An Introduction to the Cycle 6 ALMA Observing Tool

How to turn that great idea into an ALMA proposal...



Patrick Sheehan

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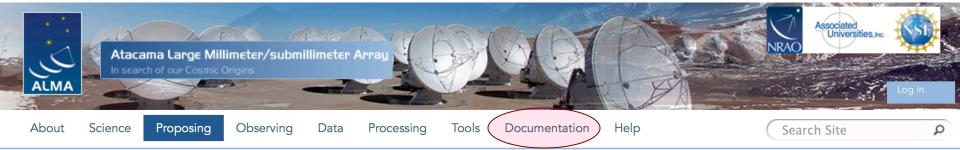


Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array Expanded Very Large Array Very Long Baseline Array



Downloading the ALMA OT





Observing Tool

The ALMA Observing Tool (OT) is a Java application used for the preparation and submission of ALMA Phase 1 (observing proposal) and Phase 2 (telescope runfiles for accepted proposals) materials. It is also used for preparing and submitting Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposals. The current *Cycle 4* release of the OT is configured for the present capabilities of ALMA as described in the Cycle 4 Call For Proposals. Note that in order to submit proposals you will have to register with the ALMA Science Portal beforehand.

Note that preparation of Cycle 3 Phase 1 and DDT proposals needs to be done using the Cycle 3 version of the Observing Tool. This version of the OT can be found in the DDT page, or the Phase 2 menu.

Download & Installation

The OT will run on most common operating systems, as long as you have **Java 8** installed see the troubleshooting page if you are experiencing Java problems). The ALMA OT is available in two flavours: Web Start and tarball.

The **Web Start** application is the recommended way of using the OT. It has the advantage that the OT is automatically downloaded and installed on your computer and it will also automatically detect and install updates. There are some issues with Web Start, particularly that it does not work with the Open JDK versions of Java such as the "Iced Tea" flavour common on many modern Linux installations. The Sun/Oracle variant of Java should therefore be installed instead. If this is not possible, then the tarball installation of the OT is available.

The **tarball** version must be installed manually and we complete with a recommended version of the Java

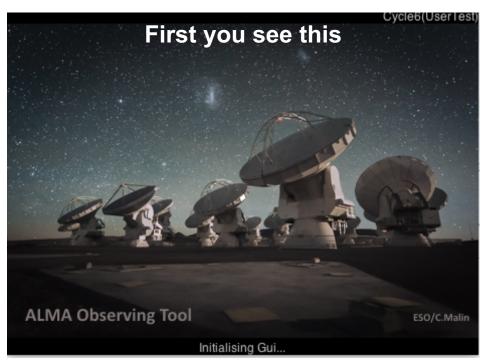
Webstart Tarball

Using webstart is easier and has the advantage that it checks for and will download a newer version at startup

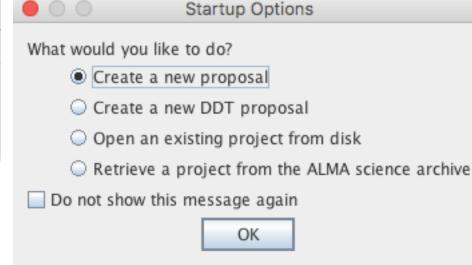
es. For Linux users, we also provide a download rball install with your default Java.

