Cool stars, stellar systems, and the sun (Lecture notes in physics 291)
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Solar and stellar physics (Lecture notes in physics 292)
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The Solar-stellar connection
Solar-stellar physics is growing into a serious branch of astrophysics, especially
with the advent of more sensitive detectors, which makes possible the study of
other stars with a detail approaching that for the sun. Two books from Springer-
Verlag on this topic are at hand for review. Both come under the series "Lecture
notes in physics". The first one (No. 291) is the proceedings of the fifth Cambridge
workshop (with the same title) held at Boulder, Colorado, 1987 July. The second
(No. 292) is the proceedings of the 5th European solar meeting held at Titisee/
Schwarzwald, Germany, 1987 April.

The Cambridge workshops have come to be a standard forum for the
articulation of the views of solar-stellar physicists and the proceedings of the fifth
workshop reflects the maturity attained by this forum. The topics are broad
based and include several types of stars, including active binaries, within the realm
of those stars traditionally considered in the solar-stellar connection. Several
new results, especially on stellar magnetic measurements and on infrared observa-
tions have shown the reality of solar-stellar physics as a separate discipline. The
results on non-magnetically heated chromospheres have shown that studying the
sun alone would lead to wrong generalizations of the theory of non-radiative
atmospheric heating.

The European proceedings, on the other hand, is a new experiment within a
traditionally solar physics forum which perhaps explains the limited number of
topics discussed. Furthermore, the discussions amongst participants are not
included which leaves a feeling that we might all be missing something. The
invited reviews, however, have great depth with truly international referencing.
A good example is the article on stellar magnetism.

Both the books will serve as useful reference material to the serious researcher.
However, because of the rapid growth of this new field, both the books will not
be the last word on this subject. This makes one wonder whether libraries and
persons from developing countries, for example, need invest the large sums of
money necessary for acquiring such books. An alternative, followed for many pro-
cedings, is to publish these in special volumes of regular journals. Thus, a plea to
the organizers of such meetings to consider this factor seems to be in order here.

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