

Gamma-ray transients with Fermi

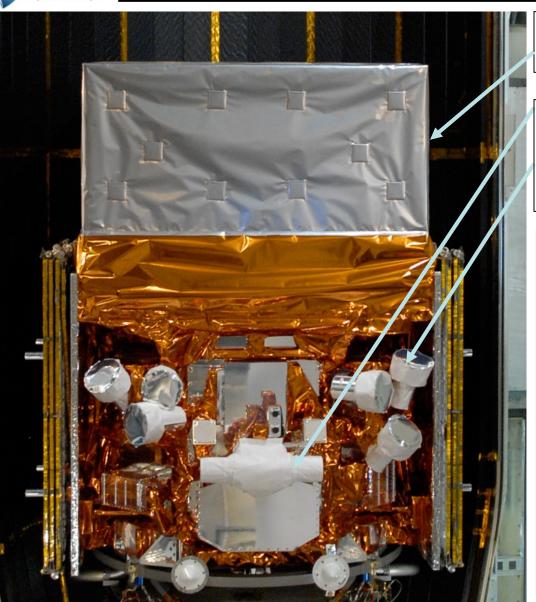
Rolf Bühler for the LAT collaboration

AMON workshop 11th December 2014 at DESY Zeuthen



The Fermi Satellite





Large Area Telescope (LAT) 20 MeV - >300 GeV

Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (GBM) Nal and BGO Detectors 8 keV - 40 MeV

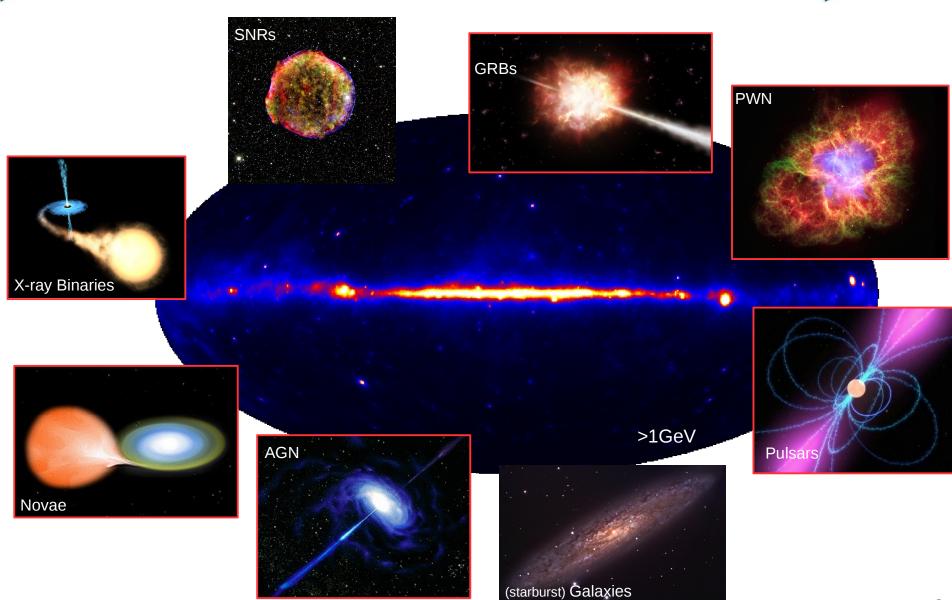
KEY FEATURES

- Huge field of view
 - LAT: 2.4 sr; 20% of the sky at any instant;
 - GBM: whole unocculted sky at any time (~8 sr).
- Broad energy range.
 - Total of >7 energy decades!
- Every photon can be timetagged.
- 1 microsecond accuracy
 Launched June 11, 2008



