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Editors/*Editores*:
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Correia, A. C. M[1]; Udry, S.[2]; Mayor, M.[2]; Benz, W.[3]; Bertaux, J.-L.[4]; Bouchy, F.[5]; Laskar, J.[6]; Lovis, C.[2]; Mordasini, C.[3]; Pepe, F.[2]; Queloz, D.[2];

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Precise radial-velocity measurements with the HARPS spectrograph reveal the presence of two planets orbiting the solar-type star HD45364. The companion masses are 0.187 M_{Jup} and 0.658 M_{Jup}, with semi-major axes of 0.681 AU and 0.897 AU, and eccentricities of 0.168 and 0.097, respectively. A dynamical analysis of the system further shows a 3:2 mean motion resonance between the two planets, which prevents close encounters and ensures the stability of the system over 5 Gyr. This is the first time that such a resonant configuration has been observed for extra-solar planets, although there is an analogue in our Solar System formed by Neptune and Pluto. This singular planetary system may provide important constraints on planetary formation and migration scenarios.

Accepted by: Astronomy and Astrophysics
http://arxiv.org/abs/0902.0597

HD60532, a planetary system in a 3:1 mean motion resonance

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In a recent paper it was reported a planetary system around the star HD60532, composed by two giant planets in a possible 3:1 mean motion resonance, that should be confirmed within the next decade. Here we show that the analysis of the global dynamics of the system allows to confirm this resonance. The present best fit to data already corresponds to this resonant configuration and the system is stable for at least 5Gry. The 3:1 resonance is so robust that stability is still possible for a wide variety of orbital parameters around the best fit solution and also if the inclination of the system orbital plane with respect to the plane of the sky is as small as 15 deg. Moreover, if the inclination is taken as a free parameter in the adjustment to the observations, we find an inclination $\sim$20 deg, which corresponds to M_b=3.1 M_{Jup} and M_c=7.4 M_{Jup} for the planetary companions.

Accepted by: Astronomy and Astrophysics
http://arxiv.org/abs/0902.0667

The HARPS search for southern extra-solar planets. XIV. Gl 176b, a super-Earth rather than a Neptune, and at a different period

Forveille, T.[1]; Bonfils, X.[2,1,3]; Delfosse, X.[1]; Gillon, M.[4]; Udry, S.[4]; Bouchy, F.[5]; Lovis, C.[4]; Mayor, M.[4]; Pepe, F.[4]; Perrier, C.[1]; Queloz, D.[4]; Santos, N.[2]; Bertaux, J.-L.[6];

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A 10.24-day Neptune-mass planet was recently announced as orbiting the nearby M2 dwarf Gl 176, based on 28 radial velocities measured with the HRS spectrograph on the Hobby-Heberly Telescope. We obtained 57 radial velocities of Gl 176 with the ESO 3.6 m telescope and the HARPS spectrograph, which is known for its sub-m s^{-1} stability. The median photon-noise standard error of our measurements is 1.1 m s^{-1}, significantly lower than the 4.7 m s^{-1} of the HET velocities, and the 4-year period over which they were obtained overlaps considerably with the epochs of the HET measurements. The HARPS measurements show no evidence of a signal at the period of the putative HET planet, suggesting that its detection was spurious. We do find, on the other hand, strong evidence of a lower mass 8.4 M_{Earth} planet, in a quasi-circular orbit and at the different period of 8.78 days. The host star has moderate magnetic activity and rotates on a 39-day period, which we confirm through modulation of both contemporaneous photometry and chromospheric indices. We detect that period, as well, in the radial velocities, but it is well removed from the orbital period and offers no cause for confusion. This new detection of a super-Earth (2 M_{Earth} < M sin (i) < 10 M_{Earth}) around an M dwarf adds to the growing evidence that such planets are common around very low-mass stars. A third of the 20 known planets with M sin (i)< 0.1 M_{Jup} and 3 of the 7 known planets with M sin (i) < 10 M_{Earth} orbit an M dwarf, in contrast to just 4 of the ∼300 known Jupiter-mass planets.

