

IAU Symposium

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22 – 26 August 2010,
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Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union

Physics of Sun and Star Spots

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Sun and
Star Spots

Edited by

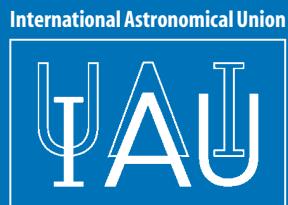
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Physics of Sun and Star Spots

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COVER ILLUSTRATION:

Left: George Ellery Hale

Hale in the central hall of the National Academy of Sciences, viewing a solar image projected on a circular drum by the coelostat telescope located in the dome above. Over the drum swings the Foucault pendulum, showing the earth's rotation. This exhibit was designed and constructed under Hale's supervision for permanent display in the Academy's new building, dedicated on April 28, 1924.

George Hale discovered magnetic field in sunspots in 1908 using 60 foot solar tower at Mt. Wilson Observatory by applying the principle of Zeeman Splitting. The Zeeman splitting of the spectral line into several components happens in presence of magnetic field. This discovery marked the presence of extraterrestrial magnetism. (credit: Caltech Archives)

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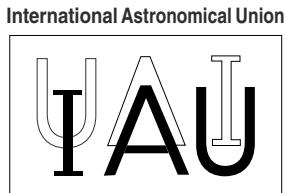
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Physics of Sun and Star Spots

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AUGUST 22–26, 2010

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Top: Adam Kowalski talks to Mark. Bottom: Ichimoto San brings out result from his computer.



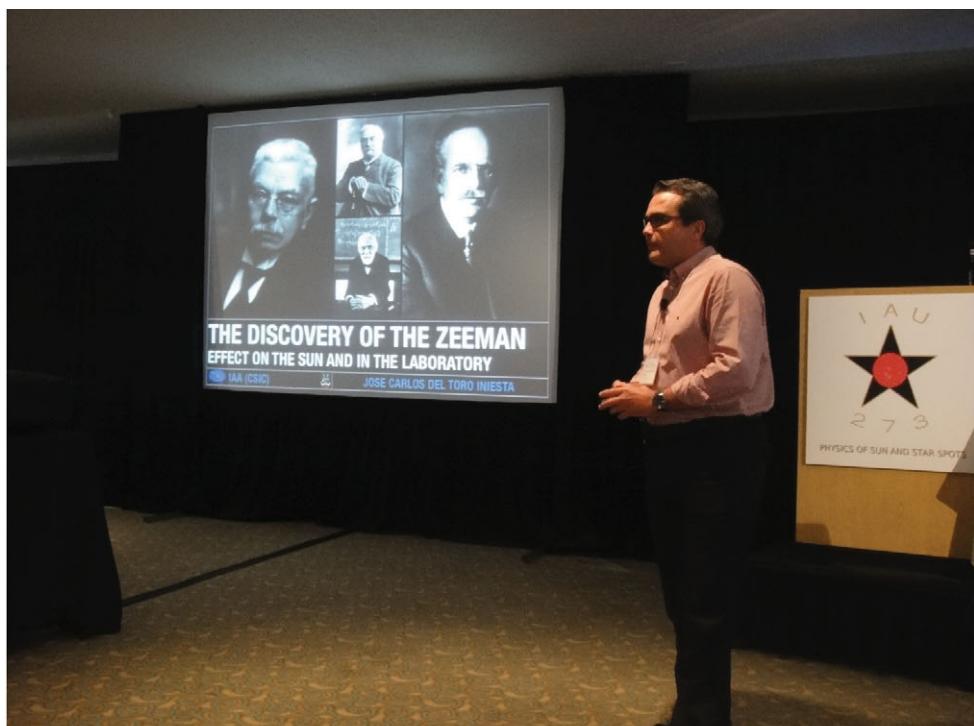
Top: Arnab Choudhuri explains to Manolis Georgoulis. Bottom: Dalda and Lucia at banquet table.



Top: Rachel Osten talks Star Spots to Steven Saar, behind them Jim Klimchuk makes a point.
Bottom: Finally Brigitte gets it!

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Banquet Top: Tsuneta San's table. Bottom: Klaus and the Hungarian/Catania connection.



Top: Jose Carlos del Toro Iniesta talks about discovery of magnetic field in Sunspots by George Hale. Bottom: Gary Chapman and Debi Prasad Choudhary.

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Dear Colleagues,

Recalling the observational history of sunspots led to the germ of an idea for this symposium. Even though the Chinese had records of sunspots going back hundreds of years, 2009 marked the four hundredth anniversary of their first viewing through a telescope by Galileo Galilei and Thomas Harriot. In addition, 2008 celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of George Ellery Hale's discovery of the magnetic nature of sunspots at the Mount Wilson Observatory (Los Angeles), marking the first detection of magnetism outside the Earth. It seemed natural to have a celebration of Hale's discovery in Los Angeles, but the original idea needed the impetus of a current scientific theme.

In spite of one hundred years of observational and theoretical research on solar magnetic fields, understanding the mechanisms that govern the origin and decay of sunspots is far from complete. Indeed, the delay of the onset of solar cycle 24 came as a complete surprise to the scientific community. While sunspots have been the subject of detailed studies, spots on other stars cannot yet receive the same level of scrutiny. Combining the two fields of research is mutually beneficial since solar investigations can gain perspective from the long-term evolution of stellar magnetism, and stellar research can gain insight into the root origin of spots. We hope that these proceedings not only reflect the present state of knowledge but contribute to furthering the cross-fertilization of ideas between the solar and stellar research communities. The oral presentations of the symposium were recorded and will be made available on the symposium website <http://www.csun.edu/physicsandastronomy/IAUS273/>. They are specially useful to follow the discussions at the end of each presentation.

It was a pleasure to welcome to beautiful Ventura, near Los Angeles, over 140 scientists from all over the world. Both the excellent scientific program designed by the SOC and the relaxed setting characterized by spectacular sunsets over the Pacific Ocean, lead to a stimulating and welcoming atmosphere for the exchange of ideas. The smooth and successful running of the event depended on the efficient planning and professionalism of four members of the LOC: Angie Cookson, John Hodgson, Debbie Klevens and Dora Preminger. To them goes our deep appreciation.

We are also extremely grateful for the essential financial support from the following agencies: The National Science Foundation in the Atmospheric Sciences and the Astronomy divisions; the NASA Living with a Star Program; the College of Science and Mathematics and the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects at California State University Northridge. On the final day of the symposium, forty participants took the two and a half hour trip to the Mount Wilson Observatory. There they toured the research-active 60-foot and 150-foot solar towers, as well as the historic Hooker 100-inch telescope and the Snow solar telescope. Walking through the facilities designed and used by Hale was, for some, a brush with the past, bringing deeper significance to their present day work.

*Ana Cristina Cadavid, Debi Prasad Choudhary, Klaus G. Strassmeier
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