

Minutes: Telecon 2-13-01

Present:

BU: Tom Bania	SSI: Barb Whitney
Dan Clemens	Mike Wolff
Jim Jackson	
UMn: John Dickey	UMd: Mark Wolfire
UW: Brian Babler	Ed Churchwell
John Mathis	Marilyn Meade
Christer Watson	

Travel Reimbursement:

Ed opened the meeting by noting that in order to get reimbursement for SIRTf related travel expenses, it is necessary to supply your: home address, social security number, and receipts.

Post Doctoral Fellow Status: Ed

Ed reported that we now have two applications for this position. Jennifer Hoffman, a UW student who is expected to receive her degree this coming summer. She has no IR observing experience. Has been the observing coordinator for the Pine Bluff Observatory for the past couple of years. She is working on 3-D Monte Carlo radiative transfer which she is applying to interacting binariers (Beta Lyra). Indicates that this code would be applicable to YSOs. Little or no experience with large data bases and data management skills are limited.

Kee-Tae Kim, PhD in Jan. of this year from Seoul National University. Has mostly been involved with radio observations of molecular and continuum observations of UC HII regions and star formation regions in the Galaxy. Has done some limited NIR observations, but this does not seem to be a large part of his observational experience.

Rhodri Evans, works with Al Harper at Yerkes on the HAWC team. Although interested earlier, he has now decided to return to Europe in the next year or so and therefore has declined to apply for our PDF position. He does plan to come to Madison on 28th of Feb to discuss

our post pipeline system and explore if he might be of help. This is likely to take the form of identifying already existing software that might of use to us.

Gus Muench, a student of Charlie Lada's who expects to defend in May.

Although interested in our PDF, his wife to be (in June) has a position in S. Calif. and he obviously would like to find something in S. Calif. also. I haven't spoken with him in several weeks, but will do so sometime this week to see if he is still interested. I think he was more interested when we were thinking that he might possibly spend substantial amounts of time at SSC. Since we now want this person to be located in Madison, he is likely to be less interested. I will report on this next week.

I have drafted a description of our PDF which I will place on our web page for you to look over. Please let me know of any changes you would like to see by the end of the week. I would like to get this into Physics Today, the AAS Job Register, and possibly Science ASAP.

Overlaps with GTOs: Ed

We have 11 overlaps with GTOs and 3 overlaps with other Leg. Sci Teams. It is understood by SSC that those with the other LegSci Teams will be done by us so there is no conflict with them. All the GTOs are proposing much longer exposure times than we will use. I spoke to Bob Gehrz yesterday and he says that he has no problem with us observing the same fields for 4 secs. Jim Houck said that he would check with the member of his team with whom we have two overlaps. I expect that there will not be any objection there, but we will wait and see. Haven't spoken to Giovanni Fazio yet, but again I would be surprised if there is a problem from this group. We will have to discuss this with SSC as well and I will do this after I speak with Fazio.

Observing Strategy Status: Christer Watson

We have decided to alter the tiling scheme. Instead of using tiles of 7 rows by 6 columns, we will use strips of 1 or 2 exposures by 20

to 25 exposures. The length of these strips will be flexible. This flexibility will allow us to cover the galactic plane simply and with very little overlap between exposures.

--We are assuming we will be given ~2 days of essentially uninterrupted observing time which will allow us to observe twice a 2 degree by 10 degree segment of the galactic plane. We will argue to SSC that assuring us this observing time is relatively uninterrupted will allow us to more efficiently tile a segment. In 2 days the CCD will rotate ~ 2 degrees on the sky. Significant overlap between exposures is only necessary when they are rotated relative to each other.

--We have begun coding and have finished the following programs
--calculating the roll angle (CCD angle with the galactic plane) on an arbitrary day and galactic latitude
--calculating the visible range of galactic latitude on an arbitrary day
--AOR writer

--We are currently waiting for Chip to visit the SSC. The AOR writer provided by the SSC (SPOT) is not adequate for our purposes because the interface is entirely graphical. Thus, we cannot produce ~1000 AORs in an automatic manner. Chip needs to verify our method of producing AORs, i.e. make sure we fully understand all the AOR fields. We plan on writing AORs with tools written by us instead of relying on changes to SPOT. Once he returns (in late February), we will finish writing the program which, given dates of observation time, will plan the observing and write appropriate AORs for the entire survey. We plan to have AORs ready to deliver to the SSC on April 6.

--The issues we have not yet determined (but have some ideas on) are how:

- to handle the areas between 2 degree x 10 degree segments
- we will visualize the area tiled

Progress on Validation and Post Pipeline Issues: Barb Whitney

The data reduction group wrote a data flow document based on the agreed upon processing steps from the team meeting. We studied data processing descriptions from the MSX, 2MASS, and ISO surveys.

Meade and Babler began collecting documents and looking at useful IRAF tasks.

Wolfire began researching mosaic issues, tracked down a useful Zodi code, and provided input to the team on useful documents to read.

Wolff outlined data processes for the database group. Wolff and Whitney will schedule a telecon with database group next week.

Ed suggests we assign critical tasks.

Computer Purchases: Barb Whitney

The following were ordered:

Sun dual processor (Ultra-80, 450MHz, 1 GB RAM, 36 GB disk),
cost \$12,057.

Dell dual processor (933 MHz, 1 GB RAM, 76 GB disk?),
cost \$5700.

External hard drive 76 GB, cost \$1089.

4-bay box (for 3 more hard drives in the future), \$369.

Total cost, about \$19,000. equipment budget for first year is \$22,000.

We may require more RAM for the Sun in the future at \$3,000.

April Video Conference

We decided to go ahead with this even though it is clear that we will not have enough personnel on payroll to get all or even most of the Stage 1

work done by this time. We should still be in position to evaluate how much more effort and time will be required. The day and time will have to be worked out based on availability of facilities at the various institutions. We will revisit this next week, hopefully with a little more knowledge.