WORKSHOP ON
PHYSICS OF ACCRETION DISKS
AROUND COMPACT AND
YOUNG STARS

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Lunar and Planetary Institute  3600 Bay Area Boulevard  Houston TX 77058-1113
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WORKSHOP ON
PHYSICS OF ACCRETION DISKS
AROUND COMPACT AND YOUNG STARS

Edited by
E. Liang and T. F. Stepinski

Held at
Houston, Texas
April 8–10, 1994

Sponsored by
Lunar and Planetary Institute
Rice University

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Preface

On April 8–10, 1994, the two-day Workshop on Physics of Accretion Disks Around Compact and Young Stars was held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together workers on accretion disks in the western Gulf region (Texas and Louisiana). Accretion disks are believed to surround many stars. Some of these disks form around compact stars, such as white dwarfs, neutron stars, or black holes that are members of binary systems and reveal themselves as a power source, especially in the X-ray and gamma regions of the spectrum. On the other hand, protostellar disks are believed to be accretion disks associated with young, pre-main-sequence stars and manifest themselves mostly in infrared and radio observations. These disks are considered to be a natural outcome of the star formation process. Historically, these two classes of accretion disk have been studied by two distinct scientific communities, despite the fact that most unsolved problems and shortcomings of accretion disk theory are generic and independent of particular application. Furthermore, there has not been much technical communication between those two communities, and an interdisciplinary exchange of original ideas, specific for each community, becomes very desirable.

The focus of this workshop included theory and observations relevant to accretion disks around compact objects and newly forming stars, with the primary purpose of bringing the two communities together for intellectual cross-fertilization. The nature of the workshop was exploratory, to see how much interaction is possible between distinct communities and to better realize the local potential in this subject. A critical workshop activity was identification and documentation of key issues that are of mutual interest to both communities. Two invited speakers gave review presentations: M. Abramowicz talked about accretion disks around black holes and S. Ruden talked about the theory of protostellar accretion disks. In addition, 26 contributed talks were presented, and Part 1 of this report contains abstracts of these talks. It is likely that most of the participants left the meeting with a new understanding of the commonality of problems facing researchers working on accretion disks in the environments of both compact and young stars.
Program

Friday evening, April 8, 1994
6:00–8:00 p.m.  Reception and Registration—Great Room, LPI

Saturday morning, April 9, 1994
8:15 a.m.        Registration
8:45–10:15 a.m.  SESSION I

C. R. O'Dell*
_Circumstellar Material Around Young Stars in Orion_

P. Hartigan*
_Observations of Accretion and Angular Momentum Regulation in Young Circumstellar Disks and the Implications for Planetary Formation_

M. Reyes-Ruiz* and T. F. Stepinski
_Evolution of Protoplanetary Disks with Dynamo Magnetic Fields_

10:15–10:35 a.m. Coffee Break

10:35 a.m.–12:05 p.m.  SESSION II

J. C. Wheeler*, S.-W. Kim, M. D. Moscoso, and S. Mineshige
_The Physics of Black Hole X-Ray Novae_

E. P. Liang*
_Observational Constraints on Black Hole Accretion Disks_

C. Luo*
_Nonlinear Calculations of the Time Evolution of Black Hole Accretion Disks_

12:05–1:15 p.m.  Lunch

* Denotes speaker
Saturday afternoon, April 9, 1994

1:15–3:05 p.m. SESSION III

S. Ruden*
Invited Talk—The Theory of Protostellar Accretion Disks

J. E. Tohline*
Gravitational Instabilities in Protostellar Disks

T. F. Stepinski*
Evolution of Dynamo-generated Magnetic Fields in Accretion Disks Around Compact and Young Stars

3:05–4:00 p.m. Coffee Break

4:00–5:30 p.m. SESSION IV

M. Tavani* and E. Liang
Nonthermal Accretion Disk Models Around Neutron Stars

P. McCormick*
Evolution of Vaporizing Pulsars

A. M. Rajasekhar*
A Study of Angular Momentum Loss in Binaries Using the Free Lagrange Method

Sunday morning, April 10, 1994

8:45–10:35 a.m. SESSION V

M. A. Abramowicz*
Invited Talk—Accretion Disks Around Black Holes

H. Li* and C. D. Dermer
Time-dependent Behavior of Active Galactic Nuclei with Pair Production

H. Vath*
Three-dimensional Radiative Transfer Calculations on an SIMD Machine Applied to Accretion Disks
10:35–11:00 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  

