

## ABSTRACT

### The 2 Micron All Sky Survey (2 MASS) . Infrared Point Sources and the Cosmic Background

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The 2 Micron All Sky Survey (2 MASS) is a NASA project to survey the entire sky at 3 infrared wavelengths (1.25, 1.65 and 2.2  $\mu$ m). The Northern survey will begin in April, 1997, using a 1.3 m telescope at Mt. Hopkins. The Southern Survey will begin approximately a year later from CTIO. The entire survey should be complete by the year 2000.

The results from 2MASS will include catalogs of almost 500 million point sources (down to  $K_s \sim 14.5$  mag) and 1 million galaxies (down to a  $K_s \sim 13.5$  mag), and images of the entire sky. These data will have a broad range of astrophysical uses, but will be helpful in assessing the contribution of point sources to diffuse background studies such as the COBE and IRIS missions. I will present an update on the 2MASS survey based on prototype camera data and discuss models of the point source sky as they relate to CIB studies.