

SPIRE In-Flight Performance

Matt Griffin

on behalf of the SPIRE Consortium

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The SPIRE Consortium



- Cardiff University, UK
- CEA Service d'Astrophysique, Saclay, France
- Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale, Orsay, France
- Imperial College, London, UK
- Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias, Tenerife, Spain
- Istituto di Fisica dello Spazio Interplanetario, Rome, Italy
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Caltech, Pasadena, USA
- Laboratoire d'Astronomie Spatiale, Marseille, France
- Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Surrey, UK
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- University of Colorado, USA
- University of Lethbridge, Canada
- Università di Padova, Italy
- University of Sussex, UK



The Herschel-SPIRE instrument and its in-flight performance *

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In-Flight Calibration of the *Herschel*-SPIRE Instrument*

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SPIRE Block Diagram



Photometer





Photometer Layout and Optics





Photometer Observing Modes

Point source: 7-point jiggle



Scan-map





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AOT Status: Photometer

- Scan Map and SPIRE-PACS Parallel Mode
 - Released and widely used in SD Phase
- Small Map
 - Change mode from 64-point jiggle to small scan map
- Point Source (Seven-point Jiggle)
 - Chopping with SPIRE Beam Steering Mirror
 - Telescope nodding
 - Now fully evaluated and released
- Bright source settings
 - Recommended for $S_v > 200 \text{ Jy}$
 - Usable for S_{ν} up to (3.2, 2.4, 1.4) kJy at (250, 350, 500) μ m
 - Sensitivity penalty factor: (3.8, 3.2, 2.6) at (250, 350, 500) μm

CRE Reason for change from Jiggle-Map to Small Scan Map



Better data quality and wider coverage for similar observation time

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Scan-Map Sensitivity

Pre-launch (HSpot) estimates (instrument noise)

- Nominal scan rate (30"/s)
- One repeat = two cross-linked scans
- For (250, 350, 500 μm)
 - 1- σ for one repeat:

Achieved instrument noise

- 1-σ for one repeat at 30"/s: (9.0, 7.5, 10.8) mJy in beam
- Numbers for 60"/s scale very precisely as sqrt(2)

Extragalactic confusion levels

Measured 1-σ confusion noise for (250, 350, 500 μm):
(5.8, 6.3, 6.8) mJy in beam for (6, 10, 14)" map pixels

Instrument and Confusion Noise



SPIRE



Improved Pipeline Temperature Drift Correction (in Development)





Point Source Photometry (Seven-Point Jiggle) Sensitivity

- One repeat
 - A-B-B-A nod cycle
 - 256 sec. on-source; 560 sec. total duration
- 1- σ in-beam flux density uncertainty for one repeat:
 - ~7 mJy ($S_n < 1$ Jy) ~9 mJy (1 4 Jy)
 - Already comparable to confusion limit
- For strong sources S/N limited to ~ 100 by pointing errors
- Chop/nod ⇒ differential mode
 - Confusion noise is enhanced
 - Not suitable for sources fainter than ~ 200 mJy
 - Small map will often be a better choice



Photometer Beams

			PSWE8
Band (μm)	Mean Fitted Gaussian FWHM (arcsec)	Mean Ellipticity	
250	18.1	7%	
350	25.2	12%	
500	36.6	9%	0.0

- Main beams very well fitted by Gaussian response
- Individual beam profiles for every detector will eventually be made available



Photometer Beams



- Interim beam maps available via Herschel Science Centre
 - Based on scan-map AOT observations of Neptune
 - Current beam area estimates: (501, 943, 1923) sq. arcsec.
- Fine-scan observations of Neptune being analysed
 - Above numbers will not change much



Photometer Flux Calibration

- Primary calibrator is Neptune
- Est. absolute accuracy ± 5 % (correlated over the Herschel range)

 Current SPIRE pipeline uses interim calibration based on Ceres



- Current overall calibration accuracy ~ 15%
- Neptune observations and non-linearity characterisation
 - Analysis now completed and pipeline to be updated
- Full details of flux calibration scheme will be given in the updated SPIRE Observers' Manual



Photometer Scan-Map Pipeline

- Baseline removal
 - Median baseline removal added to L2 processing before the map making stage
 - Improved temp-drift implementation will significantly reduce the effects
 - Other techniques under evaluation
 - De-correlation using thermistor signals over an entire observation has been very successful





median baseline subtraction



robust linear baseline subtraction per scan

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May 4 – 7 2010

SPIRE Scan-Map AOT and Pipeline: Future Plans

- Future pipeline enhancements (pre-mapmaking)
 - Incorporation of updated flux calibration
 - Improved baseline removal
 - Glitch replacement
- Mapmaking
 - Possible implementation of MadMap as standard SPIRE mapmaker

Spectrometer Frequency (GHz)











SPIRE Fourier Transform Spectrometer (FTS) Layout and Optics





- Entire range covered simultaneously
 - Small variations from detector to detector
- Continuum measured as well as spectral lines
- Adjustable spectral resolution : Δv (H, M, L) = (1.2, 7.2, 25) GHz
- Frequency calibration accurate to < 1/20 resolution element







Spectrometer Observing Modes (all now released)



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Spectrometer Sensitivity

- Better than pre-launch estimate (~ 3 x 10⁻¹⁷ W m⁻² 5 σ 1 hr)
- Current best performance (based on Uranus calibration) requires careful expert data processing but will be implemented in automatic pipeline



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Overlap Between Bands

- Good agreement in overlap region for point sources
 - Beamsize difference will affect extended sources
- Short-wavelength overlap for cross calibration with PACS





Resolving Power





Resolving Power



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Spectrometer Beam FWHM vs. λ





Spectrometer Data Processing



Standard calibrators:Point source: UranusExtended emission: the telescope itself



Spectrometer Data Processing

- Noise currently integrates down as N_{Reps}^{1/2} for up to ~ 2500 s (~ 20 repeats) in high-res mode, then more slowly
- Weak targets down to sub-Jy level possible
 - Expert analysis is currently needed to achieve best calibration and instrument background subtraction on faint sources
 - Recommendation to include complementary photometer map (quick)
- Very bright targets (e.g. Orion, Sgr B2, Mars) possible using bright source mode
 - Not formally released at present (will be soon)
 - Provisional cross-over level = Neptune (~ 60/180 Jy for SLW/SSW)



Spectrometer Flux Calibration: Current Status





Spectral Maps

Rich data products:

- Hundreds of pixels
- ~ 1000 independent spectral elements per pixel







Conclusions

- SPIRE is fully functional with performance matching or exceeding pre-launch estimates
- Current pipelines are already producing very high-quality data, and further improvements are being made
- Flux calibration is already very good and will be further improved
- Future work will concentrate on
 - Further improving pipeline products and calibration
 - Supporting observers