

THE UNIVERSE IN THE LIGHT OF AKARI and Synergy with future Large Space Telescopes

9-11 July, Department of Physics, University of Oxford

Scientific lead from Japan: Prof. Takao Nakagawa, ISAS/JAXA

Scientific lead from the UK: Dr. Chris Pearson, Herschel SPIRE ICC Manager, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory / University of Oxford / Open University

Number of participants: 96

The symposium had an important objective to bring together Japanese and UK researchers, providing a forum for dissemination of the most recent results from AKARI from both Japanese and UK research groups. The conference stimulated new research collaborations within the two communities, extending our existing collaboration, but also forging new links with emerging researchers and group in both countries.

The very latest results from the AKARI mission were presented at the conference including the AKARI team release of the AKARI All-Sky Survey images which were being shown to the majority of the UK community for the very first time. There was much interest in using these new image results during and after the conference. This will impact on the general level of exploitation and dissemination of these new images by the astronomical community.

It was also very encouraging to see the extremely large number of young students at the conference who were either studying for their PhDs or beginning early research careers. Both oral and poster presentations were made by this younger community and there were many instances where parallel research or development paths were being taken independently. The conference allowed the discovery of these parallel activities and moreover allowed new collaboration and exchange of ideas to be made.

It is expected that the impact will result in future exchanges at the student level to further our collaborations on AKARI. The conference allowed the first opportunity for face-to-face meetings for the parallel AKARI astronomical analysis software groups to meet and discuss problems and exchange methodologies and ideas about the processing of AKARI data. This will greatly improve the quality of the AKARI data products in the future.

The conference also provided the opportunity for more senior researchers to build new links with their counterparts and to set up possible postdoctoral exchange opportunities in the near term future, particularly in the area of spectroscopy of ices where previous independent research will instead now become a collaborative study.

For the long term future, the conference provided a unique platform for UK astronomers to get on board the science teams for the next generation of Japanese collaborative missions (SPICA). This community has been somewhat in isolation but the conference seems to have had the impact of significant rejuvenation with many new collaborators joining the science team for SPICA.

The conference proceedings will be published in a dedicated international peer reviewed astronomy journal providing an impact factor of the conference results on the worldwide astronomical community stage. Publishing the results in a recognized international journal also has a significant impact on the career development of the younger research community that attended the conference. - **Dr. Chris Pearson**



Conference Photo