

DIVISION V

VARIABLE STARS *(ETOILES VARIABLES)*

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Variable Stars

Commission 42

Close Binary Stars

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Division IV / Division V: Active B Stars, Ap & Related Stars

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSIONS, 5 and 6 August 2009

1. Introduction

Division V organized a brief Business meeting during the XXVIIIth General Assembly, prior to Business meetings (reported separately) of Commissions 27 and 42. The Division V Business Meeting began at 11:00 on 5 August 2009.

The Division held a longer science meeting on 6 August 2009, which covered activities of both Commissions; the list of talks in this meeting is given below.

2. Overview of activities and events in the past triennium

The scientific activities in Division V predominantly take place through the two Commissions who both have long traditions and a continued high level of activity. We refer the reader to the triennial reports of the two commissions, prepared in advance of the General Assembly.

The Division and Commission web sites play an important role in the activities of these bodies. We are very grateful to Andras Holl of the Konkoly Observatory for setting up and maintaining these sites.

3. Election of New Officers

The elections for officers for the coming triennium resulted in the following Organizing Committee:

- President: Steven D. Kawaler (USA)
- Vice-President: Ignasi Ribas (Spain)
- Past President: Alvaro Giménez (Spain)
- Organizing Committee: Michel Breger (Austria), Edward F. Guinan (USA), Gerald Handler (Austria), and Slavek Rucinski (Canada)

4. Discussion Items

The contribution to the field of variable stars of space missions launched during the triennium (Corot and Kepler), as well as future databases to be provided with experiments such as LSST, was discussed at some length. This prompted many to speculate as to what the meaning of the term “variable star” might be when almost all stars show variability when observed with sufficiently high photometric precision.

It was discussed that, for the coming years, further attention is needed on the application of computer science advances in the exploration of data bases and data mining particularly with respect to automatic, unattended, classification of variable stars of all types. In this new data-intensive era, the limitations of the current GCVS naming of variable stars was pointed out and new alternatives should be explored and discussed sooner than later.

Gerald Handler presented the editorial policy of the *Information Bulletin on Variable Stars* as well as the composition of the new Editorial Board. Activities carried out by the GCVS group to ensure the archiving of all observations leading to the discovery of variable stars was mentioned. Finally, the activities of Michel Breger to restore an IAU archive of variable star data was acknowledged.

5. Division V Science Session

The Division hosted a session of science talks of interest and relevance to its constituent commissions on 6 August, beginning at 9AM. The talks were organized and presented as follows:

- Session 1 (chair: A. Giménez)
 - *The Baker Nunn Patrol Camera variable star survey done at Calgary*, Gene Milone
 - *Epsilon Aurigae this year*, Gene Milone
 - *Accurate stellar masses and radii*, Johannes Andersen
- Session 2 (chair: S. Rucinski)
 - *Probing into the deepest layers of solar-like pulsators*, Margarida Cunha
 - *The Kepler Kepler mission variable stars*, Douglas Caldwell
 - *Binary star database*, Oleg Malkov
 - *Activity of the IAU Commission 27 working group on the future of the GCVS*, Nikolai Samus

Alvaro Giménez and Steven Kawaler
President and Vice-President of the Division