

# Preface

The idea for this book originated in the La Silla observatory where two of the editors were doing phase-resolved spectroscopy of some cataclysmic variable stars using the NTT. We realized that although indirect imaging techniques such as eclipse mapping and Doppler tomography had been around for more than a decade and had provided some of the most interesting discoveries, no book existed which covered these techniques. Moreover, no colloquium had ever been organized specifically on these topics. The implementation of tomographic methods in astrophysics, in order to probe structures on angular scales of micro-arcseconds, started about 15 years ago with the development of the eclipse mapping method. This method is able to reconstruct light distributions in eclipsing binaries by exploiting the regular obscuration of the light source by one of the binary components. A similar approach to regularised data fitting lead to a variety of related methods in order to resolve light distributions of the accretion flows in binaries, the surface structures of stars and the inner regions of active galaxies. The scientific output of these methods is considerable and they are increasingly becoming versatile tools for a wide community of researchers.

A specialised workshop seemed highly desirable, so we decided to organise the first international workshop on astrotomography. The idea of the meeting, which took place in Brussels in early July 2000, was to bring together researchers sharing an interest in applying indirect imaging methods in astronomy, and to compare the methods used in different fields. During the meeting, a large amount of time was devoted to extensive reviews of the various reconstruction techniques. In conjunction with the reviews, short contributed talks highlighted recent results and developments. Due to the small number of participants, 60, there was plenty of opportunity for discussion and interaction. Moreover, we wanted that the proceedings of this meeting could be used as a handbook on these methods. The reviewers were therefore asked to provide extensive accounts of their field. The proceedings thus consist of 13 reviews of about 25 pages each as well as 15 contributed talks of 6~8 pages. A wide range of topics are discussed, mostly on the properties of accretion flows in semi-detached binary systems containing a compact stellar remnant. Other topics include the surface and magnetic field structure of single stars, the shock waves of Mira stars, the accretion flows around black holes in binaries and active galactic nuclei and the structure of Algol systems. The large variety of subjects covered is a clear illustration of the importance that indirect imaging techniques have gained in astrophysics. A new

generation of optical telescopes and spectrographs is coming on-line which will push the possibilities of indirect imaging even further. In conjunction with that, specialised instruments and projects on existing telescopes will deliver data sets with high time and wavelength resolutions tailored for accurate mapping experiments. We hope that these proceedings will provide a helpful overview for any researcher interested in such techniques. With the same spirit of producing more than just proceedings, we also include a list of some useful resources on the Internet. We also hope that the web page of the workshop will be kept alive and become a useful reference on astrotomography.

We would like to thank all the participants for making this workshop a success, and in particular all the contributing review authors for having generously agreed to come to the meeting at their own expense, and for their efforts in providing a balanced set of review papers. Many thanks to all the members of the local organising committee for the hard work before, during and after the workshop. The Brussels Planetarium is thanked for providing us with a meeting venue and excellent support. We also wish to thank the Director of the Royal Observatory of Belgium, Prof. Paul Pâquet, for his efforts. Rob Hynes provided us with a superb ‘scientific impression’ of an interacting binary that featured on the workshop poster and various other locations. Finally, we are grateful for financial support from project G.0265.97 of the Research Programme of the Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders (F.W.O. – Vlaanderen).

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## Some Useful Resources on the Internet

- <http://www.astro.oma.be/DopplerWorkshop>  
The web page of the workshop in which updated information will be available as well as useful links to astrotomography resources.
- <http://www.astro.soton.ac.uk/~trm/software.html>  
Software from Tom Marsh, including *doppler*, for doppler imaging of accretion discs, *molly* for 1D spectrum analysis, and *pamela*, for reduction from 2D to 1D astronomical spectra.
- <http://ibm-2.MPA-Garching.MPG.DE/~henk/>  
Henk Spruit preliminary web page, containing his fast Doppler mapping program.
- <http://star-www.st-and.ac.uk/~kdh1/>  
The minimalist web page of Keith Horne.  
In <http://star-www.st-and.ac.uk/schedar/kdh1/doptom/doptom.html>, a paper about Doppler Tomography can be found as well as the source code.
- <http://sunk1.asu.cas.cz/~had/korel.html>  
KOREL is a code for spectra disentangling using Fourier transforms, available from P. Hadrava.
- [http://www.astro.soton.ac.uk/~trm/doppler\\_table.html](http://www.astro.soton.ac.uk/~trm/doppler_table.html)  
Up-to-date list of publications using Doppler Tomography, maintained by Tom Marsh.
- <http://www.astro.univie.ac.at/~kgs/research.html>  
Home page of the stellar activity working group of the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Vienna. Includes an impressive collection of Doppler images of stars.
- <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~phys/people/vdhillon/>  
Home page of Vik Dhillon with some online presentations, including the one he gave in Brussels.
- <http://www.astro.virginia.edu/people/faculty/mtr8r/index.html>  
The web page of Mercedes T. Richards with information about doppler tomography of Algols and hydrodynamic simulations of mass transfer.
- <http://star-www.st-and.ac.uk/~acc4/coolpages/imaging.html>  
Mapping starspots of A. Collier Cameron with the slides of his presentation in Brussels and some eclipsing binaries star mapping movies.

- <http://webast.ast.obs-mip.fr/people/donati/>  
The animated homepage of J.-F. Donati.
- <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~phys/people/vdhillon/ultracam/>  
ULTRACAM is an ultra-fast, triple-beam CCD camera which has been designed to study one of the few remaining unexplored regions of observational parameter space – high temporal resolution. The camera, which has recently been funded in full (292 k) by PPARC, will see first light during 2001 and will be used on 2-m, 4-m and 8-m class telescopes in Australia, the Canary Islands, Chile, Greece, South Africa and Spain to study astrophysics on the fastest timescales. ULTRACAM is a project of V. Dhillon and T. Marsh.
- [http://astro.esa.int/SA-general/Research/Detectors\\_and\\_optics/detectors\\_scam.html](http://astro.esa.int/SA-general/Research/Detectors_and_optics/detectors_scam.html)  
S-Cam is the prototype of a cryogenic camera for ground-based astronomy, based around a 6x6 array of Ta–Al superconducting tunnel junction (STJ) devices, photon-counting array detectors with intrinsic energy resolution. The detector presently provides individual photon arrival time accuracy to about 5  $\mu$ s, and a wavelength resolution of about 60 nm at 500 nm, with each array element capable of counting up to  $\sim 5000$  photons  $s^{-1}$ .
- <http://www.astro.soton.ac.uk/~rih/binsim.html>  
Rob Hynes's binary star visualisation.