

Report on the  
"Workshop on IUE Data Reduction"

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The "Workshop on IUE Data Reduction" was held in Vienna, Austria, from Nov. 17 to 19, 1980. The meetings took place in the main building of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and was sponsored by the Austrian Solar and Space Agency (ASSA). There were about 60 participants.

After the brief opening statements by the representatives of the host organisations the workshop started with a session on the current status of IUE data reduction; available software systems and techniques used in the analysis of IUE data. The session was chaired by A. Boksenberg and resulted in a very constructive discussion.

On Tuesday, individual problems were discussed: user-developed extraction routines, better background determination, correction of microphonics, etc. A large amount of technical information was exchanged during this session, which was chaired by R. Bohlin.

The last day was devoted to applications and user problems. After a brief session (Chairman: R. Allen) with contributed papers, there was a panel discussion (Chairman: A. Boksenberg). Although there were a number of problems to be addressed, the discussion very soon concentrated on the issue of software availability and accessibility; more user facilities at the ground stations, availability of ground station software (especially reprocessing software) for the users, and software exchange in general. An ad-hoc IUE Software Coordination Group was formed to improve especially the last point (R. Albrecht, Vienna; L. Bianchi, Vilse; Ch. Blades, Starlink; R. Bohlin, Goddard; M. Capaccioli, Padova; C. Laurant, France; M. Tarenghi, ESO).

During the three days of the meetings Vienna presented itself with nice weather and many participants enjoyed the standard Viennese attractions: Opera, museums, wine at the "Heuriser", and good food. About 40 persons followed our invitation to visit the observatory and to look at and play with the Tololo-Vienna Interactive Image Processing System.

A first analysis of the results of the meetings shows some important points: with some very few exceptions, IUE-specific software development is restricted to the ground stations. In fact, it is evident that the majority of IUE observers work only with the quick-look plots. There was a

strong feelings that more services should be provided for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

This situation is also characterized by a somewhat disappointing aspect of the meetings: although we asked all participants to submit their software to the "Collection of Astronomical Software", which is maintained in Vienna, and thus make it available to the community, there was only one such contribution (G. Sedmak, Multipurpose Plot Package for IUE data). By contrast, we received 12 requests (along with empty tapes) for the "Collection", which shows that the need for software sharing exists, however, that the approach is too unilateral.

Proceedings are being prepared and will be distributed to the participants free of charge. Other persons interested in receiving a copy should let us know, so we can estimate the number required and calculate a favourable price.