MEETING DATES

Sunday 12, Registration
Monday 13, Registration, Session I, Session II, 1st large audience conference before dinner.
Tuesday 14 Session III, guided afternoon visit of the medina, ceremonial dinner and folkloric show.
Wednesday 15, Session IV, Session V, 2nd large audience conference before dinner.
Thursday 16, Session VI, free afternoon.
Friday 17, Session VII, Session VIII, visit to the astronomical site of Oukaimeden, dinner and "Star Night" with amateur astronomers.
Back to Marrakech in the morning of **Saturday 18**.

DEADLINES

1st April: Symposium Travel Grant Applications to SOC
14 April: Deadline for submission of the abstracts to SOC
16 June: Deadline for accepted papers/posters
17 July: Second circular
Early registration: US$200 covering transportation from airport to hotel and from conference venue to hotel; coffee breaks and lunches; ceremonial dinner and folkloric show; conference proceedings.
Late registration: US$250 after 1st October
13 November: Start of workshop
17 December: Manuscript delivery to SOC

SECOND CIRCULAR

The second circular which contains program and reception conditions will be addressed to each registered participant.

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Z. Benkhaldoun	Marrakech University	Morocco
M. Chun	GEMINI	USA
R. Giovanelli	Cornell University	USA
C. Muñoz-Tuñón	IAC	Spain
R. Racine	Montreal University	Canada
S. Radford	NRAO	USA
L. Rodrigez	UNAM	Mexico
M. Sarazin	ESO	Germany
J. Vernin	Nice University	France

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Abdelkader Mokhliss	Marrakech
Benkhaldoun Zouhair	Marrakech
Brakez Abderahim	Marrakech
Chabab Mohamed	Marrakech
El Azhari My Youssef	Marrakech
Jabiri Abdelhadi	Marrakech
Kadiri Samir	Rabat
Khalla Tarik	Marrakech
Lazrek Mohamed	Rabat
Tanouti Boumediene	Marrakech
Touma Hamid	Rabat

LOCAL CONTACT

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Astronomical Site Evaluation in the Visible and Radio Range

Marrakech, Morocco, 13-17 November 2000

IAU Technical Workshop
hosted by
Cadi Ayyad University

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

E-mail: iausite@unice.fr

Web: http://www.eso.org/iau_site2000/

PRESENTATION

The purpose of this meeting is to assess the state of the art with regard to astronomical site testing in the visible, IR and radio range. Emphasis will be placed on the physical mechanisms, which govern the propagation of waves in the atmosphere, their origin and consequences. A special mention will be made of all the techniques, which allow us to evaluate the perturbation along the beam path: remote sensing, in situ probing and atmospheric modeling. A detailed survey of the major astronomical sites will be presented, as well as the requirements of ground based astronomy for the next decades. Although this meeting is devoted to gaining a better insight into the physical phenomena, related fields of astronomy will be included, such as interferometry and adaptive optics. Special attention will be paid to Moroccan sites.

TOPICS

The workshop covers items related to "Astronomical Site Evaluation in the Visible and Radio Range", and provides an opportunity for the optical and radio communities to compare methods and needs.

I. Physical Mechanisms of Atmospheric Turbulence
II. Measuring Instruments in the Visible
III. Site Characterization and Atmospheric Transparency in the mm/submm Range
IV. Tropospheric Phase Instability and Compensation Schemes
V. Forecasting
VI. Site Surveys
VII. Astroclimatic Stations
VIII. Phase correction: Adaptive Optics and Interferometry

MEETING FORMAT

- Sessions will be 3-4 hours long with a coffee break.
- Invited (review) papers will be 30-45 minutes long.
- Contributed papers will be 15-20 minutes long.
- Two conferences will be given to a large Moroccan audience.

PROGRAM

Monday, November 13
Session I: Physical Mechanisms of Atmospheric Turbulence
Chairperson: S. Radford
Review paper: Mechanism of formation of optical turbulence (J. Vernin)
- Generation of atmospheric turbulence
- Optical turbulence in the visible: the temperature field
- In the Radio range: water vapor, long baseline
- In the IR: temperature and water vapor

Session II: Measuring Instruments in the Visible
Chairperson: M. Sarazin
Review Paper: Observational methods for the study of optical turbulence (R. Avila)
- Remote sensing:
G-Scidar, DIMM, Radiometer, Scintillometer, GSM…
- In situ sensing:
Balloon, mast…

1st Large Audience Conference

Tuesday, November 14
Session III: Site Characterization and Atmospheric Transparency in the mm/submm Range
Chairperson: M. Ishiguro
Review paper: Site characterization for mm/submm astronomy (S. Radford)
- Tropospheric constituents, atmospheric transparency
- Radiometers and photometers
- Spectrometers (submm FTS)
- In situ measurements, i. e., radiosondes, etc.
- Transparency models

Tuesday afternoon**: Cultural Activities**

Wednesday, November 15
Session IV: Tropospheric Phase Stability and Compensation Schemes
Chairperson: L.F. Rodriguez
Review paper: Compensation schemes for tropospheric phase instability (D. Woody)
- Water vapor turbulence
- Radio and optical seeing
- Interferometry decorrelation, test interferometers
- Sky brightness fluctuations, fast switching
- Water vapor radiometry

Session V: Forecasting
Chairperson: J. Vernin
Review paper: What can meteorological numerical models do for the astronomers (Ph. Bougeault)
- Weather
- Seeing
- Cloud cover
- Extinction

2nd Large Audience Conference

Thursday, November 16
Session VI: Site Surveys
Chairperson: R. Giovanelli
Review paper: The 'ideal' site revisited for future ground-based telescope projects (M. Sarazin)
- Existing sites
- New sites (High altitude, Antarctic...)
- Radio and light pollution
- Dust scattering

Friday, November 17
Session VII: Astroclimatic Stations
Chairperson: Z. Benkhaldoun
Review paper: What might an astronomer expect from an astroclimatic station? (C. Muñoz-Tuñón)
- Existing stations
- Standards
- Networking
- Database

Session VIII: Phase Correction: Adaptive Optics and Interferometry
Chairperson: M. Chun
Review paper: Atmospheric limitations to adaptive image compensation (F. Roddier)
- Relevant atmospheric parameters
- New ideas for integrated parameters
- Monitoring (Differential water vapor, G-Scidar...)

Visit to the Astronomical Site of Oukaimeden