

Time Domain Science with WFIRST-AFTA

Mansi M. Kasliwal Carnegie Institution for Science (& soon, California Institute of Technology)

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A Renaissance in Time-Domain Astronomy



Evryscope, ASASSN, HATPI ZTF, CSS-II, PS, BG

DECAM, HSC, LSST

LOFAR, MWA and LWA: meter and decameter-mapping Apertif, Meerkat and Askap: decimetric mapping

olycold Joule













The Dynamic Infrared Sky is Pristine

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Step 1: Infrared Follow-up of Optical Discoveries

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e.g. Prieto et al. 2008, Thompson et al. 2008, Kochanek 2011, Kasliwal et al. 2011b, Bond et al. 2009, Botticella et al. 2009

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2006 July 07 - Spitze

Supernova Thermal Echoes





See also: SN + CSM: Fox et al. 2011, 2013 SN Ia: Johansson et al. 2014

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Super Luminous Supernovae: Pushing to higher redshift



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SLSN-ISLSN-IIMagnetars? PPI?CSM Interactione.g. Quimby et al. 2011e.g. Ofek et al. 2008Mansi M. Kasliwal / The Dynamic Infrared Sky

SLSN-R Pair Instability e.g. Gal-Yam et al. 2009



Step 2: Infrared Discovery (targeting nearby galaxies)

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SPIRITS: SPitzer InfraRed Intensive Transients Survey





1200+ Strong Variables



40+ infrared transients (21 supernovae, 4 novae, 15 mysteries)

New

Ref

Sub









2014-4-12

2004-12-17



2011-7-22

Positive

Positive







Grand Spiral Host Galaxies





Diverse Photometric Evolution



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Cold: Nothing in Optical





Shock-Excited Molecular Hydrogen Emission!!

Birth of a massive star binary?? Supernova behind molecular cloud??

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Bridging the infrared gap between novae and supernovae







The Dynamic Infrared Sky Is Ripe for Exploration!

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WFIRST-AFTA systematic search for infrared transients?

- Fast wide-field mapping
 - Cadence choice is critical
 - Trade depth for more epochs
 - Software plan for real-time image-differencing alerts
- On-board spectroscopy is fantastic!
 - Combining the power of discovery and follow-up
 - Agility with spectroscopy ToOs

Seeing the Sound:

Bridging Gravitational Wave Physics and Electromagnetic Astronomy









WFIRST-AFTA TOO: Kilonovae from Neutron Star Mergers





A WFIRST-AFTA ToO Trigger:

Era of 3-5 advanced gravitational wave Interferometers at full sensitivity

~30 mergers localized to <6 sq deg in 5 yr

A 27 hour WFIRST-AFTA ToO: J+H imaging x 5 epochs (24-25 mag) Grism spectroscopy x 1 epoch (22 mag IFU spectrum x 1 candidate (25 mag)

See Hirata, Kasliwal & Nissanke, white paper for WFIRST-AFTA



Summary

- Infrared Sky is Ripe for Exploration Some stellar fates are entirely enshrouded
- A targeted infrared search with Spitzer/IRAC Mysterious SPIRITS mid-infrared transients
- A wide-field transient search with WFIRST-AFTA
- Gravitational Wave ToOs with WFIRST-AFTA



