An Introduction to the Cycle 5 ALMA Observing Tool

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



[Your Name as Presenter here]

Author: Harvey Liszt





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





ALMA Cycle 5 Planning

 ALMA Cycle 4 will provide 4000 hours of 12-m array science observations. The remaining time on ALMA will be reserved for engineering, computing and scientific testing to extend and optimize ALMA capabilities.

Dates to remember:

- 21 March 2017 Call for Proposals

- 20 April 2017 Proposal deadline

August 2017 Review results sent to Pls

- October 2017 Start of ALMA Cycle 5 observations

September 2018 End of Cycle 5 observations





Cycle 5 Capabilities

- Antennas: At least 43 antennas in the 12-m Array, ten 7-m antennas (for short baselines) and three 12-m antennas (for single dish maps)
- **Receiver bands:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 (wavelengths of about 3.1, 2.1, 1.5, 1.3, 0.87, 0.74, 0.44, and 0.35 mm, respectively)
- Baselines: Maximum baselines up to 3.7 km for Bands 8, 9, and 10; up to 6.8 km for Band 7; and >15 km for Bands 3, 4, 5 & 6.
- Spectral line, continuum, and mosaic observations
- Single pointing, on axis, full (linear) polarization capabilities for continuum and full spectral resolution observations in Band 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the 12-m array





Cycle 5 Capabilities

Cycle 5 observing modes will be classified as standard or non-standard, and up to 20% of the observing time will be allocated to proposals requesting **non-standard modes**, which include:

- Bands 8, 9 & 10 observations
- Band 7 observations with maximum baselines > 5 km
- All full polarization observations
- Spectral Scans
- Bandwidth switching projects (less than 1GHz aggregate bandwidth over all spectral windows)
- Solar Observations
- VLBI observations
- Non-standard calibrations (user-defined calibrations selected in the OT)





New Capabilities to Note:

In Cycle 5, the following opportunities will be available to Proposers for the first time.

- 90 Degree Walsh switching at Bands 9 & 10 for both the 12m and the ACA
- Large Programs
 - defined as more than 50 hours of observations with either the 12-m Array or the ACA in stand-alone mode.
- VLBI full polarization continuum observations at selected frequencies in Bands 3, 6, and 7
 - Proposals will be accepted for Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) observations with ALMA in concert with an existing VLBI network: the Global mm-VLBI Array (GMVA) at 3 mm and a new NRAO/Event Horizon Telescope Consortium (EHTC) network at 1.3 mm. In addition to submitting an ALMA proposal, VLBI programs must also submit a proposal to the appropriate VLBI network according to their deadlines.
- Solar observations (Interferometry + Total Power continuum)
 t selected frequencies in Bands 3 and 6.



Proposal Checklist

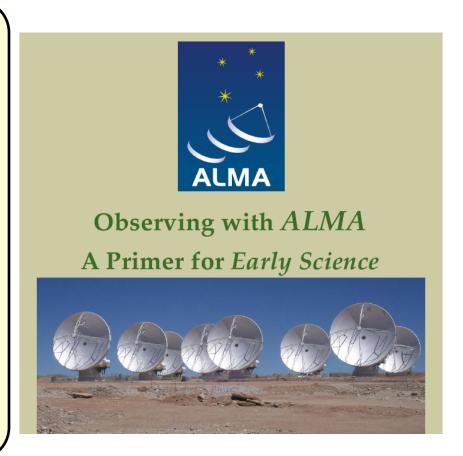
- Read relevant documentation (CfP Guide, Primer, etc.)
- Create an ALMA account by registering at the Science Portal (almascience.org)
- Download the Observing Tool (OT) & related guides
- Prepare the Science Case
 - New capabilities for Cycle 5!
- Prepare Science Goals (sources, frequency & correlator setup, integration times) within the OT
- Make use of the Helpdesk & the Knowledgebase





Cycle 5 Documentation & Timeline

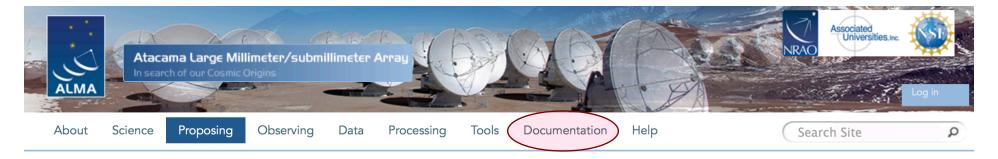
- Call for Proposals
- ALMA Primer
- OT Guide
- ALMA Tech Handbook
- Helpdesk Knowledgebase
- Timeline for Cycle 5
 - Mar. 21 Call for Proposals
 - Apr. 20 Proposal Deadline
 - August Review Complete
 - October Start of Cycle 5
 - Duration 11 months/year





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.

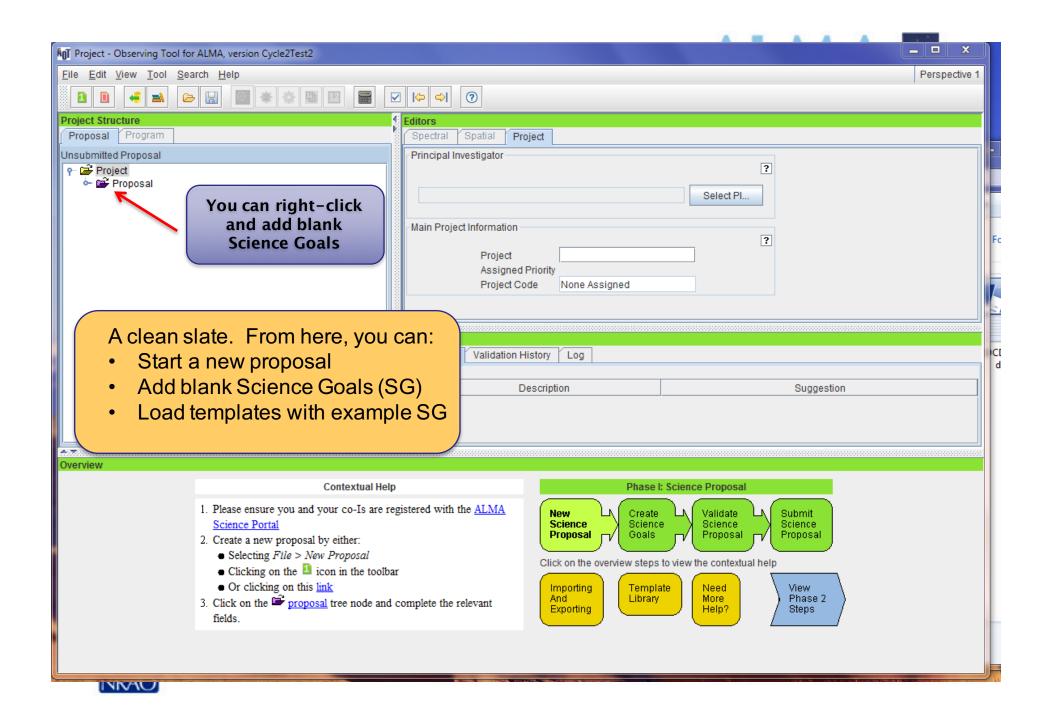
Download & Installation

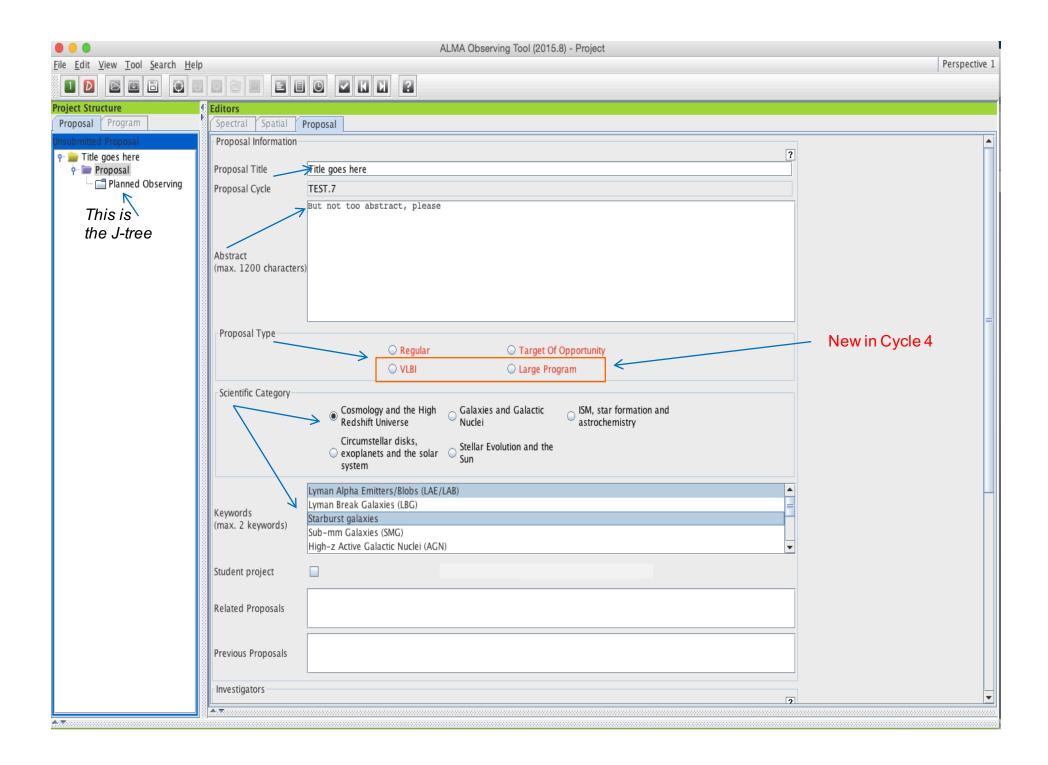
The OT will run on most common operating systems, as long as you have **Java 8** installed (see the troubleshooting page if you are experiencing Java problems). The ALMA OT is available in two flavours: Web Start and tarball.

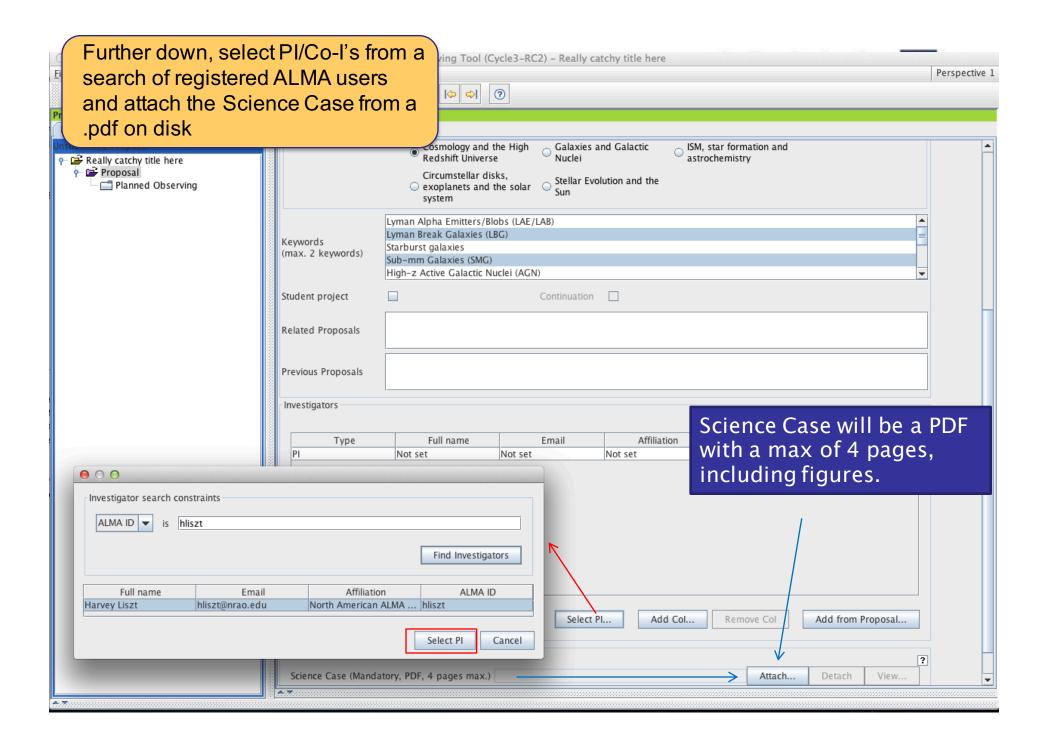
The **Web Start** application is the recommended way of using the OT. It has the advantage that the OT is automatically downloaded and installed on your computer and it will also automatically detect and install updates. There are some issues with Web Start, particularly that it does not work with the 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.

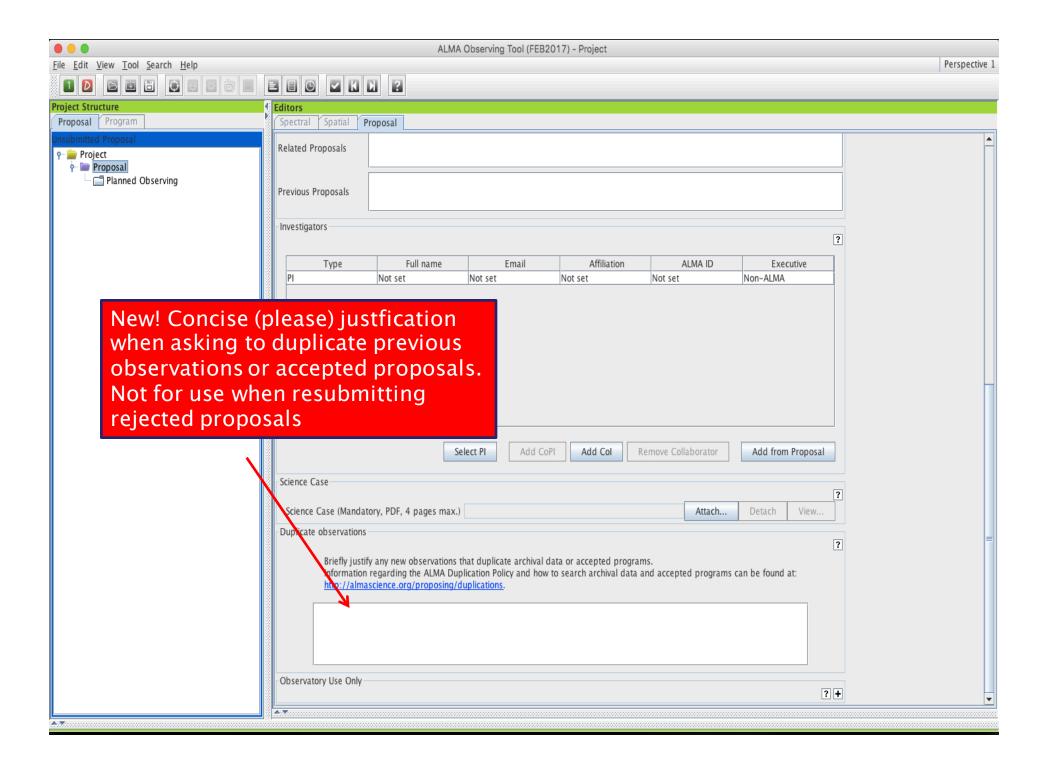
The **tarball** version must be installed manually and will not automatically update itself, however there should be no installation issues. For Linux users, we also provide a download complete with a recommended version of the Java Runtime Environment. Please use this if you have any problems running the OT tarball install with your default Java.













