#### The Molecular and Dusty Universe



## (ISO and) Herschel

Space Science Horizon 200: A Retrospective View Noordwijk, 8-9 February 2018 *Christoffel Waelkens, KU Leuven* 



## Overview

- Introduction
- Summary of conclusions
- Astronomy at IR wavelengths
- ISO and Herschel
- Science breakthroughs and highlights
- Horizons 2000: much more than the sum of its parts
- Lessons learnt

#### Introduction



## ISO and Herschel within Horizon 2000

- A new (last?) spectral window successfully opened.
- The science goals transcend the specific IR domain and have brought together different approaches within space astronomy.
- A very fruitful cross talk has occurred between 'astronomy' and 'solar system research'.
- Typical Herschel scientists have a strong background in ground based astronomy, and also there important cross fertilization has occurred and continues.
- Herschel has been a successful test case for managing large instrument consortia and ambitious technology requirements.
- Combining Herschel and Planck has bolstered the programme.

## Astronomy at IR wavelengths

- The cold ('cool') universe is the place where stars and planets are born.
- It is also the place where astro-chemistry occurs.
- Dust in the universe absorbs hot radiation, which finally emerges in the infrared.
- The expansion of the universe shifts distant radiation to infrared wavelengths.

### Astronomy at IR wavelengths







# Herschel











# An anthology of Herschel highlights

- Understanding observationally the basic mechanisms on how stars form in the dense interstellar medium.
- Resolving the cosmic infrared background in star-forming galaxies and the detailed study of the history of star formation rates.
- Feedback between starbursts and active galactic nuclei.
- The ubiquitous presence of water, also in hot cores.
- The diversity of molecular excitation modes and their diagnostic value, in our and other galaxies.
- Remarkable results on (water in) solar-system objects, dust formation in supernovae, debris disks, outflows from old stars, lensed galaxies, ...

#### Star Formation matters ...

- Galaxy formation cannot be understood without incorporating a detailed theory of star formation. We have only a rudimentary grasp of such theory, however, which means that galaxy formation is destined to be a semi-phenomenological theory for the foreseeable future (J. Silk, 1997, first 'FIRST' conference at Grenoble).
- We will never fully understand planet formation if we do not understand star formation in the first place (J. Silk, 2004, Cosmic Vision Event at Unesco, Paris).

## ... but its (classical) physics is complex.

- What causes the pressure which competes with gravitation?
  - Turbulence?
  - Magnetic fields?
- The Herschel answer: magnetoturbulence!

#### Aquila/Serpens-South dark filament: A rich protocluster in the making

Spitzer/IRAC 8 µm

SPIRE 250 μm + PACS 160/70 μm



#### Filamentary structure of SF regions



## Star formation: how it works

- Magneto-turbulence generates filamentary structures.
- These have a universal thickness of about 0.1 pc.
- Perpendicular to the filaments, matter falls in along magnetic field lines.
- Stars are born if the density exceeds a critical value.



#### Initial mass function of dark cores





## Resolving the cosmic IR background

View that it is composed of star-forming galaxies largely confirmed.







## Star formation history of the universe

- Clear description of SFR since its maximum about 10 Gyr ago.
- Not only the biggest galaxies matter: not only mergers, but also galaxies steadily growing through accretion.

0.6<z<1.1

2.9<z<4.0

log L 60 µm (L<sub>o</sub>)



#### AGN – starburst feedback

• Correlation between molecular (OH) outflows and the wind from the central engine confirms that AGNs eject molecular clouds and hence

quench star formation.





#### Water everywhere ...





HIFI Spectroscopic Signatures of Water Vapor in TW Hydrae Disk ESA/NASA/JPL-Caltech/M. Hogerheijde (Leiden Observatory)





## ... also in the solar system









#### Interaction of stellar winds with the ISM







#### Impact of Herschel

#### Refereed papers for ESA-led space observatories

Cumulative number of papers vs calendar year after launch



## ISO and Herschel within Horizon 2000

- The science goals transcend the specific IR domain and have brought together different approaches within space astronomy.
- A very fruitful cross talk has occurred between 'astronomy' and 'solar system research'.
- Typical Herschel scientists have a strong background in ground based astronomy, and also there important cross fertilization has occurred and continues.
- Herschel has been a successful test case for managing large instrument consortia and ambitious technology requirements.

#### Complementarity between space missions







#### Complementarity between space missions









## 'Astronomy' versus 'Solar System'



Images of isolated disks: scattered light



HD100546



## Complementarity of ground and space









## Complementarity of ground and space





## Successes at the project level

- Building and managing large instrument consortia, with strong leadership from ESA, instrument PIs and PMs, and involved agencies.
- Combining Herschel and Planck was constraining, but finally enabled both missions to be realized within the sum of the original cost caps.
- Risks were taken at the technological level, but were overcome and did contribute significantly to innovative science.
- Observation efficiency was high, and the goal to be both a survey and an observatory mission was fulfilled.
- Pipeline and archive development essential for the mission and its legacy.

#### An incredible dream become true ...



#### ... within Horizon 2000

- Thanks to
  - The 'cosmic vision' of Horizon 2000 and its developers.
  - Superb ESA staff and superb PIs, and many other people involved.
- What Herschel did in return
  - Setting the scene in the far-IR
  - Bridging communities
  - Enabling with Planck the whole programme to succeed