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03/06/03

TO: T. Jarrett
FROM: Logistics and Technical Information Division
SUBJECT: Notification of Clearance - CL#03-0635

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The Nearby Universe Revealed: 2MASS

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The Nearby Universe Revealed: 2MASS

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IAU XXV General Assembly

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July 13 -26, 2003, Sidney, Australia

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Tom H. Jerrett

Print Name



Sign Name

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02-28-2003

The Nearby Universe Revealed: 2MASS

T.H. Jarrett (Caltech), J.P. Huchra (CfA), S. Schneider (UMASS), R. Cutri (Caltech) and T.Chester (Caltech)

Using twin ground-based telescopes, the Two Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS) scanned both equatorial hemispheres, resolving more than 1.5 million galaxies in the (1 - 2.2 micron) near-infrared bands. The resultant Extended Source Catalog (XSC) embodies both photometric and astrometric whole sky uniformity, revealing large scale structures in the local Universe and extending our view into the Milky Way's dust-obscured Zone of Avoidance. The XSC represents a uniquely unbiased sample of normal galaxies due to the fact that the near-infrared is particularly sensitive to the underlying (dominant) stellar mass component of galaxies. Accordingly, the XSC is employed in large measure by several long-term projects, including the CfA, Cornell and 6DF redshift surveys, as well as projects focused on the internal structures (e.g., bars and bulges) and the surface brightness (e.g., Tully-Fisher) properties of nearby galaxies. Here we present the basic properties of the XSC, including astrometry, photometric sensitivity and number counts, size distribution, colors, surface brightness and morphology. We illustrate the spatial clustering properties, ranging from interacting galaxies to groups and clusters, and finally to the largest supercluster cosmic web spanning the sky.