
FIRST LATIN AMERICAN
SYMPOSIUM ON
HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS
AND

VII MEXICAN SCHOOL OF
PARTICLES AND FIELDS

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EDITORS

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AIP CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS 400

CONTRIBUTION

The Seventh Mexican School of Particles and Fields (VII-EMPC) was the continuation of an enduring tradition in Mexico which has helped to promote the development of High Energy Physics within the scientific community. The School has always been addressed to the younger generation. This time it had an additional significance, as it was organized together with the First Latin American Symposium of High Energy Physics (I-SILAFEA). The symposium was dedicated to the memory of Juan José Giambiagi, a lifelong fighter for the development of Science in Latin America and co-founder of the Centro Latinoamericano de Física (CLAF).

The Division of Particles and Fields of the Mexican Physical Society was the organizer of both scientific events. Its full commitment to the task led to the successful completion of the meetings. Various institutions should be acknowledged for their special support: Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN (CINVESTAV), CLAF, CLAF-México, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), UNESCO, and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

The meetings took place in the city of Mérida, in the Mexican state of Yucatán, between October 30 and November 6, 1996. Yucatán is world famous for having three wonderful things: one of the most exciting archaeological sites of the Maya culture; an original and delicious cuisine; and beautiful natural places and friendly people. We had the opportunity to experience all these aspects when the participants were taken for a day trip to the spectacular archaeological site of Uxmal, placed in the middle of a tropical forest, where we enjoyed a typical Yucatán meal.

Both the VII-EMPC and the I-SILAFEA brought together worldwide recognized experts which offered courses and plenary lectures of wide interest to students and researchers. Participants also took an active part by presenting research seminars on their work. The response of the Latin American physics community was most encouraging, as more than 150 particle physicists participated.

In preparing these proceedings, we have divided the content of the School and Symposium in two parts: Experimental and Phenomenological High Energy Physics, on the one hand, and Cosmology and Quantum Field Theory, on the other. In each part, we have placed the courses first, followed by the plenary lectures and the research seminars. We hope this will facilitate the reading of the volume.

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