

Dear Colleagues:

The Fermi (formerly GLAST) Large Area Telescope (LAT) has been made possible by the contributions of literally hundreds of people from around the world. One of the great strengths of the team is its diversity of experience and expertise. Because scientists in the LAT collaboration have different publication traditions and practices, we have developed a policy that respects these different traditions, strives for fairness, and takes into account the specific features of GLAST. Because this policy is somewhat unusual, we take this opportunity to summarize it here. We particularly hope this will help you when evaluating our junior team members for hiring and promotions.

Papers published by the LAT team fall into two broad categories:

- Category I papers describe major first results, made possible by the collective work of the team. As such, authorship of these papers is open to any full member of the collaboration. (Inclusion on the author list is not automatic, and it requires an action by each member for each paper.) The author list on Category I papers is alphabetical. The internal collaboration web pages record the major specific contributions to each paper, and that information will be included in letters of reference.
- Category II papers describe follow-up, detailed results. Authorship on these papers is limited to those who worked directly on that paper, and the author list order represents the level of contribution to the paper.

We anticipate that LAT papers during the first year will be Category I, and thereafter a gradually increasing fraction will be Category II. All papers are developed within the relevant LAT science group and reviewed within the collaboration before submission.

This plan is the result of years of careful thought and discussion both within the collaboration and more broadly with others in the different science communities. We may re-evaluate it as we proceed through the mission, however we are convinced this is the best path to follow at this time. We welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

For the LAT Collaboration,  
Peter Michelson  
LAT Principal Investigator