

Fermi Users Group



Fermi GI Cycle-3

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Cycle-3 Synopsis



- No major policy changes relative to Cycle-2
- 192 proposals received, 79 selected
 - 77 grants (2 foreign, NRAO time)
 - Includes 10 “Progress Reports”, all approved
- 2 of 5 multi-year “Large Projects” selected
 - Down from 3 selections in Cycle-2
 - \$1.9M in m-yr obligations from Cycle-1,2
 - 7 Cycle-1’s close out next year → cuts debt by ½
- Average grants: \$156k (large) \$81k (regular)

Oversubscription



- 182 new proposals, requesting \$14.7M
 - Not counting \$1.9M obligation
 - 2.5× oversubscription
 - No pointed observations requested
- Comparison to Cycle-2, 198 new proposals
 - 8% fewer proposals, but essentially equivalent \$ oversubscription
- ~10% first-time PIs
- More instrument team proposals

Peer Review Synopsis



- 5 committees, 45 reviewers representing 35 institutions)
- 4 foreign participants
 - 3 participated by telecon due to volcanic ash
- 2 days of splinter meetings
 - Plenary meeting, eve of day 0
 - Executive session, AM of day 3
- No major issues
 - Panels: tendency to focus budget caps despite instructions to contrary

Peer Review Synopsis

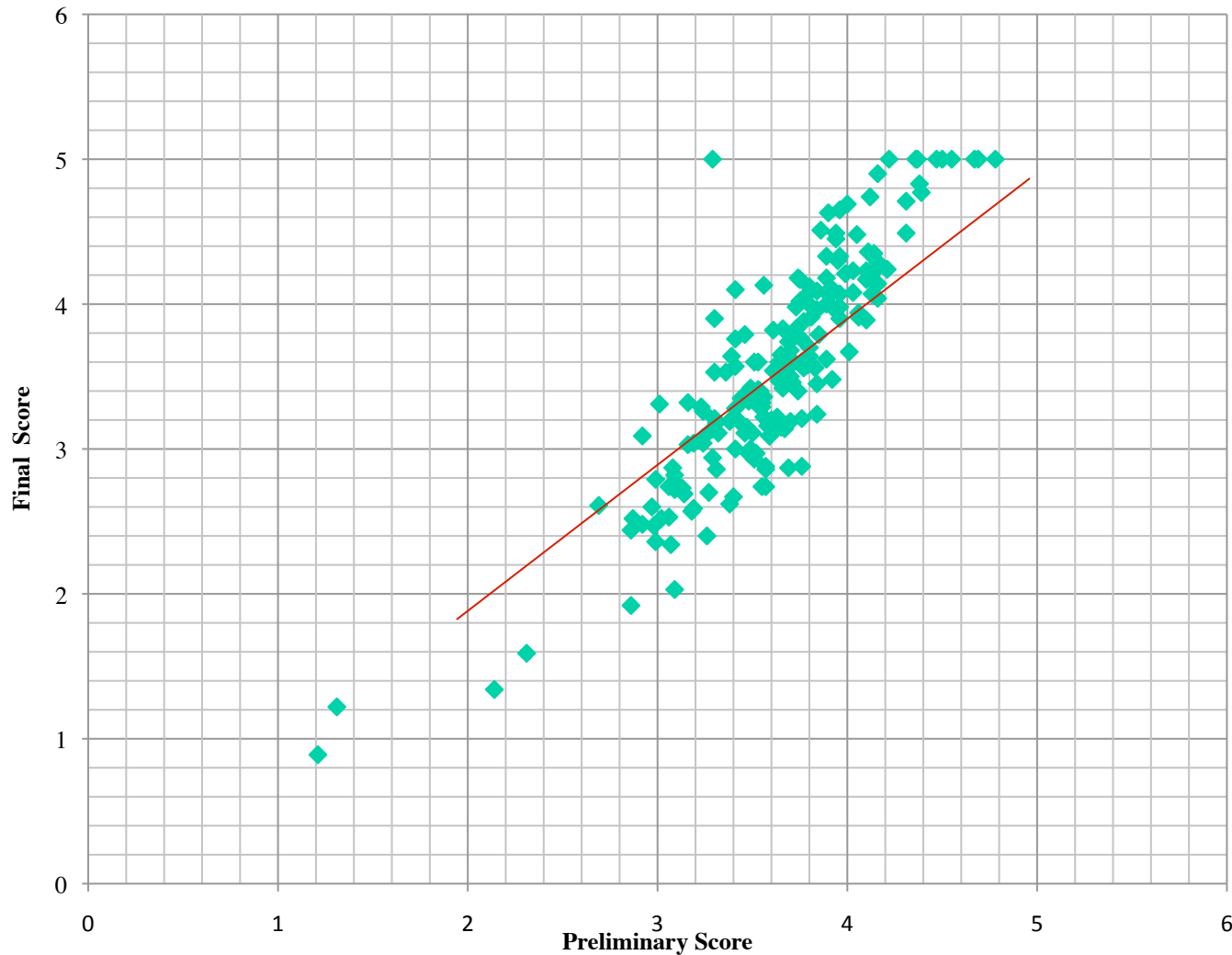


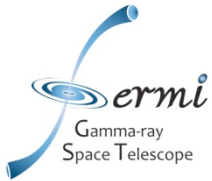
- ~Typically focused committees
- No a priori prioritization by science topic
- Assumption: proposals of ~equal quality across panels
 - Resolution through merging session
- Useful “comments to NASA in some cases
 - To be addressed in stage-II budget review

Preliminary vs Final Grading



Fermi Cycle-3 Proposal Review





Joint NRAO Programs



- Dale Frail replaced Jim Ulvested as liaison
- NRAO provided technical evaluations
 - No major issues
 - Minor “accounting” issue, solved in real time
- ~885 hours awarded over 3 facilities
 - 20 requests, 11 selections
 - ~50% maximum Fermi allotment
 - 215/360/310 hrs on VLA/VLBA/GBT

- Mia Hartman proxies for Buell Januzzi as NOAO-Fermi liaison
 - Phone, e-mail support
- NOAO technical evaluations delivered to FSSC, provided to peer panels
- NOAO: 89 hours
 - 5 requests, 3 selections
 - ~60% of allotted time

Large Projects



- Evaluated, ranked, and merged in tandem with regular proposals
- Smaller number of requests (5) than in previous cycles
 - 2 were in play by the end of day 2, thus,
 - No separate merging exercise as in Cy 1&2
 - Both ultimately selected

Multi-Year Progress Reports



- “Progress Reports” were solicited in tandem w/Cycle-3 proposals
- Effectively a rubber stamping exercise
 - 100% approved for continuation
 - Some useful “comments to NASA”, e.g. not clear if milestones being met

- Types of investigation; approved (proposed):
 - Theory: 37% (23%) , correlative studies: 39%(31%), data analysis: 27%(40%)
- Science categories:
 - Extragalactic 39%(42%), Galactic 39%(40%), GRBs 21%(19%)
 - Pulsars comprise ~50% of Galactic
 - Sparse few: clusters, dark matter searches, starburst galaxies

- Notification letters – today
- NSPIRES open – now
- Stage-II (NSPIRES submission deadline – June 4 (soft)
- Final selections – June 15
- Grant implementation: ~1/3 July, balance ~November 2010