

A New Service for the ESO Community: The Science Data Products Forum

ESO supports its telescope users through a wide variety of avenues. At the La Silla Paranal Observatory, night astronomers carry out service observations and assist with observations undertaken by visiting astronomers. In Garching, the User Support Department helps throughout the observing process, starting with Phase I and II proposal preparations. The archive helps to publish finished data products. ESO also distributes calibration data and software to reduce the data.

In addition to the years of direct experience acquired by ESO staff with the telescopes, there is a vast pool of expertise within the ESO community. Many experienced users are willing, or even eager, to share their knowledge and the tools and methods they have developed. However,

for general users, it is often difficult to locate the specific knowledge they might need. To help and encourage the sharing of relevant knowhow, ESO has opened a new internet forum that can be used to discuss any issues related to ESO data.

This Science Data Products Forum is intended for:

- discussions of observing strategies that impact on the science output, including alternative or refined methods and non-standard modes;
- discussions of calibration and reduction issues, including methods, algorithms and software;
- sharing home-grown software such as scripts or small packages written by users that are not otherwise distributed;

- sharing calibration data produced by users, including those that apply to special circumstances or non-supported modes;
- discussions of any other topic related to science products from ESO telescopes.

The forum can be used both to request information and to offer and share experience gained in dealing with ESO data.

The forum was established in response to requests by users and its success will depend on the contributions from the ESO community. ESO encourages anybody with relevant experience to look at and post to this forum. To access the forum, simply direct a Java-enabled browser to <http://eso.org/sci/data-processing/forum.html>.

Announcement of the ESO/MPE/MPA/USM Joint Workshop

From Circumstellar Disks to Planetary Systems

3–6 November 2009, Garching, Germany

The study of circumstellar disks and the formation of planetary systems has made enormous progress in recent years. New and exciting developments range from evidence for grain growth and settling (the first steps in planet formation) as the disks evolve, to the development of gaps and holes in a new set of transition disks, and to the direct detection of (proto-) planets around pre-main sequence stars. New facilities with enormous potential are lining up and are expected to start producing a wealth of new data: the Herschel Space Observatory in 2009 and the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) with the opening of early science in 2010. In the more distant future, the topic of protoplanetary disks is also a key theme for the Extremely Large Telescopes.

The goals of the workshop will be to review the status of the field and to

discuss transformational programmes that will be made possible with these upcoming facilities. The meeting will bring together communities working with ground-based infrared large telescopes and interferometers, space observatories and millimetre interferometers, as well as theorists.

The main topics to be addressed at the workshop are:

1. Properties of circumstellar disks across the stellar mass spectrum
2. Evolution of protoplanetary disks
3. Chemistry in disks (gas phase and solids)
4. Initial phases of planet formation

5. Young (proto-)planets
6. Planet–disk interactions
7. Debris disks

The deadline for abstract submission is 1 July, and the closing date for registration is 10 September 2009.

Scientific Organising Committee:
Y. Aikawa (Kobe Univ.), M. van den Ancker (ESO), J. C. Augereau (LAOG), A. Burkert (LMU), J. Carpenter (Caltech), F. Comerón (ESO), E. van Dishoeck (Leiden/MPE, co-chair), J. Greaves (St. Andrews), Th. Henning (MPIA), U. Käußl (ESO), F. Malbet (LAOG), L. Testi (ESO, co-chair), and G. Weigelt (MPIfR).

Further information can be found at: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/disks2009/>