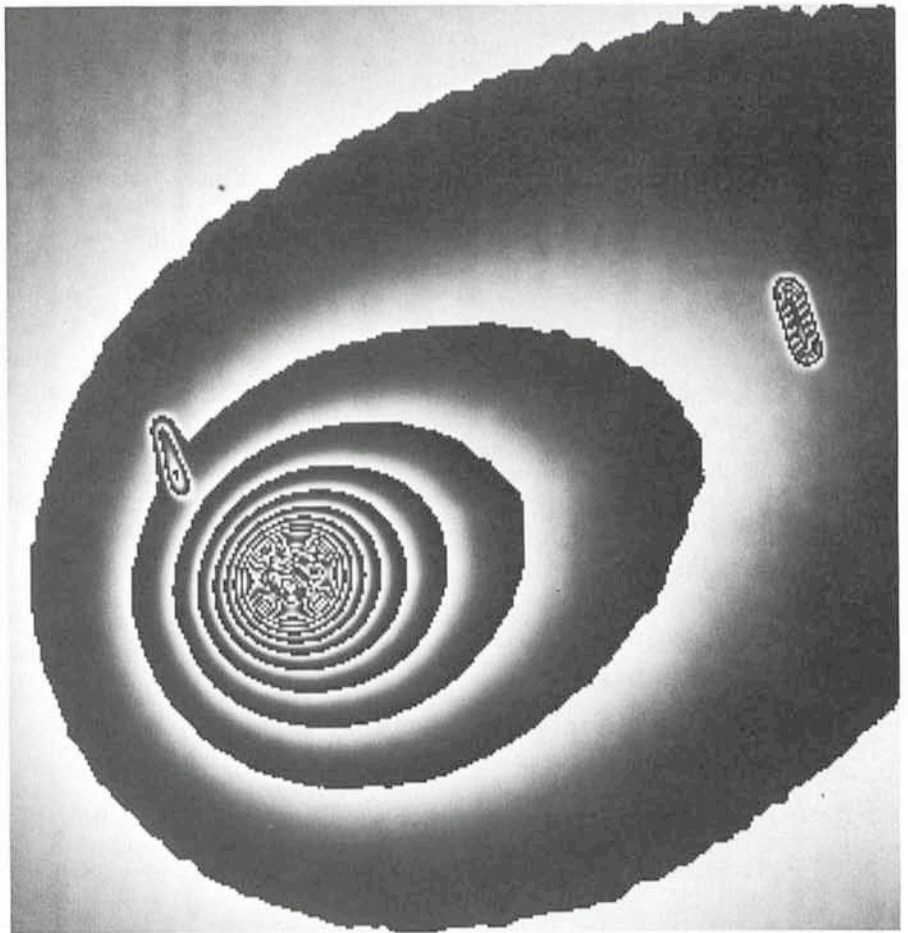


Comet Austin

This is a short NTT CCD exposure of the newly discovered Comet Austin (1989 c 1) which may become comparatively bright during mid-April 1990 when it approaches the Sun to within 50 million kilometres. On May 25, it will be only 36 million kilometres from the Earth. After mid-April, it will be well visible from the northern hemisphere in the early morning.

Curves of equal brightness (isophotes) are shown. The stars in the field are trailed because the telescope was set to follow the comet's motions. On this date, the comet had not yet developed a real tail and the image shows the dust cloud (coma) around the nucleus which is overexposed on this image. It is situated at the centre of the isophotes. At the time of the exposure, the comet was nearly 300 million kilometres from the Earth and 255 million kilometres from the Sun, still outside the orbit of planet Mars. The magnitude was about 9.

Technical data: Exposure: 5 minutes; Filter: R; field: 75×75 arcsec; Seeing: 1.2 arcsec; Date: January 23, 1990; Observers: P. Bouchet, J. Melnick, L. Pasquini and Ch. Gouiffes.



Professor Pierre Charvin, † January 24, 1990



On January 25, 1990 we at ESO were shocked and saddened by the message of Pierre Charvin's death. President of the Observatoire de Paris and astronomy leader in France, Prof. Charvin always showed a deep interest in ESO affairs and contributed through the years to the development of ESO's relations with astronomical institutes in his country.

The past five years he was a member of our Scientific-Technical Committee and for the last two years he energetically served as STC president. In that function he became very

involved in the planning of the VLT and its instrumentation.

In an impressive commemorative meeting, in the Salle Cassini of the Observatoire de Paris, attended by his institute's staff and by astronomers from throughout France, I spoke on ESO's behalf, ending as follows:

"De la part de l'ESO, de notre personnel, de notre communauté des utilisateurs, du directeur de l'ESO, du Conseil et du STC, j'exprime notre sentiment de reconnaissance et notre profond respect. Je suis reconnaissant d'avoir la possibilité de faire cela dans cette salle, m'adressant au personnel de l'Observatoire de Paris et à tous ceux qui sont concernés avec 'notre science' en France. Nos pensées et notre sympathie sont destinées à la famille en deuil. Notre mémoire pour Pierre Charvin est marquée par notre admiration pour son enthousiasme et pour son énergie créatrice."

With profound regret to miss him so prematurely, we pay tribute to this prominent colleague and friend.

Harry van der Laan
Director General

New ESO Scientific Preprints

(December 1989–February 1990)

680. I. J. Danziger et al.: Molecules, Dust and Ionic Abundances in SN 1987A.
L. B. Lucy et al.: Dust Condensation in the Ejecta of SN 1987A, II.
P. Bouchet et al.: The ESO Infrared Data Set.
To be published in *Supernovae*, Proceedings of the 10th Santa Cruz Summer Workshop in Astronomy and Astrophysics, held at UC Santa Cruz, July 10–21, 1989, ed. by S. E. Woosley (Springer-Verlag, New York).
681. S. di Serego Alighieri, G. Trinchieri and E. Brocato: $H\alpha$ Imaging of X-ray Luminous Early-type Galaxies: Clues on the Hot, Warm and Cold Phases of the ISM. To be published in *Windows on Galaxies*, Fabbiano et al. (eds.), Proc. of Workshop in Erice, 21–31 May 1989.
682. M. R. Rosa and J. S. Mathis: Wolf-Rayet Nebulae – Chemical Enrichment and Effective Temperatures of the Exciting Stars.
M. R. Rosa: Atomic Data for and from the Analysis of Gaseous Nebulae. To be published in: Proceedings of the First Boulder-Munich Workshop on Hot Stars, Boulder, CO, August 1989, C. D. Garmany (ed.), Publ. A. S. P. Conf. Ser.
683. B. Barbanis: Escape Regions of a Quartic Potential. *Celestial Mechanics*.