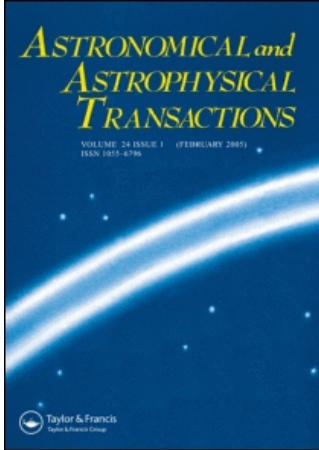


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### Soviet astronomical society scientific conference "Astrophysics Today"

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## SOVIET ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “ASTROPHYSICS TODAY”

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, March 26–28, 1991

(26 July 1991)

The main aim of the Soviet Astronomical Society founded at the meeting that was held in Moscow at March 1990 is the assistance to development of astronomy. The Society consists mainly of professional astronomers working at different observatories, research institutes and universities. Therefore the interchange with new scientific information between its members must be the considerable part of Society activities.

At the first meeting the resolution was passed to organize at 1991 the conference where wide scope of astrophysical problems would be discussed. It was agreed on to hold simultaneously the special session dedicated to memory of two untimely died outstanding astrophysicists—S. A. Kaplan and S. B. Pikelner—because each of them would have the seventieth birthday at 1991.

To hold the conference one of the main towns of Central Russia—Nizhny Novgorod—was chosen. This town is well-known for its scientific institutions and the first Russian amateur astronomers association was organized there more than hundred years ago (1888). S. A. Kaplan worked at Radio-Physical Institute in Nizhny Novgorod since 1961.

The Scientific Organizing Committee was nominated by the Astronomical Society Council with Prof. V. G. Gorbatsky (Leningrad) as the Chairman and Dr. N. Ya. Sotnikova as the Secretary. The Local Organizing Committee was headed by Prof. N. S. Petrukhin (Nizhny Novgorod).

The conference named “Astrophysics Today” was held on March 26–28 1991. It was attended with more than 200 astronomers from astrophysical institutions situated in Moscow, Leningrad, Nizhny Novgorod and other places. Seven invited review lectures were read at two plenary sessions.

The first lecture by the corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR V. V. Zheleznyakov (Nizhny Novgorod) “Cyclotron radiation in astrophysics” was related to general problems that are important to different branches of astrophysics. In the next lecture by Prof. V. M. Oraevsky (Moscow) “Physics of the Sun” some problems were discussed of internal constitution of the Sun and its neutrino radiation. The data on integral and polarized radiation of the Sun were considered by Prof. V. V. Ivanov in his lecture “Vector spectrum of the Sun”.

Two lectures were concerned of physics of stars. Dr. R. E. Gershberg (Crimean Astrophysical Observatory) in his review “Some problems of the Sun-stellar physics” paid attention to common features of flare phenomena on stars and on the Sun. Dr. V. P. Grinin from the same observatory reported the new data on *T Tau* envelopes in the review “Stars having protoplanetary disks”.

Many facts of interest were communicated by corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR. R. A. Sunyaev (Moscow) in his invited lecture "X-ray astronomy in the USSR: at present (KVANT and GRANAT) and the future". In particular some new sources of hard radiation were discovered during observations by GRANAT. The annihilation line 511 keV was detected in spectra of the sources.

Some problems in extragalactic astronomy were considered in review lecture by Prof. D. A. Varshalovich and Dr. S. Levshakov (Leningrad) "Spectra of quasars: observations and interpretation". New important data were reported concerning the so-called " $L_{\alpha}$ -line forest" in spectra of distant quasars.

In the course of memorial session the reports were made on the biographies and scientific achievements of S. B. Pikelner and S. A. Kaplan. These scientists had worked together for a long time on many problems in interstellar medium physics and in solar physics.

Pikelner's disciple Dr. M. A. Livshits (Moscow) depicted some essential works made by his teacher. In particular he pointed out the Pikelner's ideas on the magnetic phenomena in solar envelope and demonstrated the development of these conceptions by the present time.

Prof. N. S. Petrukhin (Nizhny-Novgorod) was the disciple of S. A. Kaplan and closely collaborated with him. He briefly depicted his teacher's biography and scientific work mainly at Lvov observatory (1949-1961). During this period S. A. Kaplan had worked mainly on cosmical hydrodynamics and physics of interstellar medium.

Being at Nizhny Novgorod S. A. Kaplan studied some problems of plasma astrophysics. Prof. V. N. Cytovich (Moscow) talked about his and S. A. Kaplan joint work on these problems and on further activities in this direction.

Many participants of the conference had talked warmly in their memorial speeches on joint works with S. B. Pikelner and S. A. Kaplan and about meetings with them.

Along with plenary sessions the work was conducted in four sections: 1. Solar physics 2. Physics of stars 3. Physics of interstellar medium 4. Physics of galaxies. More than forty reports (thirteen of them are reviews) were presented to section sessions. Because of great variety of problems considered in reports it is impossible to speak here on all of these. To characterize the content of the work in sections one may mention only some of the reviews: "Electrodynamical models of solar flares" by Dr. V. Zaitsev (Nizhny Novgorod), " $\gamma$ -flares" by Dr. G. S. Bisnovaty-Kogan (Moscow) "Interstellar medium dynamics and cosmic rays" by Dr. A. Bykov (Leningrad), "Physics of normal disk galaxies" by Dr. A. V. Zasov (Moscow). These and others reports will be published in "Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions" and in other journals.

Poster reports also were presented in great quantity. They were discussed in sections.

In conclusion one may remark that the conference was useful in opinion of its participants. One can wish to conferences that will be organized by the Astronomical Society in the future be also successful.

V. G. Gorbatsky