

CASCA 2008 Abstract Submission

Title: The Herschel/SPIRE Instrument Flight Model Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer Performance Evaluation

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Abstract:

The Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver (SPIRE) is one of three scientific instruments onboard the European Space Agency (ESA)'s Herschel Space Observatory. SPIRE instrument performance verification testing was completed with instrument delivery to ESA in 2007. We present the resulting performance characteristics of the SPIRE spectrometer flight model as determined from these test campaigns. As Herschel is due to be launched in late 2008, it is readily important that the Canadian astronomy community is aware of the capabilities of both Herschel in general and SPIRE specifically as well as Canada's role (including guaranteed observing time) in the project. We present the SPIRE instrument performance, the major science goals of Herschel/SPIRE, and the Canadian contribution to this ESA cornerstone mission.

Special requirements: none