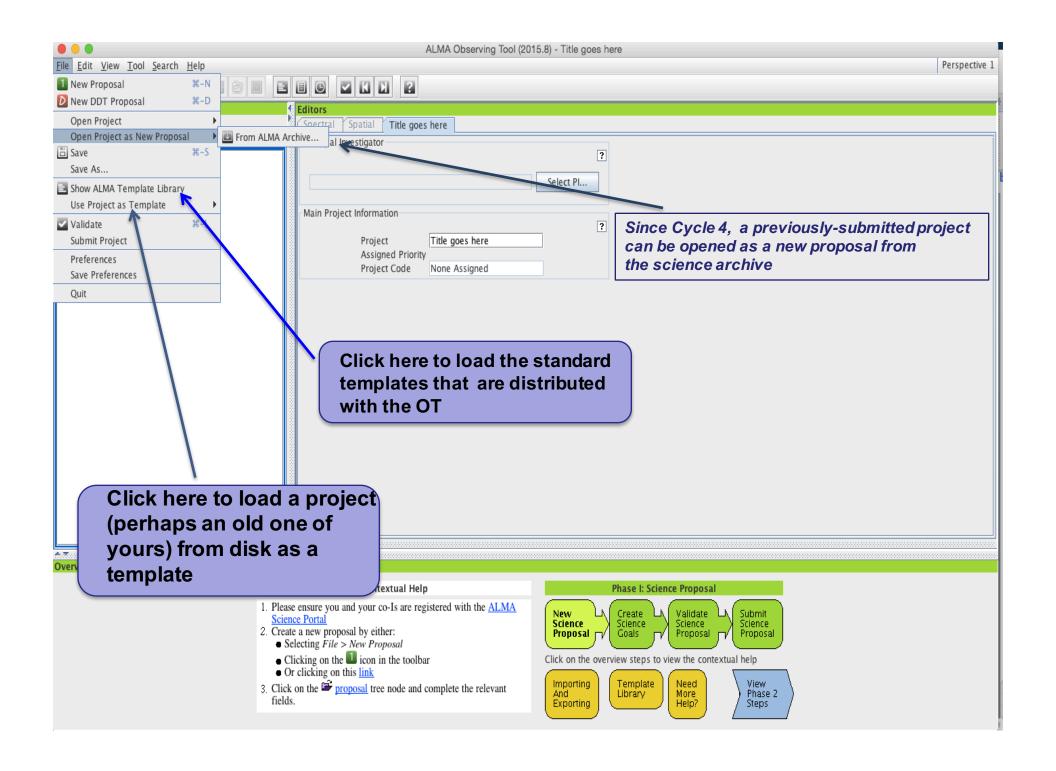
Science Case

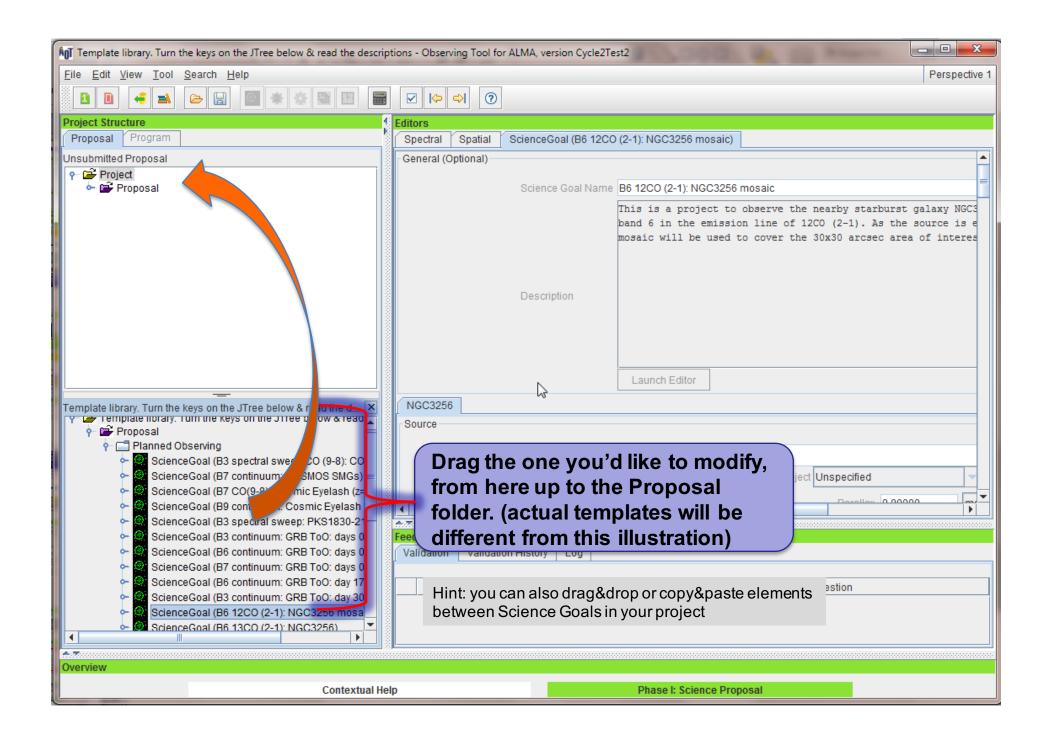
- Must include:
 - Astronomical Importance
 - Estimated intensity, S/N
- May include:
 - Figures
 - Tables
 - References
- Free-form PDF document
 - 12+ font, English only
 - 20 MB file size
 - 4 pages (6 for Large Projects)

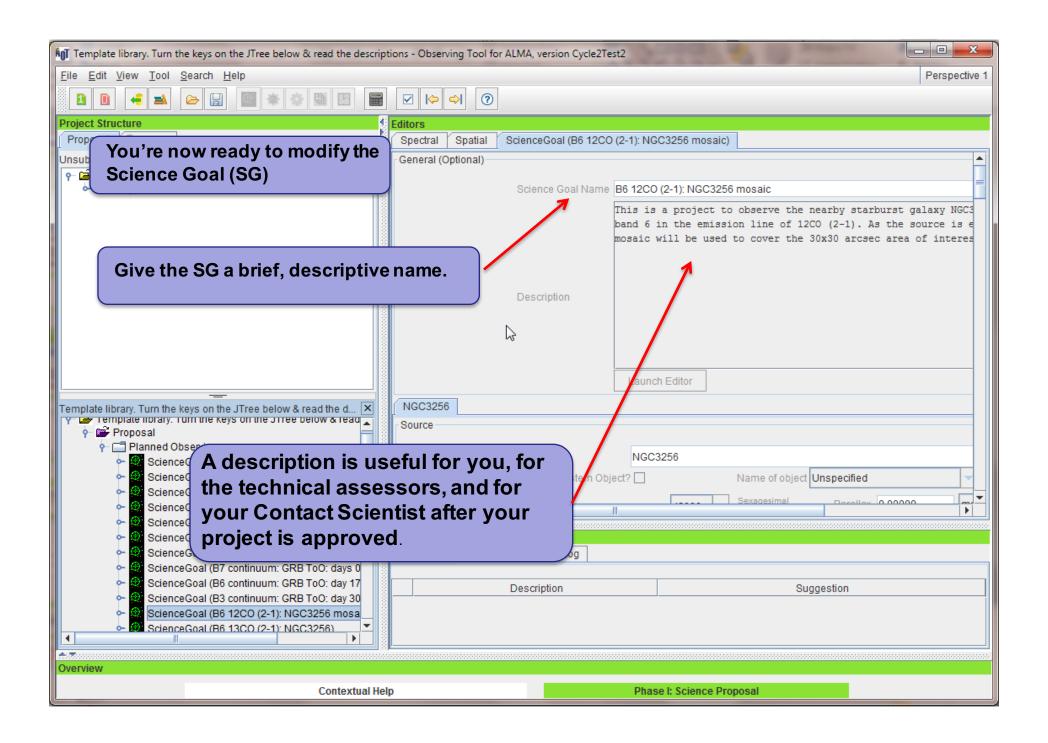


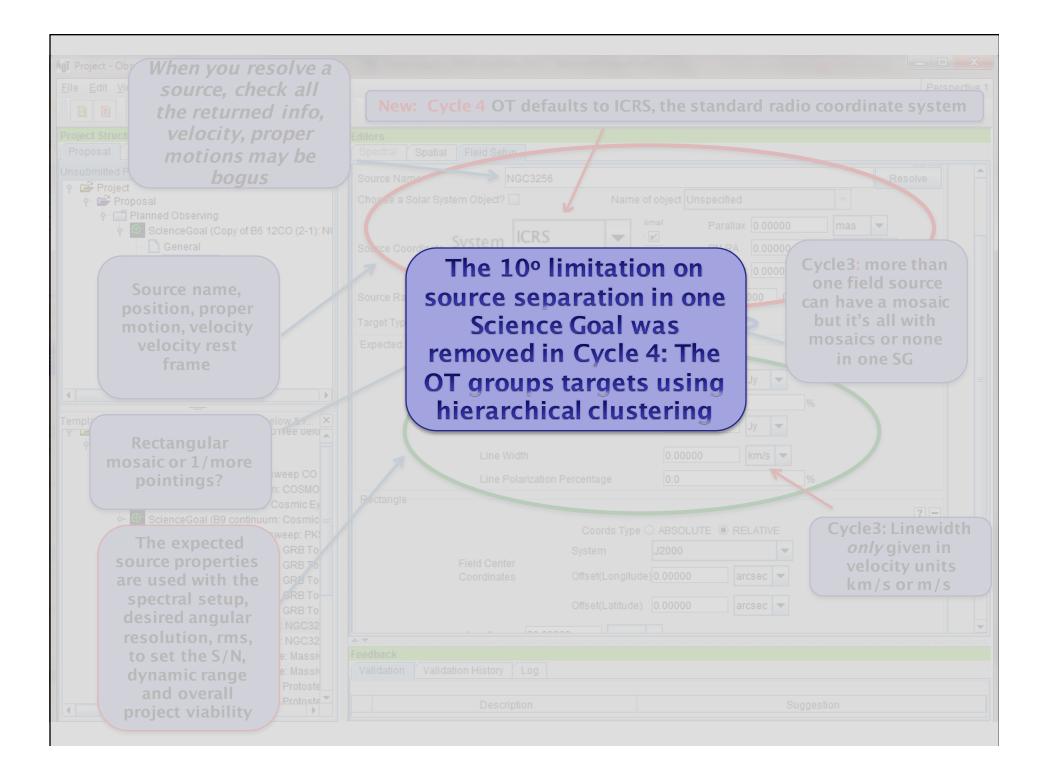
Start date	Configuration	Longest baseline	LST for best observing conditions
2017 October 1	C43-7	3.7 km	~ 21h - 10h
2017 October 5	C43-8	6.8 km	~ 22h - 11h
2017 October 25	C43-9	12.8 km	~ 23h - 12h
2017 November 10	C43-10	16.5 km	~ 1h - 13h
2017 December 1-18	No observations due to large antenna reconfiguration		
2017 December 19	C43-6	1.8 km	~ 4h - 15h
2018 January 10	C43-5	1.1 km	~ 5h - 17h
2018 February 1-28	No observations due to February shutdown		
2018 March 1	C43-4	0.7 km	~ 8h - 21h
2018 March 30	C43-3	0.46 km	~ 10h - 0h
2018 May 15	C43-2	0.27 km	~ 12h - 3h
2018 June 15	C43-1	0.15 km	~ 14h - 5h
2018 July 15	C43-2	0.27 km	~ 17h - 7h
2018 August 15	C43-3	0.46 km	~ 18h - 8h
2018 August 30	C43-4	0.7 km	~ 19h - 9h
2018 September 15	C43-5	1.1 km	~ 20h - 10h

