
This interesting book is the first to tell us in an exhaustive way the history of stellar spectroscopy, from the early work of Fraunhofer until 1965. It is intended for astronomers and graduate students who already know about stars and spectra and want to learn more about the explosive development of the subject.

However, it is more than an historical introduction to modern stellar spectroscopy alone. Many colleagues will use it as a comprehensive handbook which can help for a first orientation in the labyrinth of spectral classification and the identification of peculiar stars. Both these subjects receive much attention but one feels the difficulties of the author to limit himself to the historical aspect alone. This ambiguity is difficult to avoid in a project of this type where history and recent development are still intimately connected with each other.

The well-prepared indexes of names and subjects and the numerous references will be appreciated by the readers (more than 1600 references).

Unfortunately many illustrations of this expensive book are of rather poor quality.

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This book contains the proceedings of the 122nd Symposium of the IAU, on Circumstellar Matter, held at Heidelberg June 23–27, 1986. It gives a thorough review of the current research status in this rapidly evolving field of astrophysics.

The volume contains 150 contributions which may be grouped under five topics: (1) circumstellar matter, bipolar flows, and jets from young stars and protostars; (2) circumstellar envelopes around evolved stars; (3) stellar coronae; (4) stellar winds from hot and cool stars; (5) dust formation and circumstellar chemistry. Concerning the first topic the proceedings can be understood as a continuation of the discussion during the Tokyo IAU Symposium on star forming regions. The book clearly demonstrates the important impact which astronomical satellites such as COPERNICUS, EINSTEIN, and IRAS had on the field of circumstellar matter.

An additional paper presents NASA plans relevant to the study of this matter and a concluding paper summarizes the subject of the conference, but is preponderantly dealing with jets and molecular flows.

Name, subject and object indices complete the proceedings. The first can serve as a reference list to people working in the field covered by the symposium.

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