GLAST
The Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope
The next great step in space-based gamma-ray astrophysics

8 May 2007

S. Ritz
GSFC and University of MD
see http://glast.gsfc.nasa.gov/ and links therein
Why study cosmic $\gamma$’s?

- $\gamma$ rays offer a direct view into Nature’s largest accelerators.
- the Universe is mainly transparent to $\gamma$ rays: can probe cosmological volumes. Any opacity is energy-dependent.
- conversely, $\gamma$ rays readily interact in detectors, with a clear signature.
- $\gamma$ rays are neutral: no complications due to magnetic fields. Point directly back to sources, etc.
Features of the gamma-ray sky

EGRET all-sky survey (galactic coordinates) E>100 MeV

- diffuse extra-galactic background (flux ~ 1.5x10^{-5} cm^{-2}s^{-1}sr^{-1})
- galactic diffuse (flux ~O(100) times larger)
- high latitude (extra-galactic) point sources (typical flux from EGRET sources O(10^{-7} - 10^{-6}) cm^{-2}s^{-1})
- galactic sources (pulsars, un-ID’d)

An essential characteristic: **VARIABILITY** in time!

Field of view important for study of transients.

In sky survey mode, GLAST will cover the entire sky every 3 hours, with each region viewed for ~30 minutes.
EGRET All Sky Map (>100 MeV)

- Cygnus Region
- 3C279
- Vela
- Geminga
- Vela
- LMC
- PSR B1706-44
- PKS 0208-512
- PKS 0528+134
- Crab
- Cosmic Ray Interactions With ISM
Note the energy scale!

- Typical gamma-ray energies $>> m_e c^2$
GLAST Key Features

- **Huge field of view**
  - LAT: 20% of the sky at any instant; in sky survey mode, expose all parts of sky for ~30 minutes every 3 hours. GBM: whole un occulted sky at any time.

- **Huge energy range, including largely unexplored band 10 GeV - 100 GeV**

- **Will transform the HE gamma-ray catalog:**
  - by > order of magnitude in # point sources
  - spatially extended sources
  - sub-arcmmin localizations (source-dependent)

**Two GLAST instruments:**

- LAT: 20 MeV – >300 GeV
- GBM: 10 keV – 25 MeV

Launch: Fall 2007. 565 km, circular orbit

5-year mission (10-year goal)
Latest Picture of GLAST Observatory

http://glast.gsfc.nasa.gov/public/resources/images/
Electromagnetic shower cascades in matter: pair-brem-pair-brem.... shower grows until electron energies degraded to point when bremsstrahlung is not the dominant process. # particles in shower $\propto$ kinetic energy of initial particle!
Atmosphere:

Photon interaction mechanisms:

To detect these gamma rays, must have an instrument above the atmosphere.

[Note, for extremely high-energy gamma rays, information from showers penetrates to the ground.]
HE Gamma-ray Experiment Techniques

- **Space-based:**
  - use pair-conversion technique

- **Ground-Based:**
  - **Airshower Cerenkov Telescopes (ACTs)**
    - Image the Cerenkov light from showers induced in the atmosphere. Examples: Whipple, CANGAROO, HEGRA, STACEE, VERITAS, MAGIC, HESS
  - **Extensive Air Shower Arrays (EAS)**
    - Directly detect particles from the showers induced in the atmosphere. Example: Milagro
High-energy Gamma-ray Observatories

Complementary capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ground-based</th>
<th>space-based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAS</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pair</td>
<td></td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angular resolution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duty cycle</td>
<td></td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>area</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field of view</td>
<td>large</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>energy resolution</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+can reorient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good, w/ smaller</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>systematic uncertainties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next-generation ground-based and space-based experiments are well matched.
HE Gamma-ray Observatories

“sensitivity”
EGRET

The high energy gamma ray detector on the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (20 MeV - ~20 GeV), 1991-2000
EGRET on GRO firmly established the field of high-energy gamma-ray astrophysics and demonstrated the importance and potential of this energy band.

