Preface

The 8th International Conference on Hadron Spectroscopy (Hadron '99) was held on August 24-28, 1999 in Beijing and hosted by the Institute of High Energy Physics. This conference had an attendance of 153 physicists, among them 76 were from abroad(from 16 countries).

Hadron spectroscopy studies the structure of the hadrons, the nature of their constituents and the interactions between them. Constituent Quark Model (CQM) had great success in explaining the mass spectrum of mesons and baryons, and the cross section ratio of mesons and baryons with targets. But the current understanding is that QCD should be the correct theory for strong interactions. Many QCD based approaches have been attempted to describe hadron spectroscopy, but failed to reach the level of agreement between the experimental data and the predictions enjoyed by the CQM.

In this conference, many latest results from different experiments were presented, latest theoretical ideas and calculations were discussed. As we can see from the presentations in this conference, the hadron spectroscopy is still a very interesting and active field in high energy physics. The searches for glueballs, hybrids and exotic states are really important in verifying the QCD nature of strong interactions and in improving our understanding of interactions between hadron constituents at medium energy scale.

To truly make breakthrough in this field, we believe that much more progresses have to be made both from experiments and theoretical predictions. Various experiments at different machines and using different methods should come together to provide a coherent and consistent picture of the experimental facts, and theorists should provide more convincing and precise predictions. For example, only after a few gluonic states are found experimentally, which match with better theoretical predictions of gluonic spectrum, then we can convince ourselves that glueball states exist.

We hope that this conference had served the purpose to provide an opportunity for physicists working in this field to meet regularly and to exchange new informations and ideas together. The local organizing committee would thank the speakers at this conference for their presentations and careful preparation of their papers. The conference chairman would use this opportunity to thank Prof. HUANG Yinzhi and Mr. HOU Rucheng for their dedicated work to make the conference a success. And the editors would thank Mr. YUAN Ye and Mr. CHENG Baosen for their hard work in preparing this proceedings. We wish the next conference Hadron '2001, to be held in Protvino of Russia, a complete success.

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