

Cosmology Seminar

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"Digging Deep under the Lamppost: Blazars for the Gamma-ray Sky"

Abstract: 15 years ago EGRET surprised us with 50+ gamma-ray sources associated with radio loud QSOs. These dominate the GeV sky and, with the improved sensitivity of the GLAST LAT, we should see as many as 10,000 blazars. Yet only a few hundred EGRET-like blazars are known. I describe our efforts to get ready for the LAT mission, finding and optically IDing the brightest ~1600 flat-spectrum blazars, all sky. Now, with many many new jet-dominated sources and BLL extending to $z > 5$ in hand, we can make progress on understanding the blazar population and its evolution over cosmic time. And, when these sources flare up in the gamma-rays, we should be ready for detailed studies of massive black hole and spin evolution, of jet physics and of the epoch of cosmic star formation.

Thursday February 7, 2008
12:10 PM - Room 416 PHY/GEO