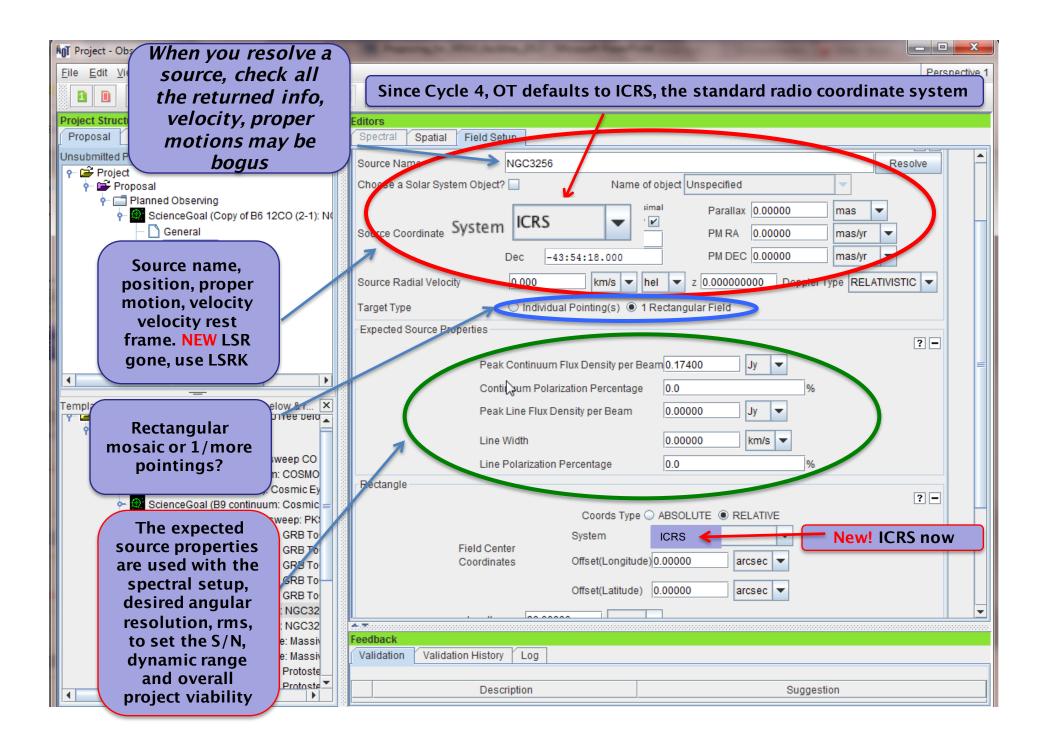


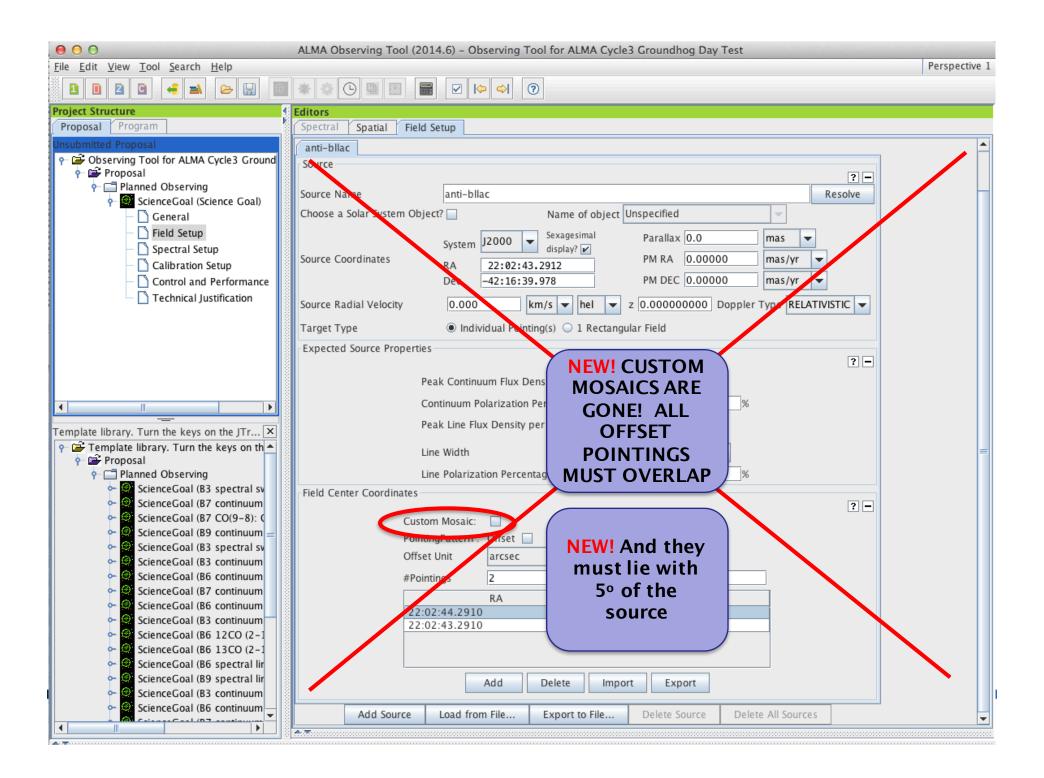


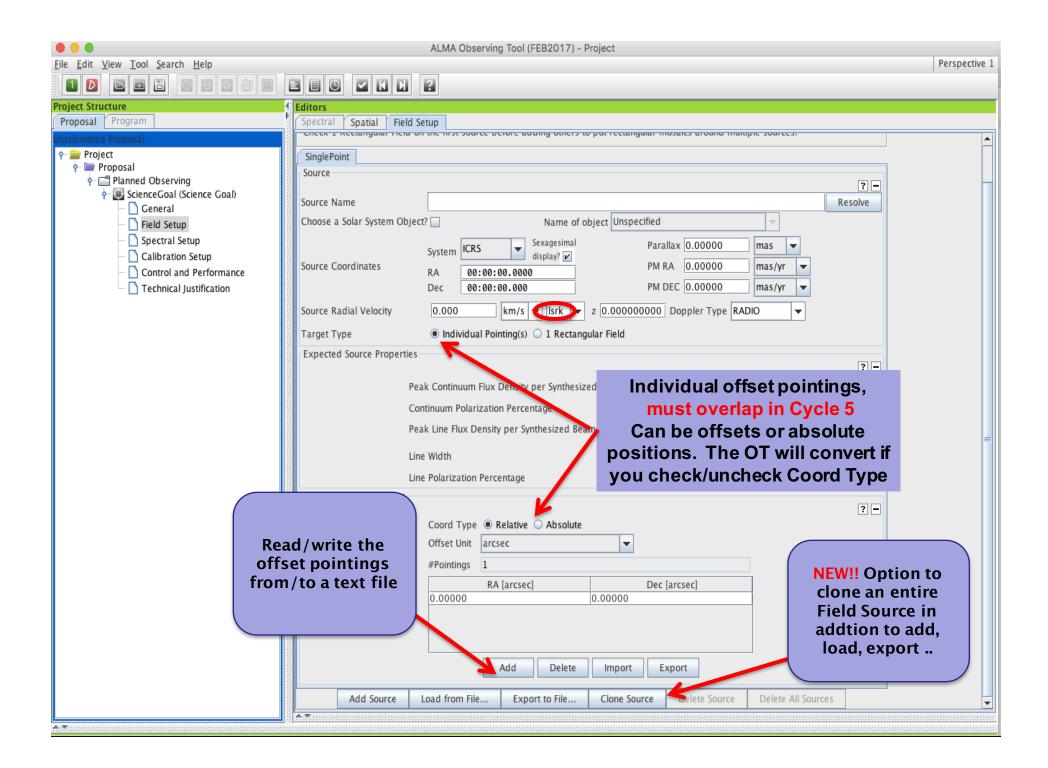


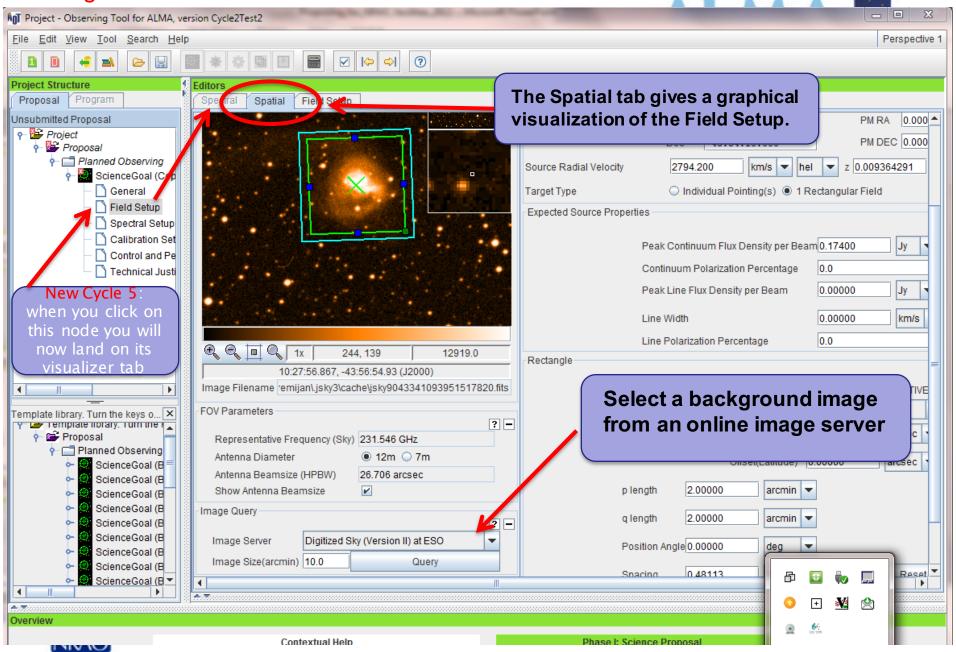


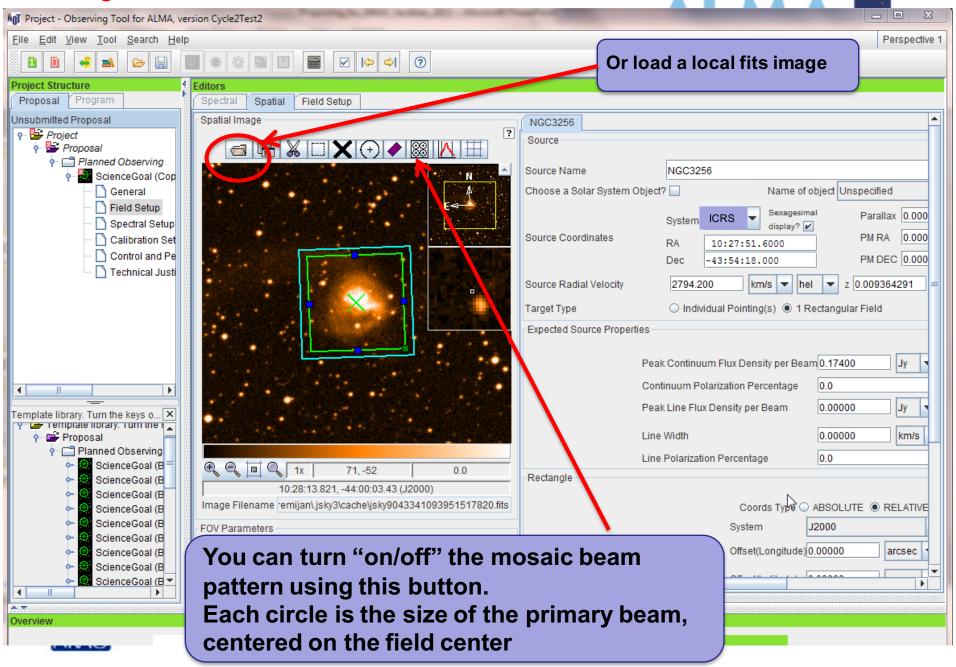


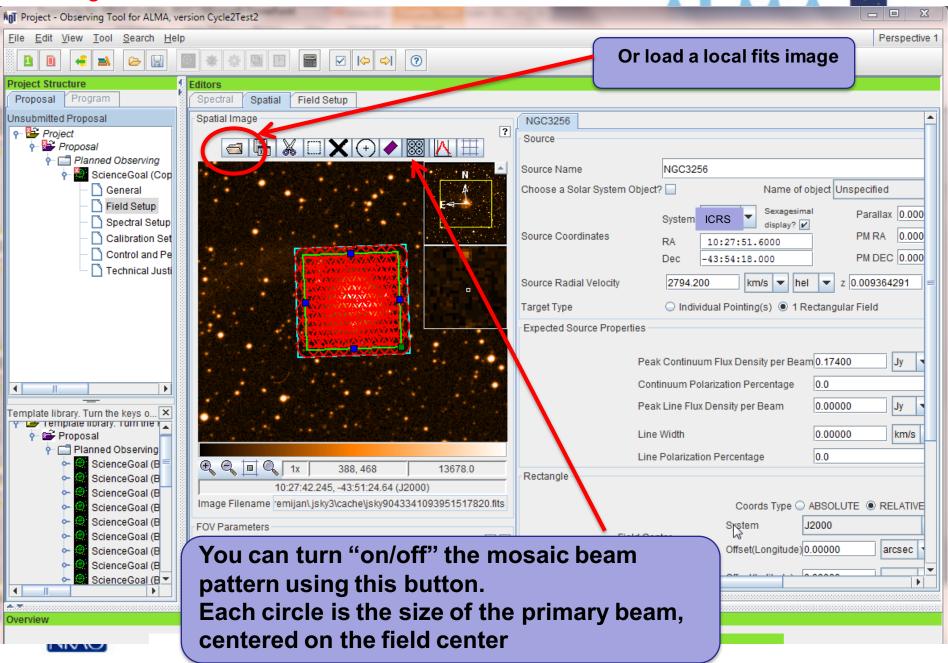


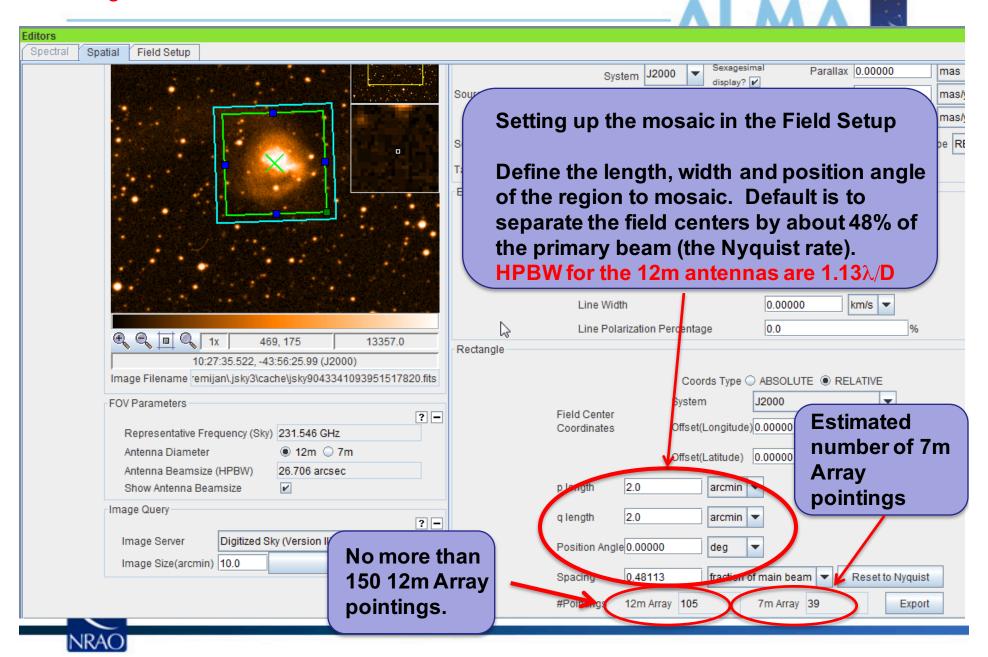


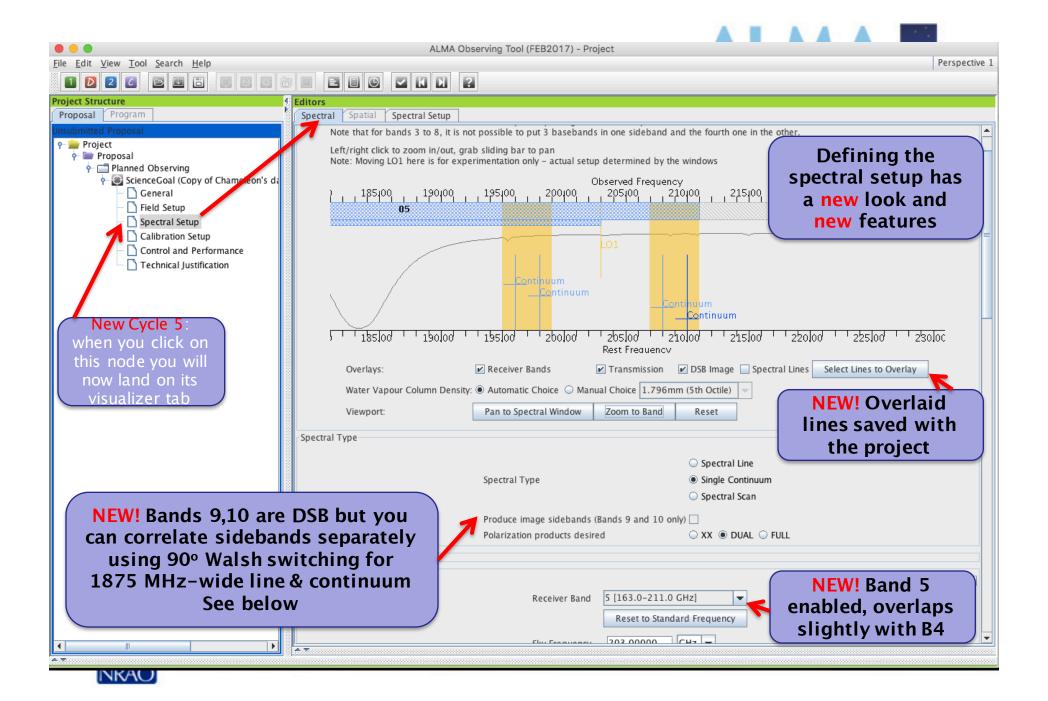


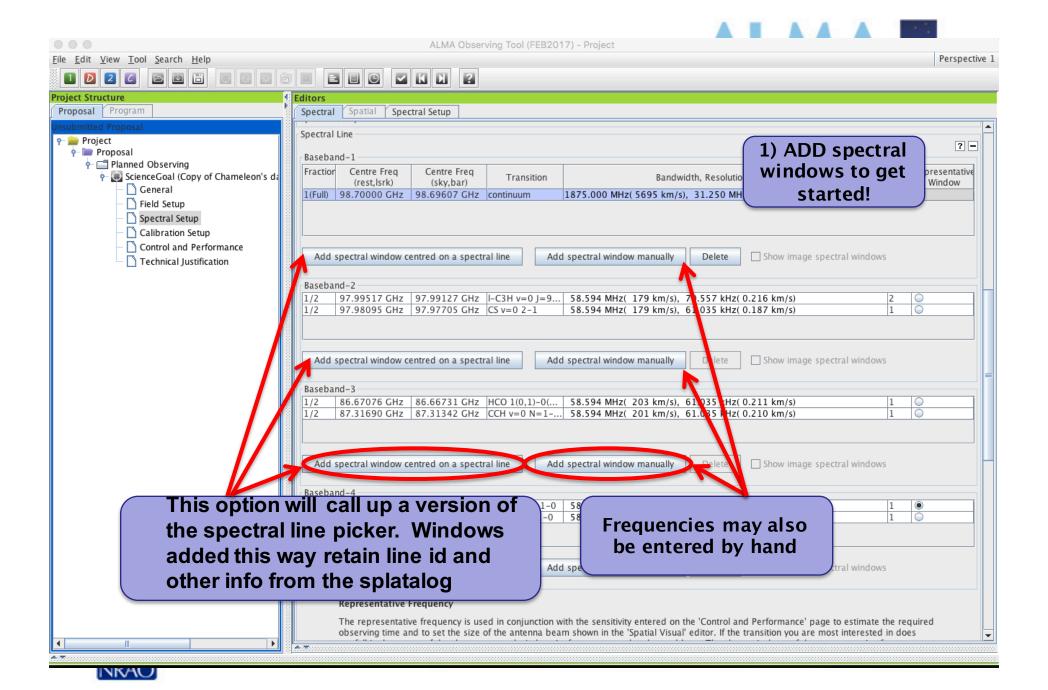


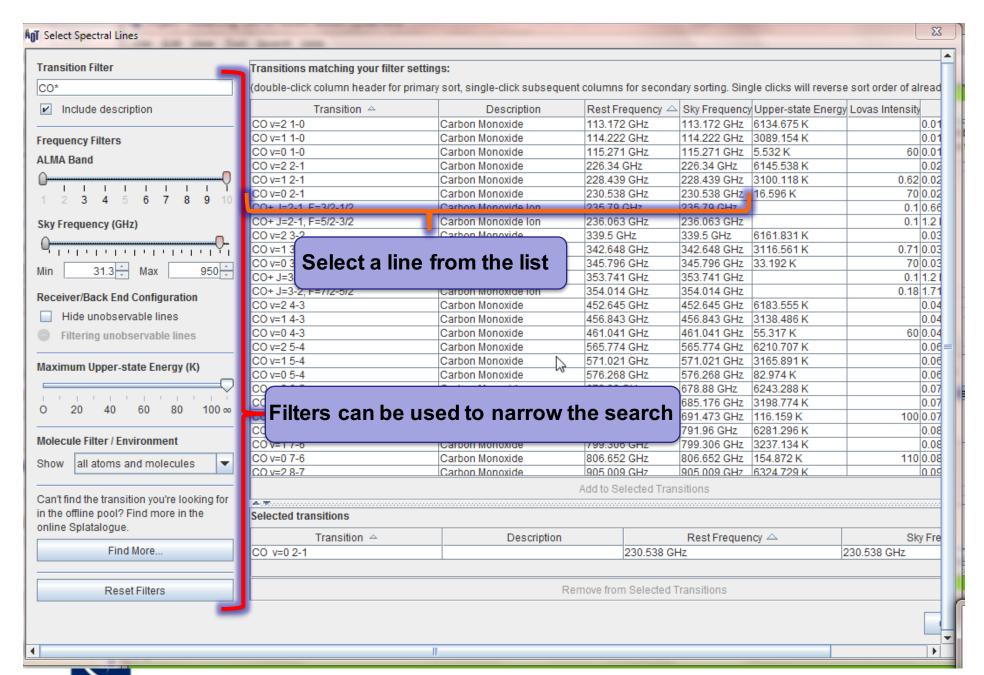




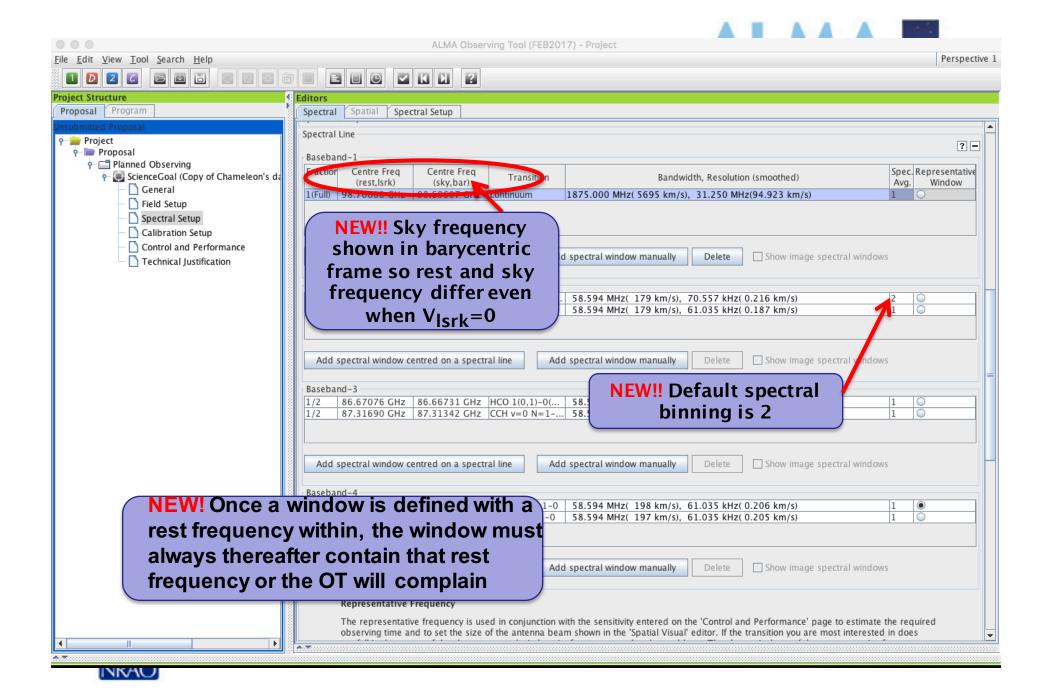


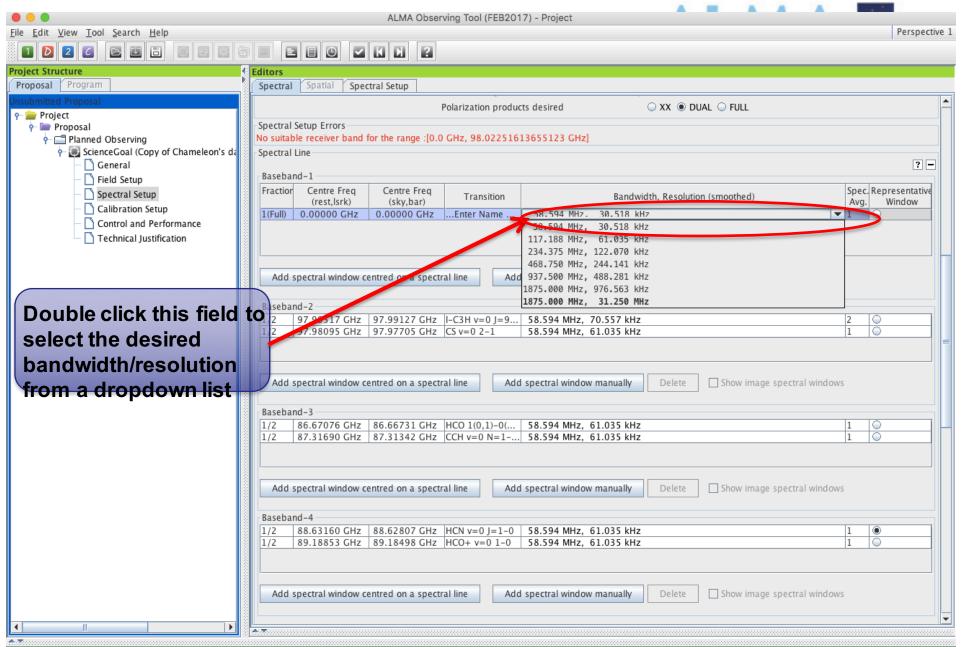




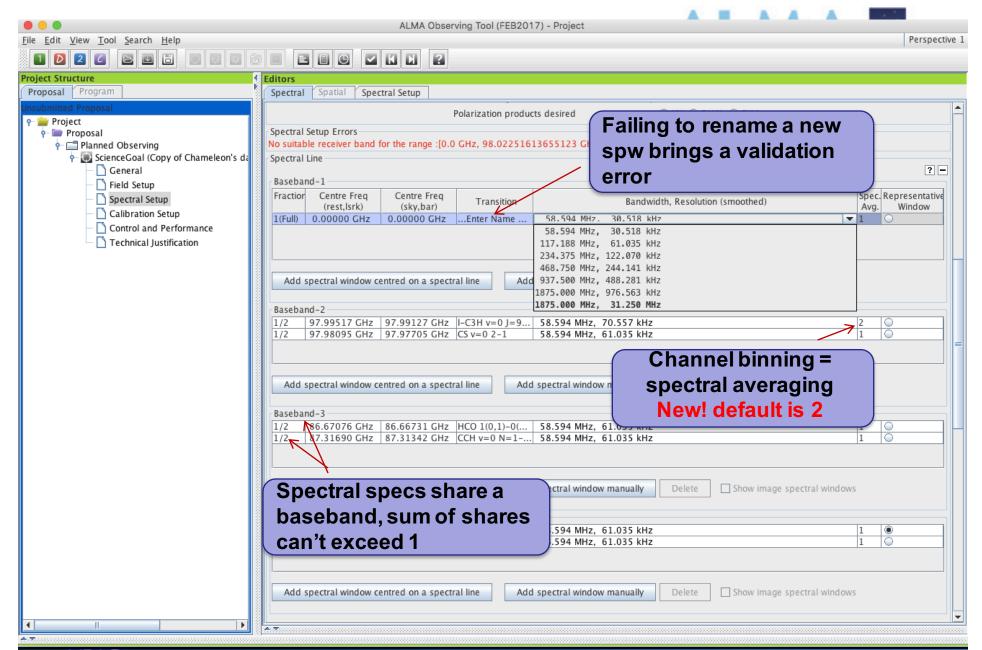




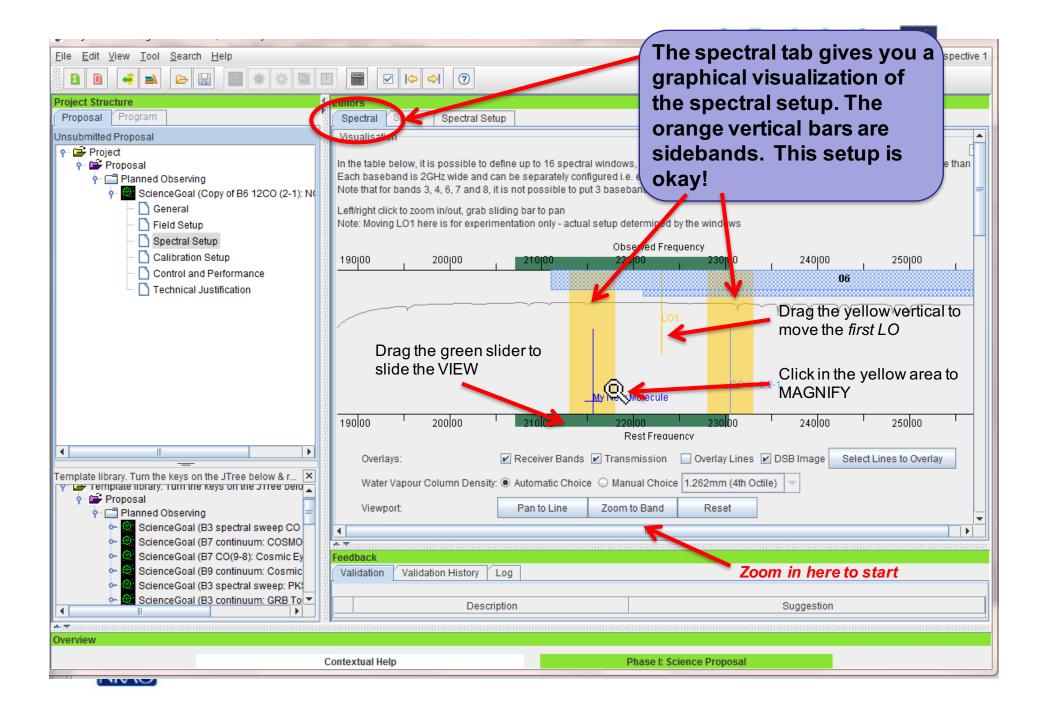




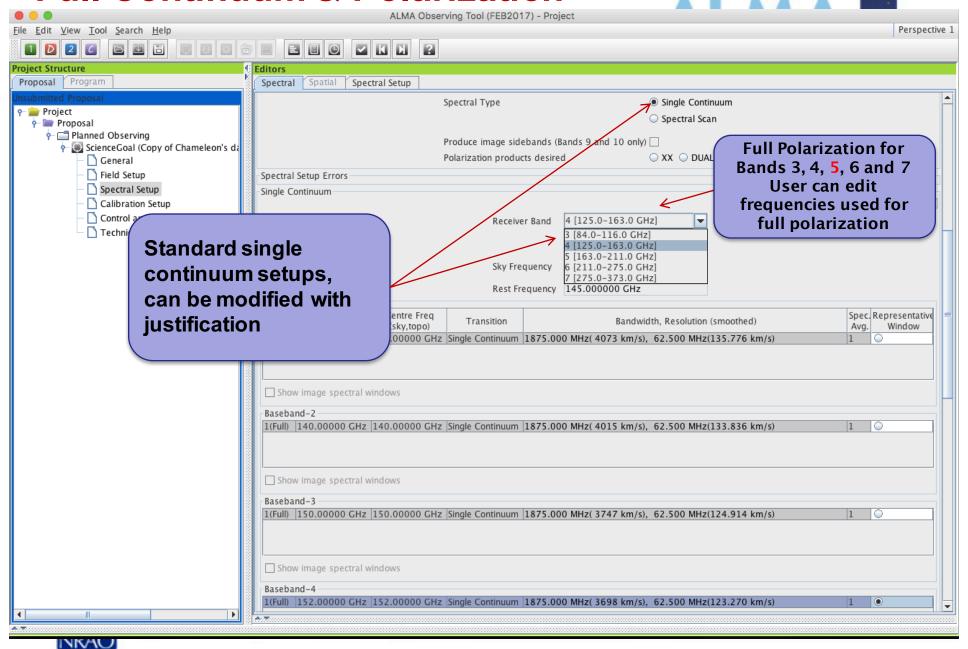




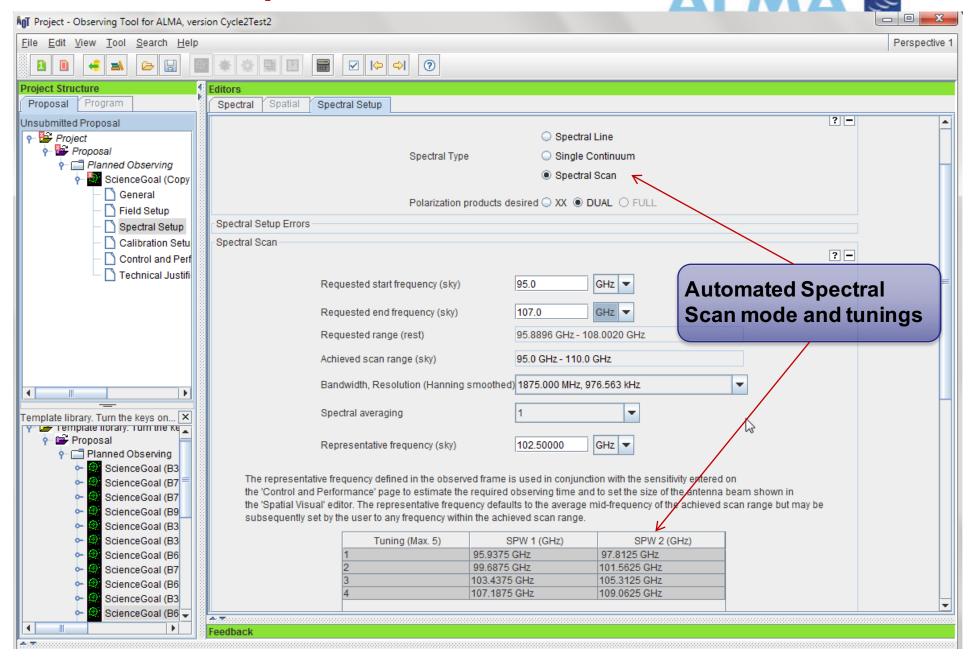




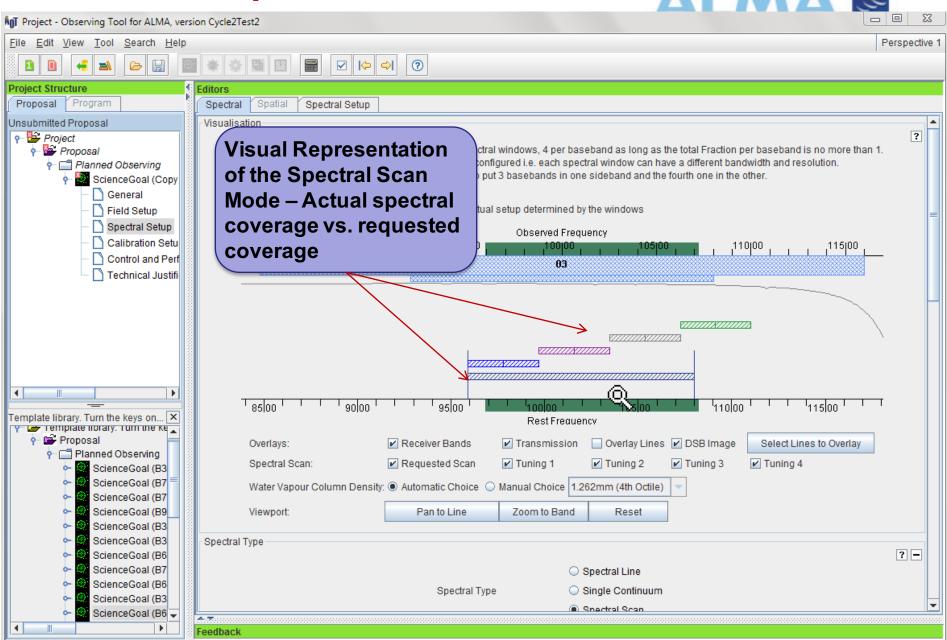
Full Continuum & Polarization



