In Quest of Variable Stars With Near-Infrared Surveys *(Abstract)*

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Abstract Two projects have recently taken up the challenge of deeply surveying the near-infrared (IR) sky on a large scale: 2MASS in the United States, and DENIS in Europe. Before the end of the century, the astronomical community will be provided with one of the largest photometric databases ever produced, including several hundred million stars with a large proportion of new variables. I will present the status of these currently ongoing projects and show how astronomers in quest of new variable stars, as well as those investigating their physical properties, will benefit from these new databases.

The Impact on Interactive Binary Research: 18.5 Years of Space Observations With the IUE Satellite *(Abstract)*

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Abstract During 1978–1996, the IUE (International Ultraviolet Explorer) satellite made more than 14,000 pointed spectroscopic observations of a great number of variable stars. These observations are greatly contributing to understanding variable star phenomena, and the rich IUE legacy has now become the IUE Final Archive, which can be easily accessed electronically for research and educational purposes. Three examples of monitoring interactive binaries are shown.

X-Ray Observations in the AXAF Era and NASA's Public Outreach Plans *(Abstract)*

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Abstract The features of the Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF, Chandra) that give it its unprecedented observing power are briefly presented, together with some illustrations of the types of observations AXAF will achieve. A second part of this presentation provides information about the education and public outreach initiatives that NASA's Office of Space Science has recently undertaken.