GLAST is the next great step beyond EGRET, providing a huge leap in capabilities:

• Very large FOV (~20% of sky), factor 4 greater than EGRET
• Broadband (4 decades in energy, including unexplored region $E > 10$ GeV)
• Unprecedented PSF for gamma rays (factor > 3 better than EGRET for $E>1$ GeV)
• Large effective area (factor > 5 better than EGRET)
• Results in factor > 30 improvement in sensitivity
• Much smaller deadtime per event (27 microsec, factor 4,000 better than EGRET)
• No expendables ➔ long mission without degradation
GLAST One-year Service Challenge
Simulation

red: 0.1-0.4 GeV
green: 0.4-1.6 GeV
blue: >1.6 GeV
An Important Energy Band

Photons with $E>10$ GeV are attenuated by the diffuse field of UV-Optical-IR extragalactic background light (EBL)

only $e^{-\tau}$ of the original source flux reaches us

EBL over cosmological distances is probed by gammas in the 10-100 GeV range. Important science for GLAST!

In contrast, the TeV-IR attenuation results in a flux that may be limited to more local (or much brighter) sources.

A dominant factor in EBL models is the star formation rate -- attenuation measurements can help distinguish models.
GLAST Science

GLAST will have a very broad menu that includes:

• Systems with supermassive black holes (Active Galactic Nuclei)
• Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs)
• Pulsars
• XRBs, microquasars
• Solar physics
• SNRs, Origin of Cosmic Rays
• Probing the era of galaxy formation, optical-UV background light
• Solving the mystery of the high-energy unidentified sources
• Discovery! New source classes. Particle Dark Matter? Other relics from the Big Bang? Testing Lorentz invariance.

Huge increment in capabilities.

GLAST draws the interest of both the High Energy Particle Physics and High Energy Astrophysics communities.
Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)

Active galaxies produce vast amounts of energy from a very compact central volume.

Prevailing idea: powered by accretion onto super-massive black holes (\(10^6 - 10^{10}\) solar masses). Different phenomenology primarily due to the orientation with respect to us.

HST Image of M87 (1994)

Models include energetic (multi-TeV), highly-collimated, relativistic particle jets. High energy \(\gamma\)-rays emitted within a few degrees of jet axis. Mechanisms are speculative; \(\gamma\)-rays offer a direct probe.
The M87 Jet
Power output of AGN is remarkable. Multi-GeV component can be dominant.

Estimated luminosity of 3C 279:
~ $10^{45}$ erg/s corresponds to $10^{11}$ times total solar luminosity just in $\gamma$-rays. Large variability within days.

Sum all the power over the whole electromagnetic spectrum from all the stars of a typical galaxy: an AGN emits this amount of power in JUST $\gamma$ rays from a very small volume!
Models of AGN Gamma-ray Production

(from Sikora, Begelman, and Rees (1994))

(credit: J. Buckley)
AGN: Future Prospects

- Multiwavelength studies will continue to be the key to understanding how the engines work

- Models: same population of HE electrons produces both components
Flares and variability

Large effective area key for studying variability (geometry, dynamics)

EGRET observations (red points) of a flare from PKS 1622-297 in 1995 (Mattox et al), the black line is a lightcurve consistent with the EGRET observations and the blue points are simulated LAT observations.

ACTs will measure short-term variability with dramatically better precision. GLAST will help guide them where to look.
A surprise from EGRET:
detection of dozens of AGN
shining brightly in
$\gamma$-rays -- Blazars

- a key to solving the longstanding puzzle of the extragalactic diffuse
  gamma flux -- is this integrated emission from a large number of
  unresolved sources?

- blazars provide a source of high energy $\gamma$-rays at cosmological
distances. The Universe is largely transparent to $\gamma$-rays (any opacity is
  energy-dependent), so they probe cosmological volumes.
AGN and the Extragalactic Background Light (EBL)

Look for roll-offs in blazar spectra due to attenuation:
(Stecker, De Jager & Salamon; Madau & Phinney; Macinn & Primack)


If $\gamma\gamma$ c.m. energy $> 2m_e$, pair creation will attenuate flux. For a flux of $\gamma$-rays with energy, $E$, this cross-section is maximized when the partner, $\epsilon$, is

$$\epsilon \sim \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1 TeV}{E} \right) eV$$

For 10 GeV- 100 GeV $\gamma$-rays, this corresponds to a partner photon energy in the optical - UV range. Density is sensitive to time of galaxy formation.
• Important advances offered by GLAST:

(1) thousands of blazars - instead of peculiarities of individual sources, look for systematic effects vs redshift.

