

Introduction

There were several reasons for us to consider the organisation of a colloquium on the atmospheric dynamics and (in)stability of evolved super- and hypergiants. There was, first of all, the feeling that understanding the structure of supergiant's atmospheres and envelopes including their dynamics and evolution and the relation to dust clouds, may be helpful for clarifying views on the evolution of super- and hypergiants. In addition, the recent years saw a strong increase of the amount of relevant information - both observationally and theoretically - on matters such as motions in stellar atmospheres, their mass loss, dust formation, maser emission, just to mention a few of the most important aspects. We thought therefore that the time was ripe for inviting a number of specialists in these fields to participate in a concentrated colloquium.

How right we have been was proved by the success of the colloquium.

We are thankful to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences for responding favourably to our request to have this colloquium included in the Academy's series of colloquia.

The Scientific Organizing Committee of the colloquium consisted of C. de Jager (chairman), B. Gustafsson, H. Habing, R.M. Humphreys, D. Lambert, A. Maeder, and J. Smolinski. The cooperation in the S.O.C. was pleasant and we are obliged to its members for their good advice.

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Cornelis de Jager and Hans Nieuwenhuijzen.