Accepted by: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Volume 493, Issue 2, 2009, pp.645-650
http://de.arxiv.org/abs/0809.0750

Phantom stars and topology change

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In this work, we consider time-dependent dark-energy star models, with an evolving parameter ω crossing the phantom divide ω=-1. Once in the phantom regime, the null energy condition is violated, which physically implies that the negative radial pressure exceeds the energy density. Therefore, an enormous negative pressure in the center may, in principle, imply a topology change, consequently opening up a tunnel and converting the dark-energy star into a wormhole. The criteria for this topology change are discussed and, in particular, we consider a Casimir energy approach involving quasilocal energy difference calculations that may reflect or measure the occurrence of a topology change. We denote these exotic geometries consisting of dark-energy stars (in the phantom regime) and phantom wormholes as phantom stars. The final product of this topological change, namely, phantom wormholes, have far-reaching physical and cosmological implications, as in addition to being used for interstellar shortcuts, an absurdly advanced civilization may manipulate these geometries to induce closed timelike curves, consequently violating causality.

Accepted by: Physical Review D, vol. 78, Issue 10, id. 104003
http://de.arxiv.org/abs/0808.0839

On the fidelity of the core mass functions derived from dust column density data

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Aims: We examine the recoverability and completeness limits of the dense core mass functions (CMFs) derived for a molecular cloud using extinction data and a core identification scheme based on two-dimensional thresholding. Methods: We performed simulations where a population of artificial cores was embedded into the variable background extinction field of the Pipe nebula. We extracted the cores from the simulated extinction maps, constructed the CMFs, and compared them to the input CMFs. The simulations were repeated using a variety of extraction parameters and several core populations with differing input mass functions and differing degrees of crowding. Results: The fidelity of the observed CMF depends on the parameters selected for the core extraction algorithm for our background. More importantly, it depends on how crowded the core population is. We find that the observed CMF recovers the true CMF reliably when the mean separation of cores is larger than their mean diameter (f>1). If this condition holds, the derived CMF is accurate and complete above M > 0.8-1.5 Msun, depending on the parameters used for the core extraction. In the simulations, the best fidelity was achieved with the detection threshold of 1 or 2 times the rms-noise of the extinction data, and with the contour level spacings of 3 times the rms-noise. Choosing larger threshold and wider level spacings increases the limiting mass. The simulations show that when f>1.5, the masses of individual cores are recovered with a typical uncertainty of 25-30%. When f=1 the uncertainty is ∼60%. In very crowded cases where f<1 the core identification algorithm is unable to recover the masses of the cores adequately. For the cores of the Pipe nebula f∼2.0 and therefore the use of the method in that region is justified.

Accepted by: A&A
http://de.arxiv.org/abs/0901.4207

Solar-like oscillations in the G8 V star τ Ceti

Teixeira, T. C.[1,2]; Kjeldsen, H.[2]; Bedding, T. R.[3]; Bouchy, F.[4]; Christensen-Dalsgaard, J.[2]; Cunha, M. S.[1]; Dall, T.[5]; Frandsen, S.[2]; Karoff, C.[2]; Monteiro, M. J. P. F. G.[1,6]; Pijpers, F. P.[2,7];

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We used HARPS to measure oscillations in the low-mass star τ Cet. Although the data were compromised by instrumental noise, we have been able to extract the main features of the oscillations. We found τ Cet to oscillate with an amplitude that is about half that of the Sun, and with a mode lifetime that is slightly shorter than solar. The large frequency separation is 169 μHz, and we have identified modes with degrees 0, 1, 2, and 3. We used the frequencies to estimate the mean density of the star to an accuracy of 0.45% which, combined with the interferometric radius, gives a mass of 0.783 ± 0.012 M_{sun} (1.6%).

