

Plenary Talk
Splinter SOF

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF SOFIA SCIENCE: OBSERVATORY STATUS AND SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is a joint US-German project to access the infrared wave length regime between 0.3 and 200 microns with an airborne 2.5 m telescope in a Boeing 747SP. The observatory is now fully operational with a suite of cameras and spectrometers which have provided exciting new observations, many of which are not possible with ground-based observatories. After the first five years of science operation, I will give a brief overview of the SOFIA observatory and instrumentation before presenting science highlights from the various instruments.