

Klaus G. Strassmeier and Jeffrey L. Linsky (eds.), *Stellar Surface Structure*, Proceedings of Symposium No. 176 of the International Astronomical Union, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht / Boston / London, 432 + XI pp., 1996, hardbound Dfl. 300,00/\$ 199.00/£ 135.00, ISBN 0-7923-4026-4;

These proceedings result from the first IAU meeting on stellar surface structure. The symposium marked the fact that techniques as Doppler and eclipse mapping are now established additions to cool-star activity monitoring, while infrared and even optical interferometry (called “the last frontier” here) promise direct mapping of stellar surfaces in the future.

The new techniques make the field one of fast development. These proceedings have show-and-tell character, a snapshot of what is going on and a road map for the coming years. They cover much ground (stellar surface, rather) by including the Sun, in an introductory review on magnetic patterning (Schrijver) but also in the sections on photospheric structures, outer-atmosphere structures and numerical atmosphere modeling. There are fourteen reviews and thirty-nine contributions, at 15-page and 8-page limits sufficiently extensive to provide depth and detail — a good proceedings format. It was obtained by not including discussions and poster papers, but the latter have been published in a separate volume (which may be ordered from iau@astro.ast.univie.ac.at at a cost of AS 350).

The book is produced with Kluwer’s usual high quality. There are author and star indices, and also many conference photographs. Unfortunately, its

price is also up to Kluwer standard — too high to be privately owned. Nevertheless, I recommend it to all researchers with interest in cool-star atmospheres.

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