

DIVISION VIII / WG SUPERNOVAE

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PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 21 August 2006

1. Report on past WG-SN activities (W. Hillebrandt, B. Schmidt)

Objectives of the ‘new’ WG-SN when it was re-established in 2002:

- Coordination and planning of observational activities.
- Supernova data archiving and availability.
- Interface to VO-activities.
- Electronic newsletter.

As far as coordination and planning of observational activities are concerned, the main need for WG-SN activities seem to lie in the field of suitable follow-ups to the many on-going and planned search programs (in particular for SNeIa’s; LOTOSS, NGSS, SNfactory, SNLS, ESSENCE, GOODS, PanStarrs, ...). With the new robotic 2m-class telescopes (e.g., the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network and other robotic telescopes) photometric follow-ups do not seem a major problem, but for most of the searches spectroscopic follow-up requires 4m-class telescopes at least which will become rare in the future. Possible ways out were discussed.

Contacts between the SN community and VO-activities (AVO, NVO, Astro-Grid, GAVO, ...) were established in the past years. In longer terms the goal is to set up a central data archive to allow multiple data use and to establish a platform to link model “data”.

2. Joint CBAT/WG-SN supernova webpage (D. Green)

On behalf of the IAU’s Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams (CBAT), Dan Green reported on activities supported by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics to set up a webpage with information concerning supernovae. This webpage could include among other things new (and not yet confirmed) supernova discoveries. The SNWG will join these activities.

3. New and/or planned systematic programs (B. Schmidt)

We discussed the various systematic SN search and follow up studies likely to be undertaken by the community over the coming five years. These included the existing amateur, KAIT, SN Factory, SDSS-II, Essence, SNLS studies, as well as new studies associated with Pan-Starrs and SkyMapper. It was noted that the number of SN discovered was going to continue to rise, and that it would be useful to have a more automated way of dealing with SN discoveries, SN observations, and SN IAU certification.

4. Supernova nomenclature (O. Bartunov)

Since in the near-future the number of newly discovered supernovae will increase to several hundreds per year and more. Many of these supernovae will remain unclassified and for many of them a few images will be the only information. Therefore, several questions arise:

- Will we need a new nomenclature for supernovae, given the fact that we may get more than can be dealt with in the present system?
- Do we need a way to distinguish (spectroscopically) confirmed supernovae from the others?

The WG-SN will work out a suggestion and present them to the IAU. One possibility that was discussed is to name all supernova candidates according to the year and month of discovery plus their coordinates, and leave the present nomenclature for spectroscopically confirmed ones. But there may be better solutions.

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co-chairs of the Working Group