VDFS-WSA Quarterly Report: 2007 Quarter 2 (February) : Narrative

1. General

Work this month has focussed on preparation for the UKIDSS DR2 and liaison with VISTA Public Survey proposers regarding their survey management plans.

The suggestion at the January 18 VDMT that the UKIDSS releases be split by surveys was not adopted by the Survey Heads but, for pragmatic reasons, they agreed that the GPS component of DR2 be held back so that the other surveys, especially LAS, could be released in good time (March 1, in the event) for people to prepare their proposals for follow-up observations.

On Feb 7, NCH and NJC met with Valentin Ivanov and Phil Lucas to discuss science archive requirements for the VVV survey. They (VVV) would like facilities for light-curve extraction from difference-imaged frames and user interface enhancements. NCH has also liaised with Ultra-VISTA and VMC PIs regarding archive requirements, and is assembling a list of the archive enhancements requested for the VISTA Public Surveys and these will be factored into the work plan for later this year. This follows the recommendations of the FDR.

2. Hardware and Networking

A new JBOD (16 x 300GB SCSI) has been purchased. Once DR2 is completely released, it will be attached to the load server, Ahmose. The performance of Ahmose has been sub-optimal and this will be investigated at the same time. Through the UCS, we continue to press UKERNA regarding the UKlight connection to CASU.

3. Software

There has been continued refactoring of code, including implementation of cross-talk quality bit flagging and improvement of the ingest and source merging codes to speed up the curation. The user Interface has been modified to take account of the fact that DR2 will comprise only one database (DR2plus) so options were required to provide suitable Views of source tables. The SQL cookbook has been updated to Progress is summarised on the chart and gory details reported in the minutes circulated.

4. Tables

Progress and project status are summarized in the usual Quarterly Summary and EVA tables circulated with this report.

PMW (2007 Mar 8)