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Re: Observing Proposal WHISP 14 March 1994

With this letter we wish to re-activate our WHISP proposal dated 6 September 1993, in which we requested 100 times 12 hours observing time for 1994. For the first semester of 1994 the PC has allocated 50 times 12 hours in first priority. For the second semester we request the remaining 50 times 12 hours.

In addition we would like to bring the following to the attention of the PC:

- A draft of a document describing the NEWSTAR phase of the data-reduction is presently circulating among specialists for comments. The final version will be available before the PC meeting.
- To date 115 galaxies have been observed for 12 hours, and short observations (on average about 3 hours) are available for 86 galaxies without known HI flux.
- Kamphuis is reducing the short observations, this will yield global HI profiles for all 86 galaxies in the next few months. Sijbring is working on the NEWSTAR phase of the data-reduction for the 12 hour observations. To date 22 galaxies have been done, and the reduction now

proceeds at the rate of 3 to 4 galaxies per week. Our experience with the NEWSTAR package is quite positive.

- During the actual observing, weekly visits to the WSRT have been made to monitor the quality of the observations. This is done by producing (preliminary) continuum subtracted, HI data-cubes on site. These visits have led to a useful exchange of information between the WHISP team and the WSRT staff.

- A PhD student, R. Swaters, will start with the analysis of the data on May 1. We expect that funds for a second PhD student will become available in September.

- Up till now we have been able to schedule the 12 hour observations consecutively, with only small gaps in between (used for the short observations). From now on this can no longer easily be done because of the shortage of galaxies near 0 hours right ascension. Thus, frequently, only a single 12 hour observation can be done per twenty-four hours, and this leaves holes in the schedule of about 10 hours. To some extent we can fill these gaps within WHISP by scheduling edge-on galaxies and being content with one-dimensional information (a position velocity map). Further work is required to estimate the number of suitable candidates reliably. (We can also continue making a compact schedule by including galaxies near 0 hours RA with lower fluxdensities, but in view of the improvement in system temparature in the near future, this possibility is unattractive.)

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