History and scientific results of radar meteor research in Ukraine: Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics (NURE) and its Research Laboratory (RA LAB) named after Boris Kashcheyev

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A well-known Ukrainian scientist in the field of meteor radar research, provided the best radar surveys during the IGY 1957 and later

CV Kashcheyev RA LAB

1954: Year of birth "Meteor Radio Astronomy **in Kharkiv"** (registration of the first radio meteors) 1957 Year of birth "Meteor Radar MARS*" 2007 Official date of birth of the Laboratory named after Boris Kashcheyev in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the IGY 1957 in 2007 and issuance of a certificate and a gold medal in the name of

2022 - 2024 A full-scale war is being waged in Ukraine, unleashed by Russia.

Kharkiv is located 35 km from the Russia Prof. Boris Kashchevev (1920-2004) under bombs and shelling. Houses are being destroyed, people are dying.

*In 2022, the territory with the MARS meteor radar was under the occupation of Russian troops for 190 days.

High-quality, world-class meteor radar research has been carried out in Kharkiv (Ukraine) since 1957 till 2022

Kharkiv RadioMeteors (1954-...)

- Meteor automated radar system (MARS) with a powerful (1 MW) meteor transmitter. Operating frequency 31.1 MHz.
- The number and characteristics of meteor radio reflections, <u>radiants</u> of meteor bodies, as well as to study the dynamic parameters of the Earth's atmosphere in the meteor region, the study of tides and gravitational waves etc.
- Complex for passive location of meteor tracks, frequency
 48 MHz (ATV channel).



Multipurpose Geophysical Complex for Research of the Atmosphere and Inflow of Meteor Substance

include meteor radar **MARS** (1957 – 2021)...**needs renovation** has gained the status of the National Scientific Heritage of Ukraine since 2004.



n district, <u>Kharkiv</u> region

⁰ N, ~37 ⁰ E)

ussian border

Vilhuvatka village, near <u>Balakliia</u>, <u>Izum</u> district, <u>Kharkiv</u> region (~ 90 km from <u>Kharkiv</u>, ~49 ° N, ~37 ° E) about 80 kilometers to the **Russian border**

→ 192 days under the occupation of the Russian Federation

Project "Kashcheyev Seminar" Conference In 2025, Prof. Kashcheyev (1920-2004) would have turned 105 years old.

https://nure.ua/en/conference-workshops/kashcheyev-seminar

- **2005, September 21** Seminar "Radar studies of meteors and modern studies of small bodies of the solar system" dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the birth of BL Kashcheyev.
- **2010**, **March**, **12**. Seminar "Meteoric Research: Scientific and Applied Aspects" dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the birth of B.L Kashcheyev.
- **2016, March, 15.** "Radio meteors, meteors and the interplanetary component: nearby and at a distance" dedicated to the 96th anniversary of Kashcheyev birthday
- **2021, March, 30-31.** «Meteors and celestial objects, weather and space: from data and technology to heritage and development» dedicated to the 100 years since the birth (March 8, 2020) of NURE Honorary Professor Kashcheyev B.L. (1920-2004). Among the participants Prof. Wayne Hocking

2025 WHAT ABOUT "Kashcheyev Seminar 2025



In the 21st century, on February 24, 2022, a terrible war began, which actually began in February 2014, and in 2022 it entered a full-scale phase (Russia attacked Ukraine). Due to its location and importance* for Russia, Kharkiv was and continues to be one of the first cities to receive military strikes.

*Before the war, Kharkiv was the second most populous city in Ukraine, its population exceeded 1.5 million people, and during the Soviet period for some time it was the first capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic.





These are drawings by the Ukrainian artist Kateryna Vasechko about the war https://cntime.cn.ua/nizhinka-katerina-vasechko-svoyimi-malyunkami-pidk-article/

Due to the war, it became impossible to carry out meteor scientific research in Kharkiv and observations at a rural base near Balaklia in the Kharkiv region. The territory with the MARS meteor radar was under the occupation of Russian troops for ~190 days in 2022 (Kharkiv region). After five months, is released, but the mines remained -in the picture on the right below, turquoise color



There is a symbolic mural in Prague, Czech Republic: "The child who protects the world". It is related to the war in Ukraine 2014 - 2022 - 2024. It shows a Ukrainian girl trying to save the world, presented in the form of cartoon characters: covers them with a blue-yellow flag...