Accepted by: A&A
http://de.arxiv.org/abs/0811.3989

Spitzer-IRAC GLIMPSE of high mass protostellar objects. II SED modelling of a bonafide sample

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In a previous work (paper I) a sample of 380 HMPO targets was studied using the GLIMPSE point source catalog and images. Colour-magnitude analysis of the point sources resulted in the identification of infrared counterparts (IRC) of the (sub)mm cores of HMPO candidates which were considered bonafide targets.
We aim to estimate and analyse the physical properties of the infrared counterparts of HMPOs by comparing their spectral energy distributions (SED) with those predicted by radiative transfer accretion models of YSOs.
The SED of 68 IRC's are extended beyond the GLIMPSE photometry to the possible limits, from the near-infrared to the millimetre wavelengths by using the 2MASS, GLIMPSE version 2.0 catalogs, MSX, IRAS and some single dish (and interferometric) (sub)mm data. An online SED fitting tool that uses 2D radiative transfer accretion models of YSOs is employed to fit the observed SED to obtain various physical parameters.
The SED of IRC's were fitted by models of massive protostars with a range of masses between 5–42 $M_{\odot}$ and ages between 10^3 and 10^6 years. The median mass and age are 10 $M_{\odot}$ and 10^4yr's. The observed data favors protostars of low effective temperatures (4000-1000K) with correspondingly large effective photospheres (2-200 $R_{\odot}$) for the observed luminosities. The envelopes are large with a mean size of ∼0.2-0.3 pc and show a distribution that is very similar to the distribution of the sizes of 8μm nebulae discussed in Paper I. The estimated envelope accretion rates are high with a mean value of $10^{-3} M_{\odot}$ /yr and show a power law dependence to mass with an exponent of 2, suggesting spherical accretion at those scales. Disks are found to exist in most of the sources with a mean mass of $10^{-1.4\pm0.7}$ $M_{\odot}$.
The observed infrared-millimetre SED of the infrared counterparts of HMPOs are successfully explained with an YSO accretion model. The modelled sources mostly represent proto-B stars although some of them could become O stars in future. We demonstrate that many of these results may represent a realistic picture of massive star formation, despite some of the results which may be an effect of the assumptions within the models.

Accepted by: Astronomy and Astrophysics
http://www.astro.up.pt/investigacao/ficheiros/2009_AA_Grave.pdf

2 Abstracts of recent conference contributions
Resumos de trabalhos apresentados em conferências

Milli-arcsecond Astrophysics with VSI, the VLTI Spectro-imager in the ELT Era

Malbet, F.[1] Buscher, D.[2] Weigelt, G.[3] Garcia, P.[4] Gai, M.[5] Lorenzetti, D.[6] Surdej, J.[7] Hron, J.[8] Neuhäuser, R.[9] Kern, P.[1] Jocou, L.[1] Berger, J.-P.[1] Absil, O.[1] Beckmann, U.[3] Corcione, L.[5] Duvert, G.[1,15] Filho, M.[4] Labeye, P.[10] Le Coarer, E.[1] Li Causi, G.[6] Lima, J.[12] Perraut, K.[1] Tatulli, E.[1,14,15] Thiébaut, E.[11] Young, J.[2] Zins, G.[1] Amorim, A.[12] Aringer, B.[8] Beckert, T.[3] Benisty, M.[1] Bonfils, X.[12] Chelli, A.[1,15] Chesneau, O.[19] Chiavassa, A.[20] Corradi, R.[18] De Becker, M.[7] Delboulbé, A.[1] Duchêne, G.[1] Forveille, T.[1] Haniff, C.[2] Herwats, E.[1,7] Hofmann, K.-H.[3] LeBouquin, J.-B.[16] Ligori, S.[5] Loreggia, D.[6] Marconi, A.[14] Moitinho, A.[12] Nisini, B.[6] Petrucci, P.-O.[1] Rebordão, J.[13] Speziali, R.[6] Testi, L.[14,17] Vitali, F.[6]

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[13] Instituto Nacional de Engenharia, Tecnologia e Inovação, Lisboa, Portugal ;
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[15] Jean-Marie Mariotti Center, CNRS, France ;
[16] European Southern Observatory, Santiago, Chile;
[17] European Southern Observatory Headquarters, Garching, Germany;
[18] Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Spain;
[19] Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, Laboratoire Gemini, Nice, France ;
[20] Groupe de Recherches en Astronomie et Astrophysique du Languedoc, Montpellier, France ;