(2) key energy range for cosmological distances (TeV-IR attenuation more local due to opacity).

• Effect is model-dependent (this is good):

Caveats

• How many blazars have intrinsic roll-offs in this energy range (10-100 GeV)? (An important question by itself for GLAST!)

• What if there is conspiratorial evolution in the intrinsic roll-off vs redshift? More difficult, however there may also be independent constraints (e.g., direct observation of integrated EBL).

• Must measure the redshifts for a large sample of these blazars!
Highest-energy emission from bursts is intriguing:

EGRET detected a ~20 GeV photon ~75 minutes after the start of a burst:

Future Prospects: GLAST will provide definitive information about the high energy behavior of bursts: LAT and GBM together will measure emission over >7 decades of energy. Place your bets on additional TeV burst detections!
Compare data from EGRET and BATSE: Distinct high-energy component has different time behavior. What is the high-energy break and total luminosity? Need GLAST data!

Learn important lessons from the past.
The Dark Matter Problem

Observe rotation curves for galaxies:

For large r, expect:

\[ G \frac{M}{r^2} = \frac{v^2(r)}{r} \]

\[ v(r) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \]

see: flat or rising rotation curves

Hypothesized Solution: the visible galaxy is embedded in a much larger halo of dark matter.
Particle Dark Matter

Some important models in particle physics could also solve the dark matter problem in astrophysics. If correct, these new particle interactions could produce an anomalous flux of gamma rays (“indirect detection”).

\[
\begin{align*}
X & \rightarrow f \\
X & \rightarrow f
\end{align*}
\]

anomalous continuum or $\gamma\gamma$ or $Z\gamma$ “lines”?

- Key interplay of techniques (see Baltz et al., astro/ph-0602187):
  - colliders (TeVatron, LHC, ILC)
  - direct detection experiments
  - indirect detection (best shot: gamma rays)
    - GLAST full sky coverage look for clumping throughout galactic halo, including off the galactic plane (if found, point the way for ground-based facilities)
    - Intensity highly model-dependent
    - Challenge is to separate signals from astrophysical backgrounds

Just an example of what might be waiting for us to find!
Lorentz Invariance breaking models can lead to different maximum velocities by particle type (Stecker&Glashow, Coleman&Glashow, Jacobson et al):

\[ c_e \equiv c_\gamma (1 + \delta) , \quad 0 < |\delta| << 1 \]

- For \( \delta<0 \), photons can decay to e+e- pairs if \( E_\gamma > m_e \sqrt{2 / |\delta|} \)
- Observations of the Crab (\( E>50 \) TeV) implies \(-\delta<2\times10^{-16}\)
- For \( \delta>0 \), superluminal electrons will emit vacuum Cerenkov radiation and the threshold for pair creation will be altered. Cosmic ray data and inferred information from Mrk501 blazar observations => \( \delta<3\times10^{-14} – 1.3\times10^{-15} \).

Some classes of QG models imply a linear photon velocity dispersion (Amelino-Camelia et al., Ellis, Mavromatos, Nanopoulos):

\[ V = c (1 - \xi \cdot \frac{E}{E_{QG}} + ...) \]

Use GRBs! Effects could be O(100) ms or larger, using GLAST data alone. But ??
effects intrinsic to bursts?? Look for systematic change with distance.

