News from the ESO Science Archive Facility

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(for the ESO archive team)

[1] ESO

The latest developments from the archive are presented. Information is provided to the astronomical community on new data releases and services.

PI data packages

ESO Principal Investigators (PIs) can retrieve their raw data online while the data are still protected during their proprietary period. It is now possible to retrieve, in addition to the raw science files, the corresponding data package containing raw and master calibrations, science data products and ancillary information (processing logs, excerpts from the relevant observing logs, etc.). PI data packages containing this additional content are available for VLT/VLTI service mode runs active in P83 (the current period) and beyond. To obtain earlier or other raw data that are still covered by the proprietary period, PIs may use the normal ESO archive request form[1].

This online service[2] requires authentication through the ESO User Portal (Tacconi-Garman, 2007) for evaluation of the user credentials. Documentation and Frequently Asked Questions about this newly released service are also available online.

New data releases

The July release of the X-shooter Commissioning data includes a total of 4594 files collected over 24 nights split into four commissioning periods. The first two commissioning runs were with the UV-B and VIS-R arms only, while the third and fourth runs were with the UV-B, VIS-R and NIR arms.

Public HARPS data packages produced by the automatic HARPS pipeline developed by the Observatoire Astronomique de l'Université de Genève were released in June through the ESO Science Archive Facility. Each data package consists of a number of related files: an extracted and flat-fielded 2D spectrum; an extracted, flat-fielded, de-blazed, wavelength calibrated and order merged 1D spectrum; cross-correlation function; integrated guiding image (when available); and 1D bisector. The packages cover the first six years of operation (2003–2008). As a comparison, the initial release in January 2008 consisted of packages covering the first four years of HARPS operations (2003–2006). No modifications were made to the original release packages from the 2008 release.

The VIMOS imaging data release version 1.0 of the Great Observatories Origins Deep Survey (GOODS) was released in April. This data release, covering the Chandra Deep Field South, contains the co-added images in *U*-band from the ESO Large Programme 168.A-0485 (PI Cesarsky) which had been obtained in service mode observations between mid-2004 and late 2006. Also included in this data release is a co-added image in *R*-band obtained from data retrieved from the ESO archive. A full description of the data reduction steps can be found in an accompanying publication (Nonino et al., 2009).

Contact

For more information about the ESO archive, the new data releases, or to subscribe to the archive RSS feed in order to be informed about the latest archive developments, see the archive web page[3]. For any questions or comments on the ESO archive, contact us at archive@eso.org.

References

Nonino, M. et al. 2009, ApJS, 183, 244
Tacconi-Garman, L. E. 2007, The Messenger, 130, 54

Links

[1] http://archive.eso.org/eso/eso_archive_main.html
[2] http://www.eso.org/requestHandler/pipacks
[3] http://archive.eso.org/

Corrigendum

In the Report on the ESO Workshop on Wide-Field Spectroscopic Surveys by Melnick et al. in the last issue of *The Messenger* (No. 136, p. 64-68), there were a couple of errors in the paragraph concerning exploitation of Gaia data (p. 66, right hand column).

Gaia was conceived from the beginning as an astrometric instrument with both a multi-colour photometer and a low dispersion slitless spectrograph.

The telescopes on Gaia are 1.45 m × 0.5 m (not ~ 50 cm diameter) and will allow radial velocities to be measured for stars brighter than V = 17 mag.

The HERMES survey on the AAT will not routinely obtain spectroscopy of the fainter (V ≥ 15 mag) Gaia sources.