

As stated in the ESO Council document on the VLT/VLTI science operations policies, the Science Archive is the collection point for the survey products and the primary point of publication/availability of these products to the ESO community. The policies that ESO implemented to manage the survey projects on behalf of the community entail the submission and publication of data products according to an agreed cadence before any new telescope time allocation is granted to the continuation of each survey. The first of such review milestones was set one and a half years after the start of scientific operations at the VISTA telescope. Most of the survey teams have now submitted the agreed-upon data products, the first of which are now publicly available for community access and scientific investigation.

The current data release covers mostly the period from February 2010 to September 2010. It primarily consists of astrometrically and photometrically calibrated mosaicked and co-added images, each covering 1.5 square degrees, their weight maps and associated single band source lists in the different bands of each survey. The data products from the first VISTA public release can be queried for and retrieved². A summary table of the current

Survey project	Release content	Sky coverage (sq.deg)	NIR filters
VVV	Contiguous patch of Bulge and Disc region including multi-epoch data in <i>Ks</i>	520	ZYJHKs
VIDEO	XMM-LSS field	1.5	YJHKs
VMC	2 pointings in the LMC, one overlapping with 30 Doradus and the other with the South Ecliptic Pole	3.0	YJKs
VHS	VHS DES: 120 seconds in <i>JHK</i> VHS ATLAS: 60 seconds in <i>YJHKs</i> VHS GPS: 60 seconds in <i>JKs</i>	1910 –	YJHKs

Table 1. Summary of the content of the first VISTA public survey data release.

release is provided in Table 1.

The mechanism set in place by the Phase 3 process for the reception, validation, and publication of data products from public survey projects ensures a high level of homogeneity and uniform standards for the data products accessible via the ESO archive query interface. Each data release is accompanied by an accurate release description³ which provides information on the area coverage, the content of the release (i.e. bands, depth, etc) and additional details on the calibrations and results from quality control. This information supports the scientific use of the products by the international community beyond the initial goals identified by the survey teams.

By accessing the first VISTA public release, the ESO community benefits from the joint efforts by ESO, the PIs of the VISTA public survey projects and their collaborators, including the data centres at CASU⁴ and WFAU⁵.

References

Arnaboldi, M. et al. 2007, *The Messenger*, 127, 28

Links

- Goals of VISTA public surveys: <http://www.eso.org/sci/observing/policies/PublicSurveys/sciencePublicSurveys.html>
- VISTA public surveys query form: http://archive.eso.org/wdb/wdb/adp/phase3_vircam/form
- Description of public surveys data release: http://www.eso.org/sci/observing/phase3/data_releases.html
- Cambridge Astronomy Survey Unit: <http://casu.ast.cam.ac.uk>
- Edinburgh Wide Field Astronomy Unit: <http://horus.roe.ac.uk/vsa/index.html>

Announcement of the Workshop

Astronomical Data Analysis 7th Conference

14–18 May 2012, Cargèse, Corsica, France

Held regularly since 2001, the Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA) conference series is focused on algorithms and information extraction from astrophysical datasets. During this year's conference ADA-VII, sessions will be dedicated to advanced algorithms in astronomical pipelines, asteroseismology, exoplanet detection, large-scale structure, cosmic microwave background, restoration, hyperspectral data analysis and compressed sensing. As in previous ADA conferences, there will be a full week of

tutorials (7–11 May 2012) on various topics of advanced data processing, preceding the conference itself.

The ADA conference is strongly interdisciplinary, allowing researchers coming from different fields to interact. There are generally five or six keynote speakers, who are leaders in their respective fields, half being astronomers and the other half being mathematicians, statisticians or electrical engineering researchers. Each session has at least one invited

speaker, and half of the talks are contributed talks. A full poster session is also included in the programme.

The Cargèse conference centre can host 80 participants during the conference week and 40 participants during the tutorial week.

More details can be found at the conference web page: <http://ada7.cosmostat.org/> or by email to: ada7.cargese@gmail.com