



GriPhyN Education and Outreach



Education/Outreach Coordinator

- UT Brownsville administration approved the hiring of a full-time tenure-track faculty member to serve as GriPhyN Education/Outreach coordinator
- Search began in November 2000
- Interviewed top candidates from across the world with experience in gravitational wave data analysis and/or numerical relativity
- Offered the position to Manuela Campanelli (AEI – Potsdam, Germany) who accepted the position and will start at the end of August 2001



Education/Outreach Coordinator

- Attended the Grid Forum Meeting in Amsterdam
- Made contact with Mauro Draoli and Susanna Tosi (from European Data Grid project) to coordinate education and outreach activities among the various grid projects (DataGrid, EuroGrid, and GriPhyN)
- Has close ties with Bernard Schutz and Ed Seidel (AEI-Potsdam, Germany) who are interested in the possible participation of the European gravitational-wave detector GEO-600 in future international grid projects (e.g., iVDGL)



E/O at UT Brownsville

- Education/outreach coordinator supported by GriPhyN funds for the next five years
- Additional support to do LIGO-related research
 - » 5 undergraduate and 1 graduate student are currently writing code for gravitational-wave searches
 - » 4 students are currently involved in the benchmarking and construction of a 96 node Linux cluster
 - » Students spend part of the summer at LIGO Observatory in Livingston, LA participating in commissioning activities
- Linux cluster is primarily for LIGO data analysis, but it can also serve as a test-bed for GriPhyN software
 - » 1 student has recently installed and is learning to use Condor



E/O at other institutions

- ATLAS, CMS have education and outreach programs that we have not yet utilized for GriPhyN
- SDSS (Alex Szalay, JHU and Jim Gray, Microsoft) are developing a web-based interface for accessing SDSS data
 - » Designed for general public (K-12 audience)
 - » Layered-content useful for professional astronomers
 - » Easily extended to illustrate concept of virtual data
- We all need to give talks at other colleges and universities to spread the news about GriPhyN



Future plans

- Design a GriPhyN education/outreach web page
 - » Basic educational material about data grids, the four physics experiments, etc.
 - » Technical support information (e.g., documentation, user manuals, installation instructions) for GriPhyN virtual data toolkits
 - » Web-based interface for accessing real data, illustrating the concept of virtual data (SDSS, LIGO??)
- E/O coordinator will serve as point of contact for other institutions that are interested in learning about GriPhyN and want to use GriPhyN tools
- E/O coordinator will continue to interact with E/O coordinators from other grid projects to organize efforts across the projects



Future plans??

- Increase MSI participation in grid activities by constructing small clusters at these institutions
 - » UT Brownsville: (HSI) connections with LIGO
 - » Hampton College: (HBCU) connections with ATLAS
 - » Salish Kootenai College: (AIHEC) connections with LIGO
- Utilize Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) program at GriPhyN institutions
- Improve web-access to real data (SDSS, LIGO)
- Leverage on-going education/outreach activities within the grid community (e.g., NPACI, NCSA)
- Others??