Ceasar had city walls built in 33-32 BC. Dating to this period is a Roman Theatre and the Arco di Riccardo. Although we will be very busy, it would be nice to see some of the other sights, such as the Victory Lighthouse, the San Giusto Cathedral and Castle, the Grotta Gigante, the funicular tramway, and the Old Stock Exchange Building as well as note the large range in architectural styles. In the vicinity of Trieste there is a wide variety of flora. We should also try some of the local gastronomy that is based on Venetian and Friulan cooking influence by Austrian, Greek, Balcanic and Jewish cuisine.

The idea for this workshop came from conversations after the end of The A-Star Puzzle Meeting on the bus from Poprad to Kosice and on the subsequent flight from Kosice to Prague a year ago. Here we will be discussing how to better use the tools for LTE plane parallel model atmospheres analyses. As we had hoped we attracted other users of Bob's ATLAS9 and related programs to a workshop to learn how to use ATLAS12 and to be able to create our own odfs. We also wanted to learn about the state of ATLAS suite programs. Further it is desirable to learn about a variety of ways other astronomers have adapted Bob's codes to handle special situations. We made a deliberate choice to convert and to teach the codes in Linux as this operating system is becoming the new astronomical operating system.

We especially appreciate the efforts of Fiorella Castelli and Piercarlo Bonifacio who offered to host this meeting and members of the Local Organizing Committee at the Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste. All the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee fully participated in internet discussions concerning the content and the organization of this meeting. Our program reflects their consensus. We look forward to your participation in giving talks, in the discussions after the talks and on specific issues and in the code learning computing exercises. We have five intense intensive days ahead that should be profitable for all of us.

S.J. Adelman (Chair of the SOC)

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear Participants, I regret that I cannot be present to welcome you and attend your important meeting. (I have some important business at INAF HQ in Rome). It is clear to me and obviously to you that this is a timely meeting, partly because our understanding of stellar atmospheres has increased with time, partly because we are now observationally able to measure accurately weaker and weaker absorption lines and to incorporate them into codes, and partly because new and more powerful instruments are allowing us access to fainter and fainter objects beyond the Milky Way and its satellite galaxies. Also the work that you are interested in is now undertaken not simply to understand individual stars, but to use this knowledge in the wider context of galactic and cosmological chemical evolution. With all of this new observational material becoming available, one can no longer afford the time to analyse objects just a few at a time. Large samples are called for and generally necessary. That is why I recognise the value of your enterprise in devising more efficient methods of analysis that, importantly, will also be available to everyone who needs them.

J. Danziger (Director of the Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste)