



# Some Introductory Remarks at CHARA's 10<sup>th</sup> Gathering

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Ann Arbor, Michigan*



Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie





# The Last Time We Gathered...

*At our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Flagstaff, 18-20 Mar 2013*





# The First Time We Gathered...

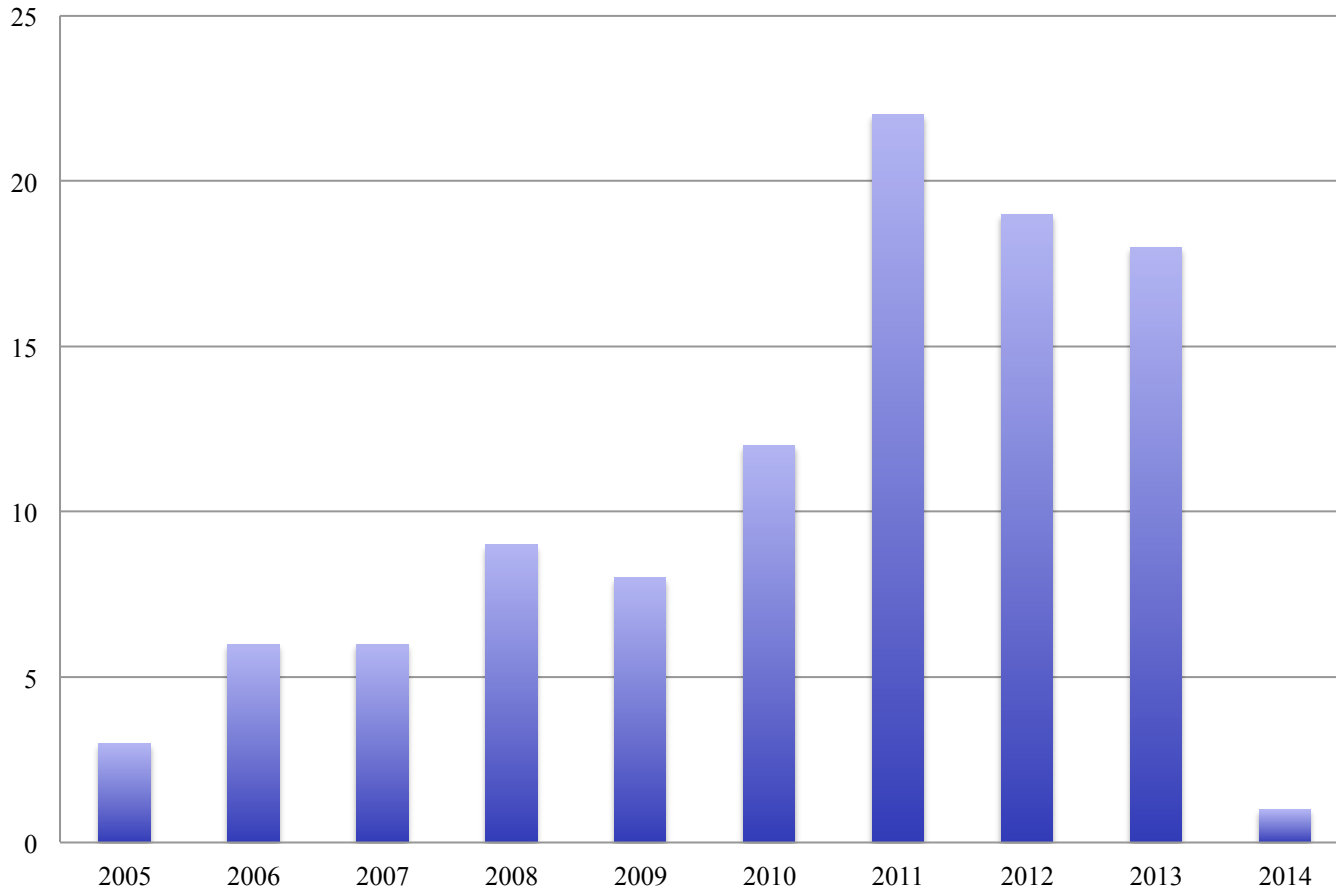
*At our 1<sup>st</sup> "Annual" Meeting, Paris, 7-11 Feb 2005*





