

POSTFACE

JOURNÉES 2004 SYSTÈMES DE RÉFÉRENCE SPATIO-TEMPORELS

“Fundamental Astronomy: New concepts and models for high accuracy observations”

Scientific Organizing Committee

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Local Organizing Committee

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Conference location : Observatoire de Paris, France

Scientific objectives

The Journées 2004 “Systèmes de référence spatio-temporels”, with the sub-title “Fundamental Astronomy: New concepts and models for high accuracy observations”, will be held from 20 to 22 September 2004 at Paris Observatory. These Journées will be the sixteenth conference in this series whose main purpose is to provide a forum for researchers in the fields of Earth rotation, reference frames, astrometry and time. The problems to be discussed in 2004 are related to the International Celestial Reference System (ICRS), including new concepts in fundamental astronomy, the associated nomenclature and the astronomical models for Earth rotation (precession, nutation, atmospheric and oceanic effects, etc.) at the highest level of accuracy consistent with the current and future precision and temporal resolution of the observations of Earth rotation.

The programme of the Journées 2004 will consist in five sessions including discussion on the work of the new IAU Working Groups of Division I: “Precession and the ecliptic” (Session 2) and “Nomenclature in Fundamental Astronomy” (Session 3), as well as the Working Groups on “Relativity in Celestial Mechanics, Astrometry and Metrology” (Session 4) and “The future of UTC” (Session 5). Discussion on the tasks that were previously part of the ICRS Working Group will also take place (Session 1). A kickoff meeting for the Project “Descartes - Nutation” (Chair: V. Dehant) the purpose of which is to support cooperative studies devoted to ‘the understanding of the next decimal of precession/nutation, from the theoretical point of view as well as from the observational point of view’ will be included in Session 2. Posters summarizing the proposals selected by the Advisory Board of the Descartes - Nutation project will be encouraged. 2004 being the 150 anniversary of Poincaré’s birth, there will be a special emphasis on Poincaré’s work on Earth rotation in Session 2.

Scientific programme

Session 1 : Recent and future developments in the realization of the ICRS

Session 2 : Models for Earth rotation: from Poincaré to IAU 2000

Session 3 : Nomenclature in fundamental astronomy

Session 4 : Solar System Dynamics

Session 5 : Relativity in the problems of astronomical reference systems and Earth rotation: status and prospects

Session 6 : Future of UTC: Consequences in astronomy

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