When the ALMA OT starts

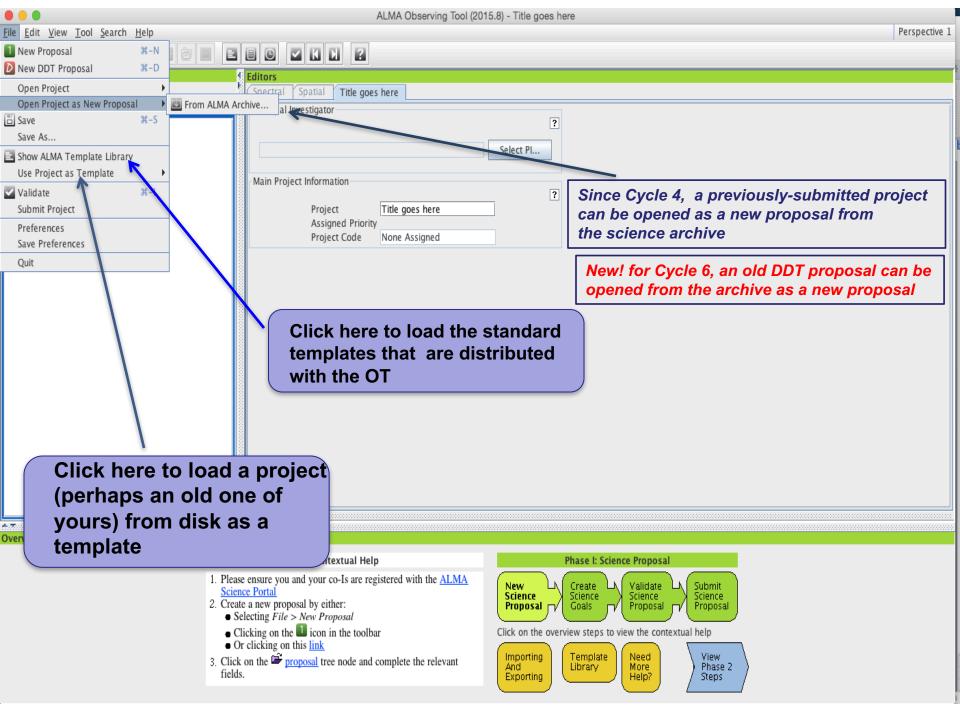


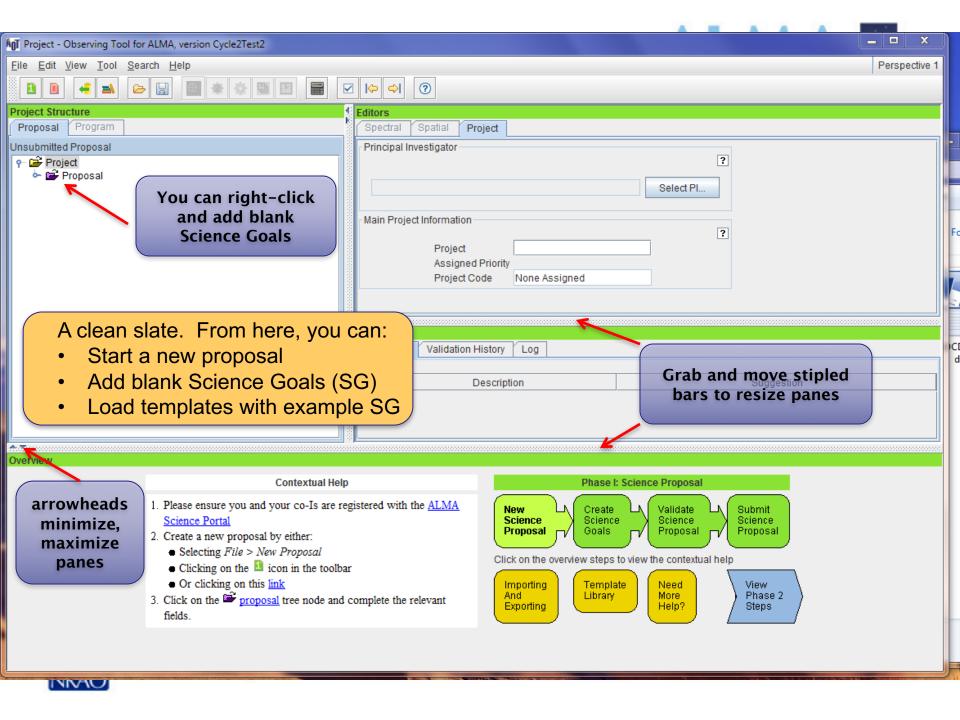


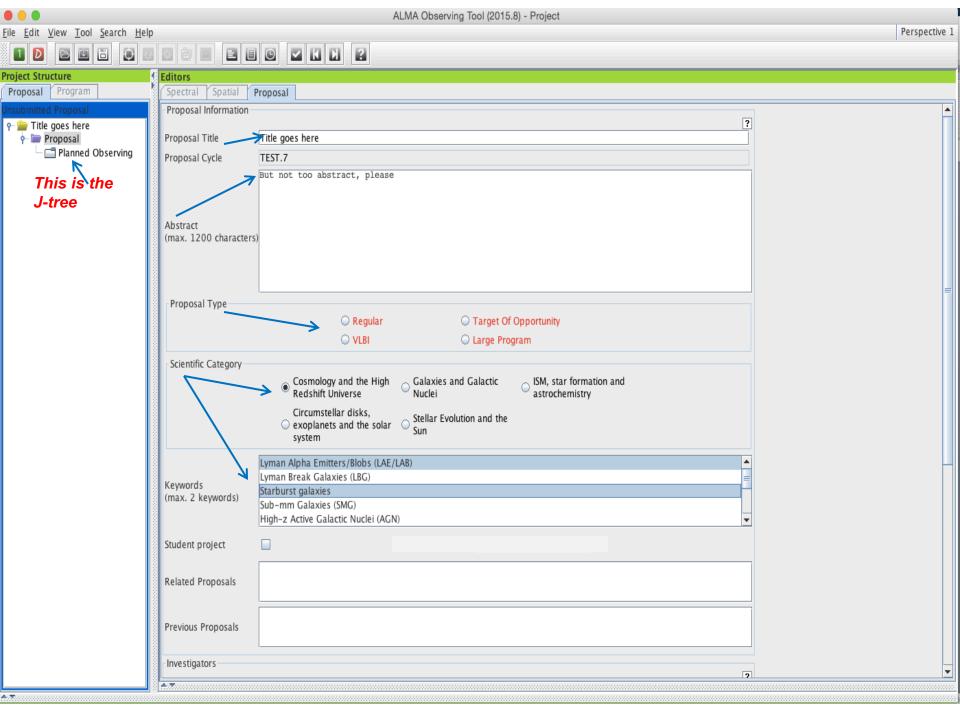
Then you see this

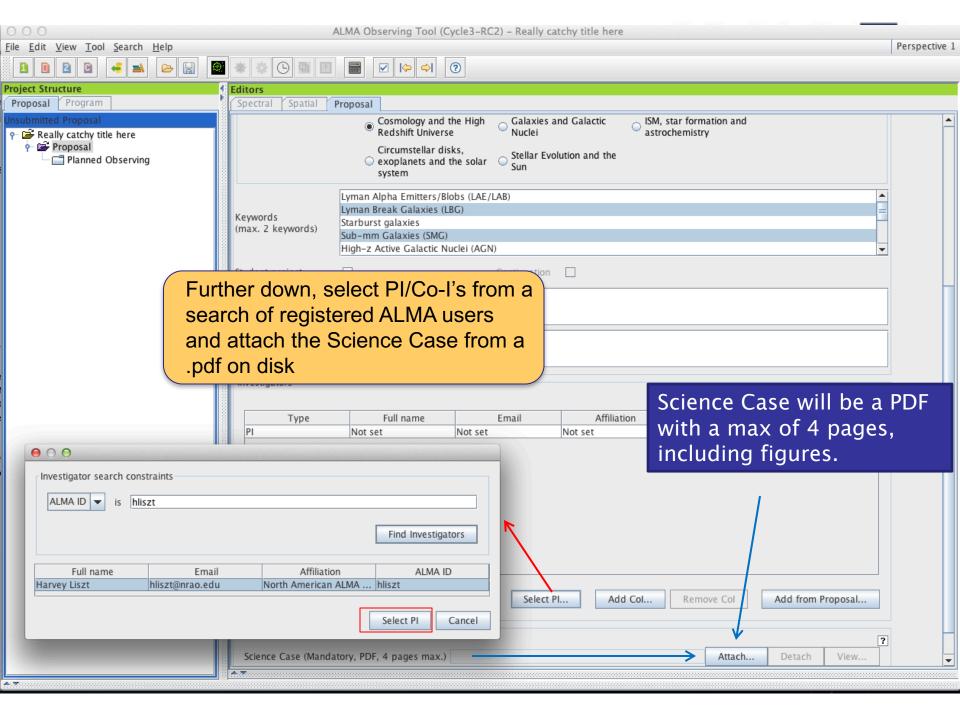


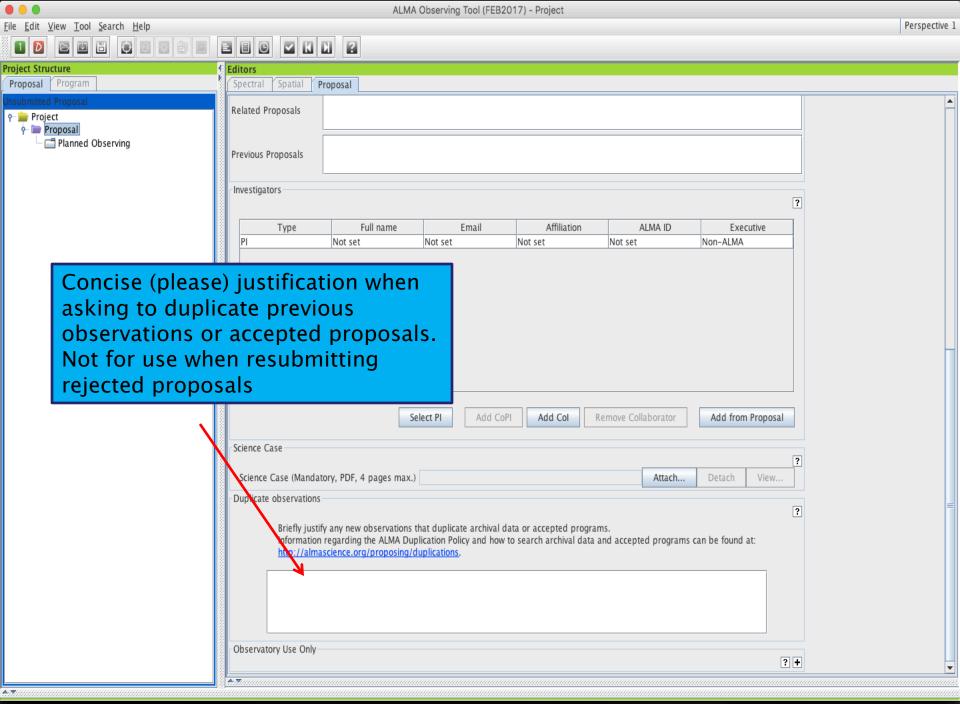


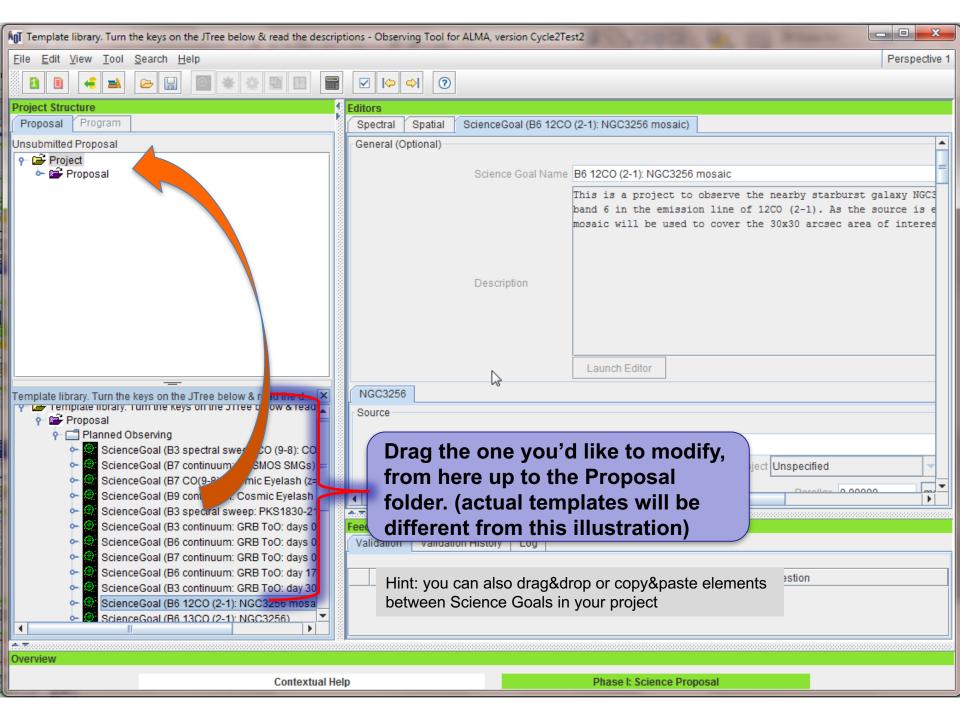


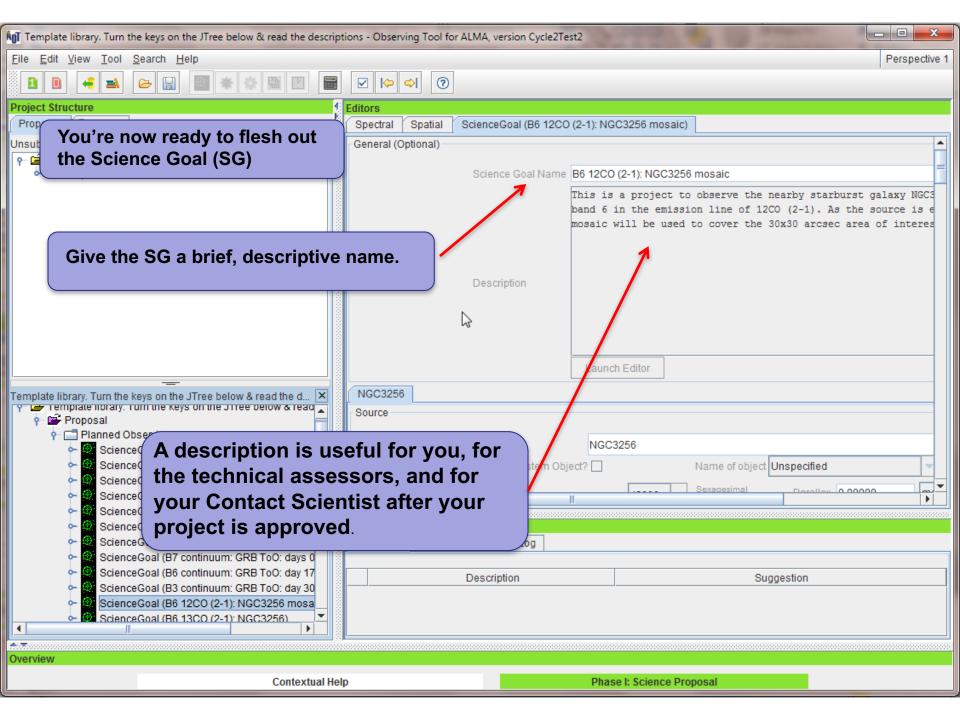


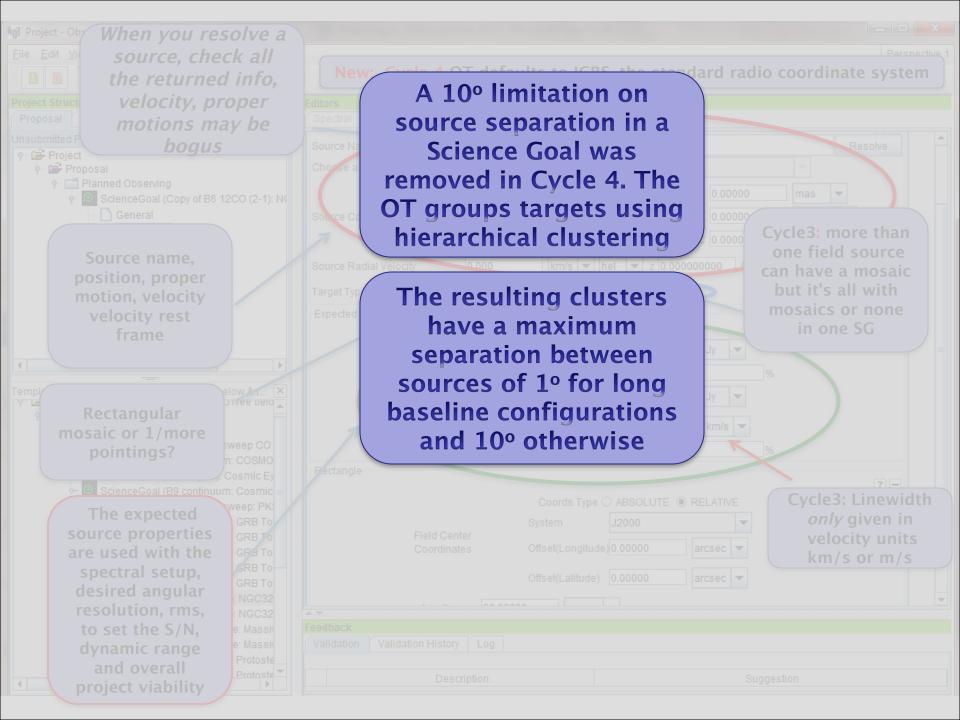


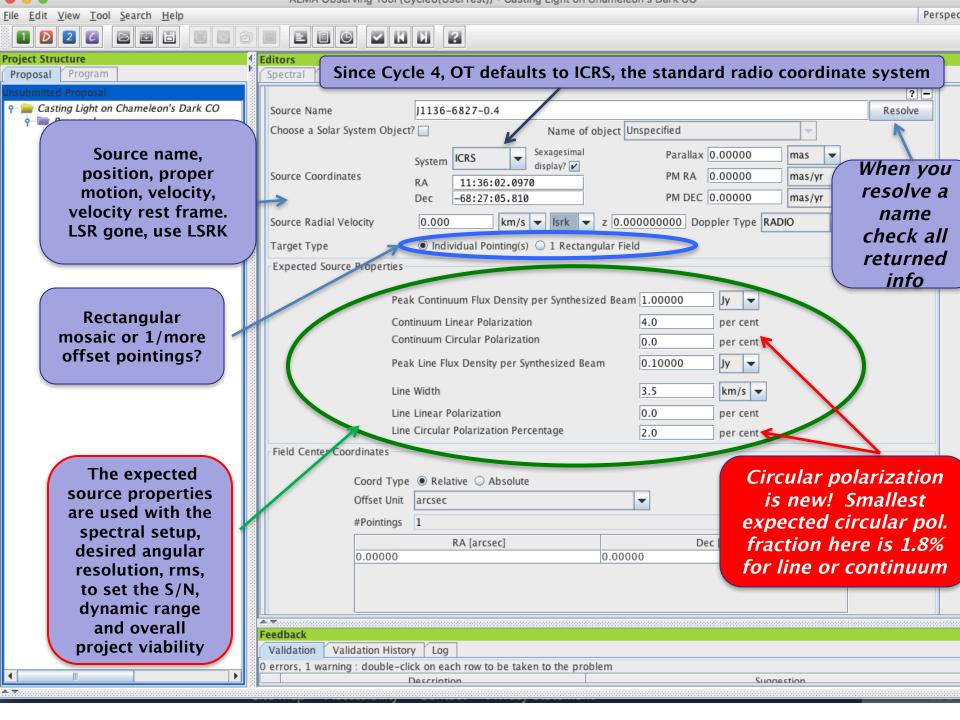


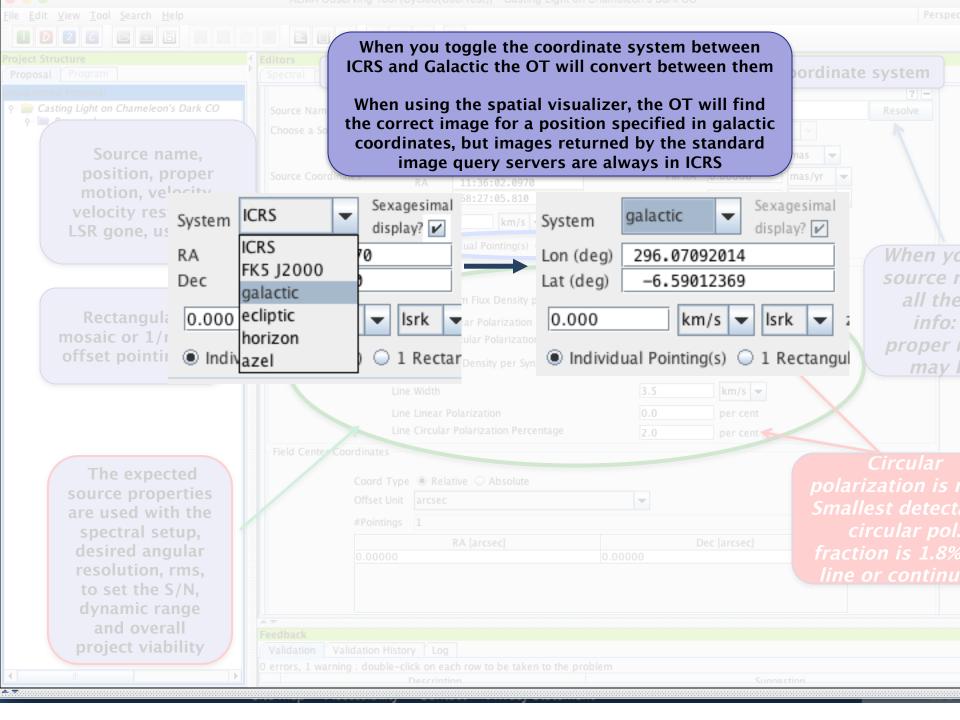


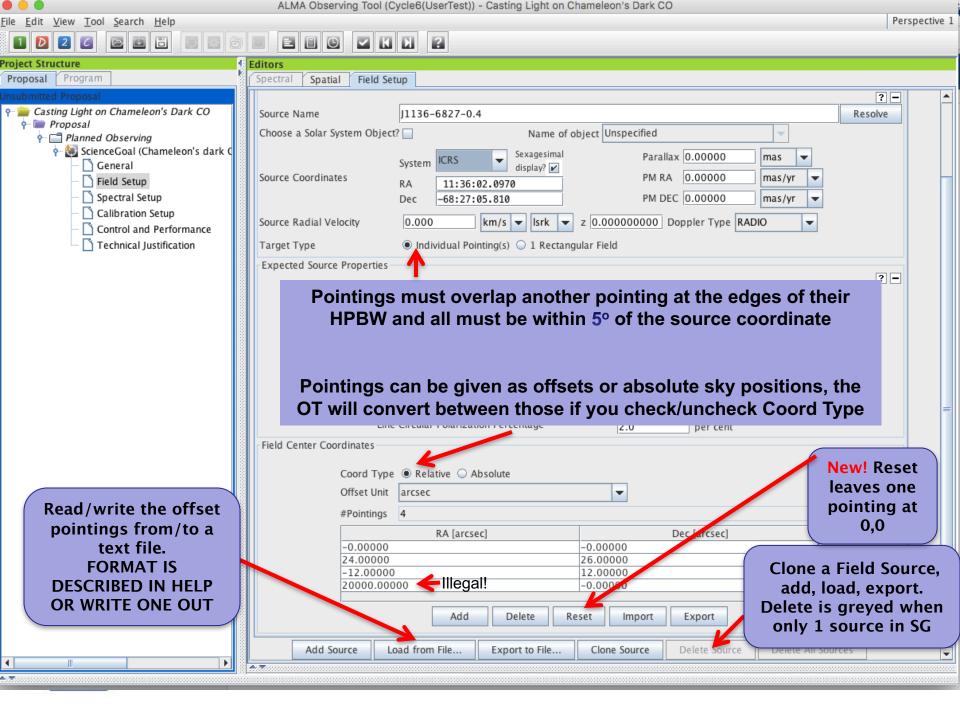


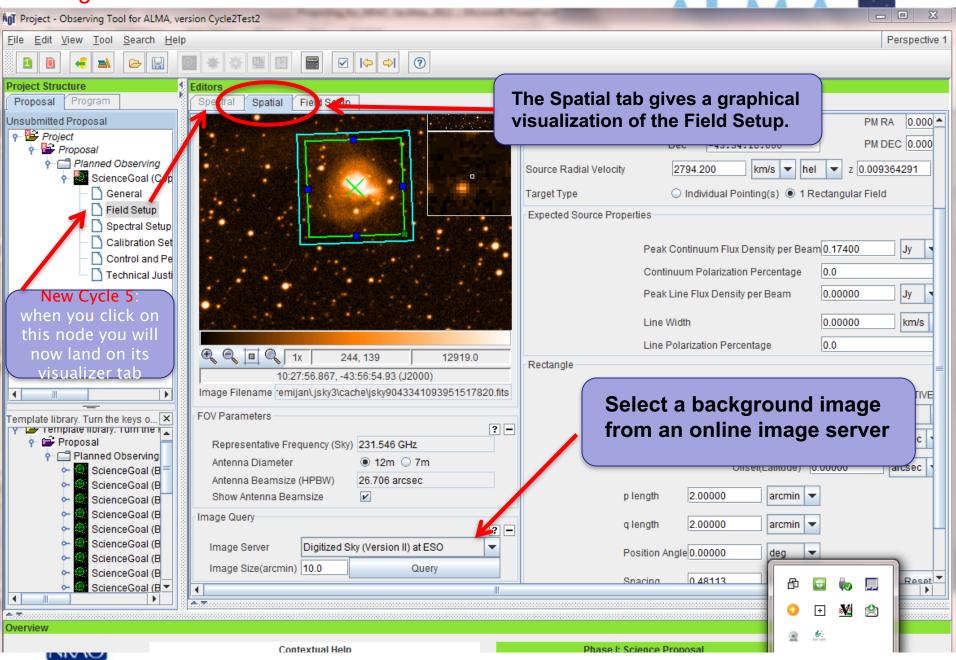


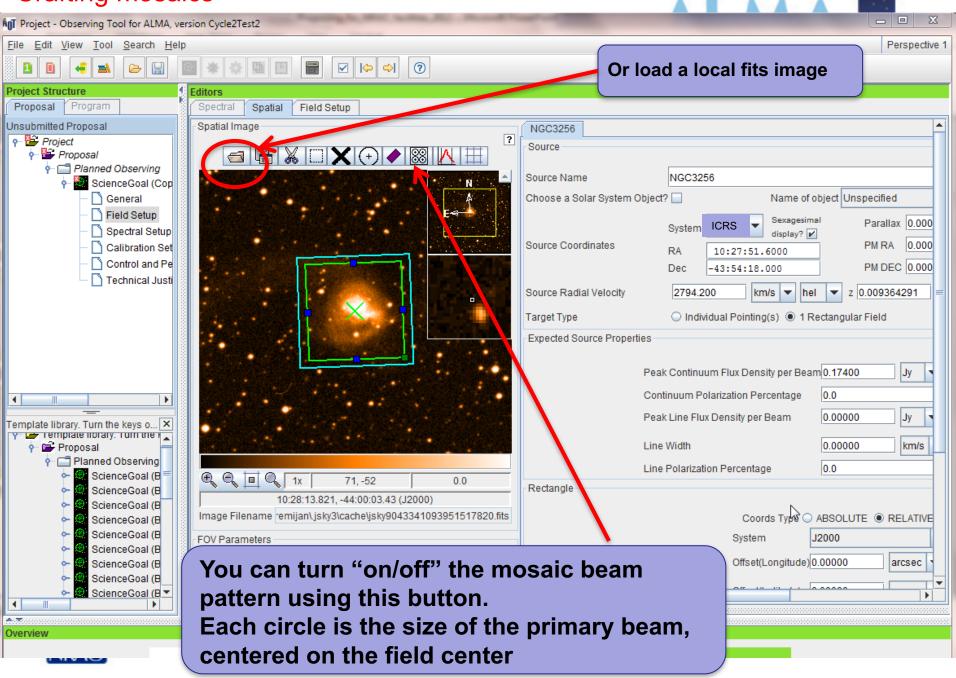


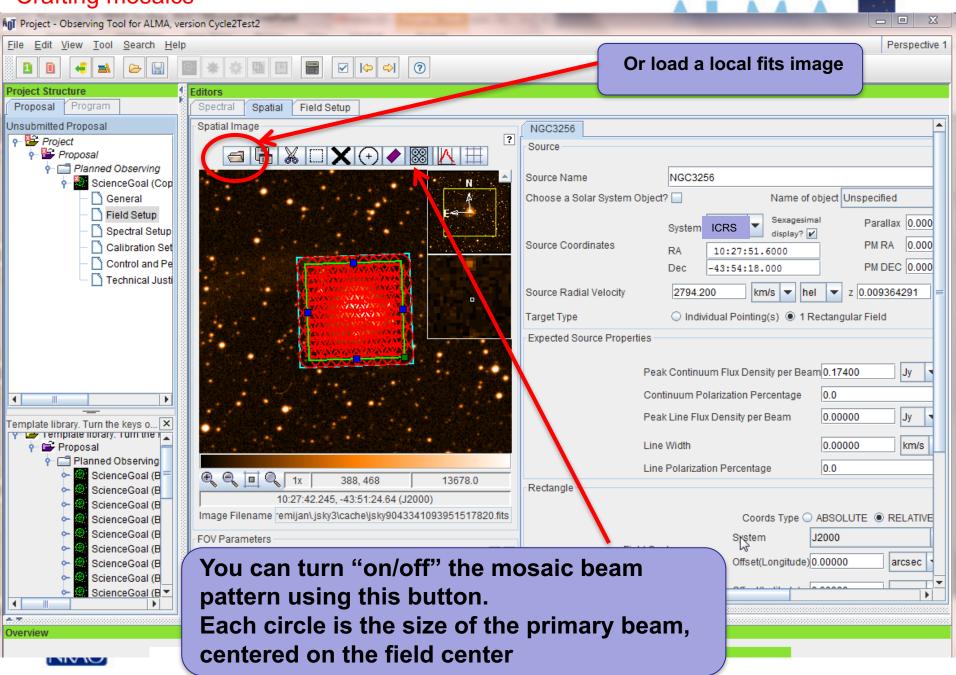


