IAU SYMPOSIUM No. 136

THE CENTER OF THE GALAXY

MARK MORRIS (ED.)

Because the murky interstellar medium of the galactic disk hides the nucleus of our Galaxy behind a veil of 30 magnitudes of visual extinction, the detailed study of the unusual and fascinating environment had to await the development of advanced techniques in radio and infrared astronomy. The decade of the '80s saw a surge in the capabilities at these wavelengths, with a consequent enormous improvement in our view of the galactic nucleus. The first IAU-sponsored meeting on this subject, which brought together most of the world's most active galactic center researchers, saw a plethora of new, detailed imagery, and witnessed the formulation of, and perhaps some answers to, significant theoretical questions. The images, and the theories that they have spawned, are well represented in the proceedings volume.

Included are: arguments for and against the presence of a massive black hole at the nucleus, a description of candidates for a compact, massive central object, review of the stellar bulge, the central stellar cluster, the myriad pieces of evidence for past explosions of starbursts, the galactic center magnetosphere and its rather clear manifestations, a discussion of the distance to the galactic center, and X- and gamma ray clues to galactic center activity.

KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS

DORDRECHT / BOSTON / LONDON

ISBN 0–7923–0222–2

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0074180900187200 Published online by Cambridge University Press