

Senior Review, 22-25 April 2008

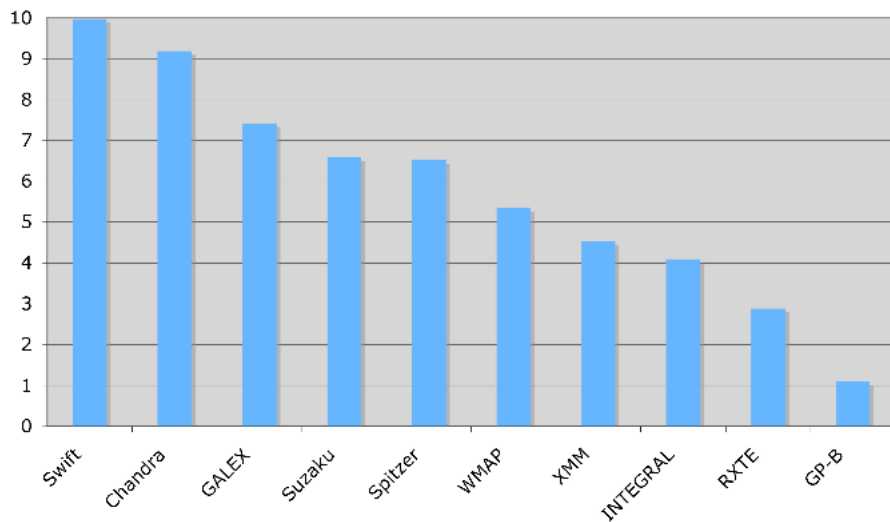
Brief : to "Rank the scientific merit of the following ten missions on a "Science per dollar" basis, based on the expected returns from ... during 2009 and 2010 :

Chandra
GALEX
Gravity Probe-B
INTEGRAL
RXTE
Suzaku
SWIFT
Warm Spitzer
WMAP
XMM-Newton "

Provided basis for funding decisions Fiscal 2009/10 (ie Oct 2008 - Sept 2010)
+ outlook period 2011/12



Senior Review 2008 Rankings



Astrophysics Division Senior Review 2008, April 22-25, 2008. Pre-decisional Materials

Proposal weaknesses:

With the exception of the prospect for nearby SN line observations, the proposal offered mainly incremental improvements on previous science. Some of the most interesting new science (e.g., observations of lines from a future nearby supernova, should one occur) is not guaranteed. The size of the US community involved with INTEGRAL was judged to be small in comparison with other missions before the committee.

Overall assessment and recommendations:

Although the committee recognizes the unique aspects of the INTEGRAL mission, much of the science was seen to be incremental. The SRC recommends that NASA continue to support INTEGRAL (with an emphasis on the US GO program) at a reduced level until September of 2010. With the continued operation of INTEGRAL by ESA and the continued access to data through the European ISDC, it is expected that some level of support for US investigators would become available through programs such as ADP.

INTEGRAL - NASA currently provides funding for :

- Support of US Guest observers
- US PI teams
- Goldstone Ground Station
- US GOF (Guest Observer Facility) and data archive
- Running US Integral Users Group
- Personnel at ISDC
- Public Outreach

INTEGRAL - NASA currently provides funding for :

- Support of US Guest observers
Continuing, though at reduced level
- US PI teams
Goes to zero, as already planned
- Goldstone Ground Station
*OK at least through Sept 2010
(mainly funded outside Senior Review remit)*
- US GOF (Guest Observer Facility) and data archive
Currently 2 people; reducing to 1 (+0.2 to Sep 2009)
- Running US Integral Users Group
Continuing
- Personnel at ISDC
*2 people already reduced to 1
1 person (Bruce O'Neil) funded to 31 Jan 2009*
- Public Outreach
Upward bid not accepted

Longer term future

No funding penciled in for FY 11/12

But project free to make a proposal in spring 2010