Nowadays, compact sources relatively warm like surfaces of nearby stars, circumstellar environments of stars from early stages to the most evolved ones and surroundings of active galactic nuclei can be investigated at milli-arcsecond scales only with the VLT in its interferometric mode. We propose a spectro-imager, named VSI (VLTI spectro-imager), which is capable to probe these sources both over spatial and spectral scales in the near-infrared domain. This instrument will provide information complementary to what is obtained at the same time with ALMA at different wavelengths and the extreme large telescopes.
Science with the VLT in the ELT Era, Astrophysics and Space Science Proceedings, Volume . ISBN 978-1-4020-9189-6. Springer Netherlands, 2009, p. 343
http://de.arxiv.org/abs/0801.2694

3 New job and scholarship offers
Anúncios recentes de empregos e bolsas

Contratos Ramon y Cajal en el Departamento de Fisica Teorica de la UAM

The Department of Theoretical Physics of the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid expects to have two or three openings for fixed-term junior faculty positions, within the Ramon y Cajal program of the Spanish Government. These positions extend for a period of 5 years, and applicants are required to have earned their PhD after March 1999. The research lines followed in the Department are: Theoretical and Experimental High Energy Particle Physics, Nuclear Physics, Neuroscience, Numerical and Observational Astrophysics and Cosmology.

Interested candidates must apply directly to the Ministry of Science, following the procedures outlined in the webpage:
http://web.micinn.es/contenido.asp?menu1=1&menu2=3&menu3=&dir=03_Plan_IDI/00-LIAs/00@LIARRHH/02-Contratacion/00-RyC/001Con09/021GPlan&idioma=en

International post-doctoral fellowship at the IFSI star formation group

There is an international post-doctoral fellowship available in the "Star and Planetary Formation" group at the Istituto di Fisica dello Spazio Interplanetario.

For more information please read:

http://www.inaf.it/struttura-organizzativa/dsr_1/struttura-organizzativa/dsr_1/alta_formazione/borse_studio/borse/2009/ifsi-fellowship-herschel/fellowship-%20Herschel.pdf

The selected candidate is expected to carry out and develop research activity in the field of the Star Formation science related to the observations with the Herschel Satellite and with other ancillary and archive data.

Please circulate this information to any person you think may be interested

NEW CALLS FOR POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS PROJECTS - IAC

The IAC opens new calls for postdoctoral positions for the following projects:

One postdoctoral position as SUPPORT ASTRONOMER FOR THE ORM & OT: http://www.iac.es/folleto/research/postdocs2000/as_orm_ot_eng_2009.html

One postdoctoral position for the OSIRIS PN project: http://www.iac.es/folleto/research/postdocs2009/osiris_pn_eng_2009.html

One postdoctoral position for the MASSIVE PN project. http://www.iac.es/folleto/research/postdocs2009/masivas_pn_eng_2009.html

Deadline for the submission of applications: 23rd February 2009.

Job opportunity in Spain related to VLTI

At the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía-CSIC, the second largest astrophysical research institute in Spain, there is great interest to develop activities related to the ESO VLT Interferometer. We are looking for postdoctoral researchers who are experienced in optical/infrared long baseline interferometry. Interested researchers can apply for a position via the Ramón y Cajal (RyC) programme of the Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation. RyC fellowships offer a 5 year contract with a firm perspective of tenure before the end of this period. Applications for the RyC programme within the 2009 call can be submitted between 26 January and 19 February. For further information, please contact Rainer Schödel or Antxón Alberdi at the IAA-CSIC (rainer@iaa.es, antxon@iaa.es).

AAO Student Fellowships

Applications for the Jun-Sep 2009 AAO Student Fellowships are now open.

Opportunities exist for undergraduate students who have completed not less than 2 years of full time course work in Astronomy, Astrophysics, Applied Physics, Engineering, Mathematics or related subjects to work at the Anglo-Australian Observatory on research projects under the individual supervision of AAO staff astronomers. In addition to astronomical research, a major part of the Observatory's core business is astronomical instrumentation for optical/infrared telescopes, and studentships are available in this area as well.