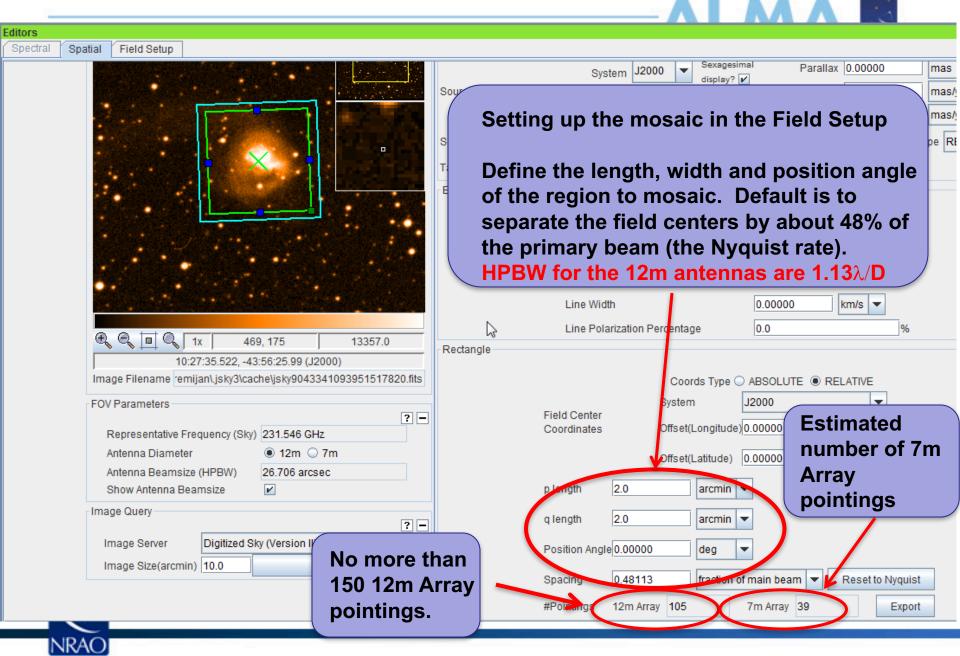


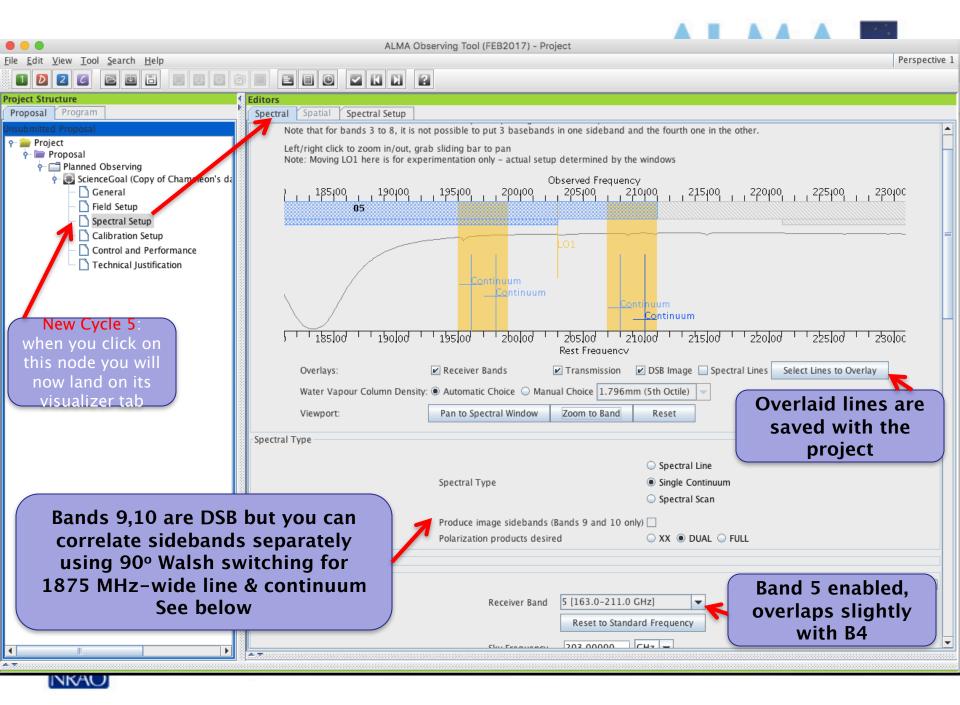


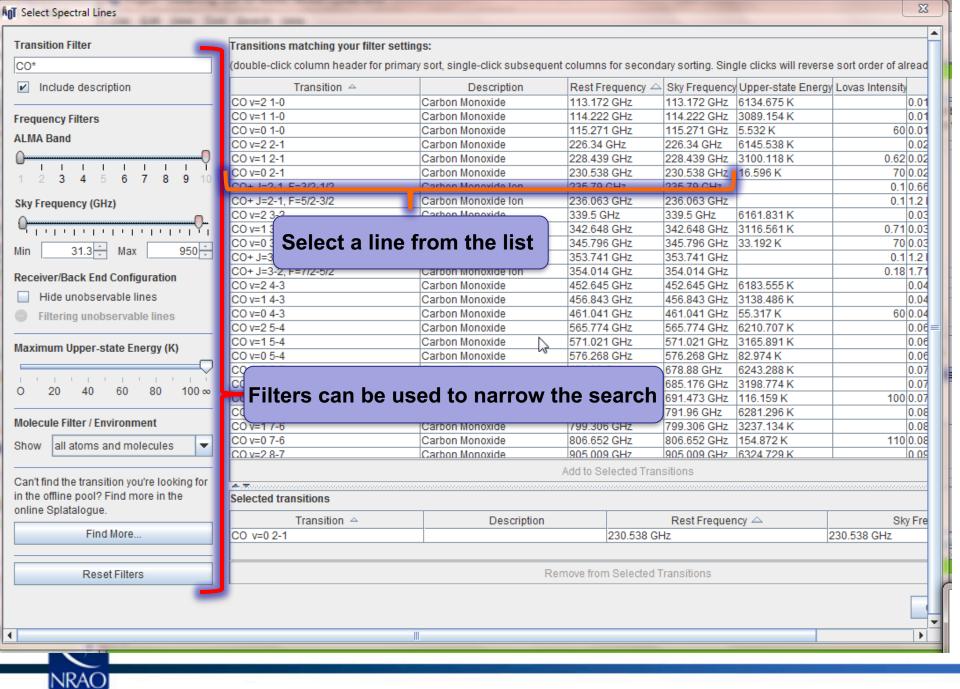


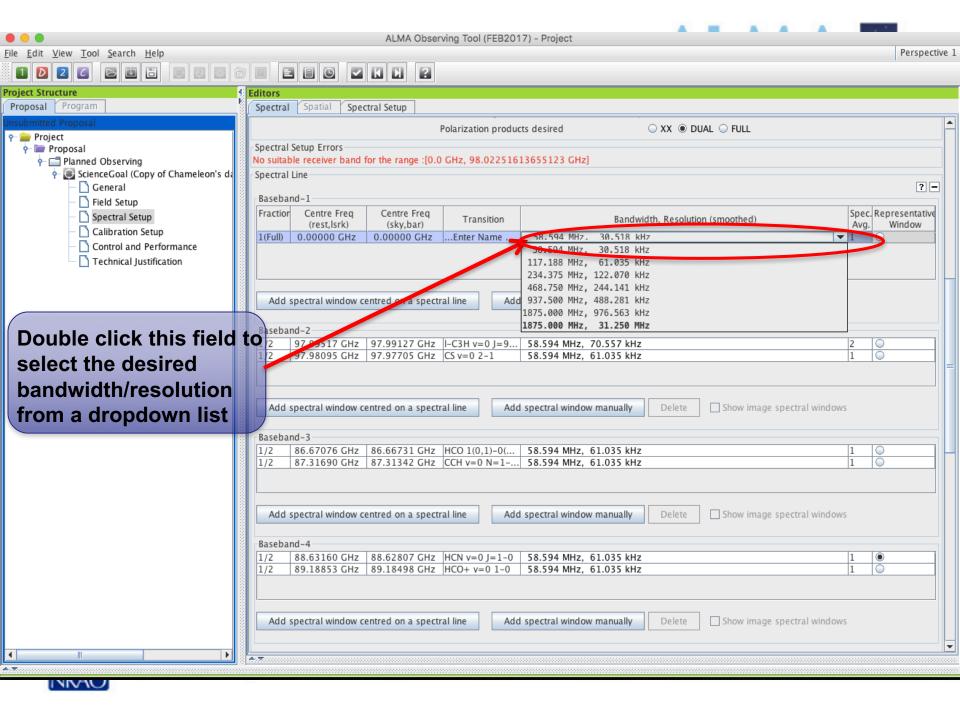


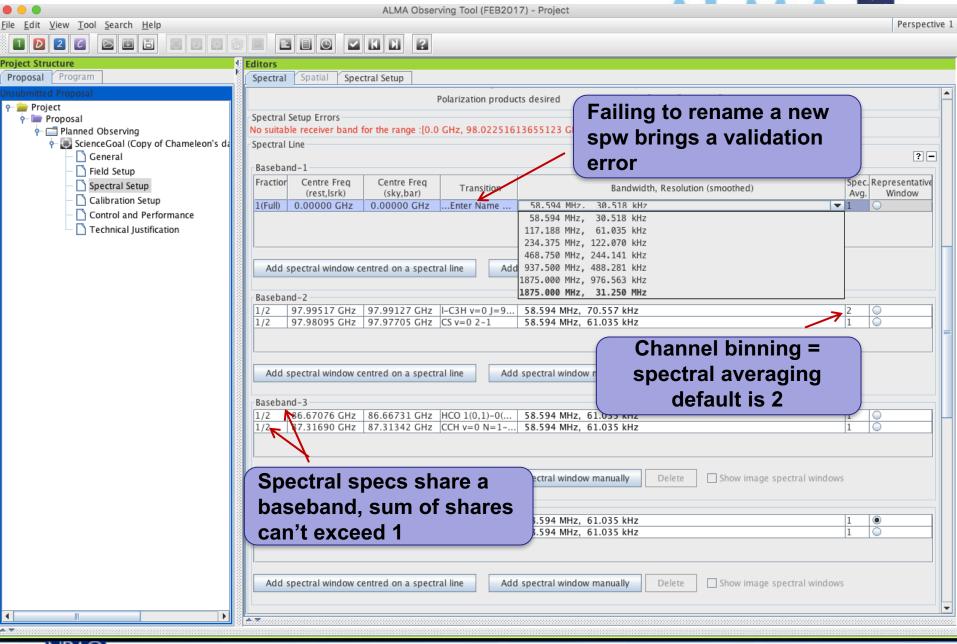




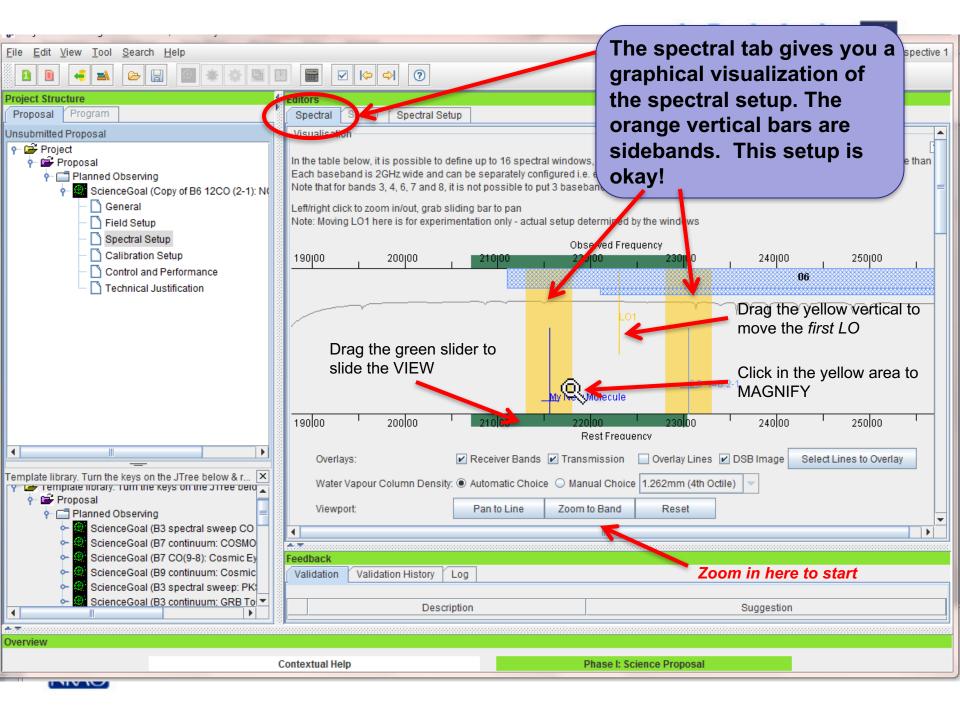




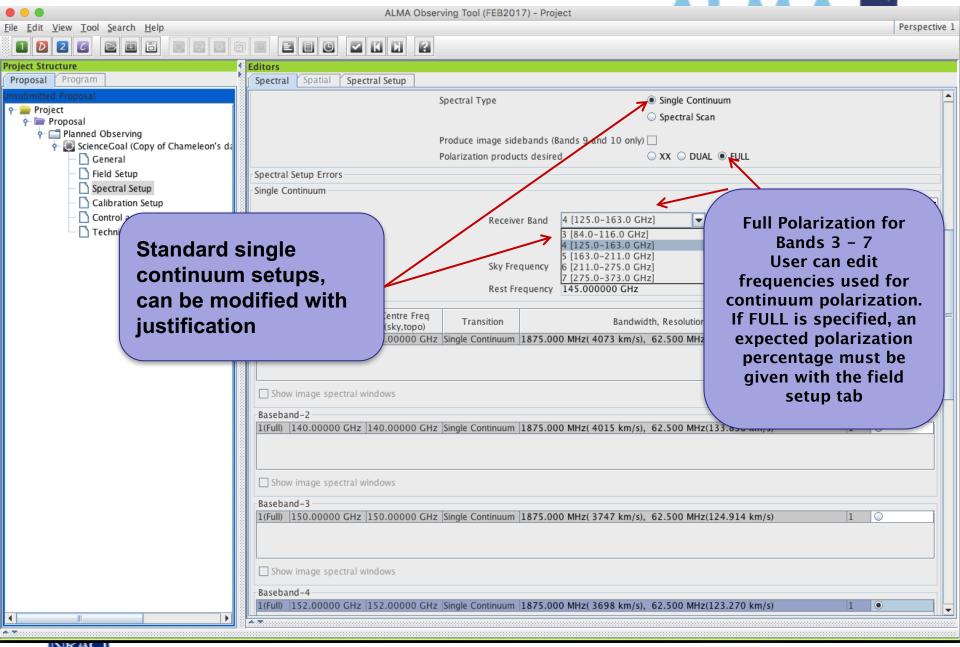




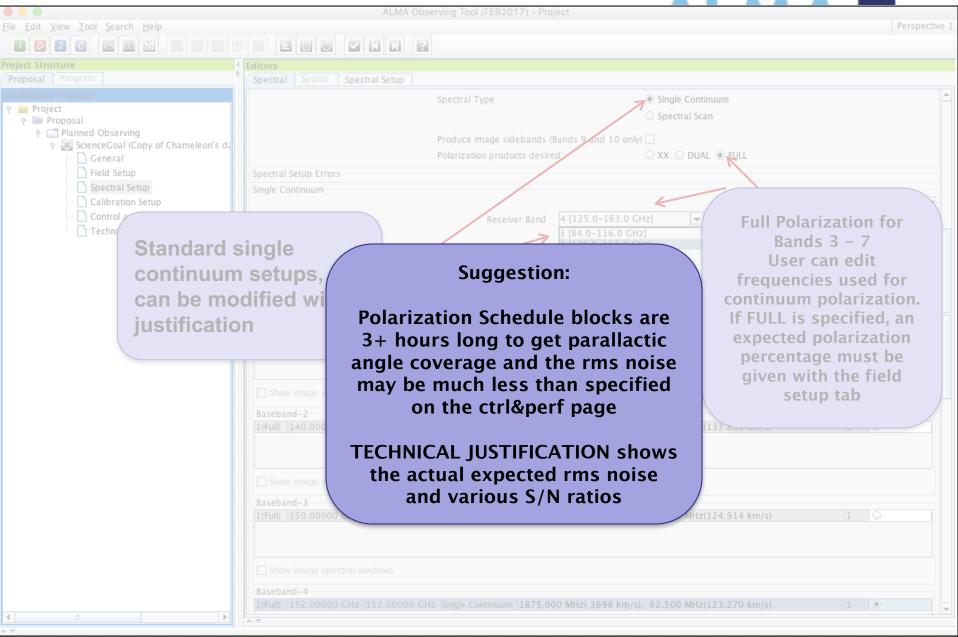




Full Continuum & Polarization

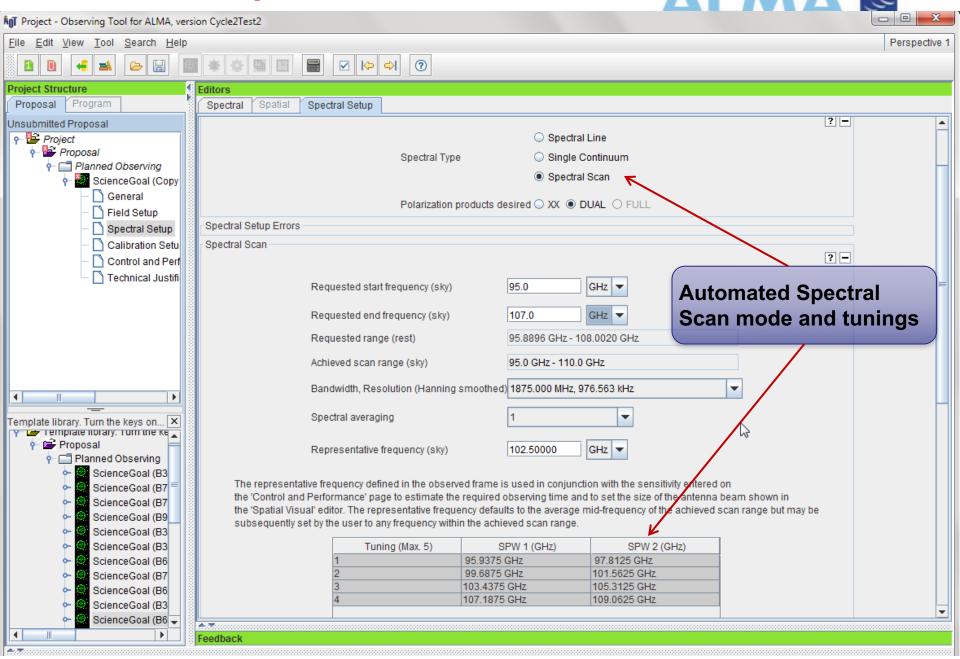


Full Continuum & Polarization



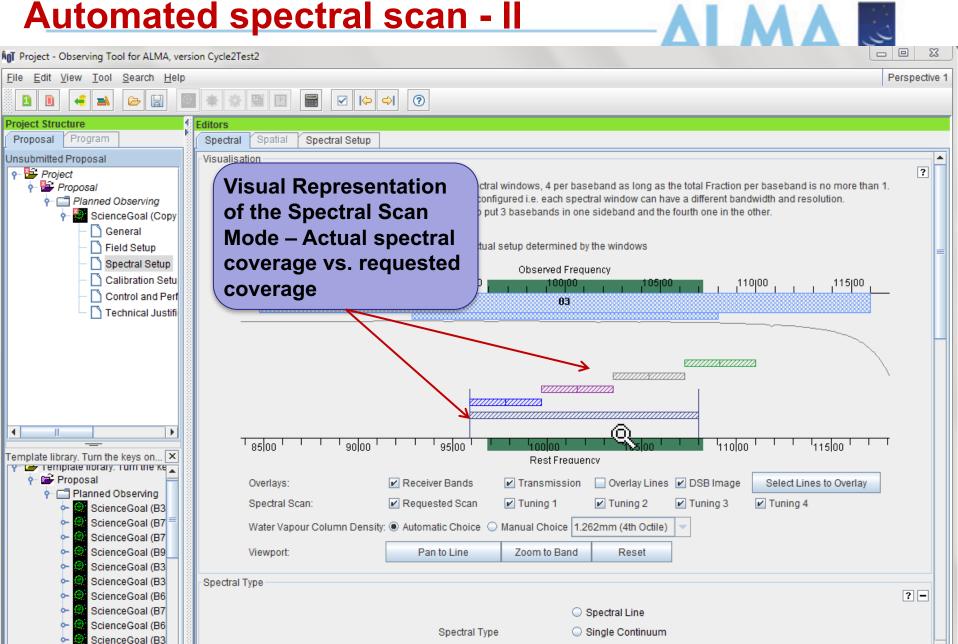


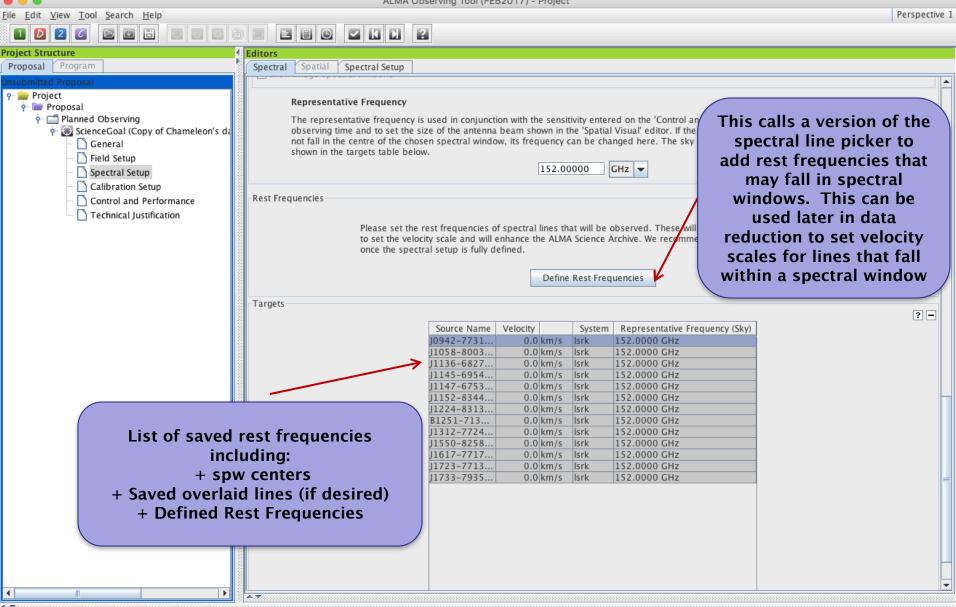
Automated spectral scan - I



ScienceGoal (B6 -

Feedback





NKAO

