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Multi-wavelength extragalactic surveys and the role of MeerKAT and SALT

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(Submitted on 26 Jul 2011)

In these proceedings I discuss a range of surveys that are currently underway at optical, nearinfrared and far-infrared wavelengths that have large components accessible to both the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) and the Meer Karoo Array Telescope (MeerKAT). Particular attention is paid to the surveys currently underway with ESO's VISTA telescope, which will provide the ideal data from which to select targets for SALT spectroscopy whilst also providing the necessary depth and photometric redshift accuracy to trace the uJy radio population, found through the proposed MeerKAT surveys. Such surveys will lead to an accurate picture of evolution of starformation and accretion activity traced at radio wavelengths. Furthermore, SALT spectroscopy could play a crucial role in following up Herschel surveys with its large collecting area and blue sensitivity which occupies a niche in instrumentation on 8- and 10-m class telescopes.

Comments: 6 pages, 2 figures. To appear in the proceedings of the 2nd Middle East and Africa

regional IAU meeting

Subjects: Cosmology and Extragalactic Astrophysics (astro-ph.CO)

Cite as: arXiv:1107.5165 [astro-ph.CO]

(or arXiv:1107.5165v1 [astro-ph.CO] for this version)

Submission history

From: Matt Jarvis [view email]

[v1] Tue, 26 Jul 2011 10:49:43 GMT (1069kb,D)

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