The gamma-ray sky

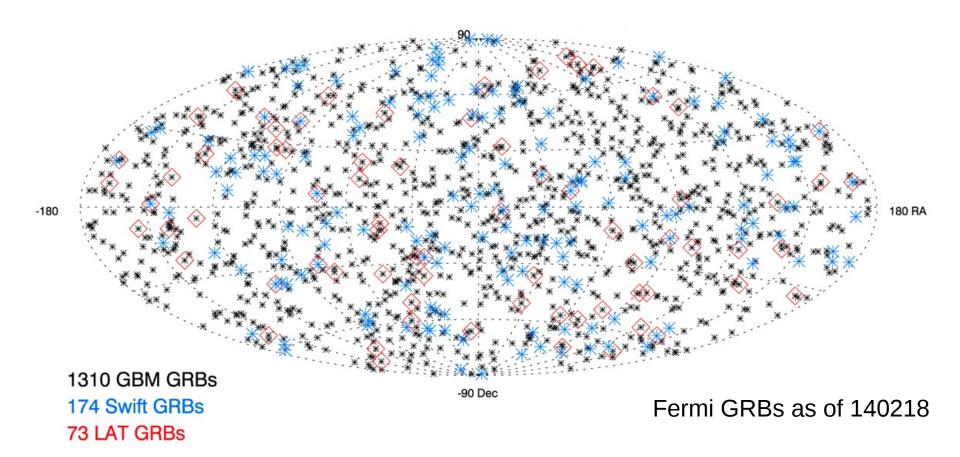






The Gamma-ray Burst Monitor





GBM detects ~240 GRBs per year (~10% LAT detected). On-board trigger starts autonomous re-point recommendation (ARR). Time for trigger to reach ground ~5s, GCN notice send out. Position uncertainty 5-15°



The Large Area Telescope

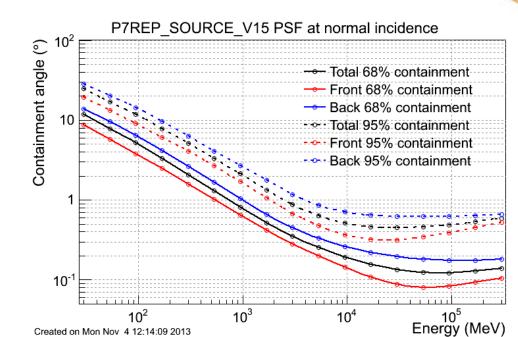


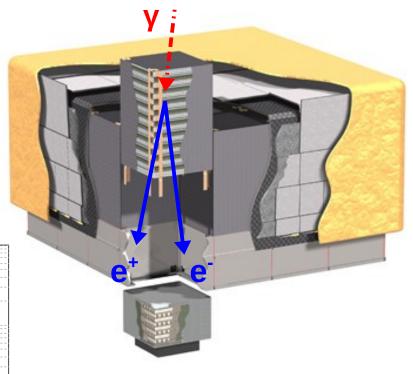
Automated Science Processing constantly checks for flares

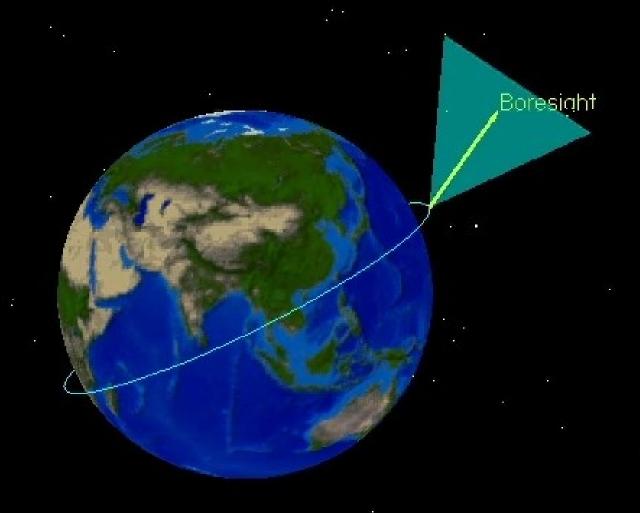
Down link, event reconstruction and analysis takes ~12 h