Sideband separation (90° Walsh) ALMA Observing Tool (FEB2017) - Cycle 5 Kelvin Sensitivity Test <u>File Edit View Tool Search H</u>elp Perspective 1 Project Structure Editors Proposal Program Spatial Spectral Setup Spectral Left/right click to zoom in/out, grab sliding bar to pan Note: Moving LO1 here is for experimentation only - actual setup determined by the windows Observed Frequency Bands 9,10 have double sideband rcvrs but the sidebands can be separated using an additional phase-switching Signal at 680 GHz step, 90° Walsh 680,000 685,000 690,000 670100 switching. This Rest Frequency can be turned on ✓ Transmission
✓ DSB Image
☐ Spectral Lines Overlays: Receiver Bands Select Lines to Overlay Water Vapour Column Density:

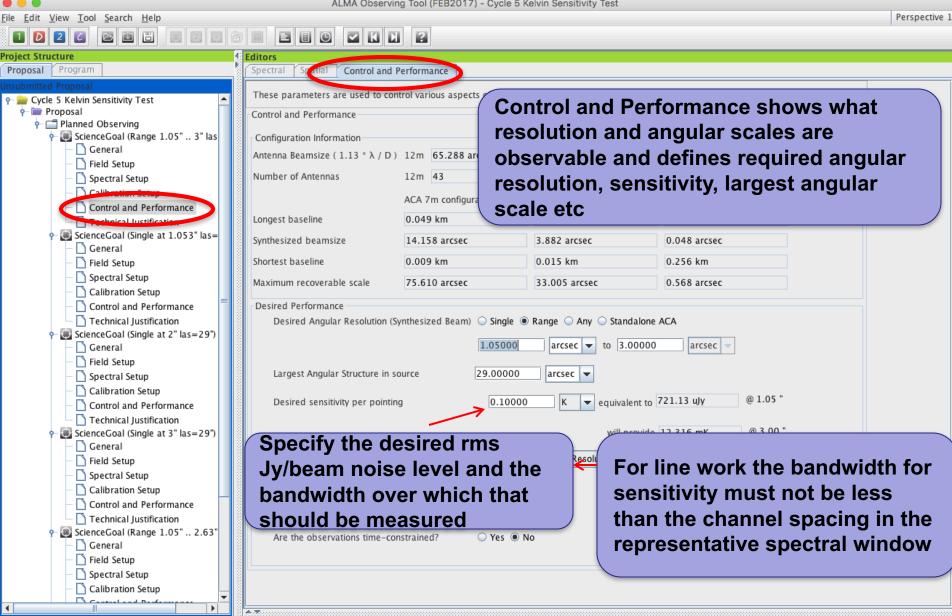
Automatic Choice

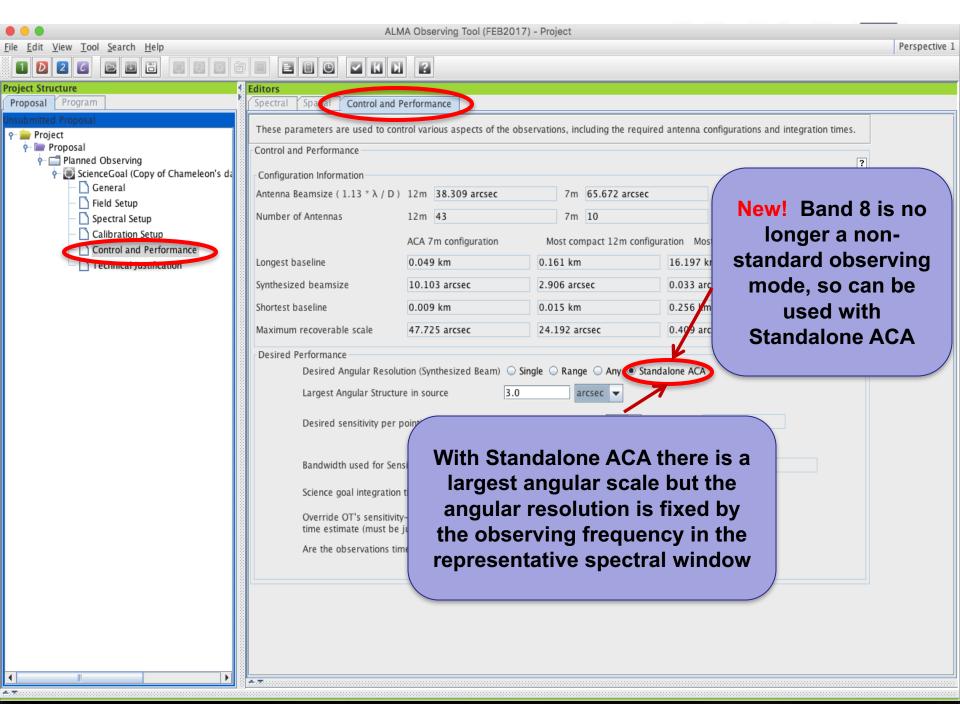
Manual Choice

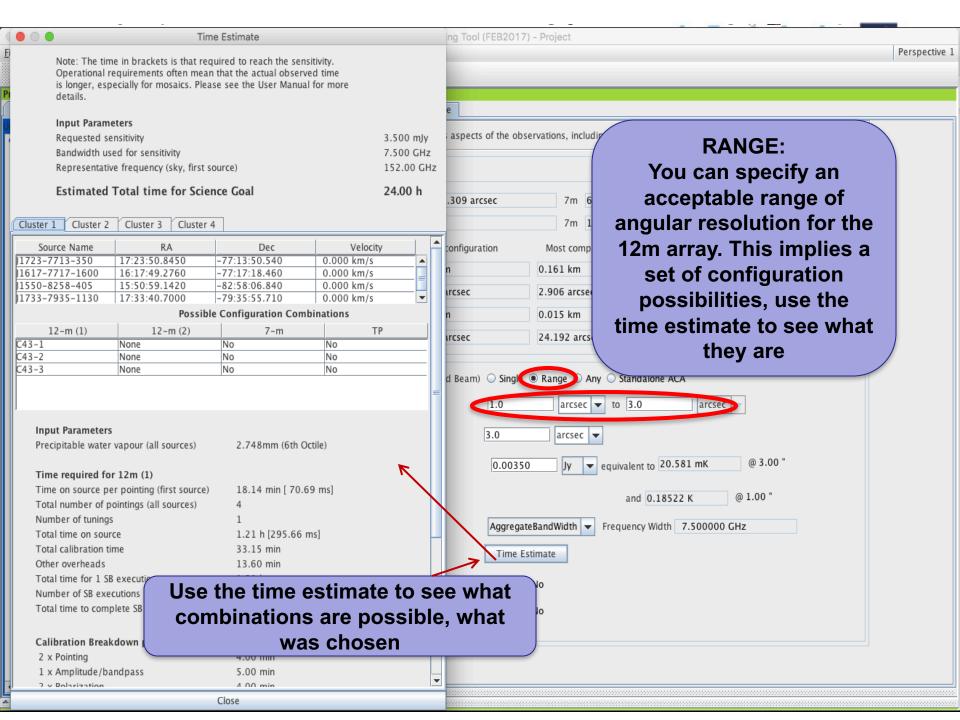
658 pm (2nd Octile) solely to reject See where lines in lines in the image Pan to Spectral Wind Viewport: one SB appear in the sideband, but other if checked pectral Type once enabled, the Turn it on here! two SB may be Spectral Line stored separately. Single Continuum Note that the Spectral Scan noise is not Record both SB? Produce image sidebands (Bands 9 and 10 only) 📈 affected because O XX

