

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
1. Observational Techniques	1
1.1 The GC Across the Electromagnetic Spectrum . . . . .	1
1.1.1 Radio Wavelengths . . . . .	2
1.1.2 Far-Infrared Wavelengths . . . . .	7
1.1.3 Near- and Mid-Infrared Wavelengths . . . . .	12
1.1.4 Optical Wavelengths . . . . .	16
1.1.5 X-Ray Energies . . . . .	17
1.1.6 $\gamma$ -Ray Energies . . . . .	20
1.2 NIR Imaging Through the Atmosphere . . . . .	22
1.3 Speckle Imaging . . . . .	26
1.3.1 The Knox-Thompson Method . . . . .	30
1.3.2 The Bispectrum Analysis . . . . .	31
1.3.3 Seeing Calibration of Fourier Data . . . . .	32
1.3.4 The Shift-and-Add Algorithm . . . . .	33
1.3.5 Speckle Spectroscopy . . . . .	37
1.3.6 Speckle Instrumentation . . . . .	39
1.3.6.1 SHARP . . . . .	40
1.3.6.2 NIRC . . . . .	41
1.4 Single Telescope Adaptive Optics . . . . .	42
1.4.1 Adaptive Optics Imaging . . . . .	42
1.4.2 Adaptive Optics Spectroscopy . . . . .	49
1.4.3 Adaptive Optics Instrumentation . . . . .	51
1.4.3.1 NAOS/CONICA . . . . .	51
1.4.3.2 NIRC2 . . . . .	54

1.4.3.3	PUEO . . . . .	54
1.4.3.4	ADONIS . . . . .	55
1.4.3.5	HOKUPA'A . . . . .	55
1.4.3.6	FASTTRAC . . . . .	56
1.5	Cleaning and Deconvolution . . . . .	57
1.5.1	Linear Deconvolution . . . . .	58
1.5.2	Lucy-Richardson Deconvolution . . . . .	60
1.5.3	Estimating the PSF . . . . .	61
1.5.4	Iterative Blind Deconvolution . . . . .	62
1.5.5	Comparison of Deconvolution Algorithms . . . . .	63
1.6	Future IR Interferometry . . . . .	66
1.6.1	VLTI . . . . .	67
1.6.2	Keck Interferometer . . . . .	69
1.6.3	LBT LINC/NIRVANA . . . . .	70
2.	Observational Results . . . . .	71
2.1	The Discovery of Sagittarius A* . . . . .	71
2.2	Large-Scale Structures at the Galactic Center . . . . .	73
2.3	The Circum Nuclear Disk . . . . .	76
2.4	The Mini-Spiral . . . . .	77
2.5	Radio Filaments . . . . .	79
2.6	Near-Infrared Images of the Central Stellar Cluster . . . . .	80
2.6.1	A Brief History of NIR Imaging . . . . .	80
2.6.2	Diffraction Limited Images . . . . .	83
2.7	The Radio and Infrared Positional Reference Frames . . . . .	86
2.8	Number Density Counts . . . . .	88
2.8.1	Evidence for a Central Stellar Cusp . . . . .	92
2.8.2	K-band Luminosity Function . . . . .	95
2.9	Polarization of Filaments and Stars . . . . .	100
2.9.1	Extended Filaments in the Sgr A Complex . . . . .	100
2.9.2	Polarized Emission from Stars . . . . .	103
2.10	Stellar Velocities and Orbital Accelerations . . . . .	105
2.10.1	Measuring Stellar Proper Motions . . . . .	106
2.10.2	Motions in the Outer Cluster . . . . .	108
2.10.3	Motions in the Inner Cluster . . . . .	108
2.10.4	Accelerations of Stars Near Sgr A* . . . . .	112
2.10.5	Stellar Orbits . . . . .	113
2.11	Spectroscopy . . . . .	117
2.11.1	Stellar Populations . . . . .	118

