

Proceedings of the annual meeting
of the French Society of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Nice, June 5-8, 2012

SF2A
SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE
D'ASTRONOMIE &
D'ASTROPHYSIQUE

Observatoire
de la CÔTE d'AZUR

www.sf2a.asso.fr

Nice Semaine de l'Astrophysique

du 5 au 8 juin 2012 Campus Saint-Jean d'Angély

Journées de la SF2A
Journées communes avec la
Sociedade Astronômica
Brasileira (SAB)
Sessions plénières
Ateliers SF2A - SFE - PCHE
PCMI - PNCG - PNP - PNPS
PNST - A&A - ASA - AS HRA
AS GAIA - AS GRAM
AS SKA-LOFAR - AS OV

Événements
Prix Jeunes Chercheurs
SF2A/HP/AMD
Prix scolaire
« Découvrir l'Univers »
SF2A/EDP
Prix de Thèse
SF2A/EDP
Conférence Grand Public

SOC
C. Charbonnel (Chair)
S. Basa, S. Boissier
J. Braine, D. Burgarella
J. Knödseder, D. Puy
C. Reylé, D. Rouan
R. Samadi, D. Valls-Gabaud
H. Wozniak

LOC
P. de Laverny (Chair)
Ph. Stee (Chair)
C. Baudouin, Ph. Bendjoya
S. Boissier, O. Chesneau
A. Crida, S. Goletto
Ch. Julienne, I. Lapasset
G. Metris, N. Nardetto
G. Niccolini, A. Recio-Blanco
S. Rousset, O. Suarez

Logos at the bottom: CNRS, INSU, CEA, CNES, Région PACA, EDP, HP, AMD, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, CEA/AST, CEA/AST/IAA, CEA/AST/IAA

Credit: Christine Julienne

Foreword

The 2012 annual meeting of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Société Française d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique – SF2A) was hosted by the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur from June 4 to 7. These “Journées” gathered about 420 professional astronomers and astrophysicists, who participated to plenary sessions organized by the SF2A and to workshops organized by the scientific committees of the “National Programs” and “Actions Spécifiques” of INSU-CNRS, several of them in collaboration with our special guest, the Sociedade Astronomica Brasileira.

During the plenary sessions excellent scientific reviews were presented on outstanding scientific results obtained recently by our community. Also, general interest talks led to topical discussions on scientific projects (e.g. at CFHT and at CNES as presented respectively by D.Simons and J.L.Counil) as well as on the organization and the future of french astronomical research in the international environment; in particular, the reform of the International Astronomical Union was introduced by the new General Secretary T.Montmerle, the activities of the European Astronomical Society and of the Sociedade Astronomica Brasileira were presented by their respective presidents T.Courvoisier and E.Janot Pacheco, and J.F.Stephan and J.M.Hameury brought us the latest news from the Institut National des Sciences de l’Univers (INSU-CNRS).

This year, not less than seventeen scientific workshops were organized on topical subjects, and three additional sessions were devoted to outreach and communication in astronomy and in sciences of the universe at large, to the organization of astronomy teaching at the Master level, and to the preservation of the french astronomical patrimony. This “record” number of sessions obviously reflects the great wealth and breadth of exchanges across thematic boundaries as well as the growing role played by the “Journées” and SF2A in animating our community and in initiating fruitful discussions and collaborations in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere.

A large number of SF2A members attended the General Assembly where the annual activity and financial reports of our Society were presented by the president and treasurer of the SF2A Council, C.Charbonnel and S.Boissier. The 2012 SF2A “Thesis Prize” was presented to M.Godard, and the 2012 SF2A prizes “Jeune Chercheur” and “Jeune Enseignant Chercheur” were presented respectively to V.Wakelam and A.Crida by J.F.Stephan, director of INSU/CNRS. We warmly thank the sponsors of these prizes, respectively EdP Sciences and the HP and AMD companies, for their continuing interest in our science and support to our Society. This year, a special prize “Astronomie en Societé” was awarded by the SF2A Council to A.Riazuelo. Following the award ceremony an excellent cocktail sponsored by AMD and OCA was served in the beautiful settings of Mont Gros where a memorable visit of the historical buildings was kindly organized by our colleagues of the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur.

Along the Journées a number of social, outreach, and cultural events were organized. The SF2A Prize “Découvrir l’Univers” sponsored by EdP Sciences and by the company Optique et Vision was presented to the laureate pupils of the Collège Roger Carlès and of the Centre International de Valbonne by O.Suarez and D.Rouan during the reception offered by the Mairie de Nice at the Villa Masséna where we received the warmest of welcomes by the deputy mayor A. Rampal. J.Guy and F.Mignard gave excellent public conferences, and we had the pleasure to welcome the artists and scientists of the Compagnie Ithérée who presented their poetic musical tale “Les gens ont des étoiles qui ne sont pas les mêmes”. Last but not least, the transit of Venus was one of the highlights of the week.

We wish to thank the INSU-CNRS, the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur and the laboratories J.L.Lagrange, Artémis, GéoAzur and Galilée, as well as the CNES, the CEA, the National Programs and Actions Spécifiques

of INSU-CNRS, the Mairie de Nice, and the Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur for their financial and organisational support. We are extremely grateful to the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and its Président F.Vidal for hosting the Journées.

We warmly thank F.Vakili, director of the Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, and the members of the Local Organizing Committee: the chairs, P.De Laverny and P.Stee, and the team C.Baudouin, P. Bendjoya, S.Boissier, O.Chesneau, O.Crida, S. Goletto, C.Julienne, I.Lapassat, N.Nardetto, G.Niccolini, G.Métris, A.Recio-Blanco, S.Rousset, O.Suarez, as well as the cook Kalhed. Their outstanding work and their generous contributions were absolutely crucial for making the "Journées" such a great and "Nice" success. We also thank V. Sessa, responsible for events on the St Jean d'Angely campus, and the "Ensemble instrumental Amadeus" for the musical ambiance during the cocktail on Mont Gros. Thanks also to SF2A board and council for its active contribution, and to the editors of these proceedings.

Corinne Charbonnel Présidente de la SF2A