MWGaiaDN Induction School

Last update: 2023-11-14

Remarks on the programme

The induction school will be run as a mixed-form workshop containing both classical lectures and Gaia Sprint style elements. Plenty of time is reserved to let participants work on their own projects during the week, with guidance and advice from the supervisors and other experts present.

The idea is that the students think of a project that they would like to work on ahead of the workshop. This can be in consultation with their supervisor. *The goal is not to come to finished or publishable results, but to combine the learning of skills with something that can be useful for the student later on in their research.*

During the project work the students can work alone, together in pairs or groups, and are free to involve the supervisors. *Working together in small groups is strongly encouraged.*

The supervisors will also think of example projects and these will be sent around in advance. The students can pick from this list or use the examples as inspiration for their own project ideas.

Outline

Day 1

- Start with everyone (students and supervisors/lecturers) presenting one slide on who they are, what their research interests are, what they hope to learn during the week, and what they would like to work on (this last item concerns the students but everyone is free to pursue a project!). An example of such slides from the second Gaia community workshop can be found here. From past experience this is a fun way to start and get to know everyone.
- Introductory lecture on the Gaia mission and its instruments.
- Archive tutorial in the early afternoon. This includes exercises in the form of Python notebooks, which include examples of accessing the “Datalink” data products, such as XP spectra.
- The second afternoon session is for project work (“Sprint time”). In this first sprint session the students can form groups and start working together on joint or similar projects.

Day 2

- Lectures on the Gaia catalogue data and a lecture on how to simulate Gaia data.
- The first afternoon session is dedicated to a tutorial on the Gaia selection function tools.
- The second afternoon session is “Sprint time” for project work..

Day 3

- Lectures on the future missions GaiaNIR and JASMINE.
- Presentation on the plans for MWGaiaDN public engagement and outreach activities.
- Rest of the day is “Sprint time”.

Day 4

- In the morning the participants give short presentations on what they have learned and/or achieved during their projects. This is intended as a presentation skills exercise.
- The afternoon session is for public engagement and outreach training which will be given by Pedro Russo from Leiden University and covers the following topics:
    - Introduction to communicating research with the public. Current status of public engagement with science: The case of astronomy.
    - Citizen Science
    - Science for society and impact science

Day 5

- Public engagement and outreach training continued. This will consist of a tutorial on the use of the GaiaSky visualisation tool.
- School ends at lunchtime.