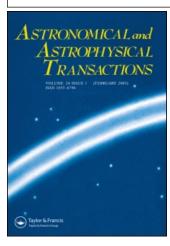
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Preface

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Variable Stars and Star Complexes

Efremov Conference

PREFACE

This issue of the journal contains papers presented at the seminar 'Variable Stars and Star Complexes' held at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute (Moscow University) on May 27, 1997. The topics of the seminar correspond to the two main fields of scientific interest of Prof. Yuri Nikolaevich EFREMOV, and the seminar was dedicated to his 60th birthday. In each of the two fields, Yu. N. Efremov contributed as a pioneer. Thus, he was the first to establish the period–age relation for Cepheids. Based upon large amount of observational material, he introduced the concept of star complexes as fundamental building blocks of disk galaxies.

Besides important studies in these and other fields of astronomy, we also know Yu. N. Efremov for being an effective leader of a united team of scientists continuing the best traditions of Galactic astronomy in Moscow and attracting young talanted people. He is a brilliant writer of popular science and a well-known fighter against pseudo-science.

The editorial board of the journal and the participants of the seminar are glad to have this opportunity to wish Prof. Yu. N. Efremov excellent health and new scientific achievements.

A. D. Chernin
The editor of the issue