Student Fellowships are available for 10 to 12 weeks in the period mid-June to mid-September. The stipend for 2009 is A$606 per week.

The AAO headquarters is located in Epping, a suburb approximately 25 km from the centre of Sydney. In one or two cases, scholars may be based at the telescope site (Siding Spring) near Coonabarabran in central western New South Wales. For students based in Sydney, a field trip is arranged to visit the telescopes at Siding Spring Observatory.

Applications should be directed to Dr Andrew Hopkins, Head of AAT Science. The deadline is 15 Feb 2009. For further details, including how to apply, see: http://www.aao.gov.au/AAO/students/aaosf.html

ESOF Programme Director

We would like to announce a job offer. Euroscience is, together with Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Compagnia di San Paolo, the Fondazione Cariplo, the Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, recruiting a Programme Director for ESOF(Euroscience Open Forum).

ESOF is a biennial interdisciplinary conference organised by Euroscience, a pan-European association of research professionals, science administrators, policy-makers, PhD students, post-docs, industrialists and corporate members. ESOF aims to present scientific and technological developments at the cutting edge and to foster a European dialogue on science and technology, society and policy, and science policy. It attracts several thousand people.

The Programme Director of ESOF will head the newly established ESOF Secretariat based at the Euroscience Headquarters in Strasbourg, France. The unit will supplement the existing organisational structure of changing local organising teams in the respective ESOF host city. The Programme Director will primarily be responsible for ensuring consistency and continuity in the planning, execution, delivery and evaluation of successive ESOFs by working closely with the local ESOF Champion. Further tasks include international fundraising and media relations, the management of the ESOF committees and the administration of the host city selection process.

Please consult http://www.euroscience.org/list-of-job-offers,28312,en.html for more information.

We kindly ask you to disseminate this information to your colleagues, members, friends and maybe post in your news letters or other similar sources.

With best regards,

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and

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4 Meetings and conferences
Reuniões e encontros

Registration now open for the "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science" (JENAM2009)

The LOC of the "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science" (JENAM2009) is pleased to announce that registration is now open. Full details, information on EAS grants, the scientific and social programmes, and accommodation information can be found here:

http://www.jenam2009.eu

The "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science" (JENAM2009) will be held from 20 - 23 April 2009 at the University of Hertfordshire in the UK (30km north of London). There will be EAS and RAS Prize Lectures, plenary

lectures, EAS Symposia, and a multitude of parallel sessions. ESA and ESO have each provided substantial contributions to the programme, emphasizing the "Joint European" aspect of the "National Astronomy Meeting". In addition OPTICON, RadioNet and ASTRONET are very much involved. Moreover, the UK Solar Physics Conference (UKSP) and MIST (Magnetosphere, Ionosphere, Solar Terrestrial) spring meeting will be celebrated as part of the "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science", resulting in an event with the broadest possible appeal.

There will be ample outreach activities in this International Year of Astronomy with public lectures scheduled for each evening of the conference, plus a special "School's Day" (click on Schools on the Menu bar on the left hand side of the Home page).

There will be seven EAS Symposia on the following topics:

- The next era in radio astronomy: the pathway to SKA
- The standard cosmological models - successes and challenges
- Understanding substellar populations and atmospheres: from brown dwarfs to exo-planets
- The life cycle of dust
- Multi-wavelength high redshift surveys
- Three decades of gravitational lenses
- The IYA 2009 in Europe

Early registration is open now. After 9th March 2009 fees will increase by 25%. Please consult the registration page for further details.

We look forward to welcoming you at the University of Hertfordshire in April.

Elias Brinks
Janet Drew (Chair SOC)
Hugh Jones (Chair Executive Committee)
Jim Hough

International School for Advanced Instrumentation

Important: Deadline February 15th 2009

The Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias and partner institutions announce the inauguration of the International School for Advanced Instrumentation (IScAI).

