Minutes of the Blazar Working Group Meeting, September 13 2005

Attendees: A. Chen, J. Chiang, S. Ciprini, S. Larsson, B. Lott, G. Madejski, J. McEnery, Th. Reposeur, L. Reyes, R. Romani, J. Scargle, E. do Couto e Silva, G. Taylor, G. Tosti.

The presentation slides are posted at:

http://www.cenbg.in2p3.fr/ftp/astropart/glast/agn_group/meeting_page.htm

1. Blazar variability from GLAST data

Jeff Scargle has presented a brief overview of science issues that relate to variability, with a list of potential sources and data analysis tools. He has then presented a novel method to extract the energy dependence of the emission lag, based on the minimization of the entropy of the lag-corrected observed time distribution. This method has been applied to a variety of sources, including galaxy clusters, for which no effect is expected and blazars, using ASCA data. Preliminary results show no significant dependence for the observed sources.

2. Science goals and associated observations

Greg Madejski has presented a list of 7 scientific goals to be pursued with GLAST data on specific Blazars associated with contemporaneous/simultaneous observations in other bands. The list includes: 1)goals 2)targets 3)approach (data to be used) 4) other data needed. It has been proposed to add another column to the list, namely "required analysis tools". This list, corresponding to Greg's own bias and prejudice at the moment, is to be commented/refined/expanded by the group. It has been posted on the confluence page.

It has also been proposed to establish another list of scientific issues pertaining to the light curves obtained in gamma-ray only data.

3. MW needs/contacts

We have been assigned to produce a prioritized list of MW needs soon. The list Science goals mentioned above will help us quantify them. Gino Tosti and Paolo Giommi have taken up the task of establishing a first estimate of these needs.

The spreadsheet circulated by Dave Thompson has been posted on the confluence area. It lists the different facilities potentially available for coordinated MW observations and the corresponding contact persons.

4. Next meetings

Next meeting will be held on September 20 at 9:00 AM PDT (please note the time change). The following meetings will take place every second week, alternatively with those of the pulsar group.