

Galactic Surveys Overview

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Abstract: Large-scale near-infrared (and optical) digital sky surveys have come of age over the last decade, beginning with the truly all-sky 2MASS. Existing data sets and future capabilities in infrared survey work relevant for galactic science will be summarized, along with the main science drivers. The addition of spectroscopy removes many degeneracies inherent in photometric-only analyses. Multiwavelength complementarity further enhances the scientific return. In general, scientific progress is improved through collaboration and open data policies.