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Proceedings

Light on Dark Matter

F. P. Israel
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LIGHT ON DARK MATTER

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST IRAS CONFERENCE,
HELD IN NOORDWIJK,
THE NETHERLANDS, 10-14 JUNE 1985

Edited by

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

'Light on Dark Matter', held from 10-14 June 1985 in the Dutch seaside resort of Noordwijk, was the first international conference devoted to the results of the all-sky survey by the US-Dutch-UK Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite (IRAS). As such, it was a hommage to the scientists, engineers and technicians who conceived, built and operated this extremely successful satellite. That this was generally felt to be the case, was proven by the large number of participants (over 200 from seventeen different nations), the lively discussions, and the great variety of topics presented during the meeting. All this notwithstanding a typical Dutch summer: gale-force winds, heavy cloud cover, and meter-high surf crashing onto a beach on which only the hardy ventured. Most participants contented themselves by watching the lonely seagulls patrolling the North Sea coastline through the panoramic windows of the conference center.

Parallel to the IRAS Conference, a Workshop on Infrared Properties of Interstellar Grains was organized by J.M. Greenberg of the Leiden Laboratory Astrophysics Group: a busy shuttling of participants between the Workshop room and the Main Conference Hall showed that many found it hard to choose.

A large number of people were involved in making the Conference a success: in the first place the scientific organizers with their valuable advice and the conference speakers, among which I would like to mention Dr. J.H. Van der Waals, who opened the Conference on behalf of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW), and Dr. F.J. Low who delivered a magnificent Grand Conference Lecture on the history of astronomical infrared research open to the public.

Then there were the many participants putting up and explaining their posters, the members of the local organizing committee (especially Wanda van Grieken (Leiden) en Theo Jurriëns (Groningen) who did a magnificent job of handling respectively the voluminous administration and the complex finances) and the members of the local assistance committee, many of the latter being students who did not hesitate to sacrifice their spare time in order to run an almost continuous minibus service between Noordwijk and Leiden. Thanks are also due to the hotel Huis ten Duin personnel, who for the first time since the renewal of their resort hosted an international conference and to the staff of the Restaurant Allemansgeest who came up with a superb conference dinner. The conference poster was generously supplied by Fokker Aerospace Industries, and I would like to thank in particular Drs. R. van Duinen and B. Baud for their help and advice.

Editing a conference proceedings is not easy! It always takes up more time than even a pessimist would think. I would like to thank

all authors for their contributions, especially the few who actually sent in their papers on time. At the conference, IRAS data were liberally interpreted. Unfortunately, several authors also liberally interpreted the guidelines for camera-ready copy. For this reason my special thanks go to Anke van Vuuren and Marcel Bey for efficiently dealing with a massive (re)typing job. Thanks also go to the Leiden Astronomy Department and the Groningen Laboratory for Space Research for supplying the necessary manpower and support.

Finally, the Organizing Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW), the Leiden Kerkhoven-Bosscha Fund (LKBF), the Netherlands Agency for Aerospace Programs (NIVR) and the Dutch Foundation for Space Research (SRON).

They can be assured that the money spent has been paid back with considerable scientific interest.

Frank P. Israël
Leiden, December 1985

WORKSHOP PREFACE

The frequent "standing room only" attendant of the Interstellar Dust Workshop was our measure of its success. We owe a debt of gratitude to the speakers who inspired very lively discussions by presenting clear and provocative lectures. Even though the topics covered were quite varied, they maintained a clear connection with many of the important aspects of the IRAS symposium. I should like particularly to express my thanks to Liesbeth van der Poel for her invaluable assistance in the organization of the meeting and to my wife Naomi who added a tone of pleasant informality at our house by arranging and giving a dinner for many of the symposium and workshop participants.

