

Exploring the Universe with WISE – the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer

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I will present results from the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mission, a NASA Medium Explorer (MIDEX), that surveyed the entire sky in 4 mid-infrared bands at 3.4, 4.6, 12, and 22 microns with vastly greater sensitivity than previous all-sky surveys at these wavelengths. WISE surveyed everything more than 1 AU from the Sun, and this includes minor planets, comets, nearby brown dwarfs and star forming regions both in the Milky Way and in distant galaxies.

WISE launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on 14 Dec 2009, ejected its cover on 29 Dec 2009, and entered routine survey operations on 14 Jan 2010. It completed the full sky coverage on 17 July 2010, and then started warming up in early August. WISE ran with its 3 shortest bands until the end of September, and then its two shortest bands until 1 Feb 2011.