THE FINAL SESSION

Chairman: J. Davis

INTRODUCTION

The final session of the Colloquium opened with three short invited summary talks by R. Hanbury Brown (Two Aperture Optical Interferometry), C.H. Townes (Infrared Interferometry) and J.C. Dainty (Speckle Interferometry). The speakers were invited to highlight the questions and areas of uncertainty that had been raised by the meeting rather than simply summarize the proceedings. The summary talks were followed by an open discussion and the whole of the final session has been transcribed from tape and edited for inclusion in these proceedings.

Earlier in the Colloquium an impromptu discussion was held under the chairmanship of C.H. Townes, at the suggestion of R.Q. Twiss, on the importance of the effects of atmospheric turbulence for long baseline optical interferometry. This discussion took place in the fourth scientific session after paper No.13, but the Editors have incorporated it into the final discussion as it seems more appropriate there.

THE INVITED SUMMARIES

R. Hanbury Brown: Well, I freely admit to being asleep a good deal of the time, but I have heard a lot of the papers, and while I was awake I heard somebody say that if you took away all the angular measurements from astronomy, it wouldn't make much difference. The gentleman has gone. It has rather removed the point of some of the more acid remarks I would have made. (Laughter).

For anybody who might be of the same school of thought, I would remind you that they were being compared with the importance of making measurements of parallax, and obviously somebody didn't know much about the history of astronomy - and I am not going back to Aristarchus, but a bit later than that - I would remind you that Galileo was very much concerned with the problem of the distance to the nearest stars, and he measured the angular diameter of

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0252921100118949 Published online by Cambridge University Press