J.M. Greenberg
Leiden, December 1985

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

(IR=Invited Review; W=Workshop Paper)

Editor's Preface and Workshop Preface	xv
Organization	xvii
List of Participants	xix

SECTION 1. THE IRAS SURVEY

A Statistical Analysis and Overview of the IRAS Point Source Catalog (IR)	T. Chester	3
Semi-Automated Identification of IRAS Point Sources Using UKST Plates and the Cosmos Measuring Machine	A. Savage R.G. Clowes M. Kalafi S.K. Leggett H.T. MacGillivray R.D. Wolstencroft	23
Submm Continuum Observations of Sources from the IRAS Point-Source Catalogue	R. Chini E. Kreysa E. Krügel P.G. Mezger H.-P. Gemünd	29
A Statistical Analysis of the LRS Catalog (IR)	F.M. Olmon	31
The Zodiacal Background in the IRAS Data (IR)	M.G. Hauser J.R. Houck	39
Heliocentric Dependences of Zodiacal Emission, Temperature and Albedo	R. Dumont A.C. Levasseur-Regourd	45
Spectral Decomposition of IRAS Maps	R. Braun R.G. Strom H. v.d. Laan H. Greidanus	47

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Observations of Infrared Cirrus (IR)	T.N. Gautier	49
Dust at the North Galactic Pole	J. Knude	55
 SECTION 2. STARS AND STELLAR PHENOMENA		
IRAS Observations of Cool Excess around Main Sequence Stars (IR)	F.C. Gillett	61
The Flux Distribution of Vega for $10 \mu\text{m} < \lambda < 100 \mu\text{m}$, and the Calibration of IRAS at $12 \mu\text{m}$ and $25 \mu\text{m}$	S.K. Leggett	71
A Search for Infrared Excesses in G-Type Stars	S.F. Odenwald	75
IRAS Intrinsic Colours of Hot Stars	J. Coté L.B.F.M. Waters	77
The Infrared Excess from Stellar Winds	H.J.G.L.M. Lamers	79
The Disc Structure and Mass Loss Rates of Be Stars	L.B.F.M. Waters	83
IRAS Observations of Wolf-Rayet Stars	K.A. van der Hucht T.A. Jurriens F.M. Olmon P.S. Thé P.R. Wesselius P.M. Williams	87
Dust Formation in Wolf-Rayet Stellar Winds (W)	K.A. van der Hucht P.M. Williams P.S. Thé	90
Observations of Young (Orion-Type) Stars with IRAS	H.J. Walker P.L. Marsden	91
Mass Loss by Cool Stars (IR)	B. Zuckerman	93
Models of IRAS Observations of Circumstellar Shells	M. Rowan-Robinson A. Lock D.W. Walker S. Harris	101
Luminosities of OH/IR Stars	J.H. Burger J. Herman	103

OH/IR Catalogue and Correlation with the IRAS Data Base	R. Breukers W. van der Veen P. te Lintel M. Wiertz H. Habing	105
AGB Stars with High Mass Loss Rates in the Bulge of Our Galaxy	W.E.C.J. van der Veen	107
The Circumstellar Envelope of VX Sagittarii	J.M. Chapman R.J. Cohen	109
The Internal Radius of CS Shells around Cool, Oxygen-rich Stars (W)	R. Papoular B. Pegourie	111
IRAS Observations of Carbon Stars	F.J. Willems	113
From Miras to Planetary Nebulae: a Model of Mass Loss (IR)	P.J. Bedijn	119
Ground-based and IRAS Observations of Proto-planetary Nebulae	S. Kwok B.J. Hrivnak E.F. Milone R.T. Boreiko	127
Spectra of Some IRAS Sources	J.W. Menzies P.A. Whitelock I.M. Coulson	129
IRAS Measurements of Planetary Nebulae (IR)	S.R. Pottasch	131
IR Observations of An Extended Planetary Nebula: NGC 7293 - the Helix Nebula	A. Leene S.R. Pottasch	143
Novae Detected in the IRAS Point Source Catalog	H.L. Dinerstein E.L. Robinson	145
IRAS Observations of Classical Novae	C.M. Callus J.S. Albinson A. Evans M.F. Bode	149
Collisional Heating of Dust in the 1985 Outburst of RS Ophiuchi	J.S. Albinson C.M. Callus A. Evans	151
Infrared Observations of Tycho Using IRAS	P.L. Marsden	153