ДИТИНА, **ЯКА ЗАХИЩАЄ CBIT** A Child Who Protects the World



Pay attention to the toys that the girl covers with a yellow-blue flag: Mickey Mouse (USA); Little Mole (Czech Republic / in Czech: Krtek, Krteček); Moomin (Finland); Obelix (France); Bolek and Lolek (Poland); Bitzer dog (Great Britain); the bee Maya (Germany)...

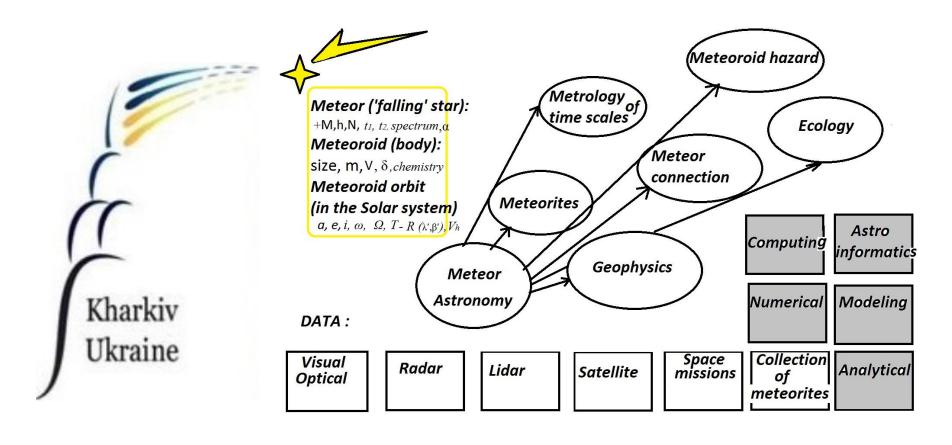
In Ukraine there are also other meteor research centers that are also suffering from the war in Ukraine, some of them also received a boost in development thanks to the IGY 1957 program but the radar method was continued only in Kharkiv (Kharkov - in russian).

Participants of program IGY 1957 on meteor research in the USSR

R - radar, Ph - photographic, V - visual

	И	City	φ	λ	H m	Scientific institutes / Country / Chairs	Program, N igy
	1	Ashkhabad	37 ° 56'	58 ° 24 '	200	Astrophysical Laboratory of the Institute of Physics and Geophysics AS Turkmen SSR I.A. Astapovich, Ya.F. Sadykov.	R, Ph, V N696 (C126)
arkiv	2	Kazan	55 ° 47 '	49° 07 '	80	Astronomical observatory named Engelgardt of the Kazan University Russian SFSR K.V. Kostylyov.	R N233
kraine 🧡	3	<u>Kiev</u>	50 ° 27 '	30° 30'	185	Astronomical observatory of the Kiev University Ukrainian SSR A.F.Bogorodskiy,	R, Ph, N320
O	4	Odessa	46 ° 29 '	30° 46'	50	Astronomical observatory of the Odessa University Ukrainian SSR V.P.Tsesevich, E.N. Kramer	R, Ph, V N621
	5	Stalinabad <i>Dushanbe</i>	38 ° 34 '	68° 46'	820	Institute of Astrophysics AS Tajik SSR L.A. Katasev, P.B. Babadzhanov, A.M. Bakharev.	R, Ph, V N680 (C115)
•	6	Tomsk	56 ° 29 '	84° 59 '	120	Tomsk Polytechnical Institute(faculty of Radiophysics) Russian SFSR Ye.F.Fialko.	R N224
	7	<u>Kharkov</u>	50 °	36° 14 '	140	Kharkov Polytechnical Institute (faculty of Radioengineering) Ukrainian SSR B.L. Kashcheyev	R N358(B141)

The **meteor research** is the example of cross-disciplinary research having sharp rise due to the project of the IGY 1957 and others geophysical projects. **Meteor astronomy** is an independent science that supports other sciences and applied problems (in particular, geophysics, meteor communication, and solving meteor hazard problems).



What is the main value and the main tradition of all geophysical years?