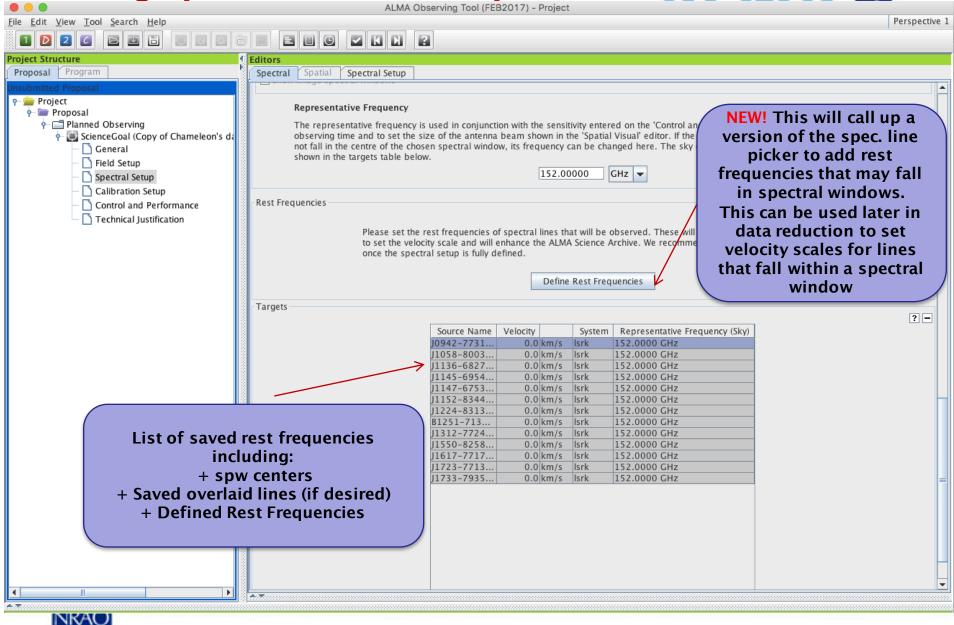
Automated spectral scan - I



Automated spectral scan - II



Saving spw & line rest frequencies A | AA A |

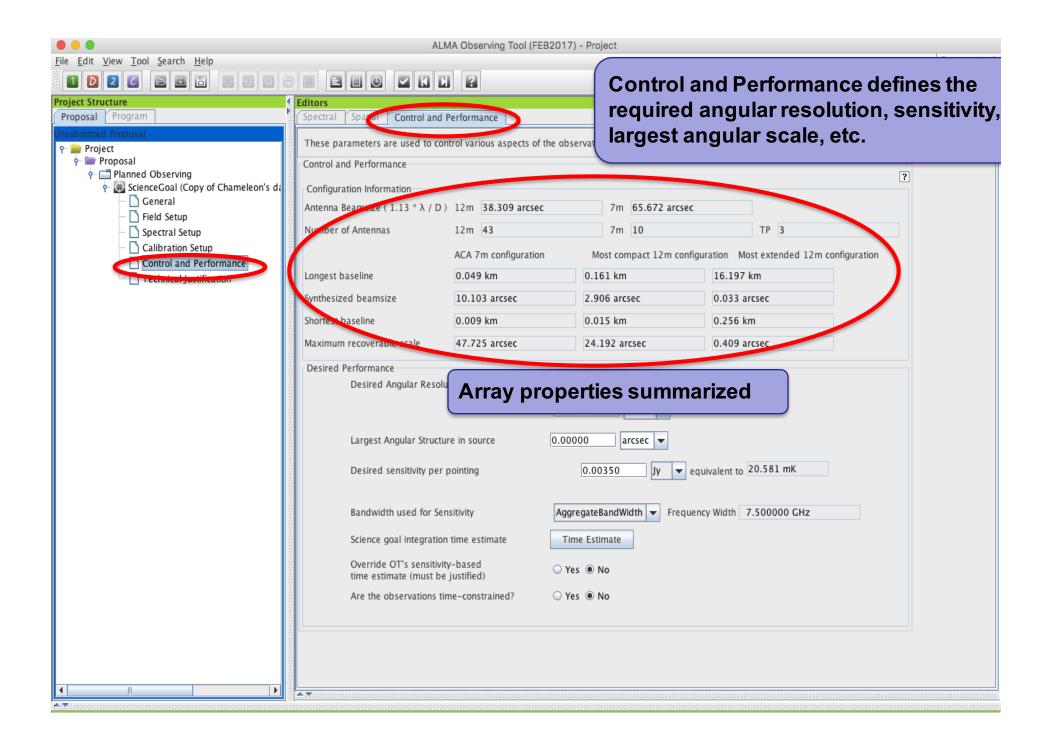


Sideband separation (90° Walsh) File Edit View Tool Search Help Perspective 1 Project Structure **€** Editors Proposal Program Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup Left/right click to zoom in/out, grab sliding bar to pan Note: Moving LO1 here is for experimentation only - actual setup determined by the windows Cycle 5 K Prop Observed Frequency **←** 📑 NFW! 00 , , 655100 , , 660100 , , 665100 , , 670100 , , 675100 , , 680100 , , 685100 , , 690100 Bands 9,10 have double sideband rcvrs but the sidebands can be separated using