DUAL

FULL Polarization products desired only a correlated spectral Setup Errors signal can be spectral Line ? separated. Baseband-1 Centre Freq Spec Store Representativ Fraction Centre Freq Transition Bandwidth, Resolution (smoothed) (rest, lsrk) (sky,bar) Avg. Image Window 1(Full) 679.99934 GHz 680.00000 GHz Signal at 680 ... 1875.000 MHz(827 km/s), 1.129 MHz(0.498 km/s) Only 1.875 GHz bandwidth, line or continuum







Total and Calibration Times

Science Goal	12-r	n (1)	12-m (2)		12-m (1+2)		ACA 7-m		ACA TP		Ove	rall	Non-standard Mode
	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	
At ar 1"	1.03 d	6 21 h	9.92 h	2.48 h	1.45 d	8.70 h	-	-	-	-	1.45 d	8.70 h	No
Overall	1 03 d	21 h	9.92 h	2 48 h	1.45 d	8 70 h	_	_	_	_	1 45 d	8 70 h	

Project Summary

Use Tool->display project time summary on the main menu to see these

Total and Calibration Times

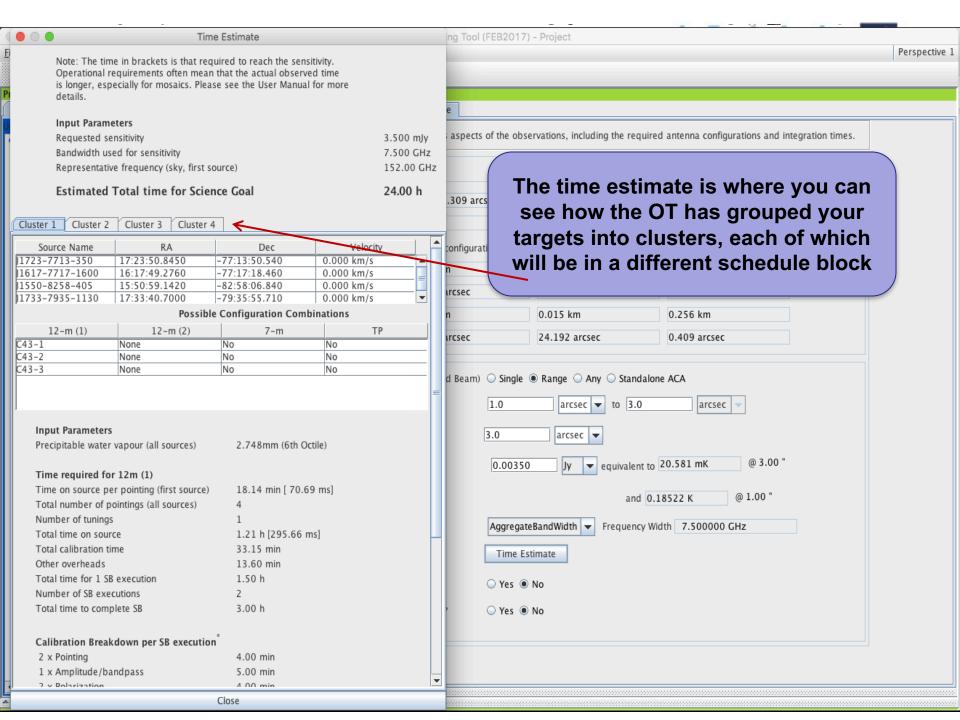
	Science Goal	12-m (1)			12-m (2)		12-m (1+2)		ACA 7-m		ACA TP		Overall		Non-standard Mode
		Tot.	Ca	ıl.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	Tot.	Cal.	
	At ar 3"	31.53 min	3	.83 min	-	-	31.53 min	13.83 min	2.63 h	1.15 h	-	-	3.15 h	1.38 h	No
-	Overall	31.53 min	7	.83 min	-	-	31.53 min	13.83 min	2.63 h	1.15 h	-	-	3.15 h	1.38 h	

When using RANGE:

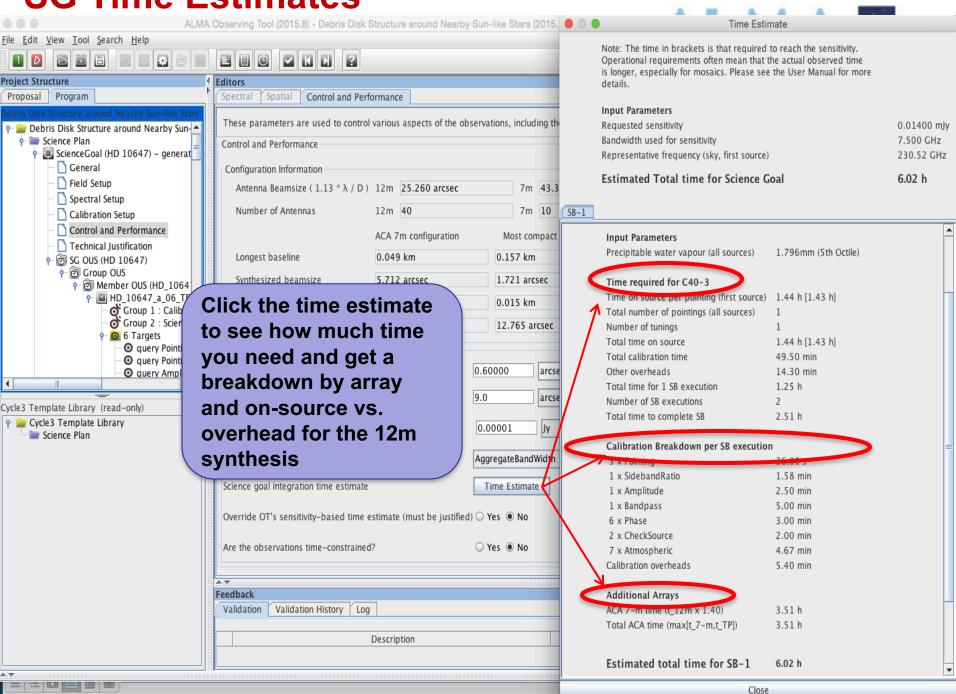
Rules are operating under the hood to choose among the possible configuration choices and they may be biased toward the low resolution end of a range because less 12m time is needed. See above for an example where is a factor 50 difference in 12m time for ar = 1" vs. ar = 3"

Be careful that the OT is not making choices for you that you would not make for yourself. Before submitting with a range, narrow it and use the project time summary to examine the choices the OT is making

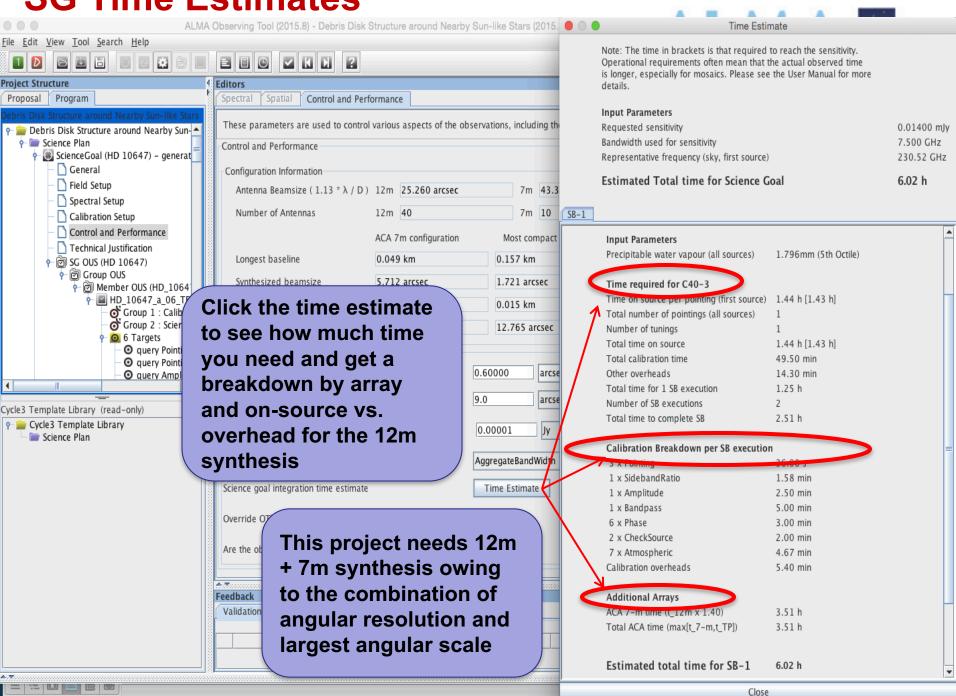




SG Time Estimates



SG Time Estimates



Single source time estimates ALMA Observing Tool (2015.8) - Debris Disk Structure around Nearby Sun-like Stars (2015.) File Edit View Tool Search Help Note: The time in brackets is that required to reach the sensitivity. Operational requirements often mean that the actual observed time is longer, especially for mosaics. Please see the User Manual for more Project Structure Editors details. Proposal Program Spatial Control and Performance Input Parameters These parameters are used to control various aspects of the observations, including the - Debris Disk Structure around Nearby Sun-Requested sensitivity 0.01400 mJy - Science Plan Bandwidth used for sensitivity 7.500 GHz Control and Performance ScienceGoal (HD 10647) - generat Representative frequency (sky, first source) 230.52 GHz General Configuration Information Estimated Total time for Science Goal 6.02 h Field Setup Antenna Beamsize (1.13 * \(\lambda\) / D) 12m 25.260 arcsec 7m 43.3 Spectral Setup Calibration Setup Control and Performan Note that the OT calculates the number of Input Parameters Technical Justification Precipitable water vapour (all sources) 1.796mm (5th Octile) executions based on an estimate of the ় ি ভি SG OUS (HD 10647) Time required for C40-3 maximum duration of an SB. This means →
→
Member OUS (H

Output

Description

Description

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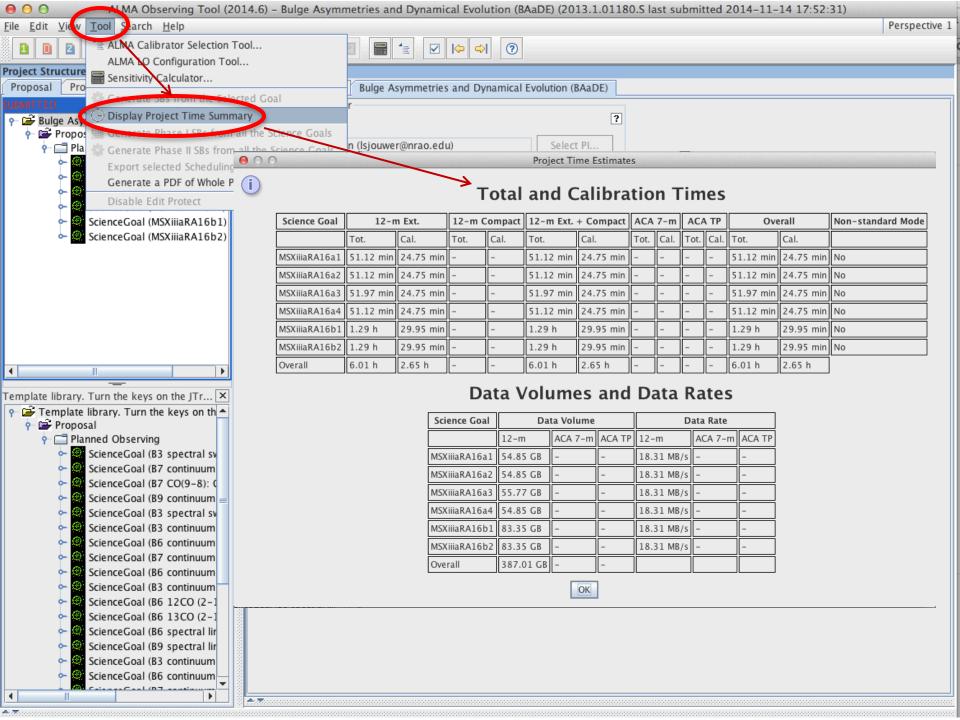
Description

