



Proceedings of the Symposium

# Exploiting the ISO Data Archive: Infrared Astronomy in the Internet Age

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Sigüenza, Spain  
24-27 June 2002

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**EXPLOITING THE ISO DATA ARCHIVE:  
INFRARED ASTRONOMY IN THE INTERNET AGE**

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**European Space Agency  
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## FOREWORD

At the beginning of the year 2002 the ISO project entered a new phase, the 'Active Archive Phase', supported by ESA until 2006, during which the data can be fully exploited after they have been successfully collected during the 2.5 years of operations and carefully calibrated during the following 3.5 years. The calibration of the ISO instruments has now converged for the bulk of the ISO data. The archive is populated with data processed to a high level of consistency, and the final Interactive Analysis systems continue to support hands-on interactive processing. The explanatory handbooks have also been released in their final versions, gathering all the information needed to make efficient use of ISO data.

An international conference devoted to the exploitation of the ISO data thus appeared quite timely to help define the direction of the work to be performed during this new phase.

As clearly stated by the title *Exploiting the ISO Data Archive*, the aim of the symposium was to encourage astronomers to benefit from the vast scientific potential still locked in the ISO Data Archive. The subtitle *Infrared Astronomy in the Internet Age* refers to the desire to highlight the complete accessibility of the ISO data, even from a small medieval town in central Spain such as Sigüenza.

The symposium was organised with the following objectives in mind:

- to offer the opportunity to present new results obtained with ISO, with special emphasis given to the generation of catalogues, to projects involving large data sets or systematic data reduction, or any project making use of the data with a different purpose to that planned in the original proposal;
- to be a platform to expose new ideas for such projects and to establish new collaborations;
- to encourage new projects by providing inventories of the scientific content of the archive;
- to advertise the relevance of the ISO Data Archive for the use of future infrared science facilities (Herschel, SIRTF, ASTRO-F, SOFIA, ...) and solicit suggestions to make the archive more useful in this respect;
- to facilitate the use of the archive by offering information on the different tools available to work with ISO data and by addressing the relationship of the archive to other data bases and virtual observatories.

All these points were covered by the active participation of close to 100 scientists from 13 countries, who gave an equal number of contributions and data handling demonstrations. The presentations revealed the existence of many systematic data reduction projects and highlighted the interest of the participants for the ingestion of expert-reduced data into the archive as one of the main goals of the Active Archive Phase. The high scientific quality of the presentations at the conference and of these proceedings emphasises the continuing vivid interest of the community in ISO data and in mining the wealth of its archive in particular.

We hope you will enjoy reading these proceedings and may they inspire your future projects.

The Editors