an additional phase-switching gnal at 680 GHz Signal at 680 GHz step, 90° Walsh 670,00 680/00 685,00 switching. This Rest Frequency can be turned on ✓ Transmission ✓ DSB Image ☐ Spectral Lines Select Lines to Overlay Overlays: ✓ Receiver Bands solely to reject Manual Choice 0.658mm (2nd Octile) Water Vapour Column Density:

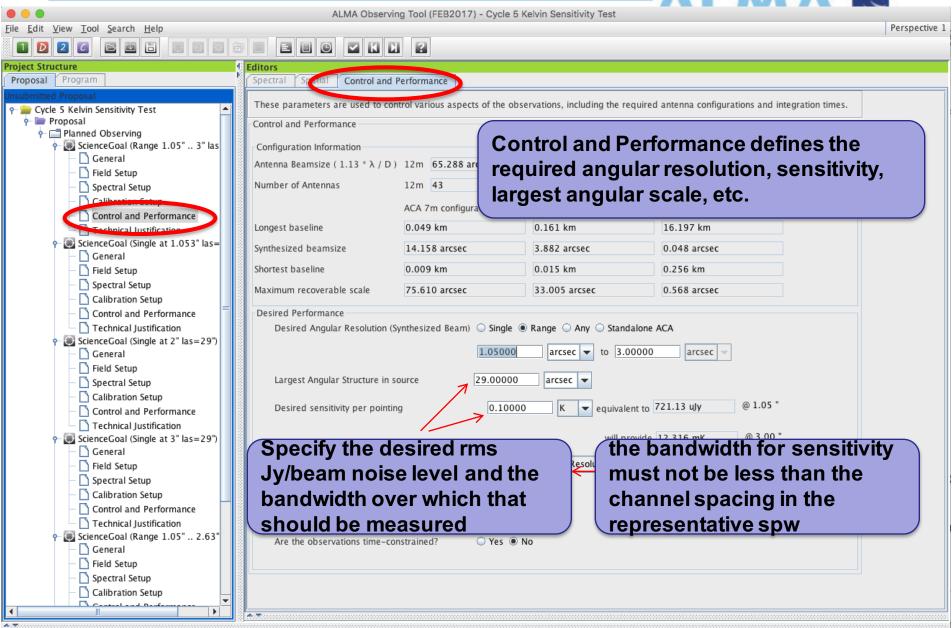
Automatic Choice See where lines in lines in the image Viewport: Pan to Spectral Wind one SB appear in the sideband, but other if checked pectral Type once enabled, the Turn it on ? two SB may be Spectral Line stored separately. Single Continuum pectral Type Note that the Spectral Scan noise is not **Record both SB** Produce image sidebands (Bands 9 and 10 only) 🖊 🗸 affected because ○ XX