The IScAI is a major collaborative international initiative in higher education that aims to become a centre of excellence to learn expertise in all areas related to the construction of cutting-edge scientific instrumentation, with a particular emphasis on astronomical instrumentation. The IScAI will offer a highly specialized set of courses and laboratory work to be held in research institutions with world-class instrumentation programs and high-tech companies with expertise in design and construction of scientific instrumentation.

The IScAI will start in June 2009 and is open to astronomers, physicists and engineers world-wide. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2009. Enrolled students in this first year of the IScAI may be eligible for financial aid. The IScAI 2009 is funded by the grant "First Science with the GTC", under the Consolider-Ingenio 2010 Programme of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

For more information about the IScAI and the registration procedure, please check our web site at: www.iscai.iac.es/iscai (designed for Mozilla Firefox, Konqueror and Safari web browsers).

Announcement of EIROForum School of Instrumentation

Dear all,

EIROForum (http://www.eiroforum.org) is a partnership of Europe's seven largest intergovernmental research organisations. In EIROforum, these organisations pursue joint initiatives, combine resources, and share best practices.

The instrumentation WG is one the working groups, and this group is organizing a School on instrumentation. The objective of this school is to teach detector physics and the basic principles of instrumentation to young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) and engineers, mainly from the EIRO organizations. A fraction of the places will be reserved for particularly talented (PhD) students from outside the EIRO organizations who work on instrumentation topics.

The first school is held at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, 11 - 15 May 2009.

The scientific programme of ESI addresses all aspects of instrumentation related to the missions of the EIROforum organizations.

Apart from the core programme, this first edition of the school will cover radiation hard technologies for detectors and electronics as highlight topic.

More information can be found:
http://eiro-school.web.cern.ch/eiro-school

Please forward this information as you may see fit.

Christian

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MCCT Workshop: Multifield and multibeam science with the SKA

Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses Workshop: Multifield and multibeam science with SKA (http://www-astro.physics.ox.ac.uk/~ianh/MCCT).

This school is open to anyone wanting to learn more about the subject, but in particular, PhD students are urged to apply - they can be fully funded by the school (plane trip included).

2nd Scientific Writing for Young Astronomers

Dear Reader,

EDP Sciences and A&A are glad to announce the "Second Astronomy and Astrophysics School: Scientific Writing for Young Astronomers" which be held in Blankenberge, Belgium, from 18 to 20 May 2009.

The direct purpose of organising an "A&A School" is to teach young authors how to express their scientific results through adequate and efficient science writing. In other words: how to write scientific papers for different forums (journals, proceedings, thesis manuscripts, etc.).

Other information are available on the website www.swya.org.

You can download the registration form by clicking here:
http://tk3.tuxai.com/sy/ev?3&3305-8&1&JpDBRgXLJ7TrLbNicilqow.

Please do not hesitate to contact us,

SWYA Team
swya@edpsciences.org

SONG 2nd Workshop

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT:

Second Stellar Observations Network Group Workshop: Asteroseismology and Exoplanet search with a network of 1m-telescopes

Place: Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, Denmark.
Time: Scientific Workshop: Monday-Wednesday 23 - 25 March 2009
Deadline for Registration: 6 March 2009
http://astro.phys.au.dk/SONG/WS2

In 2008 the Danish SONG group obtained the final funding to be able to design, construct and implement the SONG prototype which will form the first node of the global SONG network of telescopes. Also, the overall design of the node is essentially completed. The schedule for construction of the prototype node includes a first light on the Teide Observatory in November 2011.

The objectives of the second SONG workshop are to focus and optimize the scientific foundation for the SONG network and the SONG first node as well as allowing researchers from both the asteroseismic and exoplanet community to meet and discuss how to define an optimum research programme for SONG. The SONG network will be able to obtain long uninterrupted time-series data in spectroscopy and photometry and as such it is optimized for asteroseismology and searches for long-term time varying signals such as gravitationally lensed exoplanets. However, we invite researchers from other fields to present ideas and prospects for how to use SONG. During the workshop we will discuss how to optimize the science case for the planned instrumentation and identifying the synergies between the two major science cases: asteroseismology and exoplanet searches.

