

DIVISION VII THE GALACTIC SYSTEM

SYSTÈME GALACTIQUE

Division VII gathers astronomers studying the diffuse matter in space between stars, ranging from primordial intergalactic clouds, via dust and neutral and ionized gas in galaxies, to the densest molecular clouds and the processes by which stars are formed.

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DIVISION VII COMMISSIONS

Commission 33	Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System
Commission 37	Star Clusters and Associations

DIVISION VII WORKING GROUP

Division VII WG	Galactic Center
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TRIENNIAL REPORT 2006 - 2009

1. Introduction

Division VII provides a forum for astronomers studying the Milky Way Galaxy and its constituents. The tremendous detail in which the distribution of Milky Way stars and gas can be observed makes our Galactic System an important cornerstone for understanding galaxies and their formation in general.

2. Activities

At the Business Meeting during the IAU XXVI General Assembly in Prague, 2006, it was decided that Division VII would form an IAU Working Group on the Galactic Centre. The first chair would be Joseph Lazio who would select an organizing committee. The organizing committee, besides the usual considerations of representation, should take into account those at the meeting who expressed an interest and ensure that all the major groups working in the field were represented. This is still pending. The decision to form the Working Group followed a very successful scientific meeting on the Galactic Centre, which is summarized in the triennial report of the Working Group. The Working Group should be discussed further at the IAU XXVII General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro.

3. Symposia

Sponsoring IAU Symposia is one of the main activities of the Division. Since the General Assembly in Prague in 2006, Division VII has supported the following IAU meetings:

- IAU Symposium No. 246, *Dynamical Evolution of Dense Stellar Systems*, Capri, Italy, September 2007
- IAU Symposium No. 254, *Galactic Disk in Cosmological Context*, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2008
- IAU Symposium No. 256, *The Magellanic System: Stars, Gas, and Galaxies*, Keele, UK, June 2008
- IAU Symposium No. 258, *The Ages of Stars*, Baltimore, MD, USA, October 2008
- IAU Symposium No. 259, *Cosmic Magnetic Fields: from Planets, to Stars, and Galaxies*, Puerto Santiago, Spain, November 2008
- IAU Symposium No. 265, *Chemical Abundances in the Universe – Connecting First Stars to Planets*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 2009
- IAU Symposium No. 266, *Star Clusters – Basic Building Blocks throughout Time and Space*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 2009

Many other conferences of interest to members of the division were held in the past triennium. In a number of these the Milky Way Galactic System played a prominent rôle as a template for galaxy evolution and formation.

4. Closing remarks

Further information relevant to the Division can be found on the Division web page <www.mpe.mpg.de/IAU_DivVII/> and the web pages of Division VII Commissions 33 and 37.

Ortwin Gerhard
president of the Division