

Reprocessing of Images in the IUE Data Archives

Since its inception the IUE Observatory has maintained a modest capability for image reprocessing for use in correcting infrequent problems with original data products sent to its Principal Investigators (PIs). This year, as it inaugurated IUE archival research program support and generally increased its emphasis on the use of existing data, the IUE Project broadened its policy on image reprocessing. The PIs of approved sixth-episode archival research and observing programs were recently informed by letter of the IUE Project's new policies governing requests for the reprocessing of archived images. Because the Project expects to continue its support of archival data research and existing-data reuse into the seventh year of IUE operations this note is included in the Newsletter for the information of the IUE community as a whole.

Briefly, the Project has agreed to consider reprocessing requests from PIs for images to be used for current-episode programs. Requests must include a scientific justification, and, when approved, will involve reprocessing old images with current processing software. Justifications will be evaluated, for instance, in terms of the need for a detailed comparison of images originally processed with software in use at different epochs, or in terms of a demonstrable need to take full advantage of the enhancements in the current software in order to achieve the scientific goals of a program. Reprocessing will be accomplished on as timely a basis as available resources permit. All reprocessing requests and all distribution of reprocessed data will be coordinated through the National Space Science Data Center.

As reprocessing support must be restricted to current programs this Newsletter note is provided primarily for the benefit of persons contemplating the future submission of IUE proposals. New proposal instruction packages will ask proposers to address potential reprocessing requests in the proposal, but complete details will only be required following the review and approval of a proposal by the IUE peer review process.

On a closing note, the IUE Project Scientist recently discussed archival research program support with the IUE User's Committee. The Project presently hopes to be able to support seventh year archival research programs at the same level of funding it provides to observing programs.

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