Representative of window opened by measurements at such large distance and energy scales.
GLAST MISSION ELEMENTS

Mission Operations Center (MOC)

LAT Instrument Science Operations Center

GBM Instrument Operations Center

GLAST Science Support Center

HEASARC GSFC

GPS

DELTA 7920H

GLAST Spacecraft

TDRSS SN S & Ku

Large Area Telescope & GBM

White Sands

GRB Coordinates Network

µsec

Telemetry 1 kbps

•

GLAST MISSION ELEMENTS
The Accelerator

*Mars Exploration Rover (MER) B*

*Delta II Heavy*
GLAST LAT Collaboration

United States
- University of California at Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz Institute of Particle Physics
- Goddard Space Flight Center – Laboratory for High Energy Astrophysics
- Naval Research Laboratory
- Ohio State University
- Sonoma State University
- Stanford University (SLAC and HEPL/Physics)
- University of Washington
- Washington University, St. Louis

France
- IN2P3, CEA/Saclay

Italy
- INFN, ASI, INAF

Japanese GLAST Collaboration
- Hiroshima University
- ISAS, RIKEN

Swedish GLAST Collaboration
- Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
- Stockholm University

PI: Peter Michelson (Stanford & SLAC)
~230 Members (including ~84 Affiliated Scientists, plus 24 Postdocs, and 36 Graduate Students)

Cooperation between NASA and DOE, with key international contributions from France, Italy, Japan and Sweden.
Managed at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC).
Pair Conversion Telescope

Electronics
Overview of LAT

- **Precision Si-strip Tracker (TKR)**
  18 XY tracking planes. Single-sided silicon strip detectors (228 μm pitch)
  Measure the photon direction; gamma ID.

- **Hodoscopic CsI Calorimeter (CAL)**
  Array of 1536 CsI(Tl) crystals in 8 layers.
  Measure the photon energy; image the shower.

- **Segmented Anticoincidence Detector (ACD)**
  89 plastic scintillator tiles.
  Reject background of charged cosmic rays; segmentation removes self-veto effects at high energy.

- **Electronics System**
  Includes flexible, robust hardware trigger and software filters.

---

**Systems work together to identify and measure the flux of cosmic gamma rays with energy 20 MeV - >300 GeV.**
Team effort involving physicists and engineers from Italy (INFN & ASI), the United States, and Japan

11,500 sensors
350 trays
18 towers (2 spare)
~$10^6$ channels
83 m² Si surface

LAT Silicon Tracker

INFIN, Pisa

LAT TKR performance

Efficiency (%)  Bad chans fraction (%)
Team effort involving physicists and engineers from the United States, France (IN2P3 & CEA), and Sweden

LAT Calorimeter

1,728 CsI crystal detector elements
18 modules
LAT Anti-Coincidence Detector

Team effort involving physicists and engineers from Goddard Space Flight Center, SLAC, and Fermi Lab

ACD before installation of Micrometeoroid Shield

ACD with Micrometeoroid Shield and Multi-Layer Insulation (but without Germanium Kapton outer layer)
Gamma Candidate in First Integrated Tower!
16 Towers with ACD
Components of Simulation & Analysis

Simulation

- gamma-ray sky model
- background fluxes

Instrument Response (Digitization), Formatting

Trigger and Onboard Filter (wrapped FSW)

Event Reconstruction

- Event Classification
- Performance

High-level Science Analysis

Real LAT Data

Detector Calibration
GLAST LAT Simulation

Geometry Detail
> 500k Volumes
Includes Tracker Electronics Boards

  Spacecraft details
  and much, much more

Geant 4 Interaction Physics
QED: based on original EGS code
Hadronic: based Geisha (can use FLUKA as well as others)

Propagation
  Full treatment of multiple scattering
  Surface-to-surface ray tracing.

Connection to detector Response
Energy deposits in Active Volumes
Parametric Detector response based on energy and location

High energy $\gamma$ interacts in LAT

Blue: Recon Tracks
Black: Charged Particles
White: Photons
**Hardware Trigger**

Hardware trigger based on special signals from each tower; initiates readout

- **Function**: • “did anything happen?”
  - keep as simple as possible

- **TKR 3 \(x\cdot y\) pair planes in a row
  workhorse \(y\) trigger

- **OR**

- **CAL**:
  - LO – independent check on TKR trigger.
  - HI – indicates high energy event → disengage use of ACD.

