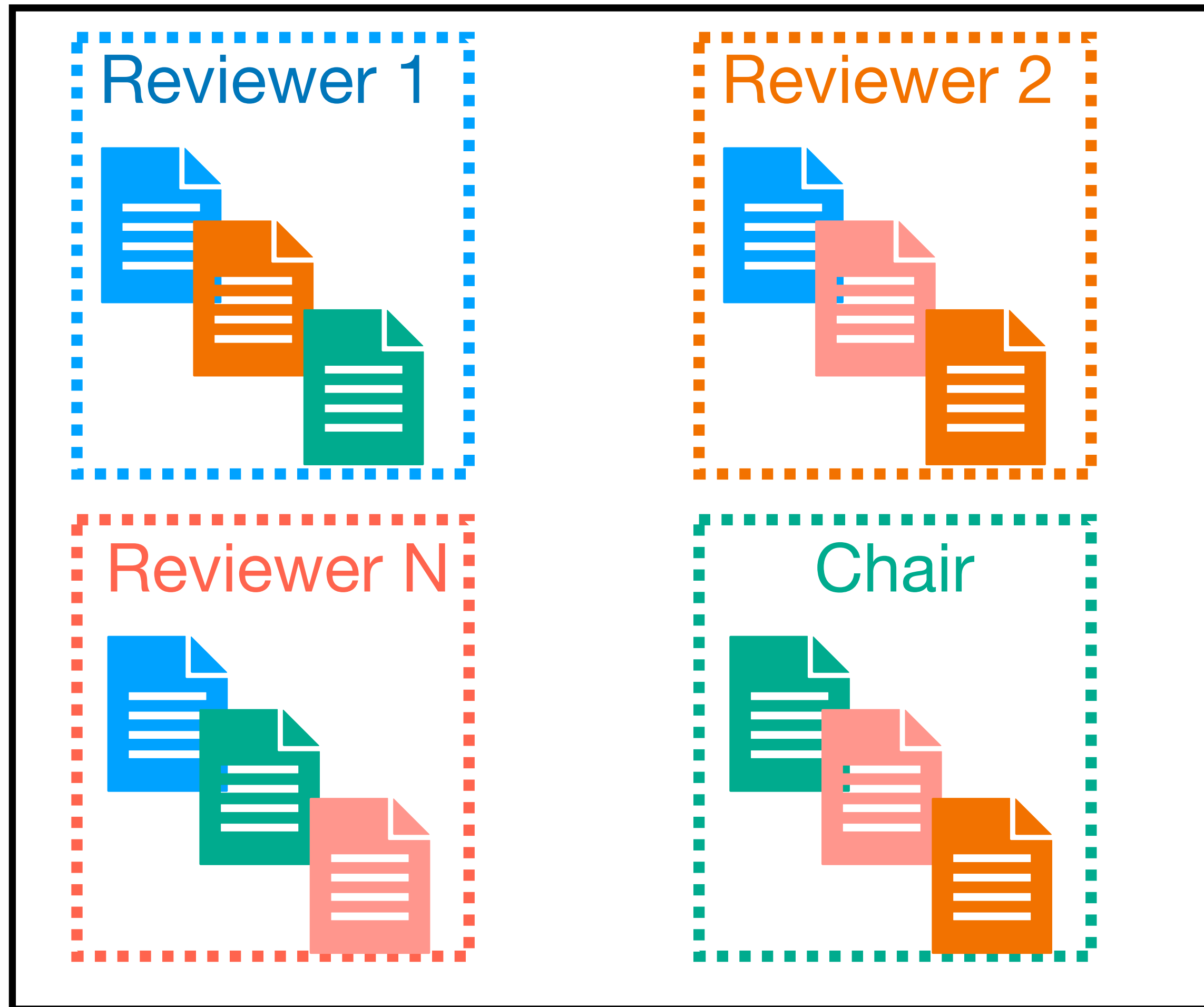


Proposal Review Overview

for NRAO and GBO Semester Proposals

Panel 1

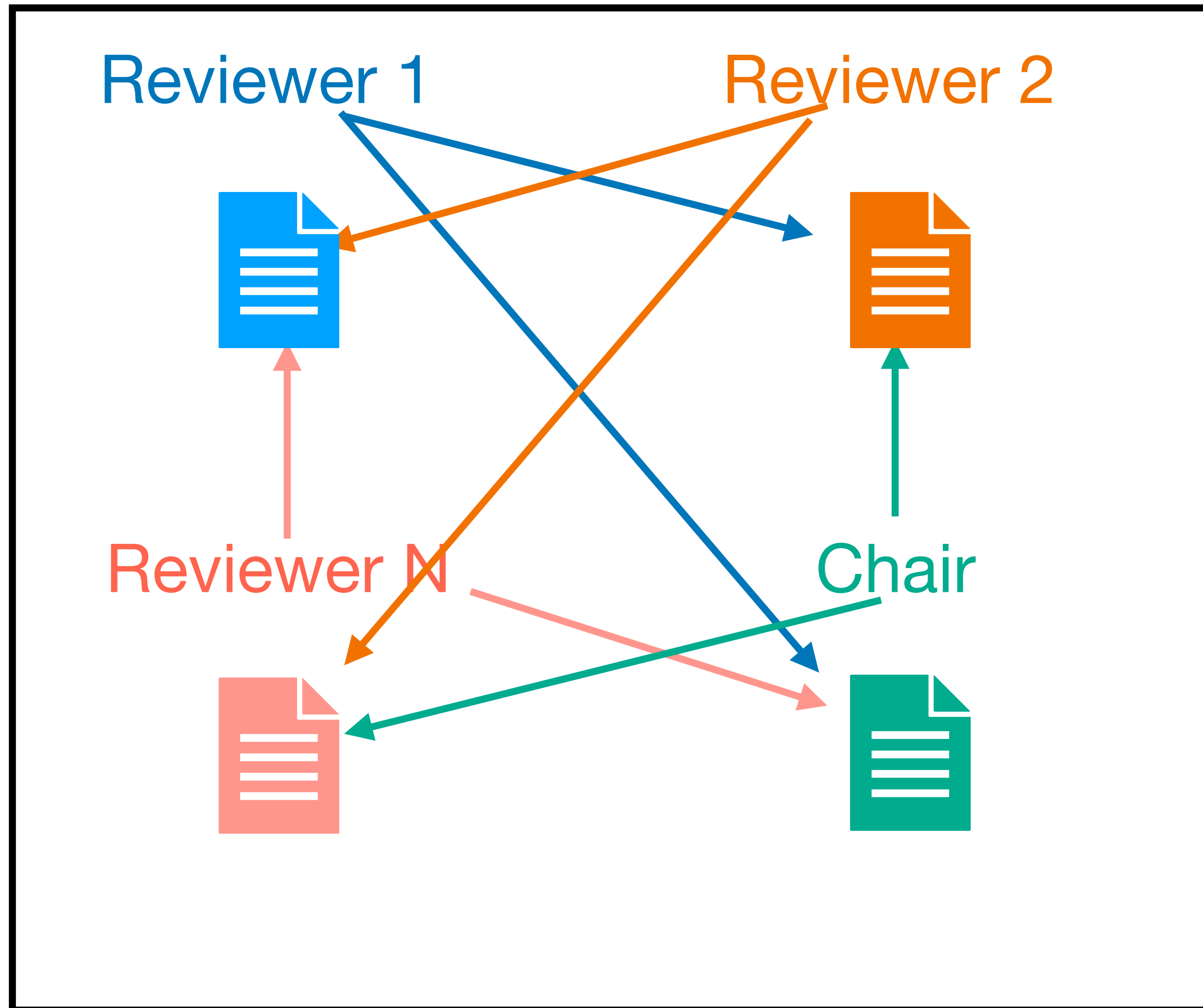


Science Review Panel (SRP)

Individual Science Review

- Evaluate the **scientific merit** of proposals on the panel
- One panel per science category, each with ~5 members + 1 chair
- At least 3 reviewers per proposal, but usually more
 - 1 Primary reviewer
 - 1 Secondary reviewer
 - 2+ Tertiary reviewers
- Large proposals may have 5

Panel 1



Science Review Panel (SRP)

Consensus Science Review

- Discussion between all non-conflicted reviewers about proposals on panel
 - Led by Primary reviewer
- Form consensus opinion
 - Primary drafts consensus comment
 - Secondary iterates with Primary
 - Chair reviews comments

Panel 1

High ranking (Low number)



