

Preface

The XII Predoctoral School of Astrophysics, organized by the European Astrophysics Doctoral Network (EADN) took place on 6–17 September 1999, and was hosted by the Faculty of Physics of the University of La Laguna (Tenerife, Spain). The topic of the School was chosen because of the important role played by binary stars in modern astrophysics. Today, it is thought that at least half of all known stars in our galaxy form and evolve in binary or multiple systems, and this makes the study of binary stars essential to our understanding of stellar evolution. The physics of binary stars is a very active area, in which recent major advances have been made, both in theoretical modelling and observations. While the study of binary stars is a field with too many branches to be fully covered in a two-week course, for the 1999 EADN School we selected a few topics that gave a rather wide view of the present research.

The school was attended by 41 students from 12 different European countries (Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom). The lectures were delivered in the mornings over two weeks, with two afternoon sessions in which the students had the possibility of presenting their research work in the form of a short talk or poster paper.

The students' accommodation and other organizational costs were partially covered by the *European Union Training and Mobility of Researchers Programme*, Contract No. ERBFMMACT960173, and by a grant from the Gramholm Foundation of Sweden. We acknowledge the support received from the following institutions: the University of La Laguna, the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias and the island's local authorities (*Cabildo de Tenerife*) and La Laguna Town Hall). The travel costs of the invited lecturers were partially covered by Iberia airlines, while the Disa Oil Corporation supported the cost of the coffee breaks offered to attendants at the School. We are much indebted to Prof. Tom Ray, from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (Ireland), Coordinator of the EADN Schools, for his advice in the organization of the XII Predoctoral School.

La Laguna
February 2001

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