

- LIGO SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION -

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LIGO Scientific Collaboration Charter		
The LSC Bylaws Committee		

WWW: <http://www.ligo.org/>

1 LSC Mission

The LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC) is a self-governing collaboration using gravitational wave detectors to explore the fundamental physics of gravity and observe the universe, as a multi-messenger astronomical tool of discovery. The LSC works toward this goal through development, commissioning and operation of gravitational wave detectors; through the development and deployment of techniques for gravitational wave observation; and through interpretation of gravitational wave data. The LSC accepts all groups who exhibit scientific merit, agree to adhere to the LSC Membership Code of Conduct, and propose to participate in and contribute to the LSC as described in this Charter, the LSC Bylaws, and the LSC Scientific Program. No group or individual will be denied membership on any other basis.

The LSC uses data from gravitational wave detectors in LIGO Hanford and LIGO Livingston Observatories, operated by the LIGO Laboratory. The GEO600 interferometer and the future LIGO India interferometer are operated as LSC detectors. Relationships with groups or collaborations, including those who operate additional detectors, will be governed by agreements with the LSC. The goal is for full sharing of obligations and privileges among all participants.

2 LSC Responsibilities

The LSC has the following responsibilities:

1. to establish and carry out the astrophysics analysis of LIGO data, including goals and timelines.
2. to identify priorities for instrument science and the related technology development and undertake the respective research and development program
3. to communicate LIGOs activities and goals to the public and to provide educational opportunities for young people
4. to disseminate the results of the astrophysics and instrument science programs
5. to participate in the scientific operations of the LIGO detectors
6. to perform internal evaluation of progress in the LSC program, making adjustments as necessary

The LIGO Laboratory is the group within the LSC that has the ultimate responsibility for the LIGO Hanford and Livingston Observatories, under a cooperative agreement between Caltech and the National Science Foundation. It operates the Observatories and the Caltech and MIT Campus LIGO laboratories, manages the construction and commissioning of new instruments, and provides the administrative and fiscal support for observatory operations as well as administrative support for the LSC. The LIGO Laboratory is the curator for the NSF of the LIGO data, disseminating it both within the collaboration and to the broader research community as described in the LIGO Data Management Plan.

In support of the above activities, the LSC makes presentations to funding agencies on the level of effort required to support the various elements of the research program, and presents the rationale for the program before advisory, oversight, and review bodies concerned with LIGO.

3 Organizational Structure of the LSC

Membership in the LSC is by groups, affiliated with institutions. MoUs between groups and LIGO, with regularly updated attachments, establish the commitments. Individuals in the group have the rights and obligations of membership as indicated in this Charter, the Bylaws, and other Council-approved documents.

The Collaboration Council, with proportional representation from each group, votes on all policy matters, and elects the Spokesperson. The Collaboration Spokesperson has the responsibility for the proper functioning of the LSC and representing it to the outside world.

The LIGO Directorate consists of the Director and the Deputy Director of the Laboratory and the Spokesperson and Deputy Spokesperson of the LSC.

The work of the LSC is coordinated through working groups and committees across observational science, instrument science, education and communication, operations and standards and services.

The LSC is responsible for reviewing and approving the presentation and publication of all major results of LSC research.

Authorship rights on LSC-wide publications are determined by Council-approved policies.

Further details on responsibilities and rights of members and LSC organization are in the LSC Bylaws.

Adoption of changes to this Charter requires presentation of proposed changes in a duly called Council meeting and approval by 2/3 of LSC Council members voting, excluding abstentions. Adoption and subsequent modification of the Bylaws requires a majority vote, excluding abstentions, by the Council.