Time sees one point 15-40 mins

Scans the sky every ~3 hours



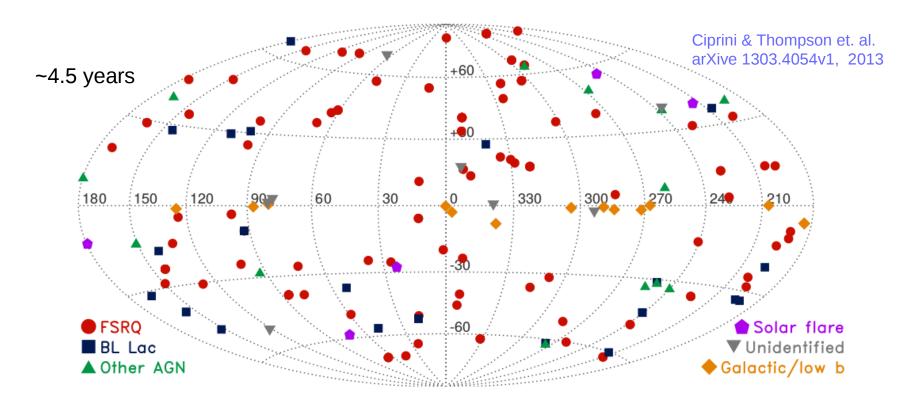






Flare Advocates



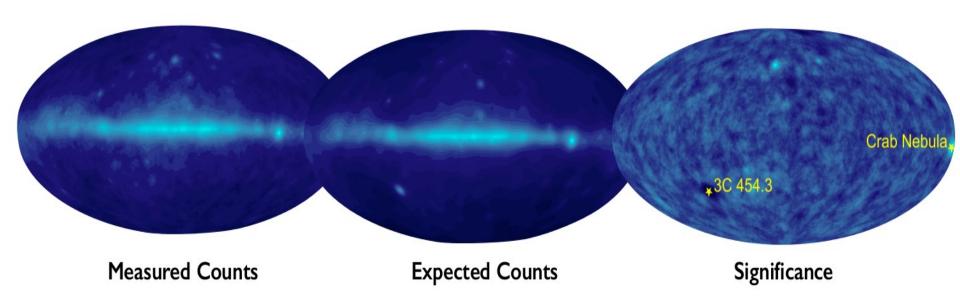


Shifters scan the sky for flares in 6h, 24h and weekly time bins. If source flux above 100 MeV greater 10-6 ph cm-2 s-1 send out ATel within ~day



Fermi All-sky Variability Analysis

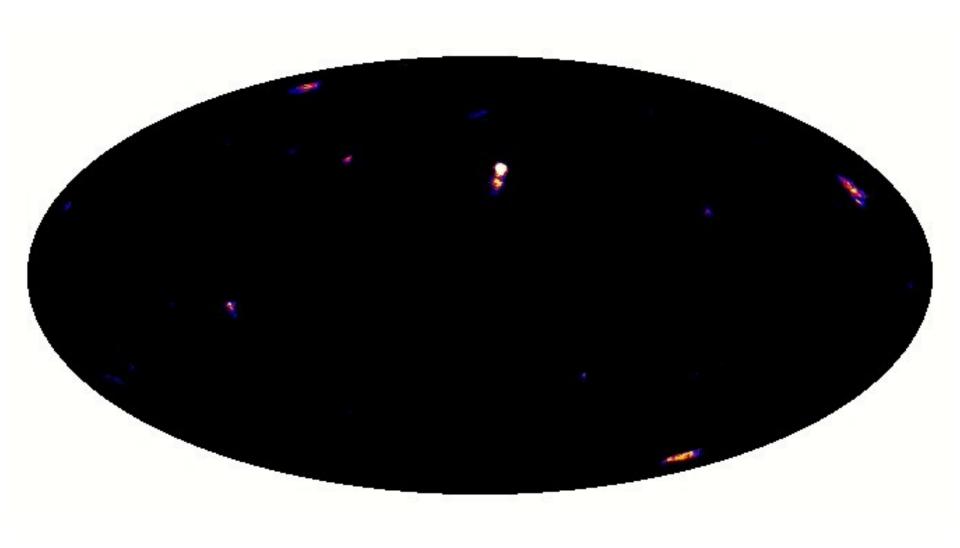




Flare search in real time in weekly bins >100 MeV and >800 MeV Catalog of flaring sources in first 40 months published

