

GALEX Release 1 (GR1) basic data description

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1. Overview

The GALEX data release 1 (GR1) contains images, spectra, and catalogs generated by the GALEX data pipeline in Nov-Dec 2004. These data products make up the first major public data release to the astronomical community and are representative of what will be provided to Guest Investigators. This document describes the release data at a basic level. Other documents on this site provide additional information regarding data collection modes, performance parameters, pipeline performance, and detailed data descriptions.

2. GALEX Release 1 (GR1) Description

The GALEX surveys are on-going. As of December 2004, the GALEX data analysis pipeline had reduced observations covering about 8000 square degrees of sky with an average exposure time of about 800 sec. The typical exposure time varies greatly from 125 sec for the All-sky Imaging Survey (AIS) to 20 ksec for the Deep Imaging Survey (DIS).

Table 1) Survey coverages and depths for the data released in GR1

Survey abbreviation	Survey name	Coverage (sq. degrees)	Average depth (sec)
NGS	Nearby Galaxy Survey	48	2235
AIS	All-sky Imaging Survey	2792	121
MIS	Medium Imaging Survey	129	1883
DIS	Deep Imaging Survey	18	15371
WSS	Wide Spectroscopic Survey	6.0	13064
MSS	Medium Spectroscopic Survey	2.5	20831

Figure 1 below shows the location of the GR1 targets. Targets observed at different Galactic latitudes with varying infrared cirrus levels (100 μ m) have a wide range of extinction values and UV background levels (see Figure 2). The median cirrus level over the whole sky is ~ 3.0 MJy/sr. GALEX deep imaging and spectroscopy fields are generally selected to have $I_{100} < 1.0$ MJy/sr. Currently the all-sky survey is limited to fields with cirrus levels below 3.0 MJy/sr.

Figure 1) Aitoff projection maps (Galactic coordinates) of sky coverage for the GALEX survey data released in GR1. The first panel displays all surveys. Subsequent panels display NGS, AIS, MIS, DIS, and spectroscopic (WSS and MSS), respectively.

