

Preface

These are the proceedings of the workshop *Galactic Dynamics* held from September 3 to 6 in Porto, as part of the 2002 edition of the joint European & National Astronomy meeting.

The scientific agenda of the workshop was made of some 32 oral presentations and 12 posters. A total of 40 participants joined in the discussions. The oral presentations were split thematically over three days. The topics covered were (broadly): 1) galaxy dynamics and morphology; 2) galaxy formation & environment, dark matter; and 3) stellar clusters. Two invited reviewers set the tone for each day, followed by shorter, more targeted presentations. This format turned out to be easy on the audience and well-suited for a workshop of this scope.

The workshop reviewers were W. Maciejewski (bars), M. Balcells (bulges and discs), C. Conelice (galaxy formation), T. Tsuchiya (warps), and G. de Marchi (star clusters). A sixth review by H. Baumgardt (on stellar dynamics) was also scheduled but could not be included here due to unforeseen difficulties. We thank all our reviewers wholeheartedly for the efforts they put in their presentations, which we think is evident from the quality of the copy they sent in for these proceedings.

The Friday morning poster session failed to attract the audience we had hoped for, however we take some comfort in the knowledge that the posters were on display throughout the week and discussed (most of them) during 10-minute oral presentations, as well as during coffee breaks which took place on the same floor.

The workshop was set up entirely from registered JENAM participants and was only made possible through the sponsorship of the EAS; the Portuguese Astronomical Society (SPA); and the Universidade do Porto. We are grateful to them for extending financial help to workshop participants, and for agreeing to support the publication of these proceedings. We are indebted to Jean-Paul Zahn, chief-editor for the EAS conference series, for the invitation to publish. We also wish to thank the local organisers for putting at our disposal the excellent facilities at the Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto where all our workshop sessions were held.

The meeting would not have been what it was without guidance from our Scientific Organising Committee: we thank them for agreeing to commit themselves to a thematically open workshop, as this one was at the outset, and for their involvement in all important matters.

Finally, warm thanks to Mario Monteiro and his entire LOC team for a superb sense of organisation and infallible support, which made JENAM 2002 such a pleasant and scientifically enriching experience. Obrigado!

The editors