

THE ASIAGO CATALOGUE OF QSOs EDITION 1985 \*

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A new Edition of the Asiago Catalogue of QSOs (Barbieri et al. 1982) is available on magnetic tape. It contains essentially all the information of the previous editions updated with the papers published before Dec.31, 1984. The catalog should be essentially complete to that date in respect to objects having slit spectra (2330 objects), while it is seriously incomplete regarding candidates discovered by objective prism or grism/grens surveys after 1982 (279 such objects included in the present version).

No attempt has been made to define precisely what a QSO is, and actually several objects contained in the catalog have been variously classified as Seyfert 1, or N galaxy. The collective term "Active Galactic Nuclei" is used more and more by several authors.

Beyond updating, several additions and improvements have been made to the catalog, which is now structured on fewer files containing more information. One file contains the basic optical and X-ray data for 2610 objects, whilst radio data is still entirely lacking (at the moment of this writing); a second file contains the references ordered by numbers (a FORTRAN 77 program is available to order them alphabetically); a third file gives additional Notes for several objects. Other files, such as the one giving synonyms or the one giving absorption lines, have been simply updated, but no change in the file structure has been implemented. Among the improvements, the following are worth mentioning:

- two parameters have been added in the fundamental file for each object. The first parameter confirms the availability of slit spectra; the second parameter specifies in which way the object was firstly identified. At the moment, three basic identification modes have been parametrized, namely the opti-

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\* Discussion on p.61

cal identification of a Radio Source (1), the optical identification of an X-Ray source (3), and finally an entirely optical identification (2). This latter mode could be further subdivided: identification from multicolour surveys (mostly UV-excess, or UVX) from objective prism plates, from grism/grens material, from optical variability. However in practice several candidates were identified from a combination say of UVX and slitless characteristics, so that we decided not to implement this finer subdivision (at any rate, provision for it is maintained in the structure on the file).

The addition of a parameter giving the way the QSO was firstly discovered greatly helps the statistical examination of the Catalogue. As examples of this improved analysis, we mention the distribution of magnitudes and redshifts separately of optical, radio and X QSOs. For instance one sees that optically selected QSOs tend to be fainter than the radio ones, which are abruptly cut around 19.5. Another interesting fact is that radio QSOs do not show the peak in  $z$  around 2 which is instead so prominent in optical candidates.

- a third parameter (characters BL) has been added to distinguish BL LAC objects

- the Reference numbering system has been expanded to include up to 9999 references (at the present moment some 1300 papers have been actually listed).

- the coding of the data adheres more closely to accepted standards.

As part of the more general task to provide complete data for each object, a particular effort has been made to cover the optical variability. The result is a file that contains for every object the reference numbers of papers giving data about its optical variability (in general we selected the papers that give original data).

Copy of the mag tape can be obtained from:

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#### Reference

Barbieri, C., Capaccioli, M., Cristiani, S., Nardon, G., Omizzolo, A. 1982, Mem.S.A.It.vol.53,nr.3.