

tem and the data reduction software (IHAP and MIDAS) are identical to those used at ESO. Autoguider and the remote controlled spectrograph functions are also very similar to the ones astronomers face in the observatories overseas.

The school offered a number of courses on different subjects of observational astronomy. The courses, given by scientists with sound observational experience, dealt with the scientific background, the theory and the practice of observations. The emphasis was on the preparation of an observing programme, on the evaluation of parameters which determine the signal-to-noise ratios of the final data and on the practical problems to be faced at the telescope. Finally, an introduction was given to the IHAP and MIDAS data reduction systems. The speakers made an effort to cover all those points that you hardly ever find in textbooks or that are hidden between the lines of user's manuals (anyway, did you ever meet an astronomer who carefully reads user's manuals?).

Besides the theoretical courses, and this is the particularity of the School, four nights were reserved at the 1.93-m, the 1.2-m and at the Schmidt telescopes in order to offer the students a chance to obtain astrophysical data "in real time". While the work at the smaller telescopes was limited to obtaining photographic plates under the guidance of an astronomer (a spectrum at the 1.2-m and an objective prism plate at the Schmidt), the spectroscopy at the 1.93-m with the CARELEC spectrograph and a CCD detector had a more ambitious character. The students were divided in groups of two or three, each with a tutoring astronomer. The latter proposed a programme of spectroscopic observations, guided the students through data reduction with IHAP or MIDAS software and helped with the presentation of the results on the last

day of the School. Measuring redshifts of a number of extragalactic sources and classifying them, monitoring the spectroscopic variation of an X-ray source are examples of the work done by students.

The perfect observing weather greatly contributed to the smooth and successful progress of the school. The atmosphere of the Observatory, with its peculiar working schedules, and the excitement of collecting real and interesting astronomical data, made the contacts among the participants easy and stimulated the initiative of the students, who played an active role in conducting their mini research programmes. Sure, an OHP staff astronomer was always present in a corner of the control room, ready to provide help or advice, but we can say, without exaggeration, that after the 10 days of intensive training we

would feel confident to leave our ex-students to perform an observing run fully on their own. Well, at least most of them. The school was hard work, too. Towards the end, the pleasures and the frustrations of reducing and analysing the CCD data on a crowded computer overlapped with the observing, leaving little time for regular sleep. The students passed this familiar "astronomer stress" test as well and on the final day gave remarkable final presentations of their work.

We feel that the school fully accomplished its task. This was due to the motivated and active cooperation of several persons at OHP and ESO. We would like, in particular, to address a special word of thanks to our colleagues who gave the spoken and practical courses and/or played the role of the tutors.

List of courses

Modern and future telescopes
Optical and imaging instrumentation
Detectors in astronomy
Photometry in the visible
Photometry with CCD's
Photometry in the infrared
Low resolution spectroscopy
High resolution spectroscopy
Polarimetry
Interferometric observations
Observations at the 120-cm telescope
Observations at the Schmidt telescope
IHAP
MIDAS

M. Tarenghi (ESO)
S. D'Odorico (ESO)
M. Dennefeld (Paris)
F. Rufener (Geneva)
S. Ilovaisky (OHP)
P. Bouchet (ESO)
S. Cristiani (Padova)
D. Gillet (OHP)
H. Schwarz (ESO)
J.M. Mariotti (Meudon)
E. Maurice (Marseille)
R. Burnage (OHP)
M.-P. Véron-Cetty (OHP)
A. Richichi (ESO)

Tutoring astronomers: A. Chalabaev, C. Chevalier, D. Gillet, S. Ilovaisky, Ph. Véron, M.-P. Véron-Cetty (all OHP), M. Dennefeld (IAP, Paris), and S. D'Odorico (ESO)

Students: H. Boffin (Bruxelles, Belgium), A. Cappi (Bologna, Italy), Ph. Chanry (Meudon, France), J.-G. Cuby (Meudon, France), B. Cunow (Münster, FRG), M. Deleuil (Marseille, France), P. Dubath (Genève, Switzerland), J. Egonsson (Lund, Sweden), M. Jensen (Copenhagen, Denmark), M. Franchini (Trieste, Italy), A. Fruscione (Paris, France), A. Lèbre (Montpellier, France), F. Leone (Catania, Italy), P. Petitjean (Paris, France), R. Plötzl (Heidelberg, FRG), H. Röttgering (Leiden, the Netherlands), Thou Xu (OHP, France).

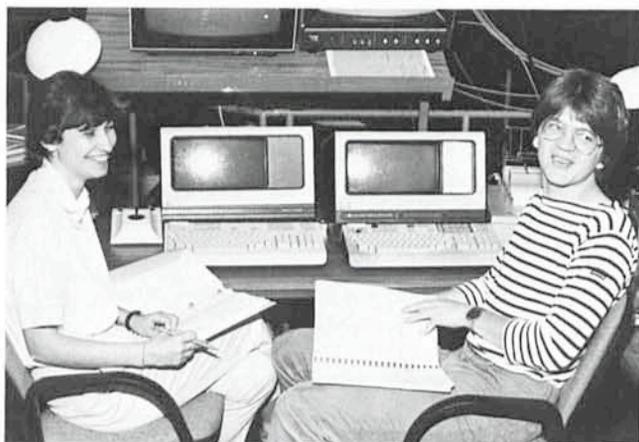


Figure 2: Students M.G. Franchini and H. Boffin enjoying a moment of relax during a long CCD integration at the 1.93-m telescope.



Figure 3: Students A. Lèbre, F. Leone and H. Röttgering working on the reduction of a CCD spectrum at a MIDAS station.