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Preface

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The 21st European Conference on Few-Body Problems in Physics was held in Salamanca, Spain. The Conference was organized by the Fundamental Physics Department of the University of Salamanca and the Institute for the Structure of Matter of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) from Madrid and took place from 30 August to 3 September 2010 at the Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos. This conference is a traditional meeting place of leading scientists in the fields of particle, nuclear, molecular, atomic, and mathematical physics. The previous conferences of this series were held in Budapest (1972), Graz (1973), Tübingen (1975), Vlieland (1976), Uppsala (1977), Dubna (1979), Sesimbra (1980), Ferrara (1981), Tbilisi (1984), Balatonfüred (1985), Fontevraud (1987), Uzhgorod (1990), Elba (1991), Amsterdam (1993), Peñíscola (1995), Autrans (1997), Évora (2000), Bled (2002), Groningen (2004) and Pisa (2007).

The present edition of the conference gathered together about 130 participants and was divided into plenary talks on the mornings, three parallel sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and a poster session on Tuesday afternoon. The speakers of the plenary sessions were invited by the Local Organizing Committee guided by the suggestions of the International Advisory Committee. The oral presentations were selected by the Local Organizing Committee among the submitted abstracts. For those abstracts not selected for a parallel session there was a poster presentation. At the conference a total of 23 plenary and 73 parallel talks were presented. There was also a round table discussion of the nuclear force. All these contributions were organized following the subjects:

- Hadron structure and QCD
- Hadronic description of nuclear systems
- Unstable nuclei and nuclear astrophysics
- Hypernuclei and exotic systems
- Electromagnetic and weak processes
- Atoms, molecules, Bose condensates and quantum dots
- Relativistic descriptions of few-body systems
- Experimental facilities: present and future
- Recent topics in few-body systems

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In addition to the scientific program, a few social events took place during the conference. A reception was organized at the Patio de Escuelas Menores of the University of Salamanca on Monday evening and a guided visit to the Historical building of the University on Tuesday evening. Wednesday afternoon was reserved for an excursion to the city of Ciudad Rodrigo. The social dinner took place on Thursday evening at La Hacienda Zorita.

We would like to thank all the speakers and participants for their contributions and the friendly atmosphere. We would also like to thank the International Advisory Committee for their suggestions. We are specially grateful to Franz Gross for taking care of the organization of the round table. The University of Salamanca and its Department of Fundamental Physics gave an enormous contribution to the conference. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge financial support provided by: the National Centre for Particle, Astroparticle and Nuclear Physics (CPAN), the Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación under Contract number FPA2009-08440-E, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the European Physical Society, the Department of Fundamental Physics of the University of Salamanca, the Institute of Fundamental Physics and Mathematics of the University of Salamanca, TECNASA, ENUSA, and the *European Physical Journal*.