

components determine the age of the oldest stellar population and, when they are compared to UV fluxes and nebular emission lines, they give information on evolution. Exploring a significant statistical sample of distant radio galaxies with their environment through broad band filters for colours and interference filters for emission lines with the best angular and spectral resolution instrumentation is the best way of understanding the evolution of galaxies and to possibly gain access to primeval galaxies. This programme requires so much exposure time that it can only be realized in the frame of a key-programme of the type recently initiated at ESO.

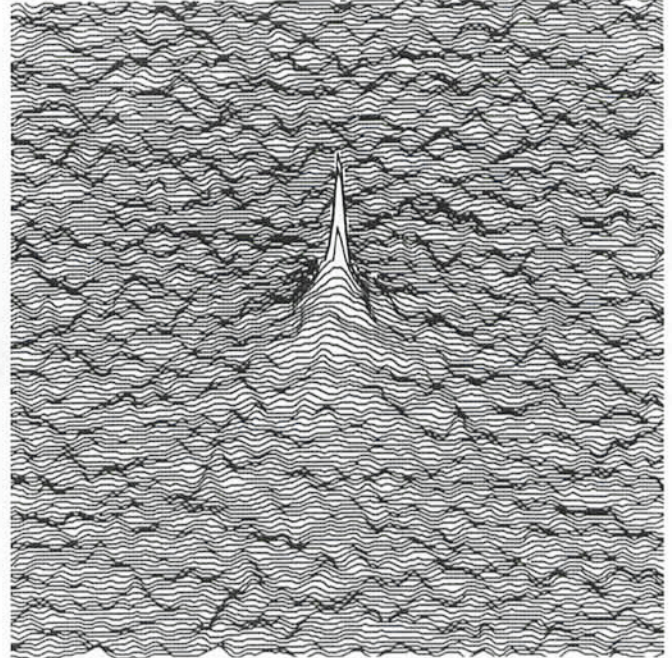
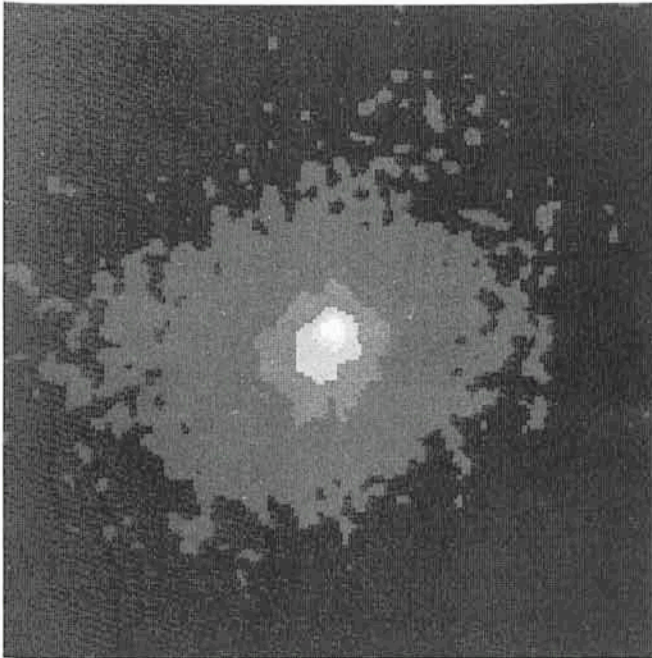
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## Comet Halley is Still Active



This picture of famous Comet Halley was obtained with the Danish 1.5-m telescope at the ESO La Silla observatory during April-May 1988 (observers: H. Jørgensen, P. Kjærgaard and R.M. West). It was produced by the combination of about 50 CCD frames, obtained during 19 nights, totalling 11 hours 35 minutes exposure. It shows the comet in visual light at a distance of about 1,250 million kilometres, almost as distant as the planet Saturn and demonstrates that the comet still is actively dispensing

dust, even at this very large distance from the Sun. The image to the left is smoothed and has 6 light levels, in order to show the 23-mag cometary nucleus in the asymmetric, inner coma and also the much larger, elongated outer coma. To the right is a three-dimensional representation, which illustrates the relative brightness of the nucleus, as compared to the coma. The field of the picture measures 75 arcsec  $\times$  75 arcsec; North is up and East is to the left. The direction to the Sun is WNW. Pixel size: 0.47

arcsec = 2,800 km. Johnson V filter. Bias-subtracted, flat-fielded, cleaned for cosmic events, stars and galaxies removed, 3 pix  $\times$  3 pix gaussian smoothed.

*The ESO Headquarters building in Garching photographed by ESO photographers H.-H. Heyer, C. Madsen and H. Zodet.* ▶



