

**THE IMPACT OF VERY HIGH S/N SPECTROSCOPY
ON STELLAR PHYSICS**

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The IAU Symposium 132 on 'The Impact of Very High S/N Spectroscopy on Stellar Physics' was approached along two main axes. The first one concerns some important advances in a better understanding of the physical structure of the stars in the light of new results of high S/N spectroscopy. The second one deals with the interpretation of the chemical composition of stars belonging to different populations. The two main topics are preceded by contributions on spectrographs, detectors, Fourier transform spectroscopy and high-precision-radial velocity measurements. These contributions contain the necessary background information for a better understanding of high S/N observations. They are followed by contributions on abundance constraints: on stellar evolution, nucleosynthesis, and cosmological theories. With the modern solid-state detectors it is now possible to obtain spectroscopic observations of middle-faint stars, up to visual magnitudes of $V \approx 12$, equalling in resolution those obtained in the past by classical photographic methods for only a few very bright stars. This Symposium shows the new research possibilities that have been opened to stellar researchers in the last few years.

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