Upon a L1T, all towers are read out in \(\sim 27\mu s\)

**Instrument Total Rate: <3 kHz>**

**using ACD veto in hardware trigger**

---

**On-board Processing**

- full instrument information available to processors.
  - Function: reduce data to fit within downlink
  - Hierarchical filter process: first make the simple selections that require little CPU and data unpacking.

- based on subset of full background rejection analysis, with loose cuts

- leak a fraction of otherwise-rejected events to the ground for diagnostics, along with events ID for calibration

- complete event information

- signal/bkgd tunable, depending on analysis cuts:

  \[\gamma \text{ rate: few Hz}\]

**Total Rate: <~400** Hz>

**On-board science analysis:**

- transient detection (bursts)

**Spacecraft**

**CBE, assumes compression, 1.2 Mbps allocation.**
Trigger Rates Summary

- v9r6
  - `[TKR&&(Noveto||CAL-LO)]
    ||CAL-HI||(CAL-LO^x)` setting
  - $x=0$ (no CAL-LO only triggers)
- Operating daily-average rate is 2.9 kHz
- Peak rate is 6 kHz
- For this simulated day, 201 minutes spent in SAA (14%).
Onboard Filter Results Summary

- v9r6
- daily-average event rate passing filter in this configuration (existing FSW) is 360 Hz.
- adding the pass of any event with $E>20$ GeV raw raises the mean rate to 400 Hz.
- There are handles to reduce this rate significantly if needed.
  - what matters here is not the rate but the data volume.
The CERN Beam Test Campaign

- 4 weeks at PS/T9 area (26/7-23/8)
  - Gammas @ 0-2.5 GeV
  - Electrons @ 1,5 GeV
  - Positrons @ 1 GeV (through MMS)
  - Protons @ 6,10 GeV (w/ & w/o MMS)
- 11 days at SPS/H4 area (4/9-15/9)
  - Electrons @ 10,20,50,100,200,280 GeV
  - Protons @ 20,100 GeV
  - Pions @ 20 GeV
- Data, data, data...
  - 1700 runs, 94M processed events
  - 330 configurations (particle, energy, angle, impact position)
  - Mass simulation
- A very dedicated team
  - 60 people worked at CERN
  - Whole collaboration represented
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GBM Collaboration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Space Science &amp; Technology Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alabama in Huntsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA Marshall Space Flight Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GBM Collaboration Members**

- Michael Briggs
- William Paciesas
- Robert Preece
- Narayana Bhat
- Marc Kippen (LANL)

**GBM Collaboration Roles**

- On-board processing, flight software, systems engineering, analysis software, and management

- Detectors, power supplies, calibration, and analysis software

**GBM Collaboration Leaders**

- Charles Meegan (PI)
- Gerald Fishman
- Chryssa Kouveliotou
- Robert Wilson

- Giselher Lichti (Co-PI)
- Andreas von Keinlin
- Volker Schönfelder
- Roland Diehl
- Jochen Greiner
- Helmut Steinle
GBM

- provides spectra for bursts from 10 keV to 30 MeV, connecting frontier LAT high-energy measurements with more familiar energy domain;

Simulated GBM and LAT response to time-integrated flux from bright GRB 940217
Spectral model parameters from CGRO wide-band fit
1 NaI (14 °) and 1 BGO (30 °)

- provides wide sky coverage (>8 sr) -- enables autonomous repoint requests for exceptionally bright bursts that occur outside LAT FOV for high-energy afterglow studies (an important question from EGRET);
- provides burst alerts to the ground.
## GBM Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Level 1 Requirements</th>
<th>Intra-Project Goals</th>
<th>Expected Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy resolution</td>
<td>10% (1σ; 0.1 – 1.0 MeV)</td>
<td>7% (1σ; 0.1 – 1.0 MeV)</td>
<td>&lt;8% at 0.1 MeV (2) &lt;4.5% at 1.0 MeV (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective area</td>
<td>Nal: &gt;100 cm² at 14 keV BGO: &gt;80 cm² at 1.8 MeV</td>
<td>Nal: &gt;50 cm² at 6 keV BGO: none</td>
<td>Nal: 47.5 – 78 cm² at 14 keV BGO: &gt;95 cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-board GRB locations</td>
<td>(none)</td>
<td>15º accuracy (1σ radius) within 2 seconds</td>
<td>&lt;15º; 1.8 seconds (&lt;8º for S/C &lt;60º zenith )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRB sensitivity (on ground)</td>
<td>0.5 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
<td>0.3 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
<td>0.47 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRB on-board trigger sensitivity</td>
<td>1.0 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
<td>0.75 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
<td>0.71 photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ (peak flux, 50–300 keV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field of view</td>
<td>&gt;8 steradians</td>
<td>10 steradians</td>
<td>9 steradians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Supported by measurements of window absorption
2. Measured Nal-system resolution
3. Measured BGO-system resolution

