

OBSERVATIONAL EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITY IN GALAXIES

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Owing to its fundamental and countless contributions to the research on activity phenomena in galaxies, the Byurakan Observatory in Soviet Armenia provided a natural focus for an IAU Symposium on this topic. The conference encompassed manifestations of activity in nearly normal galaxies, starburst- and Seyfert galaxies, and quasars as deduced from observations over the whole electromagnetic spectrum from the radio to the X-ray range. Much emphasis was put on the role of the environment (gravitational interactions, fuelling processes, etc.) for triggering activity and on the appearance, occurrence and origin of low level activity in otherwise normal galaxies. The conference offered little opportunity for theoretical points of view. However, the canonical picture invoking exotic objects like black holes as ingredients of nonthermal ionizing nuclei was strongly challenged by advocates of the hot star (Warmer) hypothesis now calling for critical observational tests.

This volume documents the invited lectures, contributed and poster papers presented at the conference, together with most of the discussions held during the sessions.

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