**SESSION VI**

E. T. Vishniac* and R. C. Duncan  
*The Dynamics of Flux Tubes in Accretion Disks*

J. Cazes*  
*A Heterogeneous Computing Environment for Simulating Astrophysical Fluid Flows*

H. Cohl*  
*An Efficient Three-dimensional Poisson Solver for SIMD High-Performance Computing Architectures*

12:30–1:45 p.m. Lunch

_Sunday afternoon, April 10, 1994_

1:45 p.m.  

**SESSION VII**

G. A. Shields* and H. H. Coleman  
*Thermal Continua of AGN Accretion Disks*

K. Barker*  
*A Twisted Disk Equation that Describes Warped Galaxy Disks*

P. Fisher*  
*The Dynamical Settling of Warped Disks and Angular Momentum Transport in Galaxies*

R. Whitehurst*  
*Gas Dynamics for Accretion Disk Simulations*

M. Abramowicz* and S. Ruden*  
*Concluding Comments*
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

C. Meirelles Filho and M. Reyes-Ruiz
Convective Solar Nebula

C. Meirelles Filho and E. P. Liang
Can a Variable Alpha Induce Limit Cycle Behavior and
Exponential Luminosity Decay in Transient Soft X-Ray Sources?

M. D. Moscoso and J. C. Wheeler
A Constraint on the Pair Density Ratio (Z+) in an
Electron-Positron Pair Wind

S.-W. Kim, J. C. Wheeler, and S. Mineshige
Disk Irradiation and Light Curves of X-Ray Novas

S.-W. Kim, J. C. Wheeler, F. C. Bruhweiler, M. Fitzurka,
K. Beuermann, K. Reinsch, and S. Mineshige
Disk Instability and the Spectral Evolution of the 1992 Outburst
of the Intermediate Polar GK Persei

C. Meirelles Filho, M. Reyes-Ruiz, and C. Luo
Rotational Effects in Turbulence Driven by Convection
List of Workshop Participants

Marek A. Abramowicz  
Gothenberg University  
Gothenburg  
SWEDEN  

Kimberly C. Barker  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Louisiana State University  
202 Nicholson Hall  
Baton Rouge LA 70803  
Phone: 504-388-1829  
E-mail: Barker@rouge.phys.lsu.edu  

John Cazes  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge LA 70803  
Phone: 504-388-1829  
Fax: 504-388-5855  
E-mail: cazes@nomad.phys.lsu.edu  

Anthony Chan  
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251  
Phone: 713-527-8101 x 2531  
Fax: 713-285-5143  
E-mail: anthony-chan@rice.edu  

Howard S. Cohl  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Louisiana State University  
202 Nicholson Hall  
Baton Rouge LA 70803  
Phone: 504-388-1829  
Fax: 504-388-5855  
E-mail: hcohl@rouge.phys.lsu.edu  

Dian Curran  
Department of Astronomy  
University of Texas  
Austin TX 78712  
Phone: 512-471-3447  
Fax: 512-471-6016  
E-mail: curran@astro.as.utexas.edu  

Arkady Dolginov  
10 B-4, Hillcrest Village  
West Schenectady NY 12309  
Phone: 518-347-0942  

Reginald J. Dufour  
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251  
Phone: 713-527-4944  
Fax: 713-285-5143  
E-mail: rjd@rice.edu  

Paul L. Fisher  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge LA 70803  
Phone: 504-388-8285  
E-mail: Fisher@rouge.phys.lsu.edu  

Cynthia S. Froning  
Department of Astronomy  
University of Texas  
Austin TX 78712  
Phone: 512-471-6486  
E-mail: cyndi@astro.as.utexas.edu  

Patrick Hartigan  
Five College Astronomy Department  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst MA 01003  
Phone: 413-585-3935  

Vincent E. Kargatis  
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251  
Phone: 713-527-8101  

Soon-Wook Kim  
Department of Astronomy  
University of Texas  
Austin TX 78712  
Phone: 512-471-6407  

Hui Li  
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251  
Phone: 713-527-8101 x 2651  
Fax: 713-285-5143  
E-mail: lip@spacesun.rice.edu