Scisoft VI

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Scisoft is a collection of astronomical software intended mostly for ESO users but also distributed to other interested parties. It includes most of the packages needed by working observational astronomers with an emphasis on those widely used for handling optical and infrared data sets. It is installed on all the standard scientific computers running Linux at ESO Garching. More complete details, including a list of software that is included in the bundle, can be found at *www.eso.org/scisoft*.

We are pleased to announce the availability of Scisoft VI (April 2006). This new version of the collection includes many updates and additional packages and also incorporates some new features. Scisoft VI was built on, and intended to be used on, Fedora Core 3 Linux, but is likely to run on similar modern Linux systems. We no longer maintain a version of Scisoft for other architectures such as Solaris or HPUX but an independent version for Mac OSX, maintained outside ESO, is also available.

Scisoft VI can be either downloaded from the ESO ftp site, by following the link on the web page given above, or the entire collection may be requested on DVD. Requests for DVDs should be made through the request form on the same web page or by email to *scisoft_request@eso.org*.

The next release of Scisoft will be Scisoft VII at the end of 2006. This version will include a selection of virtual observatory tools as well as many other new features.

Scisoft is a collaboration between many people at ESO. I would particularly like to thank Alexis Huxley, formerly with Terma at ESO, for his very diligent and thorough help with the technical aspects of the release.

Workshop on

Deep Impact as a World Observatory Event – Synergies in Space, Time, and Wavelength

7–10 August 2006, Palace of the Royal Academy for Science and the Arts (RASAB), Brussels, Belgium

The astronomy group in the physics faculty of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel together with ESO, is organising a workshop on the worldwide observational campaign of the "Deep Impact Experiment" (c.f. Käufl et al. 2005, The Messenger 121, 11). In the context of NASA's Deep Impact space mission Comet 9P/Tempel 1 was at the focus of an unprecedented worldwide long-term multi-wavelength observation campaign. The comet was studied through its perihelion passage by various spacecraft including the Deep Impact mission itself, HST, Spitzer, Rosetta, XMM and all major ground-based observatories in a wavelength band from cm-wave radio astronomy to X-rays.

The objective of this workshop is to make full use of this data set by bringing together observers across the electromagnetic spectrum and from different sites and projects. Synergy between the different data sets can only be achieved if observers share their data and arrive at a coherent interpretation. Consequently a coherent presentation of all data sets will allow theoreticians to fully appreciate all observational constraints.

Specific topics of this workshop are: General Cometary Topics From Space and Ground; the cometary nucleus; cometary gas; cometary plasma; cometary dust; cometary surface and activity. Deep Impact Specific Questions will include: release of unprocessed primordial material from the formation period of the comet; long-term effects from the impact; understanding of global properties of the nucleus; surface layering of the Comet 9P/Tempel 1 nucleus; impact cratering; understanding of cometary dust after deep impact; understanding the processes in the gas coma; and ground support of space missions (complementarity and needs).

The scientific organising committee is composed of: Chris Sterken (chair), Ulli Käufl (co-chair), Mike A'Hearn, Hermann Böhnhardt, Michael Combi, Yan Fernandez, Marco Fulle, Luisa Lara, Casey Lisse, Jean Manfroid, Karen Meech, Javier Licandro, Heike Rauer, Rita Schulz, Gerhardt Schwehm and Diane Wooden. The proceedings will appear in the ESO/Springer series (eds. Ulli Käufl and Chris Sterken).

The relevant deadlines are: 3 April 2006, final call for papers; 15 June 2006, abstracts due for programme.

For further details, see *http://www.eso.org/~hukaufl/deepimpact.html* or *http://www.vub.ac.be/STER/DI/di-conf2006.htm* or contact Chris Sterken (*csterken@vub.ac.be*) or Ulli Käufl (*hukaufl@eso.org*).