

## PREFACE

Starting from 1814, when Joseph von Fraunhofer using a slit, a theodolite and a prism succeeded to see nearly 600 absorption lines in the Solar spectrum, till today, when with the help of several satellites with powerful telescopes and spectrographs (as e.g. Hubble Space Telescope) several million lines from different celestial objects have been observed, scientists have been trying to clearly understand the spectral line shapes. The knowledge of various effects that can influence the spectral line shapes helps us to understand nature of different objects in the Cosmos.

The second Yugoslav Conference on Spectral Line Shapes (YuCSLS) follows the concept that spectroscopists from the Institute of Physics in Zemun, Faculty of Physics, Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade and Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics in Novi Sad including colleagues from abroad, have a possibility to exchange the ideas and experiences. The first YuCSLS was held in Krivaja from 11 to 14 September, 1995 owing to the great engagement and activity of Dr Milan S. Dimitrijević, director of Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade. The Conference was attended by 40 participants from Yugoslavia, Belarus and Great Britain.

The proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> YuCSLS were published in Publication of the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade. We continue the tradition and this Publication contains the proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> YuCSLS. The conference deals with various aspects of physical processes associated with the formation of spectral line profiles in plasmas.

Editors