Description

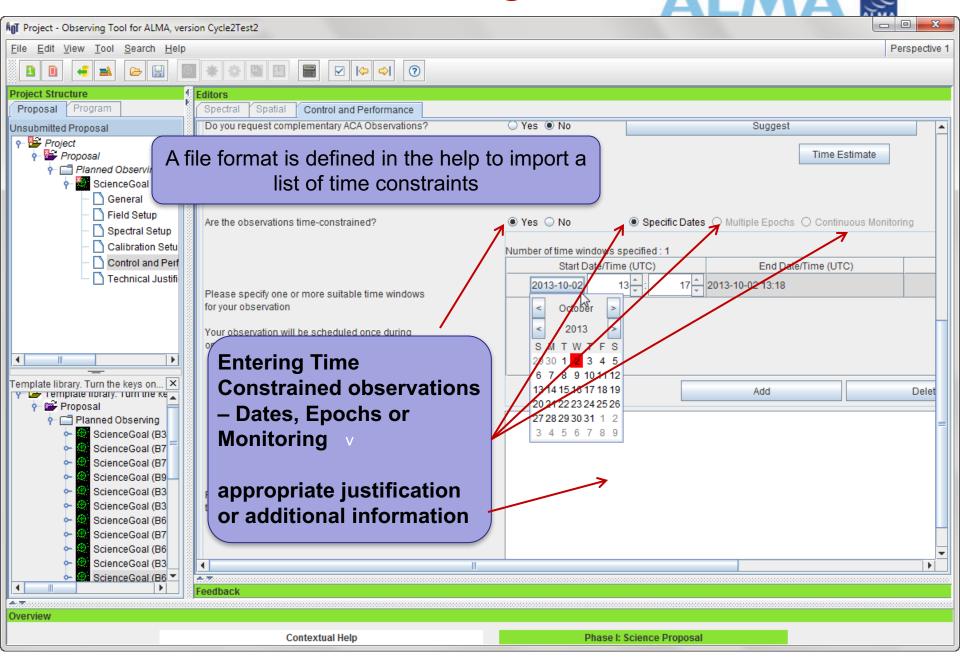
Output

Description

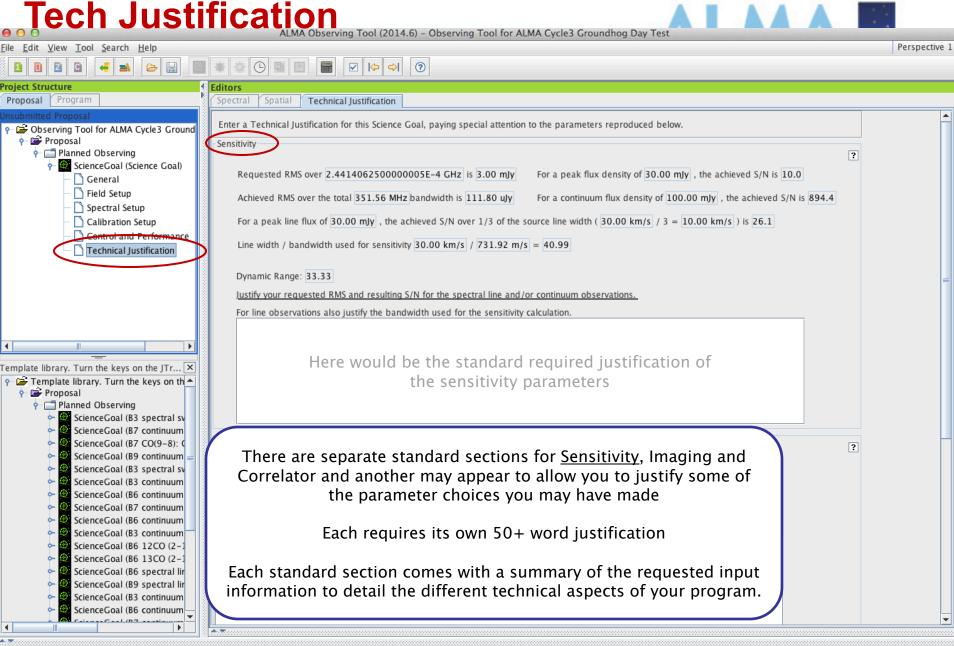
Descriptio - MD_10647_ Time on source per pointing (first source) 1.44 h [1.43 h] that adding a little bit of on-source time can Group 1 Total number of pointings (all sources) Group 2 Number of tunings sometimes make for a significantly larger 6 Target Total time on source 1.44 h [1.43 h] Query Total calibration time 49.50 min total time if another execution is implied Query Other overheads 14.30 min Query Total time for 1 SB execution 1.25 h Number of SB executions Cycle3 Template Library (read-only) Total time to complete SB 2.51 h Cycle3 Template Library Desired sensitivity per pointing 0.00001 Jy Science Plan Calibration Breakdown per SB execution Bandwidth used for Sensitivity AggregateBandWidth 3 x Pointing 36.00 s 1 x SidebandRatio 1.58 min Science goal integration time estimate Time Estimate 1 x Amplitude 2.50 min 1 x Bandpass 5.00 min Override OT's sensitivity-based time estimate (must be justified) \(\text{ Yes } \end{aligned} No 6 x Phase 3.00 min 2 x CheckSource 2.00 min Yes
No Are the observations time-constrained? 7 x Atmospheric 4.67 min Calibration overheads 5.40 min Feedback Additional Arrays Validation History ACA 7-m time (t 12m x 1.40) 3.51 h Total ACA time (max[t 7-m,t TP]) 3.51 h Description Estimated total time for SB-1 6.02 h Close



Time constrained observing



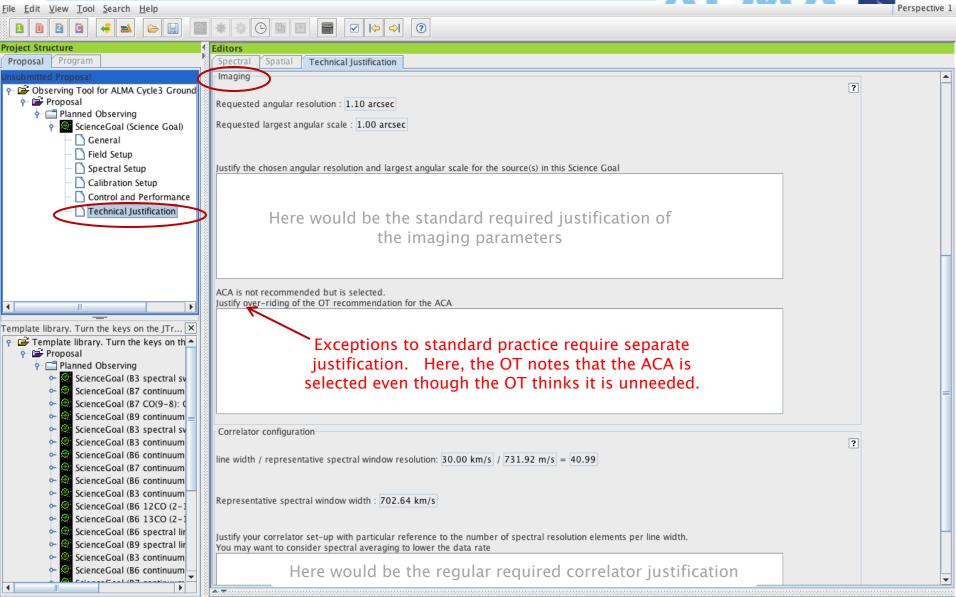
The sensitivity calculator is available separately in the OT (or on the web) ALMA Observing Tool (FEB2017) - Chameleon's Dark Neutral Matter (2016.1.00714.S last submitted 2016-08-30 10:29:11) <u>File Edit Vew Tool Sarch Help</u> Perspective 1 ALMA LO Configuration Tool... Project Structur Sensitivity Calculator... Proposal Control and Performance Sensitivity Calculator These parameters are used imes. - Enameleon's Dark Neutral Matter Common Parameters - Science Plan Control and Performance Dec 00:00:00.000 👇 鼶 ScienceGoal (Chameleon's dark neutra ? Dual Polarization General Configuration Information Field Setup 345.00000 GHz Observing Frequency Antenna Beamsize (1.13 * Spectral Setup Bandwidth per Polarization 7.50000 GHz Number of Antennas Calibration Setup Automatic Choice
 Manual Choice Water Vapour Control and Performance Column Density 0.913mm (3rd Octile) Technical Justification Trx, tau, Tsky 75 K, 0.158, 39.538 K Longest baseline - 🗐 SG OUS (Chameleon's dark neutra Tsys 157.027 K 👇 🗐 Group OUS Synthesized beamsize Individual Parameters ← 🗐 Member OUS (J1723-7713 👇 🔳 J1723-77_a_03_TM1[1 12m Array 7m Array Total Power Array Shortest baseline of Group 1 : Calibrator Number of Antennas 43 10 Group 2 : Science Maximum recoverable scale 5.97455 arcsec 🔻 Resolution 0.00000 arcsec 🔻 16.9 arcsec 9 Targets Sensitivity (rms) 0.00000 uJy 0.00000 uJy 0.00000 uJy query Pointing Te Desired Performance query Pointing Te 0.00000 0.00000 (equivalent to) Unknown Desired Angular Resolu query Amplitude 60.00000 Integration Time 60.00000 60.00000 v Query Phase (Phase) query Bandpass Integration Time Unit Option | Automatic **⊙** J1550-8258-40 Largest Angular Structu Sensitivity Unit Option | Automatic **⊙** J1617-7717-16 **⊙** J1733-7935-11 Desired sensitivity per - Resources Calculate Integration Time Calculate Sensitivity Close 9 Field Sources Pointing Tem • A valid sensitivity must be entered in order to calculate an integration time. Bandwidth used for Ser Pointing Tem Amplitude qu Science goal integration Phase query Bandpass que Override OT's sensitivit Primary: J172 time estimate (must be Primary: J155 Are the observations tir Primary: J161 Primary: J173 2 Instrument Setu B3 Pointing Se HCN v=0 J=1