With the prototype funded and under construction it is also time to work on the funding and construction of the 7 additional SONG sites. We should start exploring the funding possibilities and the restrictions and conditions that

may apply. This is important for planning how and where to produce clones of the prototype.

The programme will contain a few presentations on the SONG concept and the present SONG activities, but most oral presentations will be contributed talks. We will also set up a poster session.

We hope to see many of you in Aarhus during our workshop.

You can find information via the SONG webpage:
http://astro.phys.au.dk/SONG
or via the workshop page:
http://astro.phys.au.dk/SONG/WS2

Further information can be obtained by contacting the SONG Project Scientist, Frank Grundahl at fgj@phys.au.dk

Best Regards,

Soeren Frandsen, Uffe Graae Joergensen, Frank Grundahl, Hans Kjeldsen and Joergen Christensen-Dalsgaard

Deadlines:

Registration: 6 March 2009
Abstract submission: oral presentations - 16 February 2009 (open for submission from 15 January 2009)
Abstract submission: posters - 6 March 2009

EURO-VO AIDA School 2009 - Second Announcement

Virtual Observatory School - Second Announcement
March 30 - April 2, 2009
European Southern Observatory
Garching bei Muenchen, Germany

The EURO-VO project, in the framework of the EURO-VO Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access (AIDA), is organising an international School at ESO, Garching bei Muenchen, Germany.

The Virtual Observatory (VO) is opening up new ways of exploiting the huge amount of data provided by the ever-growing number of ground-based and space facilities, as well as by computer simulations. The goals of the School are to expose European astronomers to the variety of VO tools and services available today so that they can use them efficiently for their own research.

To achieve these goals, VO experts will lecture and tutor the participants on the usage of such tools. Real life examples of scientific applications will be given, some of them selected from the science cases that participants will be asked to submit at the time of registration. A large fraction of the time will be dedicated to hands-on exercises, which will allow participants to become fully familiar with the VO capabilities.

Tools providing the following functionalities will be presented:

Data discovery and data mining
Catalogue and table handling
Image and spectra handling
Cross-correlations

Access to theoretical models

In order to ensure the right level of interaction, participation will be restricted to a limited number of participants. Preference will be given to PhD students and post-docs.

Deadline for registration is February 15, 2009.

Some travel support is available for this workshop.

For more details, visit the workshop's web page: http://www.euro-vo.org/aidahandson2009

IAU Symposium 268 on "LIGHT ELEMENTS IN THE UNIVERSE"

Dear colleagues

This is a preliminary announcement for the IAU Symposium 268 on "LIGHT ELEMENTS IN THE UNIVERSE" that will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 9-13, 2009.

We invite you to reserve this date on your 2009 agenda!

Scientific and practical informations can be found on the Symposium web site http://obswww.unige.ch/iau268.

Note however that the registration will only open in February.

You can contact us and express your interest by writing to iau268@unige.ch Do not hesitate to circulate this announcement.

Looking forward to welcome you soon in Geneva!

Corinne Charbonnel for the SOC and LOC

5 Calls for proposals
Chamadas para propostas

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY - UK SCHMIDT TELESCOPE

The Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO) operates the 1.2-metre UK Schmidt Telescope (UKST) as a spectroscopic telescope for large-scale surveys.

The AAO is now making a public announcement of opportunity for the utilisation of the UKST after the completion of the current RAVE survey.

The AAO welcomes proposals for the future use of the UKST that lead to significant benefit to Australian science and are cost-neutral to the AAO.

The AAO envisages that such projects would be relatively long-term, and would use its best efforts to facilitate them and ensure the most successful outcomes. Proposals for innovative uses of the telescope are encouraged.

Interested parties are invited to contact the AAO Director before submitting a proposal in order to discuss the intended science, instrumentation, time-scale and funding sources.

Proposals will be accepted from 1 January 2009 until 30 June 2009. See the attached Announcement of Opportunity for details (also available at www.aao.gov.au).