GAIA: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Milky Way



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Sales Engineer









ESA's fleet: from Deep space to Earth Observation



GAIA

Main goal is to make the largest, most precise three-dimensional map or our Galaxy, the Milky Way, by surveying an unprecedented 1.6 billion stars.





Gaia: ESA's Billion Star Surveyor

Launch 19 December 2013
All-sky survey operating for 7 years
106 CCD of 4500 x 1966 = ~1 Giga-pixel
Astrometry + Photometry + Spectroscopy
Gaia DR1: 16 September 2016
Gaia DR2: 25 April 2018
Gaia eDR3: 3 December 2020 from 1.6B to 1.8B





Telescope

Two primary mirrors Rotation axis (6h) $1.45 \times 0.50 \text{ m}^2$ Torus (optical bench) Superposition of two Spectrometer (RVS) Fields of View (FoV)



From launch to orbit



One GigaPixel Focal Plane



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DPAC – Processing Consortium

- Coordination Units (CUs) develop the scientific algorithms
- Data Processing Centres (DPCs) provide infrastructure and support to run them



~ 400 scientists

Data Processing: DPAC consortium

- Operations
 - Daily Operations
 - Cyclic Operations
- Main Database (~750 TBs)
- Hub and spokes:



DPCE Daily Processing



Gaia Data Releases

- Gaia DR1 Sep 2016
- Gaia DR2 Apr 2018
- Gaia eDR3 Dec 2020



CURRENT DATE AND TIME2020-11-10T14:56:23 (TCB)MISSION STATUSSatellite distance from Earth (in km)Number of days having passed since 25 July 2014Number of days in mission extension483
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OPERATIONS DATA (collected since 2014/07/25)
Volume of science data collected (in GB) 85,337
Number of object transits through the focal plane 162,090,745,287
Number of astrometric CCD measurements 1,597,751,632,110
Number of photometric CCD measurements 322,415,139,956
Number of spectroscopic CCD measurements 31,464,293,775
Number of object transits through the RVS instrument10,545,488,120

Gaia DR2 in numbers



position & brightness on the sky

1 692 919 135

radial velocity

7 224 631

surface temperature **161 497 595**

red colour **1 383 551 713**

blue colour 1 381 964 755

parallax and proper motion

1 331 909 727

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radius & luminosity 76 956 778

amount of dust along the line of sight 87 733 672

European Space Agency

14 099 Solar System objects

> 550 737 variable sources

www.esa.int

The second data release of ESA's Gaia mission is scheduled for publication on 25 April 2018





Anatomy of the Milky Way



Star Motion: stars flying between galaxies!



Sagittarius flyby: star formation!



Nature Astronomy volume 4, pages965–973(2020)

"Home" of the first interstellar comet detected: Oumuamua

Worldwide positive media echo on Gaia DR2

US astronomer Jackie Faherty:



"Today is probably the most important day for astronomy ever"

Astronomer David Hogg + research group:



David W. Hogg @davidwhogg · 25. Apr. Thank you @ESAGaia DPAC. It really is thanks to your excellence. #GaiaDR2

Flatiron CCA @FlatironCCA · 26. Apr.

"Wednesday was the day astronomers said goodbye to the old Milky Way they had known and loved and hello to a new view of our home galaxy."

NASA's deputy director of Science Thomas Zurbuchen:



Thomas Zurbuchen @ @Dr_ThomasZ · 27. Apr. Incredible set of data released this week by @esascience's #GAIA team! The community will combine these data with other observations - @NASAHubble etc. - for great new research. We have already used these data for @NASANewHorizons targeting of #UltimaThule #congrats #thanks

2011 Physics Nobel Laureate Adam Riess:

MILKY WAY CEPHEID STANDARDS FOR MEASURING COSMIC DISTANCES AND APPLICATION TO Gaia DR2: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HUBBLE CONSTANT

ADAM G. RIESS,^{1,2} STEFANO CASERTANO,^{1,2} WENLONG YUAN,^{2,3} LUCAS MACRL³ BEATRICE BUCCIARELLI,⁴ MARIO G. LATTANZI,⁴ JOHN W. MACKENTY,¹ J. BRADLEY BOWERS,^{2,2} WEIKANG ZHENG,⁵ ALEXEI V. FILIPPENKO,^{5,6} CAROLINE HUANG,² AND RICHARD I. ANDERSON⁷

We are grateful to the entire Gaia collaboration for providing data and assistance which made this project possible. We congratulate them on their tremendous achievement to date.

Publication rate at the moment: ~3 per day

Thank You! Questions?



https://www.gaia.ac.uk/mission

https://sci.esa.int/web/gaia









