AGN Spectral Energy Distribution
of GLAST telescope network program objects

May 2005 Update

First observation completed

During May the first of two scheduled observations of our target was completed by the Spitzer Science Center. Our target was imaged by the MIPS instrument on May 14. The data is still in the pipeline according to a status check on Leopard.

Ground Based observations

Several observers participated in our widely disseminated call for observations. Images have been received from John Sanford, Mike Harms and Vivian Hoette. Additional images were taken in a variety of filters by Jeff's students Brielle Hinckley and Crystal Ewen through the New Mexico Skies system sponsored by TLRBSE. Lynn Rice at New Mexico Skies graciously and generously arranged for VRI filters to be available without the usual charge for exchanging filter sets by providing access to a second telescope instead of changing filter sets on the usual remote control telescope. Many other participating observers were clouded out in the days before and after the Spitzer observation. Gordon Spear reports that several observations were made by observers contributing to the AAVSO, and more are planned for the second observation.

Student workers have already begun reducing data for end of the school year projects. Student Darren Tyler is analyzing Mike Harms' images; Crystal Ewen and Jennifer Shankey have begun reducing data from the HOU archive provided by Vivian Hoette; and Brielle Hinckley is reducing data from her own images. Some of the NM Skies data, the AAVSO data, and the data from John Sanford may not get analyzed until Fall when new astronomy and research students are assigned the task. As of this writing there is less than 5 days of instruction left, so only projects already in progress will be completed for the school year. Some students are planning to work on data reduction through the summer. As of this writing it is too early to report a light curve or a partial SED for the target based on student reduction of contributed data. We may have something preliminary to show by next month's report.

When the Spitzer images are available, perhaps as soon as next month, I will begin corresponding with Mark Lacy on how to extract data from them.

Next observation scheduled

The next Spitzer observation is scheduled for next week on June 9.
The observation is June 09 2005 at 18:32:49.000 UT 11:32 AM Pacific Daylight Time.

In a mailing to recruit observers, Jeff mistakenly identified this as PM. All participating observers have been informed of the error and to bracket the observation the night before and after.

Reminder notices have been sent to all participating observers and we expect to get even more data to work with. This fall there will be a larger group of students working on data reduction. I looked through the reports on the Spitzer site, and if I am reading it correctly, this may be that this is the last observation of the entire Teacher Observing Program.

Our visit to learn about data reduction and to construct our papers has been scheduled for the first few days of October, which is the first time everyone is available at the same time.

Workshops

On May 11 Jeff did a workshop on "Space Probes in the Classroom" at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair which included a description of the Spitzer project and its progress. Over 40 people attended the workshop and it was well received.

Display at DVHS Planetarium

A semi-permanent exhibit showing how infrared radiation from a remote control can be detected on a webcam but not by the human eye has been completed as a student project. This was one of our original objectives in the project proposal.