The implementation of the innovative idea of Karl Weyprecht (1875) about the need to unite the efforts of scientists from all countries to solve the pressing scientific problems of humanity

1883 International Polar Year

(First) : **IPY-1**

1933 International Polar Year

(Second): IPY-1

1957 International

Geophysical Year : IGY

(solar-terrestrial

connections / V section:

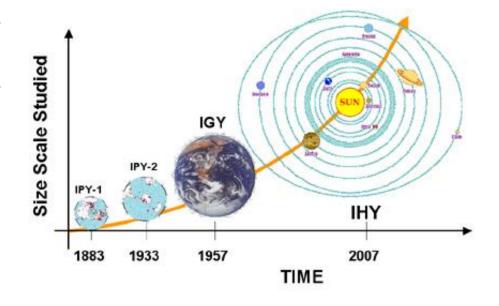
Ionosphere, meteors)

2007 International

Kharkiy

Ukraine

Heliophysical Year: IHY



The IGY triggered an 18-month year of Antarctic science. The International Council of Scientific Unions, a parent body, broadened the proposals from polar studies to geophysical research (solar-terrestrial connections/<u>V. lonosphere, meteors</u>). More than 70 existing national scientific organizations then formed IGY

committees, and participated in the cooperative effort.



A commemorative stamp issued by Japan in 1957 to mark the IGY. The illustration depicts the Japanese Research Ship Sova and a penguin.





A replica of Sputnik 1, which was launched into orbit on October 4, 1957.



International Geophysical Year 1957 (IGY) program

IAU - IGY Coordinator

V. Guth (former ČSR); V. Fedynsky and Kashcheyev (former USSR).



METEOR ASTRONOMY

IGY Coordinator - IAU Commission 22 (Division III)





C22 President after 1958 : V. Fedynsky (former USSR)

Results of researches on the program of the International Geophysical Year

V Section of IGY program "IONOSPHERE and METEORS"

were published in Annals of IGY (France, Paris) and numerous collections of articles in the Russian language (former USSR, Moscow; Ukraine, Kharkiv etc.)



1957 – 1958 – 1959: In Kharkiv, under the leadership of Kashcheyev and Fedynsky, the best IGY 1957 radar observations of meteors were organized and conducted

20th century: Revolutionary radio and rocket technology; increased interest in the ionosphere and radio meteors. In the 1950s, preparations were underway for the global International Geophysical Year program, involving 67 countries with more than 600,000 scientists worldwide. People were tired of World War II and wanted to create. The death of the tyrant Stalin in the former USSR in 1953 contributed to a political thaw.

- Oct 4, 1957: Open space era
- IGY1957: Global International Geophysical Year1957 project
- 1954: B. Lovell* proposed the meteor radar research program for the IGY1957
- 1954: <u>B.Kashcheyev</u>**&team registered the first radio meteors in Ukraine (USSR)
- 1947: <u>E.Appleton</u> obtained a Nobel Prize (for his confirmation of existence of ionosphere in 1927)
- 1945: the first radio meteor observations in UK

Proposed to research meteors using radar method in IGY1957



*B.Lovell (1913-2012), UK



Became the best in meteor research using radar method in IGY1957 and...



**B.Kashcheyev (1920-2004), Ukraine



MARS: Meteor Automated Radar System

Table shows
development stages
and achievements of
Kharkiv radar meteor
research (compressed)



Periods (KhPI/ NURE)	Meteor- radar- systems	Some Global International Projects etc.	Some dissertations, catalogs etc.	Registered meteor orbits (N)				
19540	Registration of the first radiometeors in Ukraine							
1954-19570	Creations of the Kharkiv meteor observed base: the Balakleya scientific and research polygon (BSRP)							
1957-19590	MRS	IGY 1957/9	(Kashcheyev-et-al., 1961)¤					
1967-1971¤	MARS- I		(Kashcheyev-et-al.,1967)	90,000**				
1968-1970□		Equatorial expedition	Catalog·I	5330¤				
1971-19780	MARS- II		(Catalog-II 1980)	250,000 (5317)				
1981-1991¤	MARS- III		(Voloshchuk, 1984)					
1985-□		GLOBMET	20					
1985-87¤		IHW						
1996-2000□		<u> </u>	(Voloshchuk·et·al.,· 1996)□					
2000-20070			(Voloshchuk&¶ Gorelov,2011¤	5160- (showers)				
2004□	Kharkiv		base (NURE BSCP) wa National property of Ukrain					
2007/9□		IHY 2007/90						
2007□		NURE-Kashchevey-SRL-RA-SRD was created						
2007-2021¤		2	(Kolomiyets, Voloshchuket, al-2015-2020)¶					

Tab.4.1. Some statistical data on the orbits of meteoroids observed by MARS

Data



Data type	Obs. period	Orbits (N)	Magnitudes	Remarks
Total	1959-1960	12500	+8 ^m	
Sporadic	1959	360	+8 ^m	
Geminids	1959	298	+8 ^m	
195streams	1959-1960	3500	+8 ^m	Math
Total	1968-1970	5330	+8 ^m	2ºN 45ºE
Total	1968-1970	~70 000	+12 ^m	
Total	1972-1978	~250 000	+12 ^m	
Total	1975	5317	+12 ^m	
Sporadic	1972-1978	~160 000	+12 ^m	
5160 streams	1972-1978	~100000	+12 ^m	Math
η- <u>Aquarids</u>	1986	41	+12 ^m	
Orionids	1985-1986	19	+12 ^m	

Data. Place of Kharkiv data among others.

