Data Policies & GO Program Status

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Year 1 GO Program

The AO states, "*During the first twelve months of science operations, data from specific sources of interest to qualified individual researchers will be made available on request to the GO Facility. Note that large projects, i.e., those involving large number[sic] of sources and/or very long observing times, will not be permitted by outside researchers during this period. At all times, including the first twelve months of science operations, the data from transient sources discovered or detected by GLAST will immediately be made publicly available. During the first twelve months of operations, the instrument may not have been completely calibrated, and, thus, any data made available may be unvalidated and unverified.*"

- *Previously, this was interpreted as follows:*
  - *~10 GOs would be selected. Since the GSSC doesn't have the data, LAT would have to serve the data to these select few. In exchange, the selected GOs would be encouraged to help LAT. Problems: Policy is unclear (e.g., what does "encouraged" mean?). Also, most of the world does not see these data during year 1. Also, LAT will spend considerable effort serving data to these GOs when it should be concentrating on understanding the instrument (issue raised at the previous GUC). Serious issues will arise if GOs share data with others. Finally, this is at variance with the philosophy for the rest of the mission (fundamentally, GLAST data can not be carved up).*
  - *LAT will release transient data, according to a policy vetted with the SWG and GUC.*

- ***A different, much simpler, way (proposal):***
  - *LAT to propose a data release policy that includes some additional select sources, vetted with the GUC and SWG.*
  - *The GO program during year 1 is not "limited":*
    - *Year 1 GOs will be funded to analyze the data released to the public and to organize the preparations for analyses of released data after year 1. GOs selected during year 1 will not be given special access to unreleased LAT data during year 1. In exchange for releasing somewhat more data to the public, LAT does not have to provide an ersatz GSSC function.*
  - *Should result in fewer problems and greater science return from the mission.*

Honor Statement

- ***See discussion at previous GUC meeting.***
- ***Proposal: There will be no honor statement.***

Guest Observer Program Project Planning

- ***Expect 100 funded Guest Observers (GO's) per year***
  - *Very broad menu of science topics, with approximate expected distributions (actual distribution selected by peer review):*
    - *AGN incl. multi-wavelength studies (VHE Gamma, X-ray, Radio, Optical): 20*
    - *Supernova remnants: 5*
    - *Pulsars (radio loud/quiet): 5*
    - *Solving mysteries of EGRET Unidentified Sources: 10*
    - *Galactic diffuse studies and dark matter searches: 10*
    - *Extragalactic diffuse studies: 5*
    - *Galaxy clusters and other extended emission: 5*
    - *Gamma-ray bursts: 10*
    - *Cosmology/fundamental physics: 10*
    - *New source classes: 10*
    - *Solar Flares: 2*
    - *Very high-energy cosmic rays: 3*
    - *Other: 5*
- ***Expect additional 100-200 users of the data, funded by other agencies (DOE) and other countries***

Fellowship Program

- ***GLAST Fellows***
  - *GLAST represents a huge incremental capability for exploration in gamma rays (one of the reasons GLAST science is ranked so highly). The limitations of existing data, collected more than a decade ago, tend to limit the way in which the data are used. New ways of thinking about how to use GLAST data will maximize the science output. A single new idea can have a huge impact on the legacy of the mission.*
  - *Providing a high-profile opportunity for young and creative minds to lead gamma-ray data analyses in new directions will likely have a huge payoff for a relatively small leverage investment.*
  - *$100k/fellow. Institutions will not charge overhead.*
  - *3 fellows selected per year, for a 3-year term (9 steady-state).*