

Minutes of the Blazar Working Group Meeting, October 18 2005

Attendees: R. Cameron, J. Chiang, E. do Couto e Silva, T. Kamae, B. Lott, G. Madejski, A. Reimer, L. Reyes, S. Ritz, R. Romani, J. Scargle, D. Smith, G. Tosti.

The presentation slides are posted at:

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

1. News from Suzaku

Greg Madejski attended a Suzaku meeting in Japan last week. Since the failure of the main Suzaku instrument, the principal scientific goal of the satellite has changed and significant observation time can be devoted to blazar monitoring in the hard X-rays in the future. The Subaru group is willing to collaborate on this topic with Glast. Greg has submitted a pilot project concerning PKS 0836+710. If accepted the source will be observed in the forthcoming months.

2. General discussion on current standing

The date of next face-to-face meeting is tentatively set to the day before the DC2 kickoff meeting, probably in mid February.

The list of science goals will be streamlined by Greg, Chuck and Anita to avoid redundancy, goals 5, 8, and 11 being closely related for example. As suggested by Paolo, goal 1 (currently corresponding to the blazar sequence) will be reworded. The proposed general line of action toward defining the multiwavelength needs is the following: from the science goal and the corresponding approach, simulations modeling the source SED and variability must be performed. From the analysis of the simulated data, needs concerning data in gamma-ray data and in other bands are derived. The resources required in the other bands flow out of these needs. On the gamma-ray side, the corresponding exposure is computed using the Instrument Response Functions.

The so-called "Blazar studies", which concern general properties of GLAST-detected blazars will eventually be grouped with the "Science Goals". It has been pointed out that is important not to focus only on the Science Goals but also keep open to the unexpected (new type of variability for example).

The list of "Sources of Special interest" has been discussed. It has been decided to relate each of them to a Science Goal, and to possibly discard those for which this is problematic (which would entail that they might not be so interesting after all).

Concerning the table of facilities and contact persons involved in future MW observations with GLAST, there has been an agreement that adding high-profile observatories (HST, Chandra, XMM...) allocating time on a proposal basis to the list doesn't make much sense. TeV observatories are still missing in the list. The corresponding needs will be derived from the Science Goals as outlined above.

Concerning DC2, dedicated meetings may be done in the future. Progress on preparation for this exercise will be reported in the next meetings.

Concerning the interaction with other Groups, attending their meetings for the “correspondents” is not always simple. May be another way should be sought for, so that we keep informed of progress relevant to our Group.

Three items are present in the “other work in progress” list: the definition of the blazar identification prescription (P. Giommi, R. Romani), an update on the prediction of different blazar population (C. Dermer, R. Romani), a study of the LAT performance regarding blazar science (J. Chiang, B. Lott).

3. Next meeting

Next meeting will be held on November 1 at 9:00 AM PDT.