There are five large archives of specular meteor radar (SMRs) data (Tab.1): the HRMP (Harvard Radio Meteor Project radar, USA); the AMOR (Advanced Meteor Orbital Radar, New Zealand); the CMOR (Canadian Meteor Orbital Radar, Canada); the SAAMER (Southern Argentina Agile Meteor Radar, Argentina) and the MARS II (Meteor Automated Radar System, Kharkiv, Ukraine). Megawatt MARS radar registered faint meteors up to +12m (in the mass range: 10^-6-10^-3 g). Tab.1 Parameters of known orbital meteor radars/SMR and their archives

1000					M.		- 10	
	Radar	Country	LAT,	LONG,	f,	N orbits	M	Years
	name		deg	deg	MHz		magnitude	
	HRMP	USA	40.20N	90.02W	41.10	~10,000	+12	1960s
9	MARS	UKR 💙	49.42 N	36.87E	22.38	~70,000	+12	1967-71
	MARS II	UKR 💛	49.42 N	36.87E	31.10	~250,000	+12	1972-78
	AMOR	NZL	43.60S	172.60E	26.20	~500,000	+13	1990s
	CMOR	CAN	43.26N	80.77W	29.85	> 5 million	+7/+8	2000s
	SAAMER	ARG	53.68\$	67.87W	32.55	> 1million	+7/+8	2000s

building after February 24, 2022. The NURE building (except for the broken windows) intact, but access to the building is limited .2 The windows were subsequently repaired. The university operates³ in a mixed mode in terms of education and conducting, classes with students, sometimes switching completely to online teaching. The university survived! The university has a website and we plan to put the data and results of the Kashcheyev RA6 LAB there.



We do not have access to our Statistics of the Kharkiv meteor radar data, workplace in the university which we managed to restore and work with.

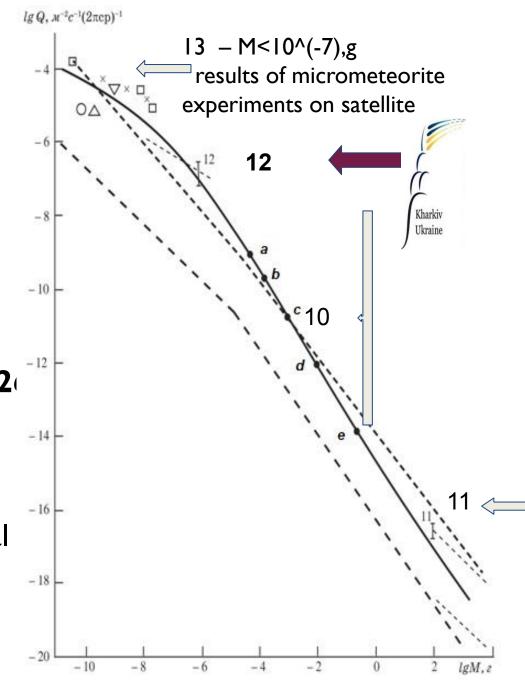
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
References	Years (1	Remarks						
			s or tota					
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	A II
Kharkiv meteor	10247	41889	3356	34042	21187	12114	6743	*All meteors
radar data in								
this research				F227				B 11:1 1 1 1 .
[22, Kashcheyev,				5327				Published data (short Kharkiv
Tkachuk								catalog 1975)
(1980)]								catalog 1973)
Catalog								
[33,				6743				Published data
Voloshchuk,				0743				(Kharkiv
Kolomiyets,								catalog 1978)
Cherkas (2018)]								
(Kharkiv								
meteor radar								
data in this								
research)								
[32,			36979 (1974-197	78)			*Sporadic
Voloshchuk,								
Kashcheev, (1996)]		52932 (1974-197	78)			*Shower
Catalog of							1346	The data are
JAN-MAR								published to
1978								this article
[35,	5160							Meteor
Voloshchuk,								showers and
Gorelov (2011)] (used in this								associations
research)								(partially published)
Kharkiv meteor			30326 (1974-197	78)			*Sporadic
radar data in			33320 (13/4-13	70)			Sporadic
this research			52932 (1974-197	78)			*Shower
	159319;	156713	(1972-19		/			*Samples of all
								meteors
	Comme							