Ackermann et al., ApJ 771 1, 2013

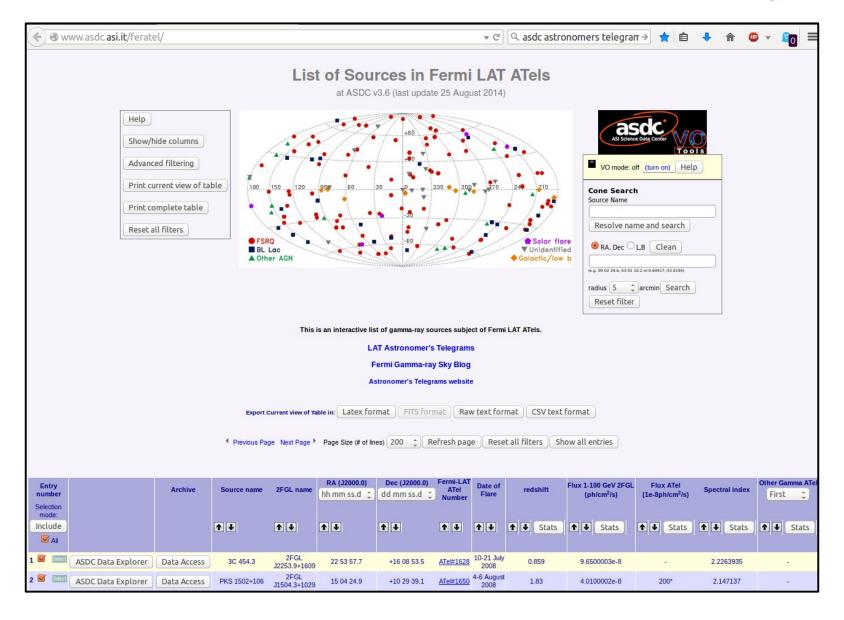
http://www.asdc.asi.it/fava/





Astronomer's Telegrams

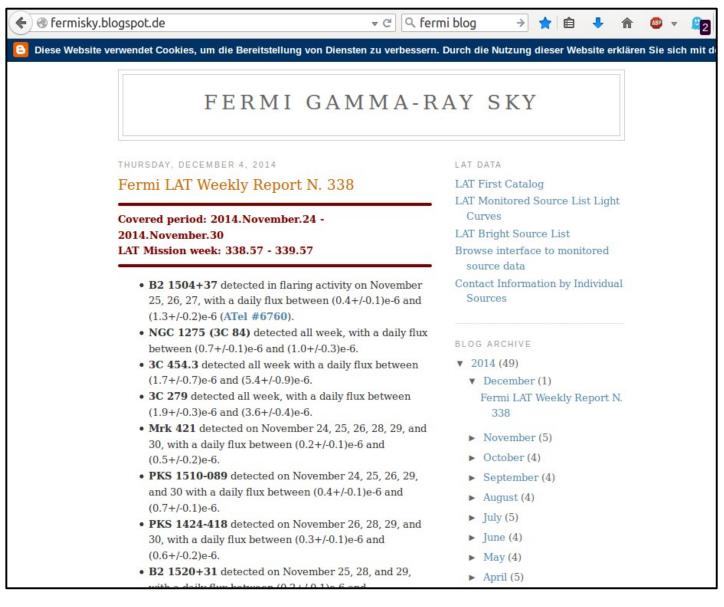






Fermi Blog

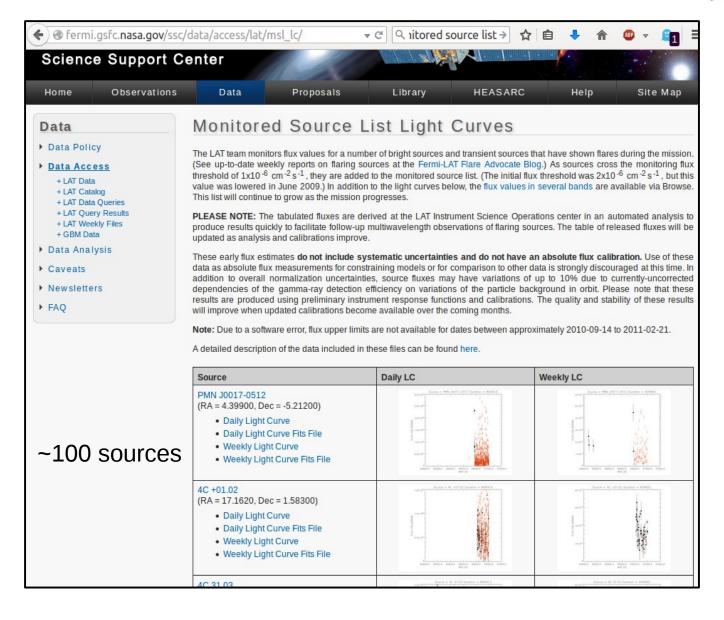






Monitored source list

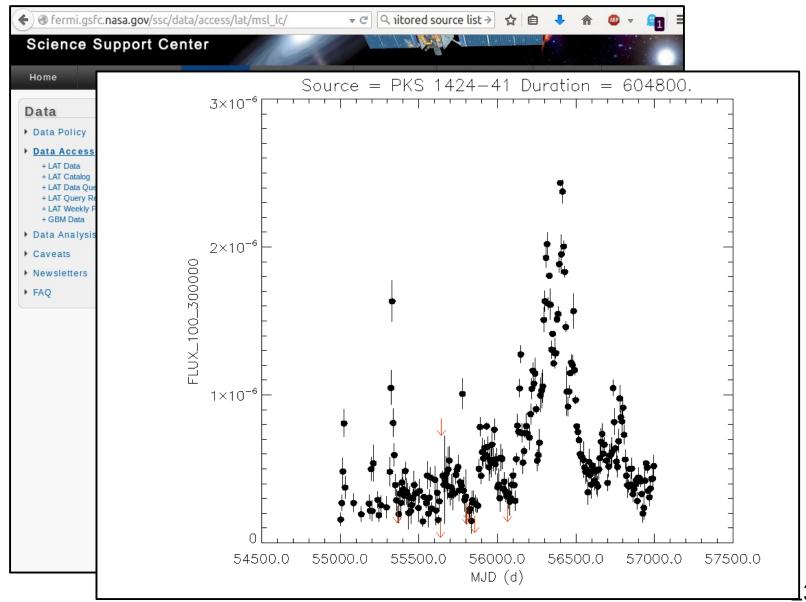






Monitored source list

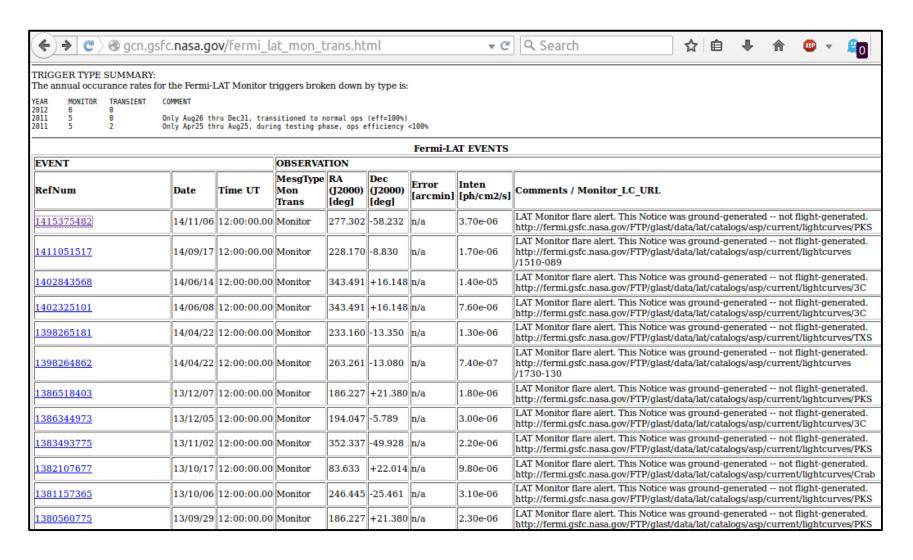






Monitored source list



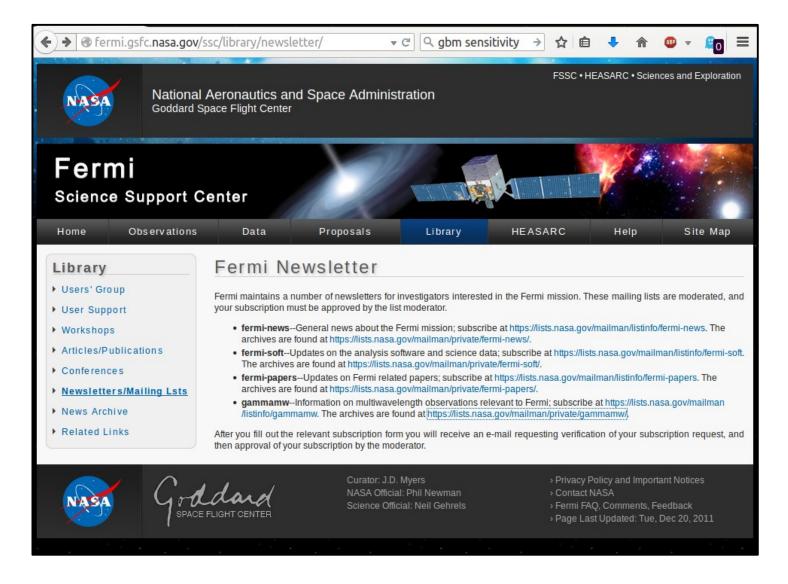


