6-21-2008

LISA Advocacy: Working Group Update and Status Report

Shane L. Larson

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/astro_meettalk

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/astro_meettalk/1
LISA Advocacy Working Group
Update and Status Report

LIST Meeting
21 June 2008
Barcelona, Spain

Shane L. Larson
Utah State University
s.larson@usu.edu

LIST Meeting
21 June 2008
Barcelona, Spain
Working Group

- Active members:
  
  Joan Centrella (GSFC)
  Tuck Stebbins (GSFC)
  Tom Prince (Caltech)
  Bonny Schumaker (JPL)
  Craig Hogan (Fermilab)
  Cole Miller (Maryland)
  Oliver Jennrich (ESA)
  Scott Hughes (MIT)
  Doug Richstone (Michigan)
  Sasha Buchman (Stanford)
  Bernie Schutz (AEI)
  Shane Larson (Utah State)
  Michele Vallisneri (JPL)
  Pete Bender (Colorado)
  Neil Cornish (Montana State)

- Telecons approximately every 2 weeks, wiki exchange and archive
Motivations

- In the post BEPAC era, how do we maximize our standing. In particular, what do we do to build LISA awareness as we run up to the forthcoming Decadal Survey in Astronomy & Astrophysics [Astro2010]

- Reinforcing LISA’s role in the consciousness of astronomers as an astrophysics mission

- When you hear an astronomy talk that lists all the next greatest missions that will tell us everything we want to know about __________, we want LISA to be in that list
  - People know about LISA, but not how to use LISA, or haven’t absorbed the whole message [Parable of the Black Hole Talk]
  - We’ve all encountered skepticism & excitement about LISA -- erase the former, enhance the latter

- LISA Science is one of our strong suits, so let’s play the cards
Focused Efforts

- Encourage colloquia
- Develop and encourage LISA presence at meetings
- Enhance LISA Literature (journals, popular press)
- Develop and/or revise resources & LISA materials

- Rally the community to be pro-active voices for LISA
- Low level political efforts: talking to Congressional staffers; using University lobbyists to promote LISA science [Tom?]
• Encourage everyone to give talks near and AT your own institutions

• We maintain a list of likely speakers -- suggestions for “volunteers”? (Including active postdocs & young researchers)

• We also maintain a list of good targets for colloquia -- particularly active astronomy and astrophysics groups. Be pro-active!

• Getting an invitation is hard!
  
  • Reverse invitation -- bring them to your own institution and chat them up there

• May be a low yield, but every one we give improves LISA visibility
Two efforts for meetings:

- Getting sessions/talks – this is often possible, though past history sometimes hampers efforts (e.g. “poor attendance”)
- Getting people there (a LISA “presence”); Tuck: “I think we need to shake the trees pretty hard to get the monkeys to fill this one.”

- COSPAR; HEAD
- April APS (usually good representation for LISA)
- “Merging Black Holes in Galaxies” (Southern Cross Astrophysics Conference Series, Katoomba, Australia)
- **Texas in Vancouver**: 7-12 December 2008 (Abstracts due 1 Oct)
- **AAS**: 4-8 January 2009 Long Beach, CA (Abstracts due ~mid-October usually; site isn’t up yet)
Dec 2008 Texas Symposium

- Vancouver, British Columbia
- Joan Centrella is on the Scientific Organizing Committee
- No decision yet on plenary speakers, though Joan suggested several from our community

Opportunities for the LISA community to have a presence:
- Parallel session on EM Counterparts
- Poster session on Numerical Relativity

Abstracts due: 1 October 2008
- http://www.texasinvancouver.org/
Special GW session proposed by GWIC -- any word?
- “A Broad Spectrum of Gravitational Waves”
- 3 talks -- LIGO/LISA/Pulsars

Special LISA evening event -- “splinter meeting”
- Evening social event with food & wine. **Shameless self-promotion**, so the invitation is open to everyone — invite everyone you see!
- ~3 short science talks for the uninitiated astronomer
- Modeled after similar events of our radio astronomer colleagues

LISA Booth — some discussion about improving **interactivness**

Poster sessions – the poster culture is a good one at AAS, and a broad showing would be in LISA’s interest
- Common theme branding for LISA?
JOURNALS & PRESS

• Popular Press
  • Nature article by Trudy Bell [some heavy handed editors]
  • Scientific American, Sky & Telescope [GSFC science writer?]
  • Physics Today

• Refereed Literature
  • Encourage results to be published and arxiv’ed
  • Science (~3500 words) [Pete Bender & Tuck Stebbins]
  • Living Reviews article on LISA is being set up; currently gathering authors [B. Schutz]
• **Wikipedia** is the source of all knowledge

• Update the current (very short, outdated) Wikipedia article on LISA. [Bonny Schumaker]
  
  • We can edit it, but we can’t have editorial control, so as a community we should periodically check on it
  
  • We’ll attempt to have it “featured” at Wikipedia

• LISA Related Science articles to linkback [Sam Finn]
Other Efforts

- LISA talking points (what to say to the President in the elevator)
- Updating the LISA Brochure
  - A spectrum of materials for different audiences
  - Different length documents
- Updating LISA graphic archives; collecting graphics
- Collecting LISA related talks, collecting LISA related slides
- LISA documents to arxiv (like Science Case Document)