# CHARA Refereed Papers

*104 to date (11 yr<sup>-1</sup>)*



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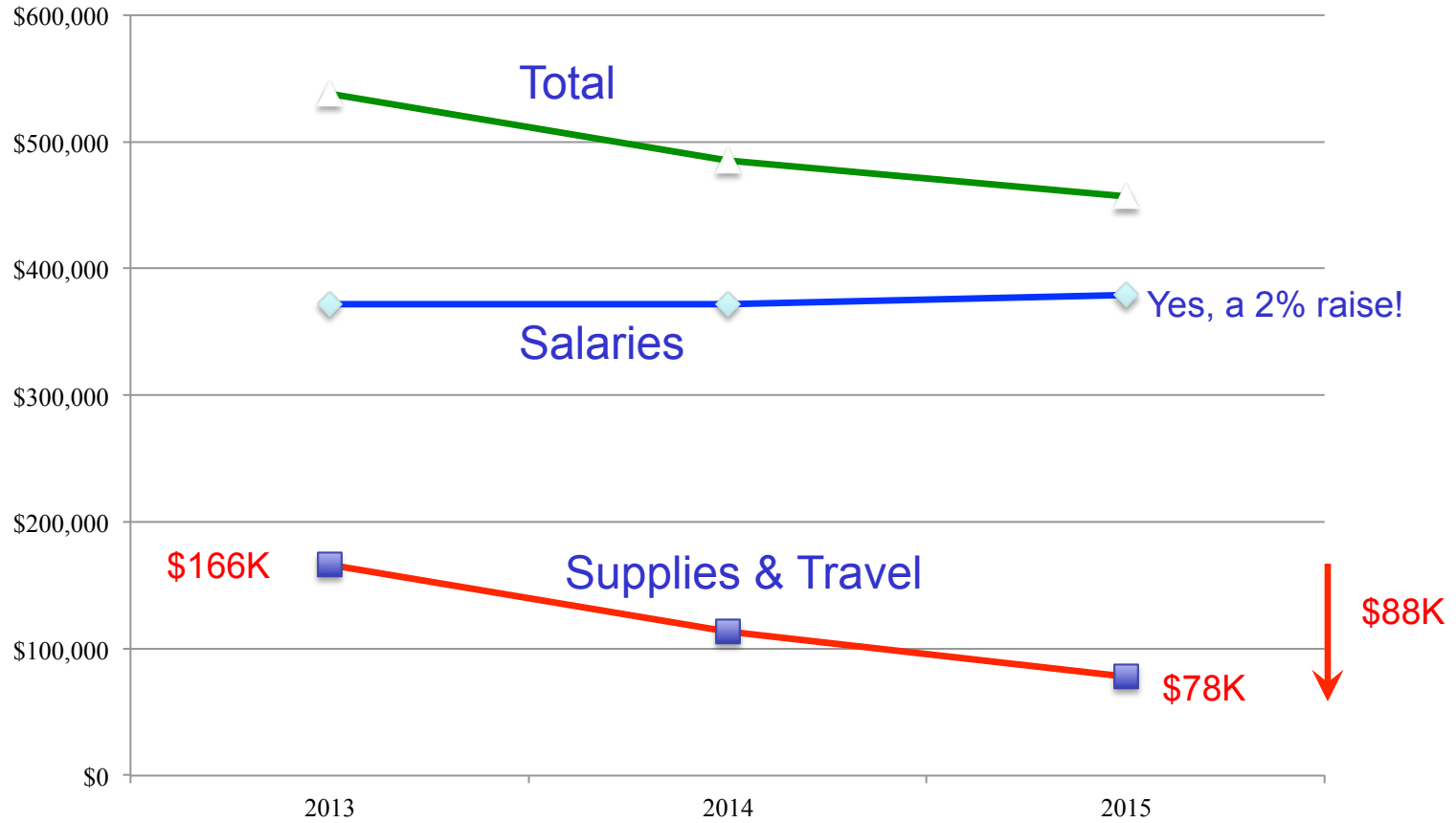


# 2014 TAC Process

- 50 proposals from 38 PIs
- TAC comprised of 9 experienced CHARA observers
- Each member evaluated 21 or 22 proposals to yield 4 reviews per proposal
- Proposals were scored 1.0 to 4.0 (lowest to highest)
  - Highest ranked was  $3.83 \pm 0.35$
  - Lowest ranked was  $2.20 \pm 0.25$
  - Average score was 2.95
- No proposal was declined outright, but ...
- Amount of time assigned was given in direct proportion to a proposal's mean score
- We owe the TAC considerable thanks for their service!



# Recent Budget History





# Our Challenge

- From an institutional perspective, GSU is paying \$460K per year to operate a facility with high outside use.
- They point out that GSU buys time from APO for our extragalactic folks at \$50K per year. Why isn't CHARA selling time in a similar fashion?
- These questions are not easy to answer.



# Proposal to the NSF MSIP Program

- “Mid-Scale Innovations Program” was mandated by the Decadal Review.
- We submitted a proposal to open CHARA time to the US community and to provide archival data. The “CHARA Collaboration” PIs all graciously agreed to participate.
- The \$3M, 5-yr program would allocate up to 50 nights per year.
- Proposals will be reviewed by the NOAO TAC as they have been doing in an experimental program since 2010.
- Archival data will be distributed through the Jean-Mariotti Center.
- In return, CHARA would receive support for 5 new staff positions and a modest amount of equipment upgrade support.
- We were among 12 of 39 proposals submitted in the first round invited to submit a full proposal for the 12 Mar deadline.





## While the future is uncertain, I believe the best is still ahead

- The CHARA Array is still the highest resolution facility of its kind in the world & the most productive US interferometer ever.
- Our science crosses undreamt of aspects of stellar astrophysics.
- Significant gains are just around the corner from TT/AO improvements and detector developments.
- New classes of objects will soon be open to us.
- So, lean back, relax, and enjoy the next few days here in Ann Arbor.