

# Department of Experimental Physics

National University of Ireland, Maynooth (Maynooth University)

## **Terahertz Optics**

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**Star Formation & Protostellar Jets** Emma Whelan

## **Quasi-optics at MU**



The group has expertise in millimetre-wave optics, electromagnetics and astronomical instrumentation and observation.

We have a track-record of involvement in CMB experiments over more than 20 years (core members of Herschel, Planck)

and have been part of international consortia awarded ESA TRP and FP7 contracts.

## Previous UK Collaborators include

Cardiff University Cambridge University Manchester University UCL RAL

## **Astronomical Instrumentation**

Modelling: Bolometers, cavities, antennas (especially corugated horns including multi-moded), quasi-optical beam propagation, coupling, crosstalk, cross-polarisation, scattering, integration with CAD, bandwidth effects, farfield beam patterns

#### QUBIC



### **Cosmic Microwave Background**

QUaD Planck (HIFI) QUBIC











## **Astronomical Instrumentation**

#### **Far-Infrared Telescopes**

ALMA (Band 9) Herschel (HIFI) SPICA



FISICA FP7 Far Infra-red Space Interferometer Critical Assessment looked at science goals and preliminary design requirements for the next generation far-infrared space interferometer (FIRI).



## ESA TRPs

Irish Announcement Opportunity (2013-2018) "New Technology High Efficiency Horn Antennas for CMB Experiments and Far Infrared Astronomy" (2 years + 3 years CCN)

- Horn shaping & optimisation
- Multimode horn analysis tools for (absorbing layers(TES)) in waveguide structures
- W band planar antennas
- W Band VNA alignment & calibration techniques



Spline horn design with global optimisation method based on natural selection to develop single-moded beam, low cross polar, return loss <-30dB & symmetric beam pattern with low sidelobe levels

## ESA TRPs

## ITT AO/1-7393/12/NL/MH Next Generation Sub-millimetre Wave Focal Plane Array Coupling Concepts (Multichroic focal plane pixels for CMB) (2014-2018)

- Consortium (Maynooth, Cardiff, Manchester, Chalmers, La Sapienza, APC) to develop Multichroic W band planar focal plane pixels
- Planar mesh lens with Cold Electron Bolometer (CEB) detectors prototypes made dual frequency operation at 75 & 105GHz.



7 element flat mesh lens array developed at Cardiff

#### Focal Plane Array



Dual polarization, 75 & 105 GHz slot antenna array with CEB developed at Chalmers

## Laboratory Measurements

VNA (Vector Network Analyser) based near field scanning facility to characterise waveguide components and antennas in the W-band (75 to 110 GHz).

Rohde & Schwarz ZVA-24 RF VNA and twin ZVA-110 frequency converter.







A THz measurement facility is in the final stages of development through infrastructure funding from SFI (SFI16/RI/3702). 500 GHz – 1.1 THz.



# High Angular Resolution Spectroscopy @ Maynooth

#### Interests

- Protostellar Jet Launching
- Brown Dwarf Jets
- Planet Formation in Transitional Disks

#### Techniques

- AO assisted IFS
- SAM
- Spectro-astrometry

#### Instruments

- KECK/OSIRIS
- VLT/UVES/XSHOOT ER/MUSE
- VLT/SPHERE





#### Cahill et al 2018 VLT/UVES



