BOOK REVIEW


This book contains the proceedings of a conference held in Palermo in June 1992 to commemorate the bicentenary of the Astronomical Observatory in Palermo. Because of the untimely death of Dr G. S. Vaiana the book is dedicated to his memory. The proceedings contain the following chapters: (1) G. S. Vaiana and the Palermo Astronomical Observatory, (2) the solar corona, (3) stellar coronae: the pre-ROSAT picture, (4) ROSAT observations of stellar coronae, (5) other observations, and (6) theoretical aspects of coronal physics.

The first chapter deals with historical aspects of Palermo Observatory and includes an obituary to Dr G. S. Vaiana. The other chapters contain a number of reviews and contributed papers followed by discussions. The strength of these comprehensive proceedings is the good overview which is given of solar (SMM, NIXT, YOHKOH) and stellar (EINSTEIN, EXOSAT, ROSAT) X-ray astronomy. In particular the (new) results of YOHKOH and ROSAT discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 make this book valuable to those working in the field of magnetically active stars. Chapter 5 contains a number of interesting papers on radio observations of these objects and imaging techniques. Chapter 6 deals mainly with coronal heating and aspects of magnetic loop thermodynamics but contains also a number of papers which deviate from the main subject of the proceedings. The imbalance between theory and observational material presented is a bit unfortunate.

These proceedings are recommended warmly to those actively working in the field of solar and stellar coronal physics and to PhD students starting their research.

G. H. J. VAN DEN OORD

Astronomical Institute at Utrecht


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