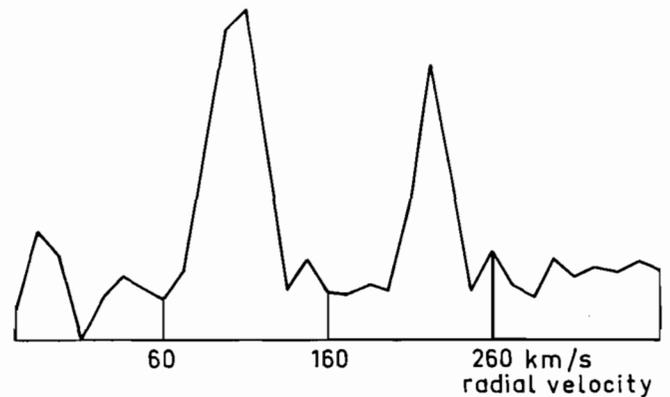


SDIG, but another one somewhat stronger, at a velocity of + 100 km/s with respect to the local standard of rest. Further observations have shown that this line comes from a large hydrogen cloud, about 1° in extent, which is in the direction of SDIG but not concentric with the galaxy. We think that this cloud is extragalactic and presumably also belongs to the Sculptor group of galaxies, but this will be hard to prove definitively. In any case, its radial velocity proves that it does not belong to the Magellanic Stream. Radioastronomers had already discovered around the major galaxies of this group, NGC 55 and NGC 300, several such clouds obviously associated with them. Is the new cloud associated with SDIG? We do not know.

The only chance to check this point would be to find some stars possibly formed from the gas of the cloud and to determine the distance of those stars. We have not yet completely mapped the cloud. A provisional estimate of its mass gives some 3×10^9 times the mass of the Sun, if the distance is that of the Sculptor group. It seems that we are dealing with a rather massive intergalactic cloud which might be sitting there since the early times of the Universe and has not yet had the opportunity of condensing into stars. There are very few of these objects known today.

This study shows the interest of concerted optical and radio observations. These observations allowed us to find

not only a galaxy where only a small amount of gas has been used up to make stars, but also a large mass of gas, where apparently star formation has not yet begun.



21-cm spectrum of SDIG obtained with the Nançay Radiotelescope. At the higher radial velocity, one sees the hydrogen line emitted by SDIG. The line at the lower radial velocities is emitted by an isolated, probably extragalactic, hydrogen cloud which extends over one degree. The radial velocities are relative to the local standard of rest.

Visiting Astronomers

April 1—October 1, 1977

Observing time has now been allocated for period 19 (April 1 to October 1, 1977). As usual, the demand for telescope time was much greater than the time actually available.

The following list gives the names of the visiting astronomers, by telescope and in chronological order. The complete list, with dates, equipment and programme titles, is available from ESO/Munich.

152-cm Spectrographic Telescope

- April: Megessier, Hultqvist, Oyen, Breysacher/Muller/Schuster/West, Schnur, Andersen.
 May: Andersen/Nordström, Ahlin, van Dessel, Wamsteker, de Loore, Breysacher/Chu-Kit, Surdej.
 June: Gahm, Pedersen, Pakull, Westerlund, Ratier, Terzan, Mauder.
 July: Mauder, Ahlin, van den Heuvel/van Paradijs, Materne, Appenzeller/Mundt/Wolf, Houziaux, Rahe.
 August: Rahe, Lauterborn, Breysacher/Muller/Schuster/West, Bergvall/Ekman/Lauberts/Westerlund, Surdej, Ahlin, Doazan.
 Sept.: Doazan, Collin-Souffrin, Heidmann, Wamsteker, Metz/Pöllitsch, Ahlin, Spite.

100-cm Photometric Telescope

- April: Turon, Wamsteker/Schober, Danks/Shaver, Martel, Vogt, Knoechel.
 May: Knoechel, Querci, de Loore, Schnur, Vogt, Pedersen.
 June: Pedersen, Pakull, Breysacher/Muller/Schuster/West, Westerlund/Wlérick, Alcaíno, Wamsteker.
 July: Wamsteker, Mauder, van den Heuvel/van Paradijs, Breysacher/Muller/Schuster/West, Schmidt-Kaler, Wamsteker, Stenholm.
 August: Stenholm, Bergvall/Ekman/Lauberts/Westerlund, van Woerden/Danks, Schultz.
 Sept.: Schultz, Wamsteker/Schober, Adam, Metz/Pöllitsch, Wamsteker, Wamsteker/Schober.

50-cm Photometric Telescope

- April: Megessier, Geyer/Vogt, Lodén, Vogt.
 May: Lodén, Knoechel, de Loore, Surdej, Wramdemark.
 June: Wramdemark, Gahm, Pakull, Vogt, Elst.
 July: Elst, Vogt/Maitzen, Rahe.
 August: Rahe, Vogt, Lauterborn, Surdej, Wamsteker/Schober, Doazan.
 Sept.: Doazan, Weiss, Spite, Wamsteker/Schober.

Objective Prism Astrograph (GPO)

- April
 to Sept: Blaauw/West, Muller/Schuster/Surdej/West.

60-cm Bochum Telescope

- July: Pettersson, Appenzeller/Mundt/Wolf.
 August: Pettersson, Reiss, Schober.
 Sept.: Schober.

50-cm Danish Telescope

- June: Loibl, Sterken.
 July: Sterken, Heck, Renson.

Tentative Meeting Schedule

The following dates and locations have been reserved for meetings of the ESO Council and Committees:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| March 2 | Finance Committee, Garching |
| April 22 | Committee of Council, Garching |
| May 9/10 | Joint meeting of Scientific Policy Committee and Instrumentation Committee, Munich |
| May 12 | Council, Munich |
| May 23–25 | Observing Programmes Committee, Kiel |