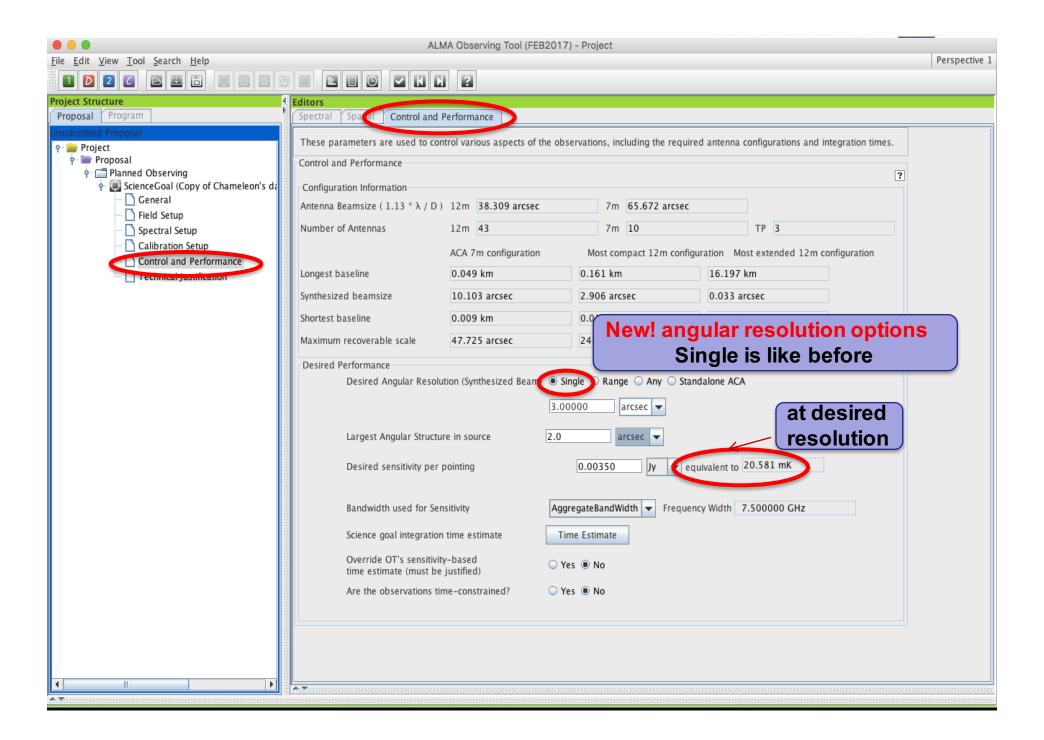
● DUAL

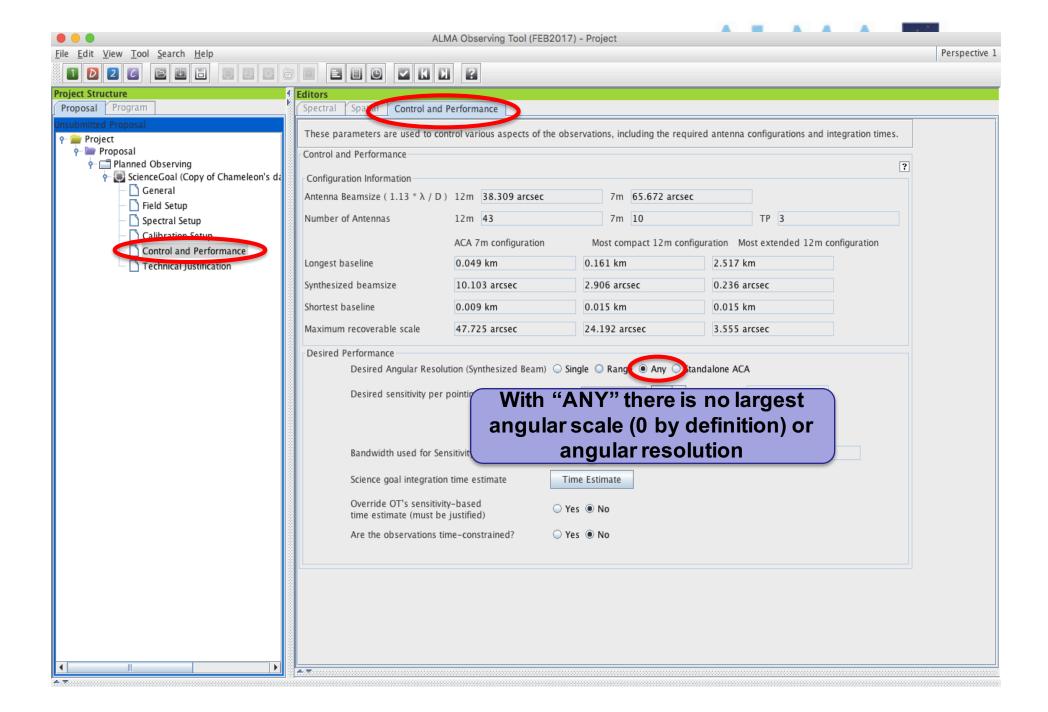
○ FULL Polarization products desired only a correlated pectral Setup Errors signal can be pectral Line ? separated. Baseband-1 Centre Frea Spec Store Representativ Fraction Centre Frea Transition Bandwidth, Resolution (smoothed) (rest, lsrk) (sky,bar) Avg. Image Window 1(Full) 679.99934 GHz 680.00000 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

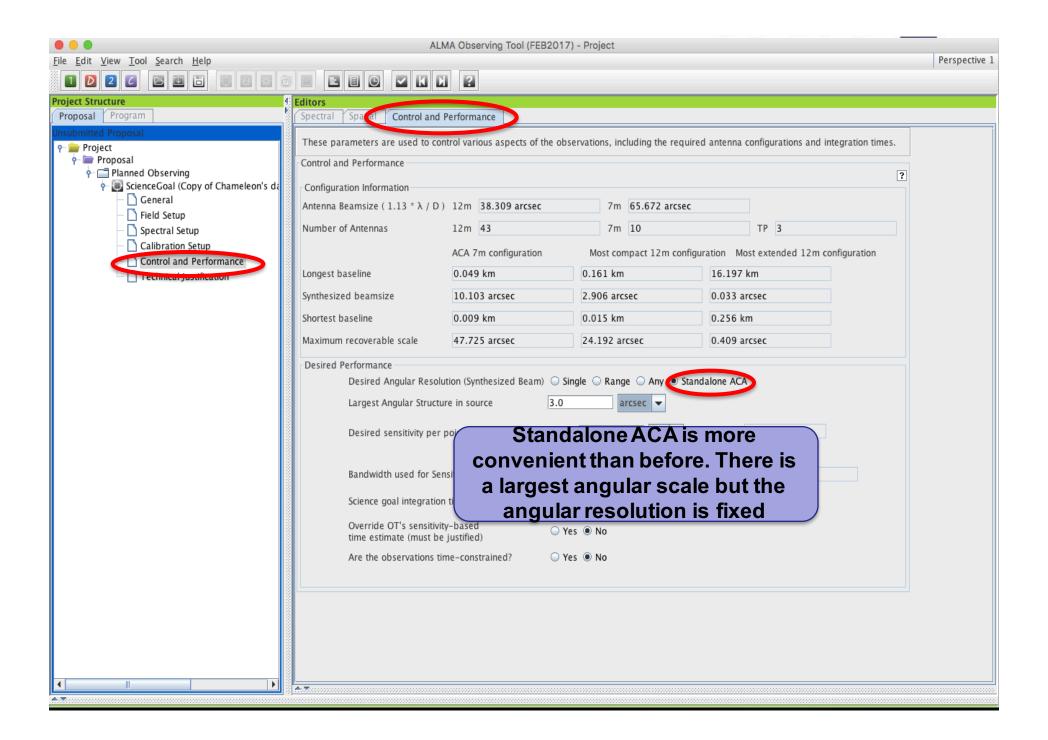


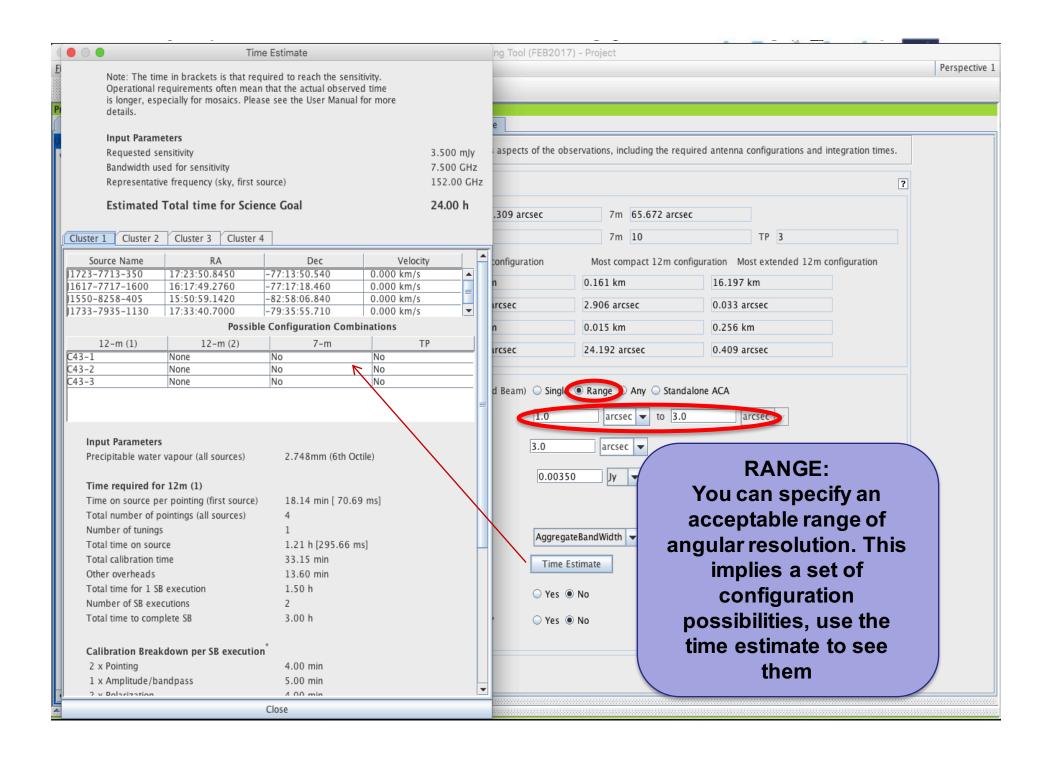


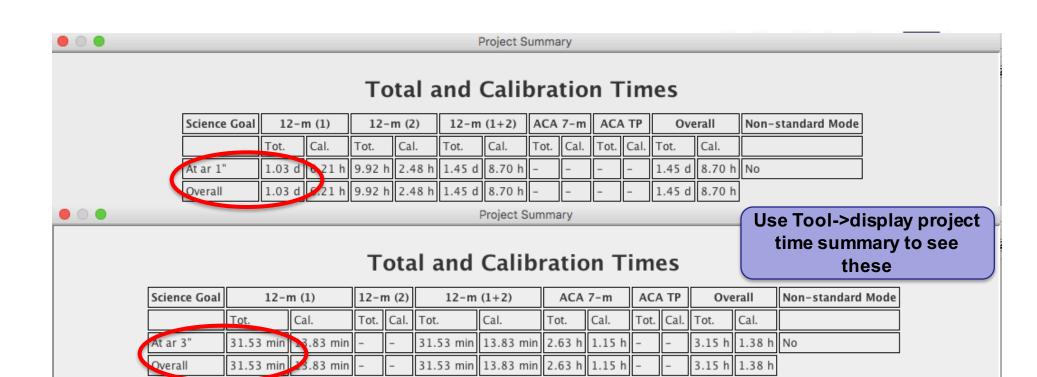










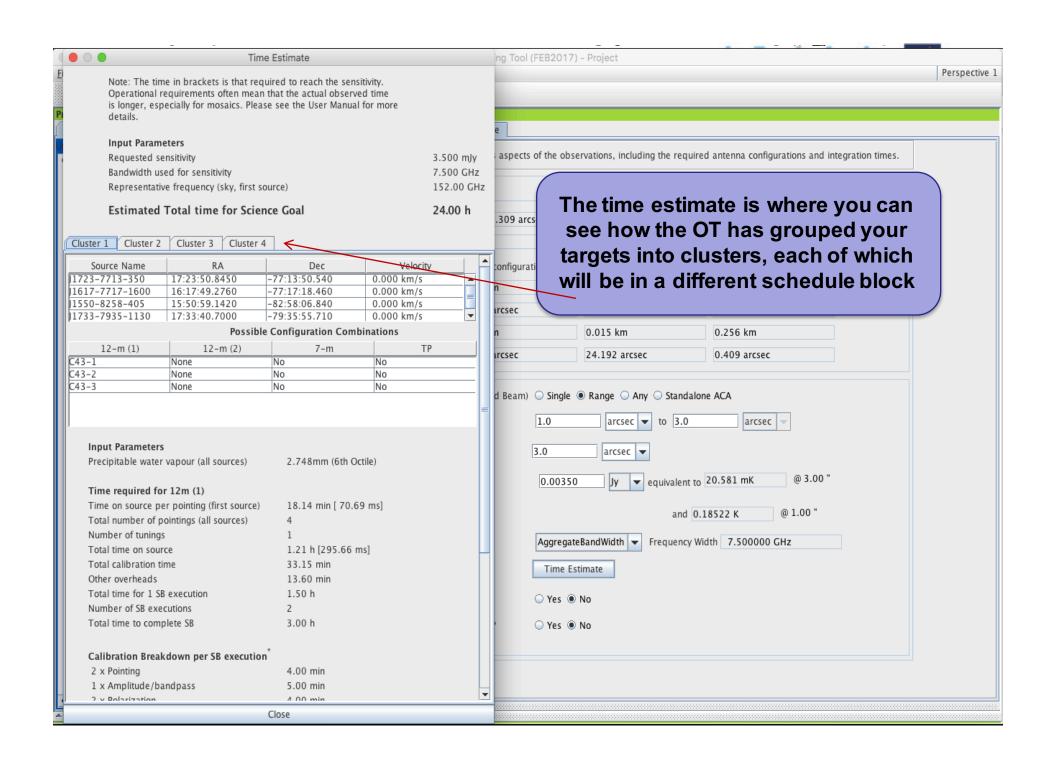


When using RANGE:

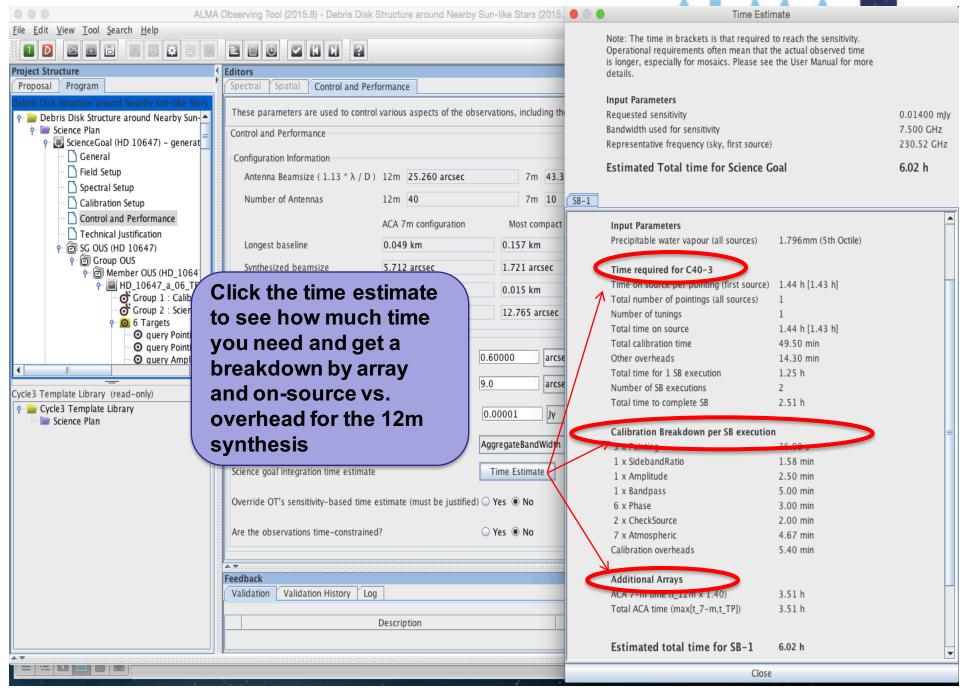
Rules are operating under the hood to choose among the possible configuration choices and they may be biased toward the low resolution end of a range because less 12m time is needed. See above for an example where is a factor 50 difference in 12m time for ar = 1" vs. ar = 3"