Fig. The total influx of meteors on the Earth's surface: (The bold curve is the integral flux density of meteoroids of different masses):

13 - results of micrometeorite experiments on satellite $(M<10^{(-7)},g)$

12 - Radio observations of meteors by equipment of high effective sensitivity +12 (MARS) M>10^(-6), g

II - photographic observations with fireball cameras
IO - Results of radio and optical observations of meteors (**a**, **c** - telescopic, **b** - medium-power radar, d, e - photographic Super-Schmidt cameras)



Some results* on the restored data of the meteor radar MARS**



- *PhD student of Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics (NURE) Iryna Kyrychenko will present (in next our report) some results of the distribution of MARS meteor radiants on the reconstructed MARS data lost due to the war(Fig.7)
- *Meteor Automated Radar System (Kharkiv, Ukraine) Megawatt radar registered faint meteors up to +12m (in the mass range: 10^-6-10^-3 g) / See more about the MARS meteor radar in the Poster "About the stages of the modernization of the Kharkiv meteor radar "MARS" and its current state" Dr. Serhii Kundyukov & Dr. Svitlana Kolomiyets

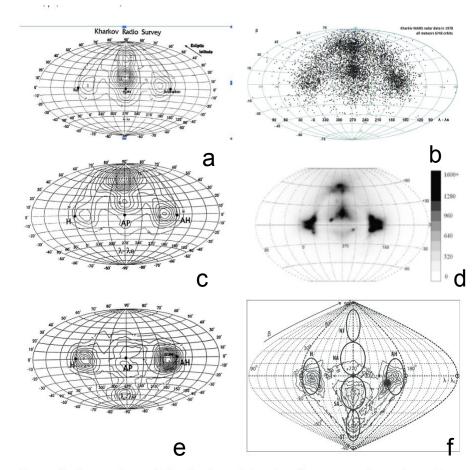


Figure 7: Comparison of distributions β , $\lambda - \lambda s$ of meteor radiants from the Kharkiv MARS meteor radar data with data from other radars : (a) [13, Jones and Brown(1993)] for Kharkiv 5327 selected radiants from 1975 according [22, Kashcheyev, Tkachuk(1980)] ; (b) all meteors sampled for 1972-1978 in this research (a separate copy); (c and e) contours of apparent density of meteor radiants from the combinated Harvard (c) and Adelaide (e); (d) radio surveys [13, Jones and Brown(1993)]; (f) the SAAMER radar radiants [12, Janches, Close, Hormaechea, et al., (2015)]. Here H denotes the position of the Sun (Helion) point, AP - the Earth apex point and AH - the Antihelion point; NT-North toroidal, NA -North Apex, SA - South Apex, ST - South toroidal.

21st century : new technologies, CMOR+SAAMER

In the 21st century, new opportunities have appeared associated with the development of radio electronics and the IT industry. All-sky meteor systems "SKiYMET meteor systems" have become widespread, and not so long ago another modification of them, ComMet/21i ("ComMet") appeared.

There were plans (interrupted by the war) that Prof. Wayne Hocking would install a **SKiYMET** system near Balakliia city (Kharkiv region, Ukraine).

Wayne Hocking [Hocking et al. 2001; Lau et al. 2006...].



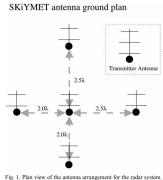


Fig. 1. Plan view of the antenna arrangement for the radar system. The location of the transmitter antenna is not critical and can be placed in any convenient location. The receiving antennas all need to be in a horizontal plane. The symbol λ represents the radar wavelength.

SKiYMET Meteor Radars.