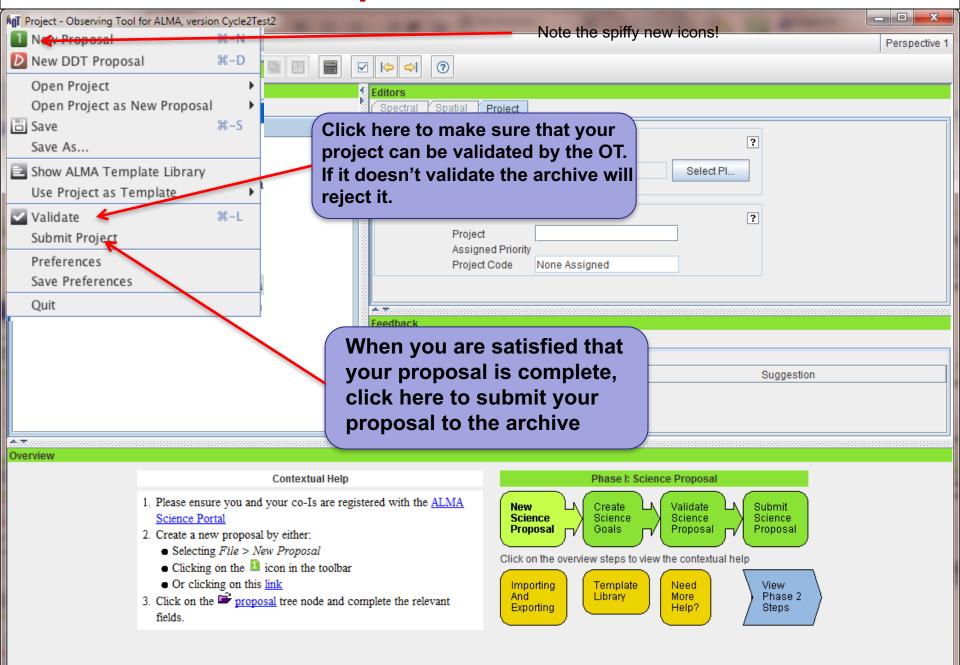
Tech Justification

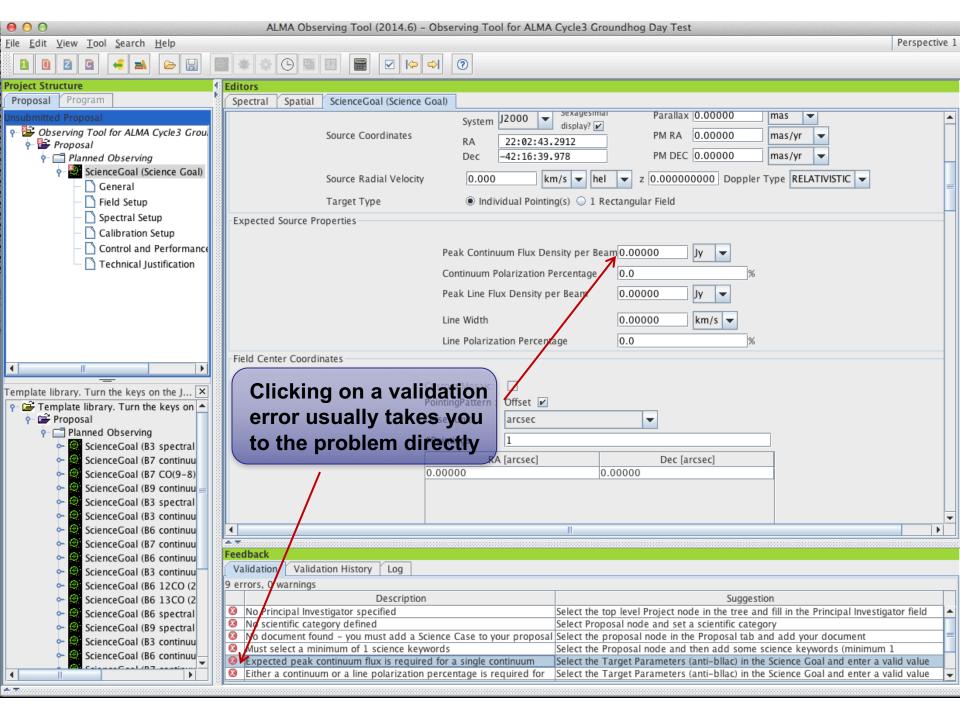




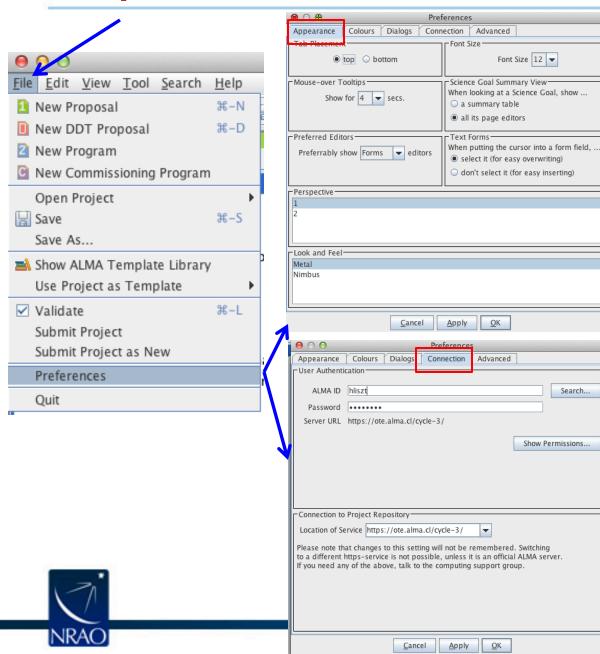


When the time is ripe ... validate & submit

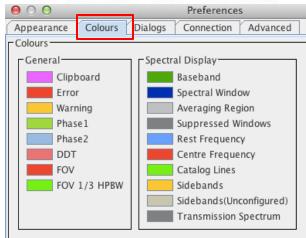


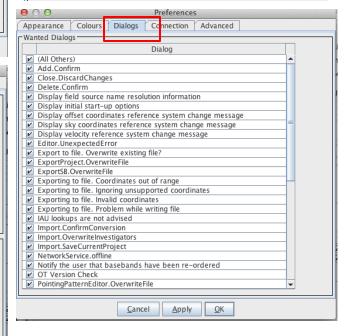


Use preferences to customize

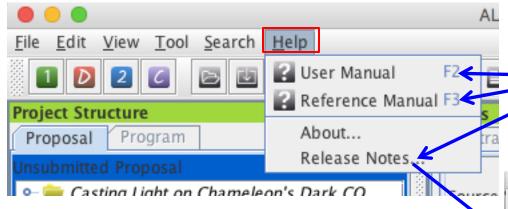




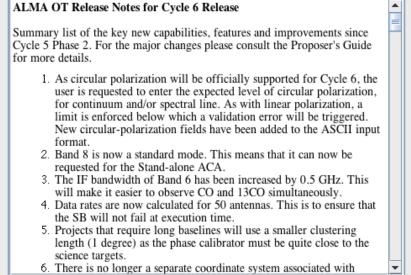




Don't be afraid to ask for directions



Suggestion: input file formats are shown in the help sections that you invoke with the local?



About the OT

License

Close

Version

Credits

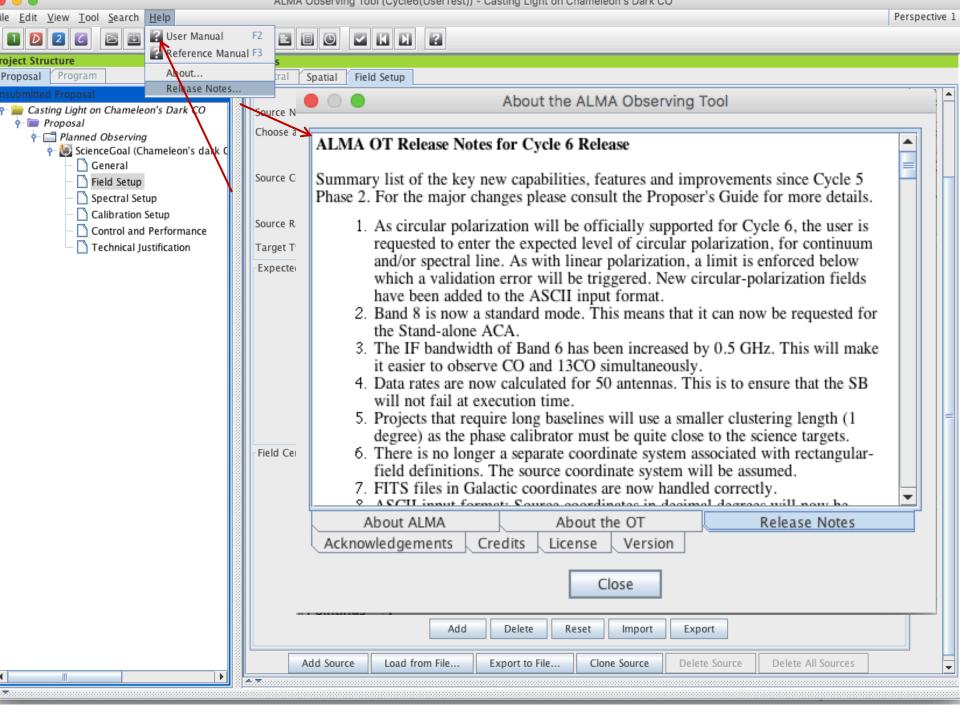
Release Notes

About ALMA

Acknowledgements

About the ALMA Observing Tool





A Few OT Tips...



- The same cut and paste commands you use outside the OT for text also work inside it since Cycle 5
- Ctrl-Z global shortcut will expand out all succeeding items in the J-tree (try it, you'll see what we mean)
- Holding down ALT when making choices in dropdown lists will convert to the unit or type of the new choice
 - Otherwise, only the description changes, not value
- OT does galactic-celestial conversion automatically
 - Cannot convert in other ways, eg not FK5 J2000 to ICRS. FK5 J2000 now deprecated

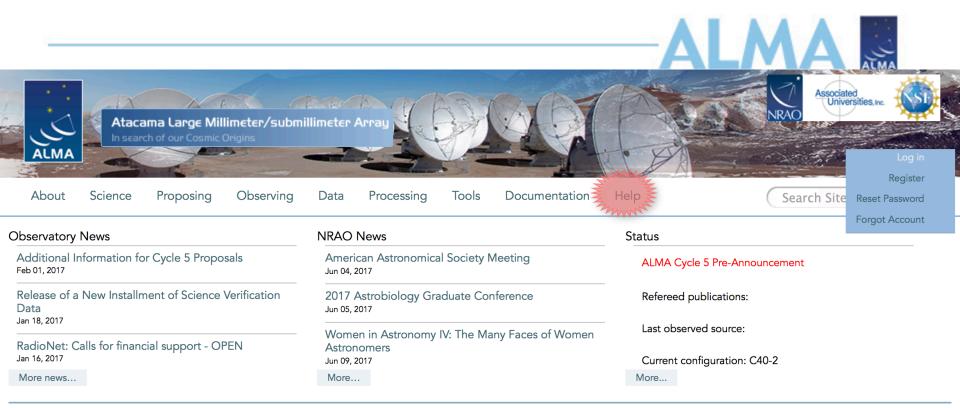


A Few More OT Tips...

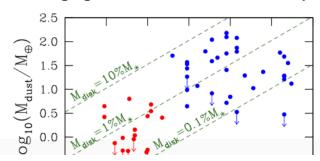


 NEW In the J-tree: Holding down the alt key in combination with the up/down arrows will move from a node in one SG to the same node in the adjacent SG (try it when you have more than one SG)





Science Highlights - Possible Disk Truncation in Ophiuchus Brown Dwarfs



The sensitivity, resolution and the wavelength coverage of ALMA makes it an ideal tool for studying the properties of the cold outer disks of young stars and low mass objects. Such observations can aid us in understanding the formation of their central objects and their likelihood of ultimately hosting planets. In a recent Astronomy & Astrophysics paper, Dr. Testi and his collaborators made use of ALMA Band 7 to observe an unbiased sample of spectroscopically confirmed Ophiuchus brown dwarfs with infrared excesses.



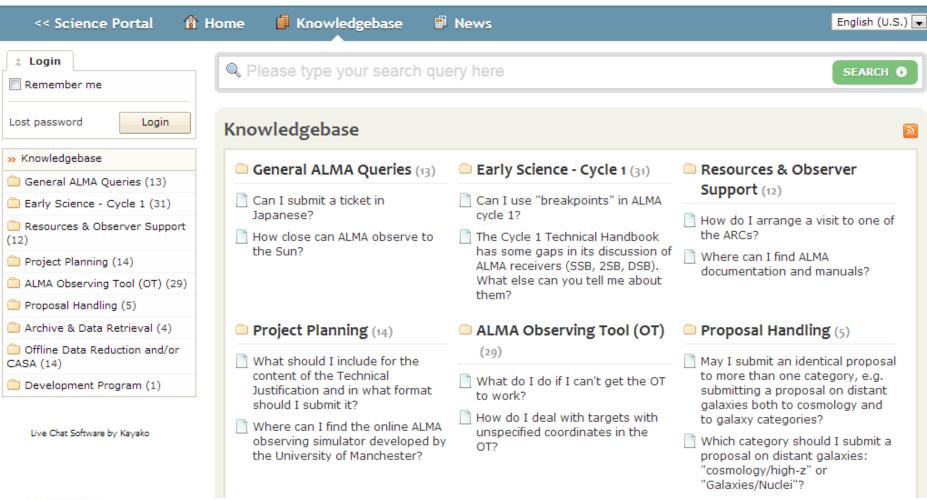
www.almascience.org ALMA Science Portal @ NRAO

I could use a hand...





Have no fear, the ALMA Helpdesk is here...









For more info:

https://almascience.nrao.edu/

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), an international astronomy facility, is a partnership of Europe, North America and East Asia in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. ALMA is funded in Europe by the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), in North America by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in cooperation with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and the National Science Council of Taiwan (NSC), and in East Asia by the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) of Japan in cooperation with the Academia Sinica (AS) in Taiwan. ALMA construction and operations are led on behalf of Europe by ESO, on behalf of North America by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), which is managed by Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI), and on behalf of East Asia by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ). The Joint ALMA Observatory (JAO) provides the unified leadership and management of the construction and operation of ALMA.