2.11.2	The Upper Mass Cut-Off . . . . .	120
2.11.3	The Central Arcsecond . . . . .	122
2.11.4	Results of Speckle Spectroscopy . . . . .	123
2.11.4.1	Extraction and Calibration of Spectra . . . . .	123
2.11.4.2	Spectra in the Central Sgr A* Cluster . . . . .	124
2.11.5	Adaptive Optics Spectroscopy of the Central Cusp . . . . .	125
2.12	Star Formation at the Galactic Center? . . . . .	128
2.12.1	Embedded Objects . . . . .	130
2.12.2	IR-Excess Objects . . . . .	131
2.13	Sgr A* Across the Electromagnetic Spectrum . . . . .	136
2.13.1	Size and Spectrum of Sgr A* at Radio Wavelengths . . . . .	136
2.13.2	Polarization of Sgr A* at Radio Wavelengths . . . . .	141
2.13.3	Sgr A* as a Variable X-Ray Source . . . . .	143
2.13.4	Sgr A* as a Variable NIR Source . . . . .	145
2.13.5	How Likely are Strong NIR Flares? . . . . .	150
2.13.6	First Simultaneous X-Ray/NIR Detection of Sgr A* . . . . .	152
3.	Astrophysical Results . . . . .	155
3.1	The Stellar Velocity Field . . . . .	156
3.2	Scenarios for Star Formation at the Galactic Center . . . . .	160
3.2.1	Infall of Stellar Clusters . . . . .	161
3.2.2	In Situ Formation from Dense Gas . . . . .	164
3.2.3	Formation of Stars in the Mini-Spiral . . . . .	165
3.2.4	Capture of Stars by Ejection of Stellar Remnants . . . . .	167
3.3	The Central Dark Mass . . . . .	167
3.3.1	First Order Estimates . . . . .	167
3.3.2	Mass Estimators . . . . .	168
3.3.3	The Jeans Method . . . . .	169
3.3.4	The Orbit of the Star S2 . . . . .	173
3.3.5	Orbits of Other Stars Around Sgr A* . . . . .	174
3.3.6	A Lower Limit to the Mass . . . . .	174
3.4	Stability of the Enclosed Dark Mass . . . . .	175
3.5	Agglomerations of Exotic Particles? . . . . .	178
3.6	The Central Stellar Cusp . . . . .	181
3.6.1	Spatial Distribution of the Stars . . . . .	181
3.6.2	Velocity Distribution of the Stars . . . . .	183
3.6.3	Mass of the Cusp . . . . .	185
3.6.4	Young, Massive Stars in the Cusp . . . . .	185
3.6.5	Dynamics of the Cusp and Presence of Young Stars . . . . .	186

3.7	Analysis of Stellar Orbits Near the Central Black Hole . . .	189
3.7.1	Relativistic Periastron Shift . . . . .	190
3.7.2	Lense-Thirring Precession . . . . .	191
3.7.3	Newtonian Effects . . . . .	193
3.7.4	Orbits in a Uniform Density Sphere . . . . .	193
3.7.5	Stellar Deflections . . . . .	194
3.7.6	Constraints from non-Keplerian Orbits . . . . .	196
3.8	The Central Black Hole . . . . .	199
3.8.1	Standard Accretion Theory . . . . .	200
3.8.2	The Low Luminosity of Sgr A* . . . . .	201
3.8.3	Radiatively Inefficient Accretion Flow Models . . . .	202
3.8.4	Sgr A* Flare Models . . . . .	207
3.8.5	A Spin Measurement of the Black Hole? . . . . .	210
3.8.6	Gravitational Disk Modes . . . . .	212
3.8.7	Imaging the Event Horizon of Sgr A* . . . . .	215
3.9	Comparison to Nuclei of Other Galaxies . . . . .	215
3.10	Massive Black Holes at High Redshifts . . . . .	218
Appendix A	Color Versions of Selected Figures	223
Appendix B	Table of Individual Sources	237
Appendix C	Useful Quantities	241
Appendix D	Table of Abbreviations	243
	<i>Bibliography</i>	249
	<i>Index</i>	273