

Action Items from SUG 2007

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Action Items: History

- The *Suzaku* Users' Group last met in San Diego in December, 2007. This resulted in a set of 13 recommendations
- These have served, in part, to guide our (*Suzaku* GOF as well as the international *Suzaku* project team overall) actions over the last 18+ months
- Here I repeat the recommendations and describe actions taken and/or current status

Recommendation 1

- The SUG is excited about the potential science enabled by Large Proposals and feels this category will add to the science output of the mission. The SUG recommends that chairs and deputy chairs weigh-in on the panel that votes on large programs, and further recommends that each proposal be reviewed by at least two panels in AO-3. The SUG recommends reviewing how Large Proposals are judged and we request a report on this issue.
 - The GOF implemented this since AO-3, with LP proposals being graded by two independent panels, and the final plenary panel (4 chairs and 4 deputies) discussing and making final decisions. A full report will be presented later.

Recommendation 2

- The SUG requests a description of a possible Key Projects program in the near future, for possible implementation in AO-4. The Key Projects should identify science that is unique to Suzaku and will contribute significantly to a field. The SUG is in favor of a staged move toward Key Program taking into the success of the Large Programs category. It is important that Key Programs involve the broad astronomical community.
 - The Key Project plan was developed in the first half of 2008, via a series of negotiations with ISAS/JAXA, in consultation with the SUG. It was implemented in AO-4; full report will follow.

Recommendations 3, 4 & 5

- The SUG notes that spacing between *Suzaku* proposal deadlines and the annual conference is important for users. The 2006 deadline and conference were very close together
 - The third conference was held in June/July, 2009.
- The SUG recommends strengthening communication lines between instrument teams and the NASA/GSFC GOF
 - Although no grand new initiative was undertaken, we have made efforts to maintain and strengthen communication lines between the GOF and the instrument teams.
- Improvements in the instrument calibrations are impressive. The SUG urges continued work.
 - Although the major improvements were taking place around the time of the 3rd SUG meeting, the calibration accuracy has continued to improve.

Recommendations 6, 7 & 8

- The SUG urges cross-calibration with other missions as a high priority. We request a report on cross-calibration status at the next SUG meeting
 - See Ishida-san's presentation
- The SUG is impressed by HXD/PIN and urges continued work to reduce the 5% systematic error level as this will enable important new science that is unique to *Suzaku*
 - The HXD team has reduced this to 1.2% (1 sigma, or ~3% at 90% confidence) in 2008 May with the release of the “tuned” background
- Improvement in the GSO calibration and background will offer tremendous science returns, and the SUG looks forward to seeing science results from PIs by the next SUG meeting
 - Although the GSO calibration & background modeling has improved, we're not yet aware of any published science results from outside the Suzaku team

Recommendations 9, 10 & 11

- The SUG recommends that *Suzaku* work with the Chandra teams to develop pile-up models
 - Done, thanks to Mike Nowak. (See XIS presentation)
- Distributing HXD backgrounds with data would help investigators to produce top results faster. SUG recommends this for all future data distribution
 - The nature of the background models, unfortunately, implies a delay of a few weeks for new observations
- The SUG urges the GOF to continue to improve documentation for users. One way forward would be the development of end-to-end and analysis threads. Clear, simple, complete threads will be a key to improving the use of *Suzaku* data within the community.
 - The ABC guide for Version 2 processed data was a major step in our effort to improve documentation. (See presentation by Katja Pottschmidt)

Recommendations 12 & 13

- Although impacts are likely to be minor, the SUG would like to request a watch-out page for the impact of current calibration problems, and calibration changes on science results. Updating this page with each HEASoft release would benefit the *Suzaku* community.
 - We have implemented such a page; SUG feedbacks are welcome
- The SUG notes that *Suzaku* funds are sometimes not disbursed promptly following observations and urges attention to this manner. We request statistics on how promptly funds are disbursed following observations.
 - It was particularly bad for Cycle 2, and we have done better since. However, Stage 1 review schedule is tight, and Suzaku GO funds are affected by NASA FY boundary issues, so some delays may be unavoidable. See GO program presentation