

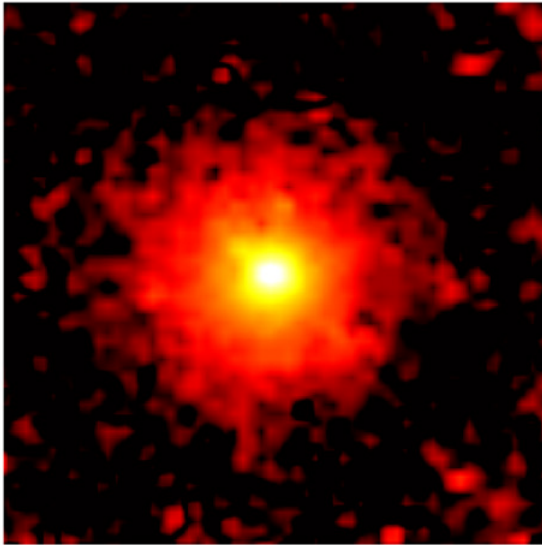
COVER IMAGES

Cover images for this Issue 51

Our cover images for this issue reference our lead article, 3I/ATLAS

FRONT COVER

Interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS



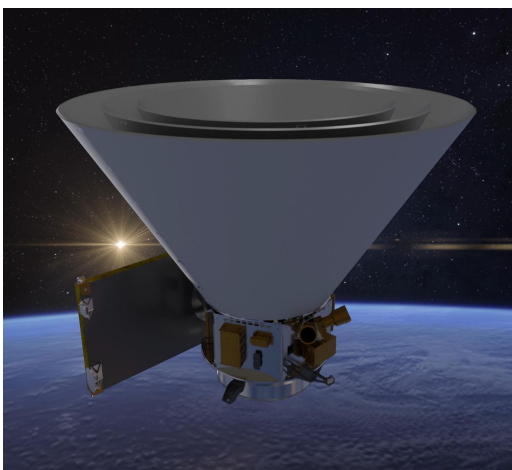
NASA's SPHEREx (Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer) observed interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS Aug 7 to Aug 15.

The SPHEREx team has been analyzing insights from this data, and a research note is available at <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2508.15469>

Image and caption credit:
NASA/SPHEREx

BACK COVER

NASA's SPHEREx (Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer)



The observatory that captured the front cover image of the latest interstellar visitor to be identified in our solar system. SPHEREx launched on 11 March 2025 to survey the sky in optical as well as near-infrared light. Its two year mission is to collect data on more than 450 million galaxies along with more than 100 million stars in the Milky Way in order to explore the origins of the universe.

Image credit: Artist's impression, NASA