

PREFACE

The 20th century saw an intense development of stellar photometry, which gradually became one of the main tools in astrophysical research. Rapid technological progress gave rise to a variety of radiation detectors and photometric systems, covering spectral ranges from the far ultraviolet to the far infrared. Recently, large digital sky surveys in various spectral ranges are becoming one of the major sources of photometric data. Indeed, we can hardly find any astronomical research of any nature that does not use the results of photometry. It should be noted that the rise of modern photometry gave the main impetus to the development of astronomy in Lithuania in the second half of the 20th century. However, everyone, who uses photometric data, have to understand the basic principles of stellar photometry and to know the potential pitfalls involved.

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together astronomers applying photometry in their research to discuss the newest problems and to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Astronomical Observatory of Vilnius University. The meeting “Stellar Photometry: Past, Present and Future” was held on September 17–20, 2003 in Vilnius with 45 participants from 13 countries. Three kinds of presentations have been given at the meeting: 4 invited talks, 26 contributed talks and 14 poster papers. Most of them are published in these Proceedings as refereed contributions.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania, Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation and Vilnius University. Our thanks are due to all participants of the meeting, session chairmen, members of the scientific and local organizing committees.

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December, 2003