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JOINT 9th EUROPEAN AND 5th NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL MEETING (JENAM-2000)

‘European Astronomy at the Turn of the Millennium’

PREFACE

SECTION S07. SOLAR CYCLE: SUN AT THE TOP OF THE MAXIMUM
(Conveners: V.N. Obridko, J.O. Stenflo)

Section 7 ‘Solar Cycle: Sun at the top of the maximum’ was devoted to reviewing the present-day state of studies on the nature and physics of the solar cycle, long-, and short-term variations.

As in September 1999 we scheduled JENAM-2000 for May 29 – June 3, it was not yet clear when exactly the cycle maximum would take place. Different forecasts indicated the second half of 2000 or even the first half of 2001. There were also significant discrepancies as to the height of the forthcoming maximum. Though it was clear that the cycle couldn’t be extremely high, still many authors predicted the smoothed Wolf numbers of 140–160.

Now, we understand that JENAM-2000 was held right at the maximum of cycle 23. The mean 10-cm solar radio flux reached 208.2 in March 2000; the international sunspot number was 170.1 in June; and finally, the smoothed sunspot number, which is traditionally used to determine the date and height of the cycle maximum, was 120.8 in April 2000. Thus, JENAM-2000 was actually the top of maximum.

Naturally, the main attention was paid to the following topics:

1. Present-day concept of solar cyclicity, such as the relation between the global and local magnetic fields, dynamo, polar magnetic fields and their polarity reversals.
2. Non-stationary processes at the solar maximum.
3. Solar-terrestrial coupling and space weather.
4. Progress in the prediction of solar activity.
5. Diagnostic possibilities and the solar-stellar connection.

Within the Section, we had 5 meetings of a total duration of 25 hours. The preliminary program comprised 44 oral contributions and 116 posters submitted by the authors from more than 20 countries. The total number of participants was about 180.

The main keynote speakers were as follows:

S07_1.1. V.I. Makarov. The Sun's magnetic cycle: New developments

S07_1.2. M. Stix. Physics of the solar dynamo: Outstanding problems

S07_2.1. B.P. Fillippov. On the Onset of CMEs in the Solar Corona

S07_3.1. M. Fligge. The Sun's variable spectrum and its terrestrial effects

S07_4.1. V.N. Obridko. Present state with the Prediction of the Cycle 23

S07_4.2. V.N. Ishkov. Evolution and Forecast of Flare Activity in the Current Solar Cycle 23

S07_5.1. J.O. Stenflo. New possibilities for the diagnostic of solar magnetic fields

S07_5.2. N. Piskunov. New techniques for the exploration of stellar activity

Most keynote lectures and many oral presentations are published in this volume.

N. G. BOCHKAREV