Foreword

Astronomy is going through interesting times recently, as it undergoes more than a few paradigm changes. The default mode for obtaining data is changing from observing proposals to data mining in survey archives, discoveries such as Gravitational Waves are opening new observing windows, and the volume of data has grown so impressively that Big Data in Astronomy is becoming a reality such that computer scientists and statisticians are attending astronomical conferences.

Amidst such exciting surges, there is always the danger of overlooking topics that are less vanguard, but which are nonetheless building blocks for an impressive amount of knowledge. One of those topics is the work on Stellar Spectral Libraries (SSL), and the research that is based on them and stemming from them. Without those Libraries, we cannot (for example) exploit fully the data that new surveys such as Gaia bring, assess correctly the relevance of the oddities which the statistics want to discard, or understand the history of star formation and chemical enrichment in external galaxies.

Thanks to the vision and foresight of two key players, H.P. Singh and P. Prugniel, the SSL community has now established a series of Workshops. It met first in Delhi in 2011, in Lyon in 2013, and then in Campos do Jordão in 2017. Some of the presentations made at our third gathering are now being offered to the public in this volume.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all participants for their friendliness, enthusiasm, curiosity and open-mindedness, which is resulting in a rich environment that we hope to maintain for years to come. We look forward to meeting everyone again for the 4th Workshop on Stellar Spectral Libraries.

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