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

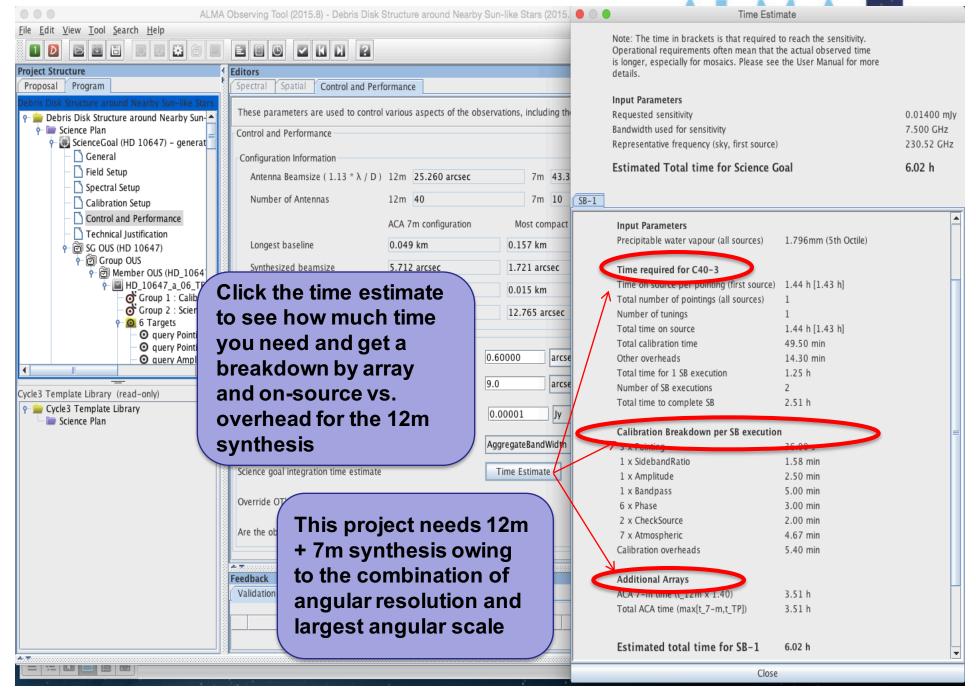




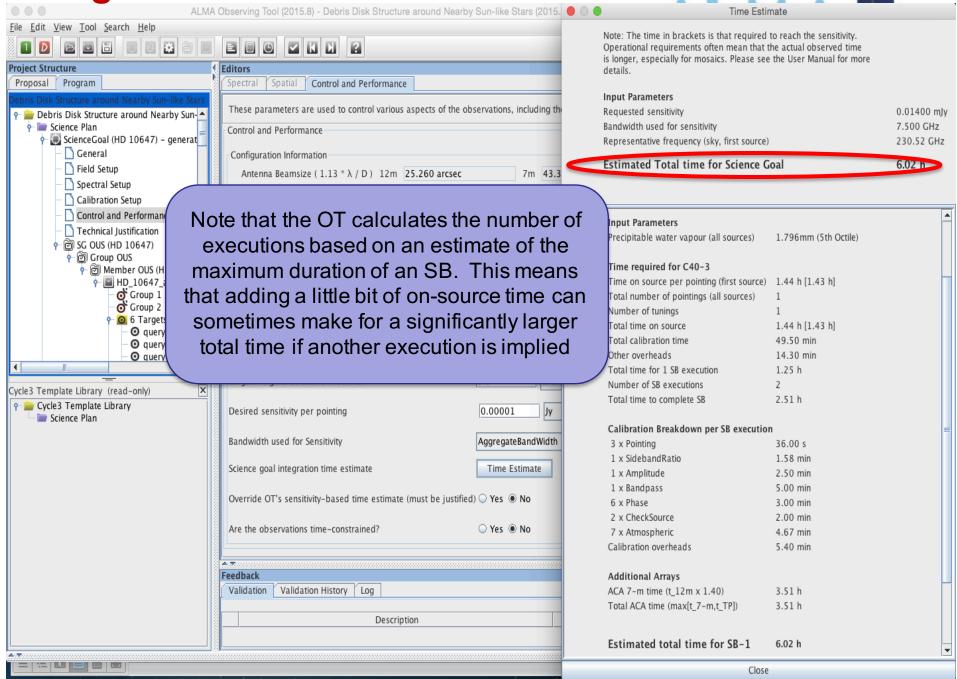
SG Time Estimates

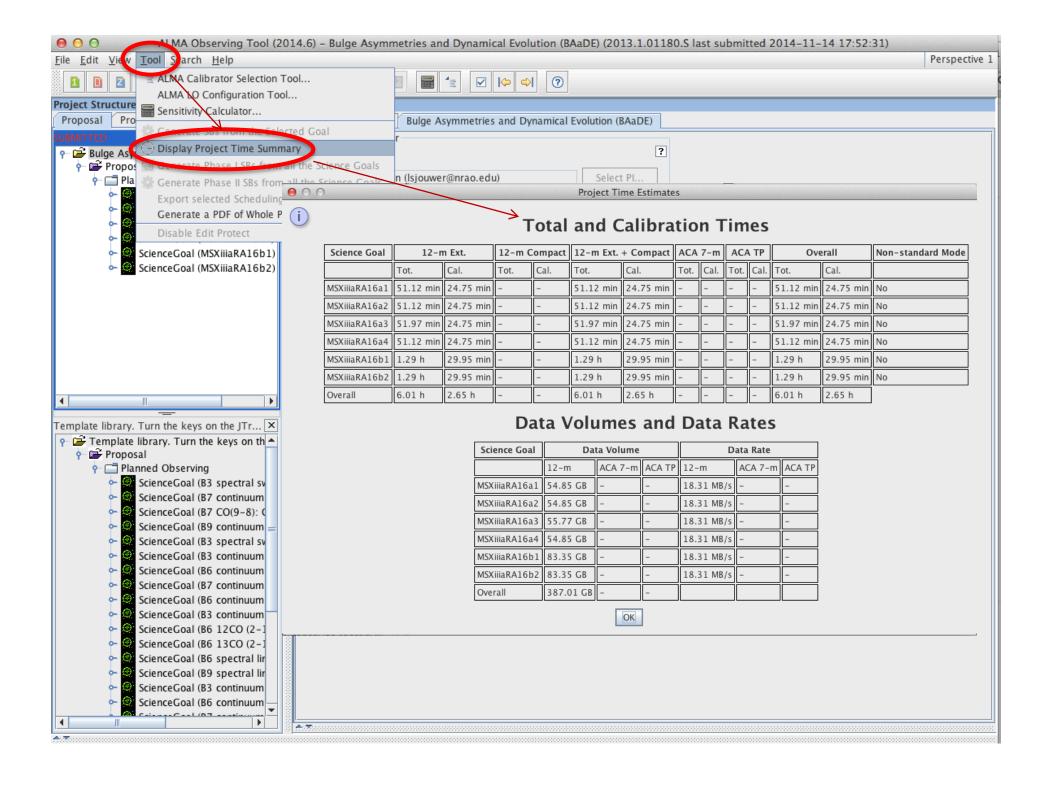


SG Time Estimates

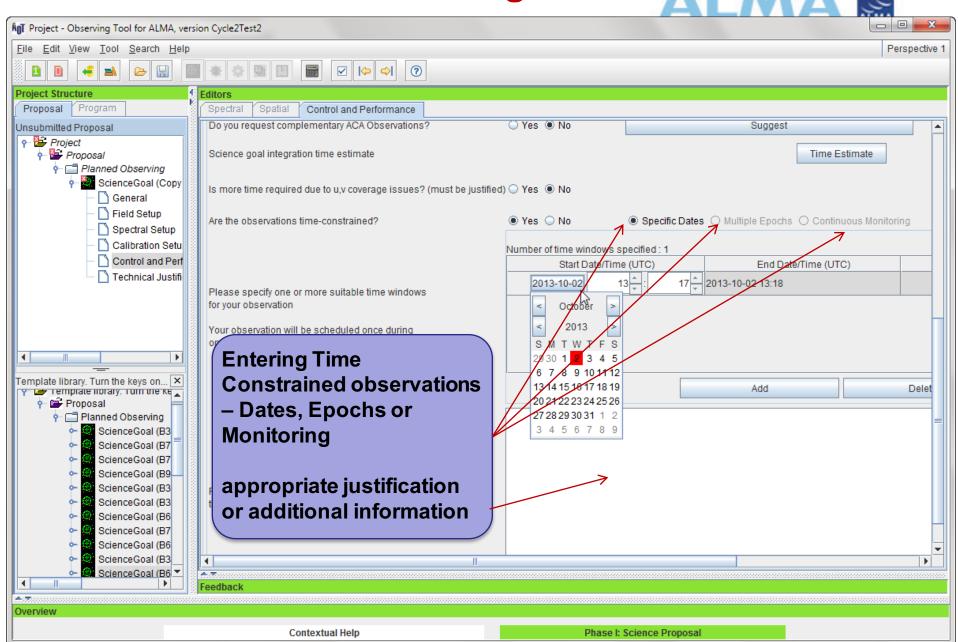


Single source time estimates

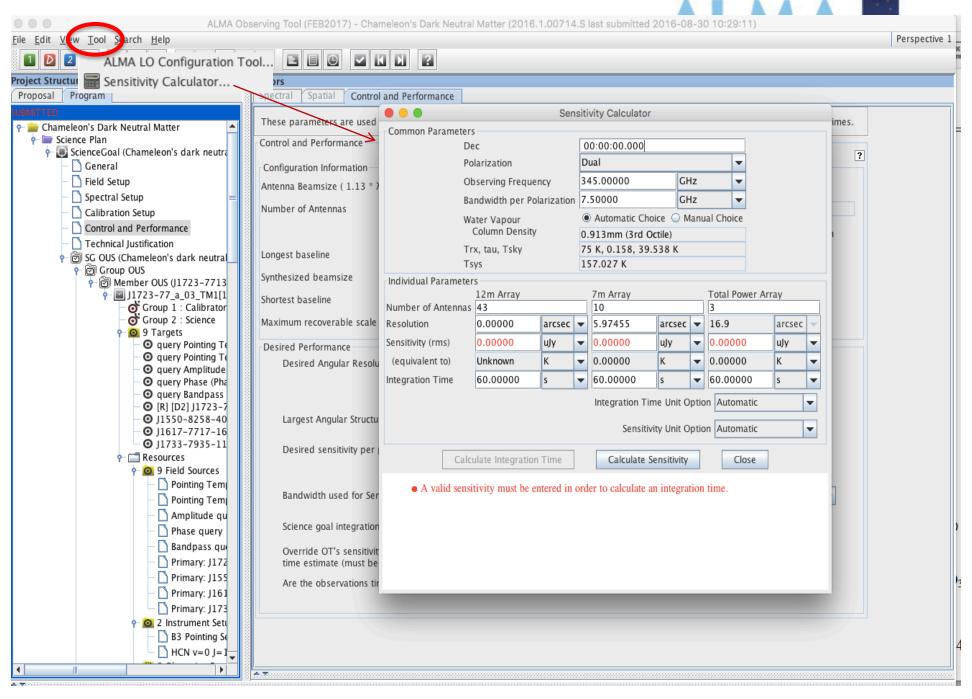


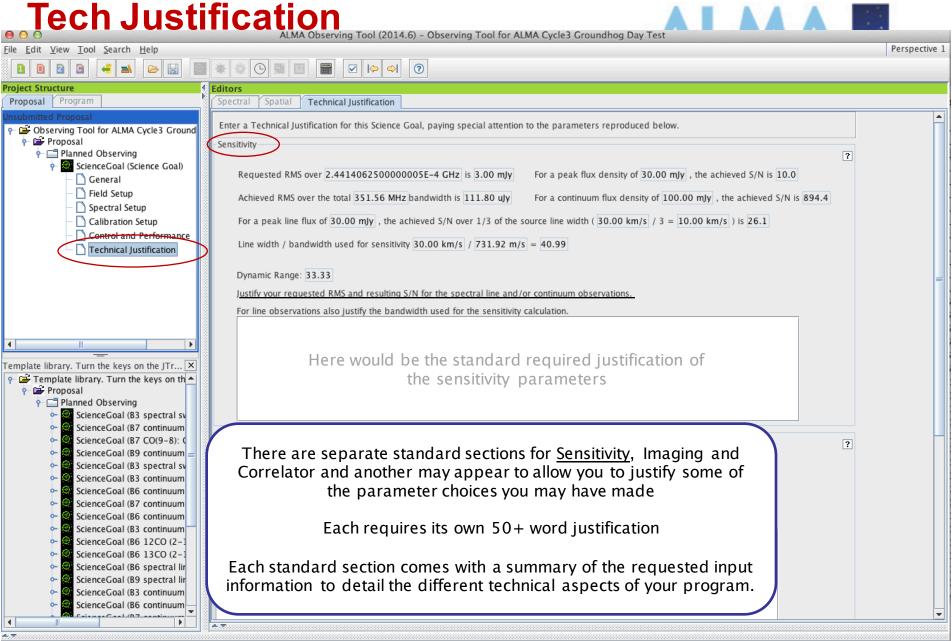


Time constrained observing



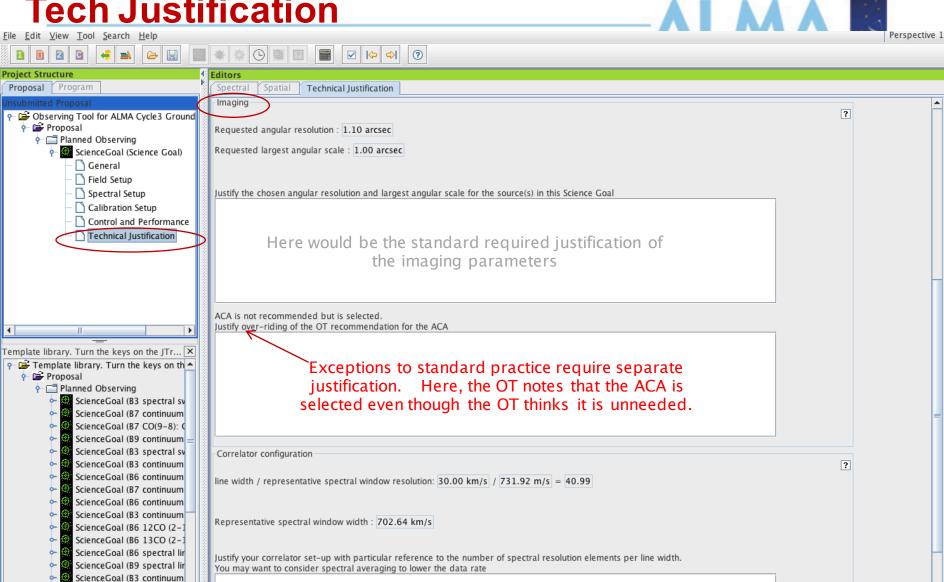
The sensitivity calculator is available separately in the OT (or on the web)







Tech Justification

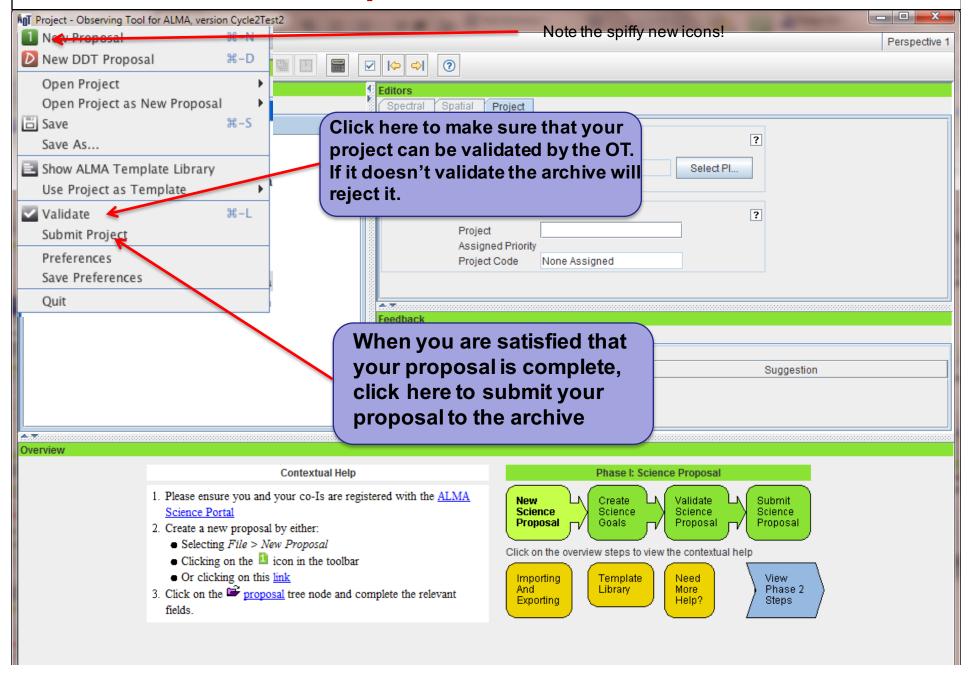


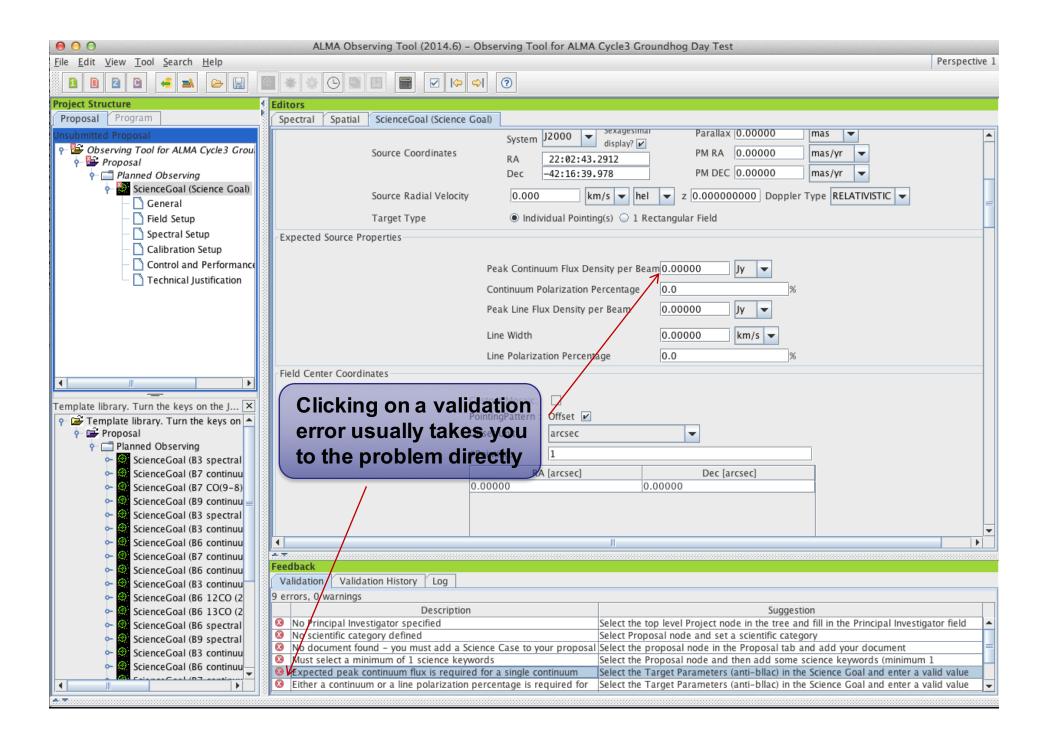
Here would be the regular required correlator justification



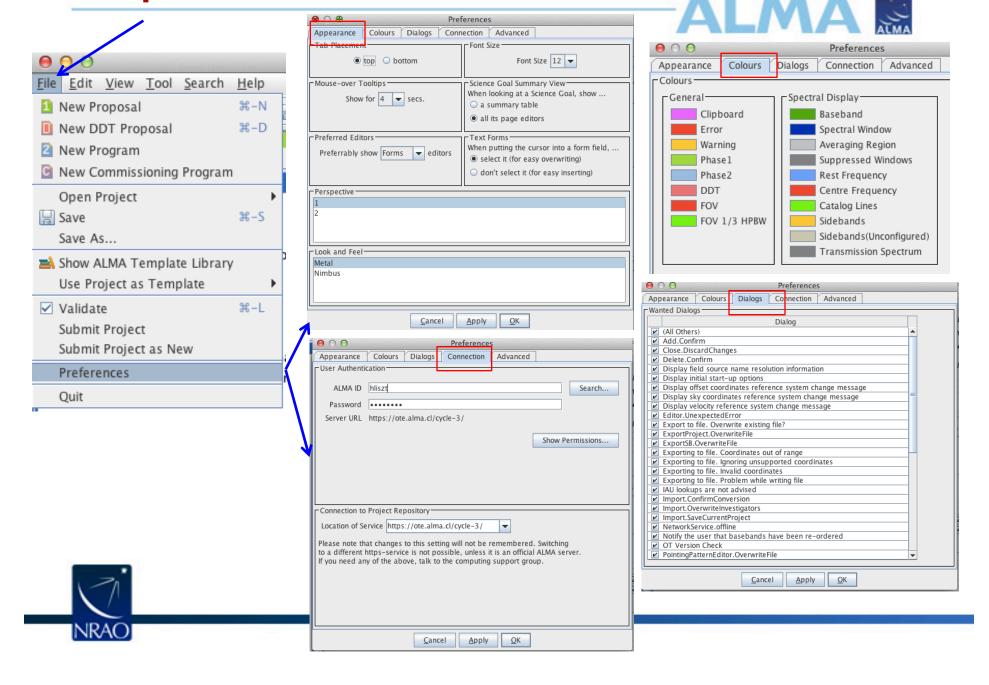
ScienceGoal (B6 continuum

When the time is ripe ... validate & submit





Use preferences to customize

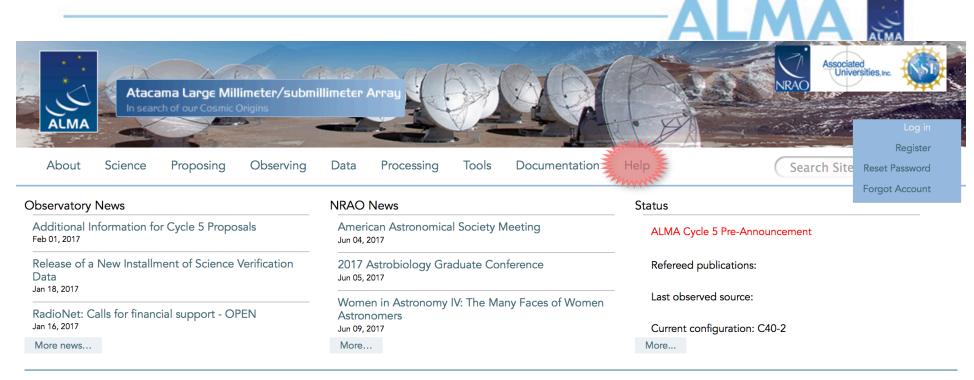


A Few OT Tips...

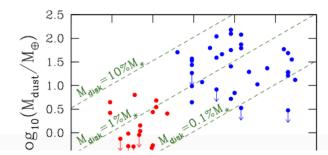


- New: The same cut and paste commands you use outside the OT for text also now work inside it
- Ctrl-Z global shortcut will expand out succeeding items in the J-tree (try it, you'll see what we mean)
- Holding down ALT when making choices in dropdown lists will convert to the unit or type of the new 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





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.



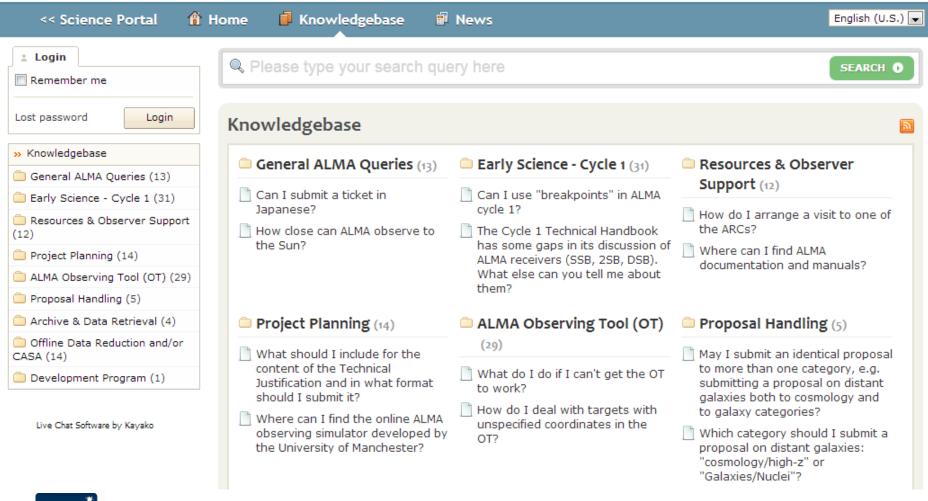
www.almascience.org
ALMA Science Portal @ NRAO

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.