

LIGO-M020417-00-M

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Subject: Fwd: S1 data policy

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 2002 10:34:45 -0500 (EST)
From: Rainer Weiss <weiss@ligo.mit.edu>
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Subject: **S1 Data Policy**

TO: LIGO Scientific Collaboration
FROM: R. Weiss November 12, 2002
CONCERNING: **Release of Scientific Data from Collaboration Runs**

We have entered the epoch when data from the interferometers is more than for detector characterization. Currently and with increasing significance as the detectors evolve, the data is the highest sensitivity and largest bandwidth that has ever been taken by terrestrial gravitational wave detectors. No one has ever searched in the frequency band and at the range we now have. The analysed data is setting unprecedented values for astrophysical fluxes, irrespective of whether we are giving upper limits or making detections.

The Collaboration, as a whole, needs to agree on the scientific results. It is our responsibility to validate the results and we need to provide enough time to carry this out before there is any release of scientific data to the community. The steps we are taking with the S1 data (as discussed in the LSC Executive Committee, the LSC Upper Limit Group Chairs meeting and the most recent Laboratory Control meeting) are:

- 1) Written reports by the "upper limit" groups to the collaboration describing methods, preliminary results and an outline of the preprints ultimately to be submitted as papers (11/20)
- 2) Appointment of review committees from the LSC consisting of three people for each report (11/20)
- 3) LSC wide teleconference describing the reports and prospective papers (12/3, 4, 10, 11). The expectation is that Collaboration members after reading the reports will have comments and questions by the time of the telephone

conference. The calls will be dedicated to a presentation by the authors followed by a prearranged agenda of questions and comments from LSC members.

- 4) Draft preprints sent to the Collaboration (1/2)
- 5) Iteration of the preprints by the review committees and the authors (1/2-21)
- 6) Revised version of the preprints sent to the Collaboration (1/21)
- 7) Release of the preprints for more general comment in the community and for use in selected presentations (2/3)
- 8) Discussion of the papers at the March LSC meeting (3/17)
- 9) Submission of the papers for publication (3/21)

I have been asked by several LSC members about the presentations at the GWDAW meeting in December and about the release of preliminary data in various talks and colloquia. In keeping with our responsibility, there should be no release of scientific data and astrophysical results until the Collaboration has agreed on the validity of the methods and the results. Clearly, there is no prohibition in talking about methods, prospects and sensitivity curves agreed to by the Laboratory.

RW