

Preface

The Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting was held this year in Liège, Belgium, July 4-7. About 230 people gathered to participate to the morning sessions, devoted to plenary talks and to one or more of the afternoon parallel sessions:

- Asteroseismology
- Astrobiology and Solar System Exploration
- Quasars: Host Galaxies and Gravitational Lenses
- Technology Roadmap for Future Interferometric Facilities
- Massive Stars and High-Energy Emission in OB Associations

The organization of the *Asteroseismology* session was a BAG (Belgian Asteroseismology Group) affair! The members of the asteroseismology scientific committee were Conny Aerts, Jan Cuypers, Peter De Cat, Joris De Ridder, Josefina Montalbán, Arlette Noels, Richard Scuflaire and Anne Thoul. It was co-chaired by Arlette Noels and Conny Aerts.

We had the greatest pleasure to listen to the “music of the spheres” orchestrated by Don Kurtz during his plenary talk, on July 7. Under Don’s direction, stars were really doing their best to reveal their internal structure through a variety of songs. Helped by Zoltan Kollath, they even arranged their songs into a Bach’s opus! Everybody was under the charm and under the impression of “touching” the stars and seeing through their whole bodies. Many, many thanks, Don!

The afternoon asteroseismology sessions were opened with invited talks. On July 6, Gerald Handler presented a fascinating review on the observational aspects of asteroseismology while on July 7, Eric Michel told us “what we wanted to know and didn’t dare to ask” about the theoretical aspects. Both talks were big successes and opened these afternoon sessions in a constructive and dynamical way. Thanks to Gerald and Eric!

The observational and theoretical talks which followed Gerald’s and Eric’s presentations were challenging and gave rise to numerous questions and comments. It was a real pleasure to see such enthusiasm among the assembly.

A number of talks were presented by young people, even by some PhD students just starting their research work. It was the choice of the asteroseismology organizing committee to give them such a tremendous opportunity to give their first talk in front of an international audience. They did an excellent job!

We have chosen to present the papers and posters in an order different from the original programme. After the plenary and the invited talks, we present five important “general” papers. They are followed by a walk through the HR diagram, starting from the PMS stars, facing the lifted and troublesome Sun and its new chemical composition, then, after a discussion of convection in A-G type stars, encountering the δ Scuti stars, the roAp stars and, last but not least on the main sequence, the β Cephei stars. Our trip ends with a question mark on the origin of radial velocity variations in K-giants.

This publication in CoAst is the cherry on the cake. Thank you Michel for bringing us cherries in winter! Many thanks also to Wolfgang who helped put the songs into an orchestra without ever complaining with the last minute changes.

Arlette & Conny