MASS-LOSING PULSATING STARS AND THEIR CIRCUMSTELLAR MATTER
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MASS-LOSING PULSATING STARS AND THEIR CIRCUMSTELLAR MATTER

Observations and Theory

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Preface

Editing the proceedings of a scientific meeting is not an easy task. Sometimes people who give an excellent talk do not send the manuscript by the deadline. However, this time, thanks to the punctuality of all the participants, we have this excellent volume for the workshop on mass-losing pulsating stars and their circumstellar matter prepared in time. Almost all of the oral presentations including the summary are collected in this volume. We regret that we cannot put in this volume a few posters that we failed to receive before the editorial work.

The workshop was planned as a small meeting with less than fifty attendants because the city of Sendai was far from the most of the active institutions. However, the number of submitted papers exceeded the SOC's expectation; many interesting contributions had to be scheduled in the poster session. Still, the oral sessions were so tight that many participants might have felt frustrated for the shortage of discussions. The organizers of the workshop have to apologize to the attendants for the inconvenience caused from such a happy underestimate about the size of the workshop.

Mass-losing pulsating stars are characterized by the strong stellar wind or the enormous circumstellar matter. The collaboration of the astronomers in the fields of optical, infrared and radio astronomy is essential to resolve the nature of these objects. The workshop clarified the importance of such collaboration with so many newest observational and theoretical results. The importance of the high precision interferometry to study the asymptotic giant branch stars was stressed in this workshop. Peter Wood expressed his hopes on the astrometry such as VERA in the radio, GAIA in the optical and JASMINE in the near-infrared in his summary.

The Scientific Organizing Committee consisted of:
The members of the SOC enjoyed the exchange of ideas for preparing the workshop. I wish to express hearty thanks to them for their collaboration which was essential for the success of the workshop.

I believe the participants enjoyed the splendid May weather of Sendai and the excursion to Mizusawa Observatory. I wish to convey our gratitude and our appreciation to Astronomical Institute of the Tohoku University and the Earth Rotation Division and Mizusawa Astrogeodynamics Observatory of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan for the hospitality and assistance rendered.

The Local Organizing Committee consisted of:

T. Aikawa (Tohoku Gakuin U.), O. Kameya (NAO)
U. Lee (Tohoku U.), M. Miyoshi (NAO)
T. Murayama (Tohoku U.), Y. Nakada (U. of Tokyo)
Y. Nakamura (Fukushima U.), H. Saio (Tohoku U.)
T. Sasao (NAO), M. Seki (chair, Tohoku U.)
S. Tamura (Tohoku U.)

They worked very efficiently for the success of the workshop. On behalf of the SOC, I wish to express our thanks to them for their hard work.

I also express our thanks to Drs Y. Nakada (University of Tokyo), M. Honma (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan), and M. Seki (Tohoku University) for editing this volume.

The SOC and LOC would like to express their gratitude to the Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition (1970), the Saito Gratitude Foundation, Sendai Tourism and Convention Bureau, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for their kind financial support. The workshop could not have been held without the support of these organizations.

At the end of this short preface, I wish to note my hope that this volume will be used for further development of the study of variable stars, especially by young astronomers, beyond the classical point of views.

M. TAKEUTI

Sendai, Japan. October 2002
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and
their Circumstellar Matter
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(質量放出脈動星と星周物質)
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