[IS1] SPICA: The Next-Generation Infrared Space Observatory

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We present the current status of the SPICA (SPace Infrared Telescope for Cosmology and Astrophysics) project. Onboard SPICA, a 3.5 m telescope cooled to 4.5 K provides an unprecedented combination of sensitivity and resolution for mid- to far-infrared observations (core wavelength between 5 and 200 micron). SPICA will be one of the largest space observatories together with HSO (Herschel Space Observatory) of ESA and JWST (James-Webb Space Telescope) of NASA in 2010s and will make great ontributions in many areas of astrophysics.

We propose a "warm launch", cooled telescope concept for SPICA: the telescope is to be launched at ambient temperature and is to be cooled to 4.5 K in orbit by a modest mechanical cooler system with the assistance of effective radiative cooling. We have been working on development programs focusing on two key technical issues: reliable mechanical coolers and the light-weight telescope system. We are also working on the design of focal plane instruments together with Korean colleagues.

The target launch year of SPICA is early 2010s.

[IS2] At Home in Korea

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At the invitation of Seoul National University and under the auspices of the US Government Agency for International Development (AID), my family and I spent the academic year 1977/1978 in Seoul, and I returned in 1979 to install the photometer. My directive was to assist in the development of SNU's Observational Astronomy program. I will reminisce and show slides of our shared experiences at SNU and the state of astronomy in 1978.