

## Preface

The Second Servicing mission in early 1997 has brought major changes to the Hubble Space Telescope. Two of the original instruments, FOS and GHRS, were taken out, and replaced by completely new instruments, STIS and NICMOS. Two new types of detectors were installed, and for the first time, HST gained infrared capabilities. A new FGS was installed, with an alignment mechanism that could improve substantially both guiding and astrometric capabilities.

With all these changes come new challenges. The characterization of the new instruments has required a major effort, both by their respective Investigation Definition Teams and at the Space Telescope Science Institute. All necessary final calibrations for the retired spectrographs needed to be carried out, and their properties definitively characterized. At the same time, work has continued to improve our understanding of the two instruments that have remained on board.

The results of these activities were discussed in the 1997 HST Calibration Workshop, a three-day meeting held on September 22–24, 1997 at the Space Telescope Science Institute. About 150 astronomers took part in the Workshop, which featured over 30 invited talks and about 50 posters. The main focus of the Workshop was to provide users with the tools and the understanding they need to use HST's instruments and archival data to the best of their possibilities.

This book contains the written record of the Workshop, including both invited talks and poster papers. As such, it should provide a valuable tool to all interested in using existing HST data or in proposing for new observations. Of course, our knowledge and understanding of the HST instruments is continuously evolving (and so are the instruments themselves). In the era of electronic connectivity, obtaining up-to-date information can be as easy as a few mouse clicks, and prospective HST users are urged to obtain the latest information on HST status and calibration from the STScI web pages (at <http://www.stsci.edu>), or by sending electronic mail to [help@stsci.edu](mailto:help@stsci.edu). This book is also available electronically, at the URL <http://www.stsci.edu/meetings/cal97/proceedings.html>.

The Workshop was a great success, and we wish to thank all the participants for their enthusiasm and hard work that made it possible. We are grateful to all the members of the Organizing Committee for their help and support, and especially to Helmut Jenkner for stepping up whenever needed. We thank Knox Long, Helmut Jenkner, Ken Freeman, Ron Gilliland, John Graham, Don Lindler, and Chris Blades for chairing the sessions. The Workshop was sponsored by the Science Support Division of STScI, and enjoyed the support of many people at STScI, especially Jim Jones, Ron Meyers and Jeff Nesbitt. Harry Payne provided many of the latex formatting tools for this book, and the cover design is due to Trish Pengra and John Godfrey. Finally, very special thanks are due to Tawanta Nance and Cheryl Schmidt, who took good care of all administrative and practical details and ensured the smooth preparation and running of the Workshop.

The Editors

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