The Canadian Meteor Orbit Radar: system overview and preliminary results

J. Jones^{a,*}, P. Brown^a, K.J. Ellis^b, A.R. Webster^c, M. Campbell-Brown^d, Z. Krzemenski^a, R.J. Weryk^a

THE SOUTHERN ARGENTINA AGILE METEOR RADAR ORBITAL SYSTEM (SAAMER-OS): AN INITIAL SPORADIC METEOROID ORBITAL SURVEY IN THE SOUTHERN SKY

D. Janches¹, S. Close², J. L. Hormaechea^{3,4}, N. Swarnalingam^{1,5}, A. Murphy⁶, D. O'Connor⁶, B. Vandepeer⁶, B. Fuller⁶, D. C. Fritts⁷, and C. Brunin⁸

Two SKiYMET radars (CMOR+SAAMER) measure the orbits of meteoroids

CONCLUSION 1-9 (first part 1-4): 20th-21st century / meteor radar data and meteor radar research in Kharkiv and in Kashcheyev RA LAB, NURE

- •1. Kharkiv meteor radar system (MARS, Ukraine) has acquired the status of the important historical astronomical instrument in world history.
- 2. Meteor Centre for researching meteors in Kharkiv (now Kashcheyev LAB) is a analogue of the observatory and performs the same functions of a generator and a battery of special knowledge and skills (the world-famous studio).
- 3. Kharkiv and the location of the instrument were brand points on the globe, as the place where the world-class meteor radar studies were carried out.
- 4. Kharkiv meteor radar research went down in the history of world meteor astronomy.



CONCLUSION (continuation): 20th-21st century / meteor radar data and meteor radar research in Kharkiv and in Kashcheyev RA LAB, NURE

 5. Observational data and accumulated knowledge about meteors in Kharkiv should be preserved and developed.

Table* . Some information about meteor radars (HRMP, AMOR,CMOR, SAAMER) the data of which is used to build a model of the meteoroid environment for NASA (potentially Kharkiv meteor radar MARS data)

Radar	Country	LAT,	LONG,	f,	N orbits	M
name		deg	deg	MHz		
HRMP	USA			41.10	~10,000	+12
MARS	UKR	49.42	36.87E	22.38	~70,000	+12
MARS	UKR	49.42	36.87E	31.10	~250,000	+12
AMOR	NZL	43.60S	172.60E	26.20	~500,000	+13
CMOR	CAN	43.26N	80.77W	29.85	> 5 million	+7/+8
SAAMER	ARG	53.68\$	67.87W	32.55	> 1million	+7/+8
		**	*			



6. The Table* shows some information about meteor radars, the data of which is used to build models of the meteoroid environment for NASA. The Kharkiv MARS data should also be included in this process.



CONCLUSION 1-9 (final points 6 - 9): 20th-21st century / meteor radar data and meteor radar research in Kharkiv and in Kashcheyev RA LAB, NURE

- 6. In XXI century new technology in MSRs (Meteor Specular Radars) SKiYMET /
 "all-sky" systems / were developed and embodied in radars:
 CMOR (Canadian Meteor Orbital Radar) and SAAMER (South Argentina Agile Meteor Radar).
- 7. Negotiations are underway and project preparations are being made to purchase and install the SkiYMET system to replace the equipment destroyed by the war The meteor observation complex in the Kharkiv region (Ukraine) near Balakliia.
- 8. Work is underway to find sponsors and a temporary location for the SkiYMET system to implement this project in support of the restoration (in the form of a complete modernization) of the Balakliia Geophysical complex for studying the atmosphere and the influx of meteor matter (Kharkiv region near the Balakliia city.
- 9. Looking for a way to continue observing meteors by radar method by installing a SkiYMET radar for Kharkiv researchers in another place, not in Ukraine, temporarily, until the war is over and the creation of a branch of the Kashcheyev RA LAB outside Ukraine (may be, as one of the options).

Acknowledgments



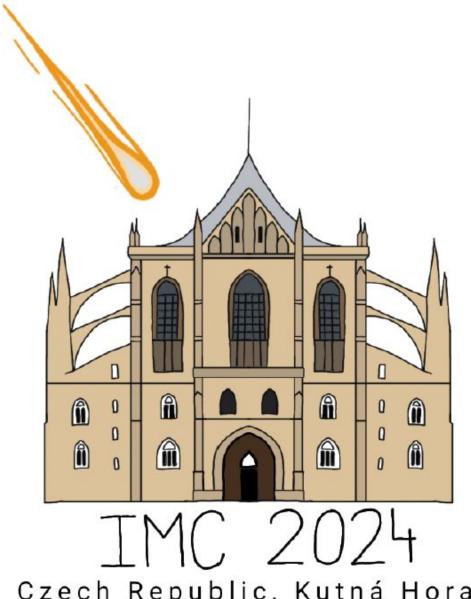


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- I thank everyone who supports Ukraine.
- I thank everyone in general and everyone who personally supports me and other scientists who are at risk.

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Czech Republic, Kutná Hora