- **on-ground location accuracy: < ~few degrees**
- **expected burst-detection rate of the GBM:**
  - ~60 bursts/year in 55° FoV of LAT
  - ~200 bursts/year will be detected in total
Data Challenges

Data challenges provide excellent testbeds for science analysis software.

Full observation, instrument, and data processing simulation. Team uses data and tools to find the science. “Truth” revealed at the end.

- A progression of data challenges.
  - DC1 in 2004. 1 simulated week all-sky survey simulation.
    - find the sources, including GRBs
    - a few physics surprises
  - DC2 in 2006, completed in June. 55 simulated days all-sky survey.
    - first catalog
    - add source variability (AGN flares, pulsars). lightcurves and spectral studies. correlations with other wavelengths. add GBM. study detection algorithms. benchmark data processing/volumes.

+ Users Committee beta test of the tools in November
[SC movie]
Service Challenge

1 year sky simulation

- the movie

GLAST-S.Ritz
Leap in Capabilities: Implications

• **Dynamic Range Frontier; Variability Frontier**  Whole-sky aperture for transients and variable sources: longterm, evenly sampled lightcurves; dynamic range of emission.

• **Depth Frontier**  Deepening exposure over whole mission lifetime.

• **Energy Frontier**  Discovering energy budgets and characteristics of wide variety of cosmic accelerator systems on different scales.
  – Getting to know 10 - 100 GeV sky
  – Connecting with TeV facilities: variability, spectral coverage
  – 7 decades of GLAST GRB energy coverage

• **Spatial Frontier**  Breaking through to sub-arcmin point-source localizations (source dependent) -- ID the sources; PLUS starting to move beyond point sources: capabilities to resolve spatially, spectrally, and temporally.

• **Timing Frontier**  Transient and periodic pulse profiles, searches.

• **Measurement Frontier**  A rich data set to mine, touching many areas of science. Sources we know (AGN, SNR, XRBs, pulsars, PWN, galaxy clusters, solar flares, moon,...) and those awaiting discovery.
  Even greater multiwavelength/multimessenger needs and opportunities
Summary

• GLAST will address many important questions:
  – How do Nature’s most powerful accelerators work?
  – What are the unidentified sources found by EGRET?
  – What is the origin of the diffuse background?
  – What is the origin of cosmic rays?
  – What is the high energy behavior of gamma ray bursts?
  – What is the history of the optical-UV EBL?
  – What else out there is shining gamma rays? New sources? Are there high-energy relics from the Big Bang? Are there further surprises in the 10-100 GeV energy region?

• Huge leap in key capabilities enables large menu of known exciting science and large discovery potential.

• Part of the bigger picture of experiments at the interface between particle physics and astrophysics.
Summary

- All the parts of GLAST are coming together:
  - the instruments are beautiful!
  - observatory integration is nearing completion
- Preparation for science and operations in full swing
  - good connections among all the elements
  - MW observations are key to many science topics for GLAST. See
    http://glast.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/multi/
- Looking forward to launch in late 2007.
- Guest Investigator Program starts this year, with many opportunities for GIs. Join the fun!

Started monthly GLAST news email. Sign up by sending email to
majordomo@athena.gsfc.nasa.gov
(you can leave the subject line blank)

In the body of the message, please write the following:

subscribe glastnews your-email-address