

Preface

The UMass/INAOE Conference on “Deep Millimeter Surveys: Implications For Galaxy Formation And Evolution” gathered together for the first time an international field of about 70 experts at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst from 19-21 June 2000 to compare notes, present new data, and discuss the implications of the new results and models for our understanding of galaxy formation and evolution at sub-mm and mm-wavelengths — a new window opened only in the last three years.

The three days of very stimulating talks and discussion focussed on exciting new results from the SCUBA detector array; on the expected performance of new facilities coming on line in the next few years, such as the Large Millimeter Telescope (currently under construction in Mexico in a major collaboration between UMass and INAOE, the conference sponsors) and the Atacama Millimeter Array; and on how to use known local and distant galaxies – mostly starbursts – to interpret the new sub-mm and millimeter-wave results. Both observations and theory were evident in abundance, and practitioners of both had ample opportunity to compare notes over coffee and dinner, including a New England-style lobster bake for the Conference Dinner.

An excellent opening talk by Simon Lilly and a provocative summary by Roberto Terlevich helped to keep the big picture of galaxy formation and evolution in mind while at the same time maintaining the details in focus.

We were fortunate to have UMass Conference Services in charge of the logistics, the food, and the registration, and thanks are due to them for making everything go as smoothly as it did. Graduate students from UMass also provided valuable help setting up posters, staffing the computers and projectors, and taking care of lighting.

Finally, we are indebted to our sponsors for providing the financial support required to put the conference on in the first place: The LMT US Project Office; the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica, y Electrónica (INAOE); the UMass Office of Vice Chancellor for Research; the UMass College of Natural Science and Mathematics; the UMass Department of Astronomy; and Composite Optics, Incorporated.

A second joint UMass/INAOE meeting on mm-wave extragalactic science will be held at INAOE headquarters in Tonantzintla, Mexico in the summer of 2002, and we look forward to seeing there many of the same faces we saw in Amherst in 2000.