

September 1, 1988

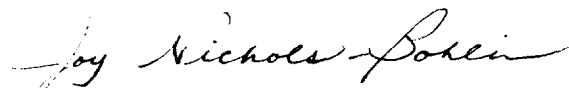
Dear Colleague;

The second meeting of the Signal-to-Noise Improvement Committee was held May 17-18, 1988 at GSFC (see NASA IUE Newsletter #34 for a summary of the first meeting of this committee). Thirty-three people attended the meeting, including seventeen of the original committee members and Fred Bruhweiler, serving as liaison with the IUE Users' Committee. During the meeting, progress in improvements to the full image photometric correction and improved extraction techniques was reported. Presentations at the meeting showed that the current method of processing IUE data does not properly align the data image with the ITF, introducing "misalignment noise" into the data. Much of the discussion at the meeting concerned the possible use of fixed pattern noise in the two-dimensional image as fiducials to perform an explicit geometric correction on data images. This technique has been implemented at Lund Observatory in Sweden (see Linde and Dravins, this issue). Other presentations discussed progress with optimal and gaussian extraction methods, and inaccuracies in the wavelength calibration. Based on the presentations at the meeting and the ensuing discussions, a detailed list of recommendations to the IUE Project was compiled. The list of recommendations, list of attendees, and the meeting agenda are included in this special issue of the IUE Newsletter.

Herein are collected seven of the monographs prepared by the participants in the meeting. The presentation by Dr. Tom Ayres was previously published (Ayres, Jensen, and Engvold 1988, *Ap.J.Supp.*, 66, 51). The remaining monographs are to be published elsewhere. In these cases, the individual authors should be contacted for copies of the presentations. The next meeting of this committee is planned for September of 1988.

The foresight and dedication to scientific excellence by the members of this committee, and particularly by its chair, Dr. Jeff Linsky, must be noted to the IUE user community. They have sacrificed their time and research activities to pursue improvements in the quality of the IUE data that will benefit all future IUE investigators. For my own part, I gratefully acknowledge their efforts. Dr. Linsky has provided continuous direction, enthusiasm, and technical expertise to this committee. Dr. Don West has been instrumental in formation and continuation of this committee, and in the implementation of the recommendations by IUE Project personnel. I also acknowledge Dr. Yoji Kondo's continued support of this effort to attain the highest achievable quality for the IUE Final Archive.

Sincerely,



Joy Nichols-Bohlin

IUE Image Processing Astronomer