GCN notices send out for flares of monitored sources



News letter

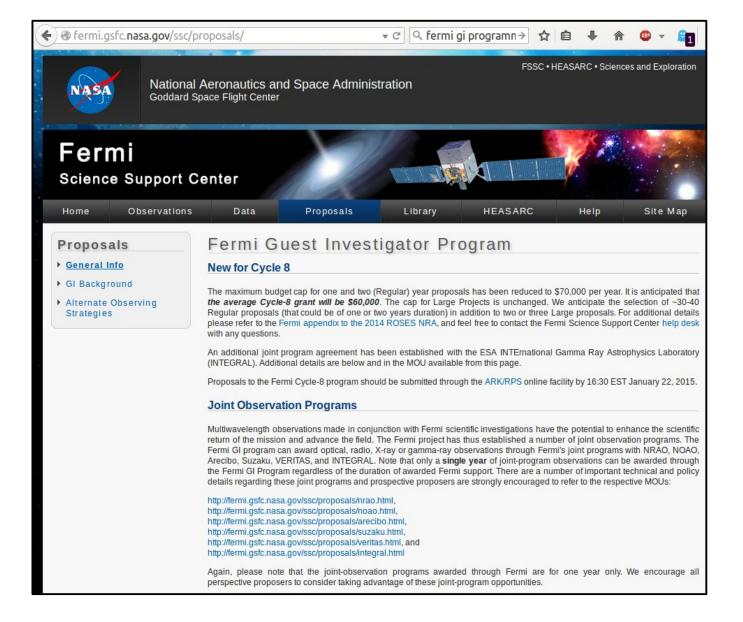






The Guest Investigator program

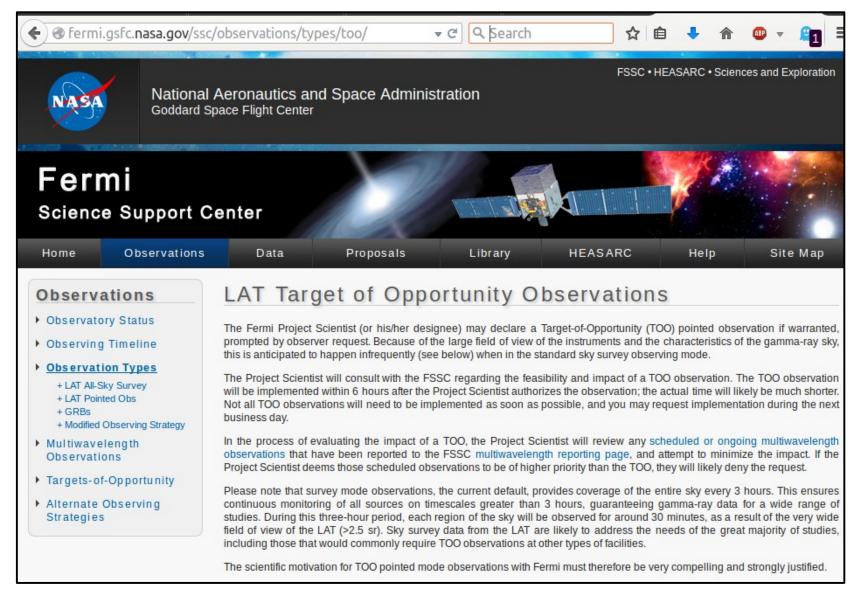






Target of Opportunity







Conclusions



Fermi scanning the sky constantly from 8keV to 500 GeV.

GRB reaction time is order 5s and positioning accuracy is 5-15°

LAT reaction time is ~12 hours and positioning accuracy ~0.02-1°

Interesting events are announced as fast as possible with GCNs and ATels. Great effort is put into making results available quickly via web pages and newsletters.

I did not talk about (many) multi-frequency campaigns, which are generally setup and coordinated by different responsible persons from the LAT side. Our MW coordinator is Dave Thompson.

As data is public, external groups also have LAT flare monitors (e.g. VERITAS and MAGIC)