Shock-heated Dust in Young Supernova Remnants	R. Braun R.G. Strom H. v.d. Laan H. Greidanus	155
 SECTION 3. DUST GRAINS AND THEIR PROPERTIES		
· Grains, What Do We Know? (IR)	H.C. van de Hulst	161
· IRAS Cirrus Observations and the Nature of Dust (IR)	J.S. Mathis	171
Dust in Diffuse Clouds: One Stage in a Cycle	J.M. Greenberg	177
Infrared Extinction in Molecular Clouds: the Form of the Curve in Orion	R. Hofmann D.S. Davis H.P. Larson	189
UV Extinction as a Key to Grain Optical Properties in the IR and UV	G. Chlewicki J.M. Greenberg	191
The Wavelength of Maximum Polarization in the Chamaeleon Dark Cloud (W)	D.C.B. Whittet J.H. Hough J.A. Bailey M.F. Rouse T.M. Kirrane	197
Three Principal Heating Sources of Dust in the Galactic Disk	P. Cox E. Krügel P.G. Mezger	201
Mid-IR Emission of the Interstellar Medium (W)	F. Boulanger M. Pérault J.L. Puget	203
Optical Luminescence from Reflection Nebulae? (W)	G. Olofsson	209
Infrared Spectra and Dust Temperature Fluctuations (W)	F.X. Désert	213
Non-equilibrium Emission from Small Particles (W)	K. Sellgren	217
· Evidence for a 12 Micron Water-ice Absorption Band in the IRAS LRS Spectra of Protostars and Late Type Stars	M. de Muizon L.B. d'Hendecourt C. Perrier	221

S ₂ Formation in Interstellar Dust; a Diagnostic of the Maximum Aggregation Temperature for a Comet (W)	R.J.A. Grim J.M. Greenberg L.J. van IJzendoorn	225
Formation of Organic Molecules on Interstellar Dust Particles (W)	W. Schutte J.M. Greenberg	229
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and the Diffuse Interstellar Bands (W)	G.P. van der Zwart L.J. Allamandola	233
Identification of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (W)	A. Léger L. d'Hendecourt	237
Silicate Absorption Strength; Polarized Emission and Absorption by Aligned Grains (W)	D.K. Aitken	241
Optical Properties of Simulated Astrophysical Grains and Their Dynamics in the Near-earth Environment	J.R. Stephens T.D. Kunkle I.B. Strong	245
Ultraviolet Photoprocessing and Infrared Spectroscopy of Laboratory Simulated Grain Mantles (W)	L.B. d'Hendecourt	247
Radiation Effects on Grain Materials (W)	G. Strazulla	253
Reflection Nebulae, Non-equilibrium Thermal Emission, and IRAS	K. Sellgren L.J. Allamandola J.D. Bregman M.W. Werner D.H. Wooden	261

SECTION 4. INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM AND STAR FORMATION

Theories of Star Formation Confronted by IRAS Data (IR)	B.G. Elmegreen	265
IMF in Starburst Regions	H. Zinnecker	277
Point Sources in the Orion Complex (IR)	C.A. Beichman	279
The IR Emission of the Orion-Monoceros Molecular Clouds	F. Boulanger R.J. Maddalena P. Thaddeus	293

Young Stars and High Density Condensations in the Horsehead Region	G. Sandell B. Reipurth C. Menten M. Walmsley H. Ungerechts	295
Mapping of the Coronae Australinae Star Forming Region	A. Evans J.S. Albinson M.F. Bode D.C.B. Whittet	297
Analysis of Point Sources in the Ophiuchus and Perseus Clouds and CPC Observations of NGC 1333	R.E. Jennings W. Cudlip C.J. Hirst D.H.M. Cameron	299
Star Forming Loops in the IRAS Sky Images	P.R. Schwartz	301
Models for IRAS Observations of Galactic HII Regions	J. Crawford M. Rowan-Robinson	303
Far-infrared (100-200 μ m) Photometry of HII Regions with a 1m Balloon Borne Telescope	R.R. Daniel S.K. Ghosh K.V.K. Iyengar T.N. Rengarajan S.N. Tandon R.P. Verma	305
Young Stars and Dense Cores in Nearby Dark Clouds (IR)	P.C. Myers	307
Water Masers Coincident with IRAS Sources	J.G.A. Wouterloot C.M. Walmsley	313
· IR CCD Imaging of L1551-IRS 5: Direct Observations of Its Circumstellar Shell	A. Moneti J.L. Pipher W.J. Forrest C.E. Woodward	315
A Model for Bipolar Sources in Molecular Clouds	M.D. Smith	319
Comparison of CO and IR Emission of IRAS Unidentified Sources	F. Boulanger F. Casoli F. Combes Ch. Dupraz M. Gerin	321
· IRAS Observations of Symbiotic Objects	P.A. Whitelock	323