

Preface

The Mexican School of Astrophysics (*Escuela Mexicana de Astrofísica 1999: EMA99*) was held in the city of Guanajuato on August 4 – 11, 1999. It was the second of its kind and marked the beginning of a hopefully long series of such events in the future. Both the quality of the lectures and the enthusiasm of the participants made it a very fruitful event. Moreover, the beauty of the colorful city of Guanajuato, as well as its sparkling life, made a wonderful setting for the school.

In keeping with the spirit of the previous school, the goal was to present a small set of topics of high current interest to advanced students and researchers in physics and astrophysics. The school consisted of eight courses which are presented here as the eight chapters of this book. A few short conferences and a poster session allowed the participants to present their own work. Each lecturer was set the difficult task of starting from the basics and culminate by bringing the audience to the forefront of her/his field. As the reader will see, the written texts of these lectures successfully fulfill this double challenge.

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Dany Page
Jorge G. Hirsch

Supporting Institutions of EMA99

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