Low ranking (High number)

Science Review Panel (SRP)

Consensus Science Review

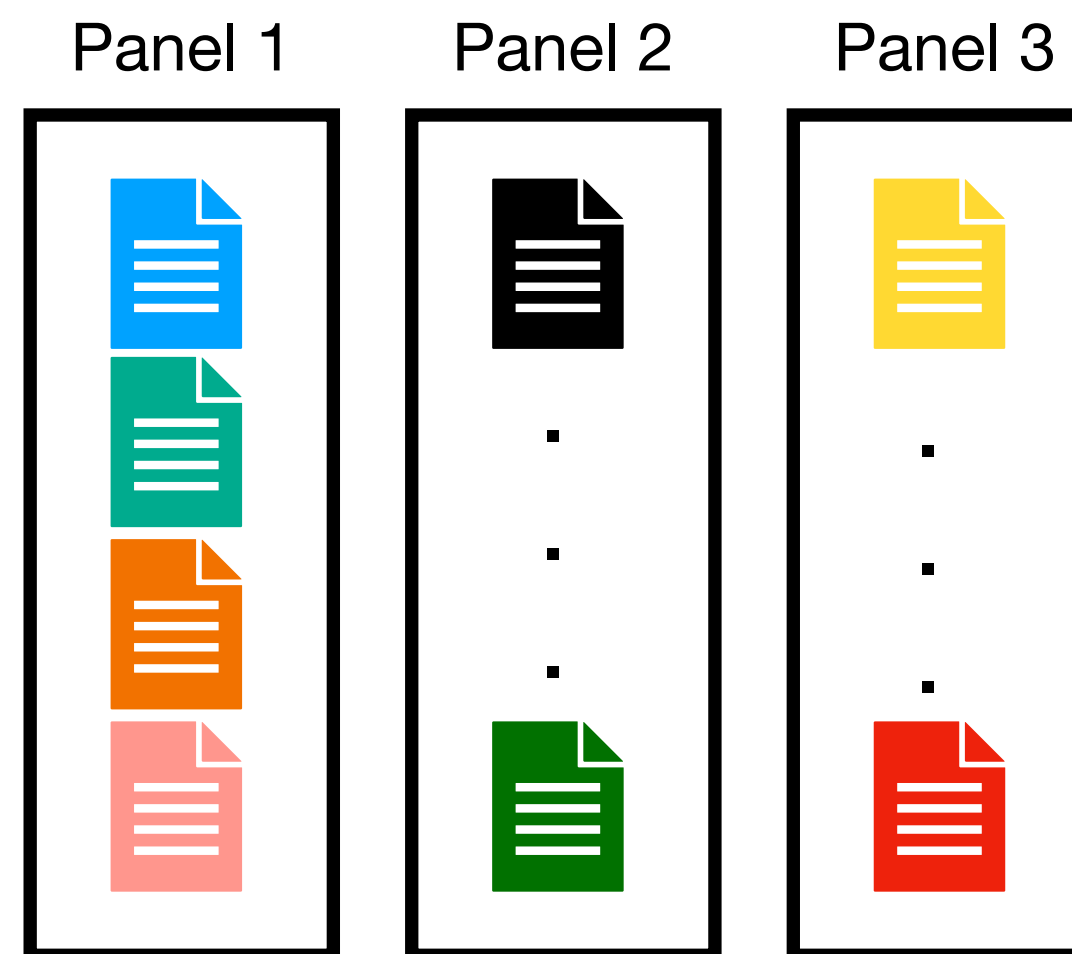
- Discussion between all non-conflicted reviewers about proposals on panel
 - Led by Primary reviewer
- Form consensus opinion
 - Primary drafts consensus comment
 - Secondary iterates with Primary
 - Chair reviews comments
- Agree on a rank ordered list

Science Review Panel (SRP)

Order of proposals used to calculate **Normalized Linear Rank (NLR)**:

$$\text{NLR} = r * 10/n,$$

where r is the rank and n is the number of proposals in the panel.



Science Review Panel (SRP)



Science Comments for PI and
Normalized Linear Rank

Telescope Time Allocation Committee (TAC)

Telescope Time Allocation Committee (TAC)

- Composed of SRP Chairs
- Does **not** reevaluate scientific merit
- Reviews NLRs and comments from SRPs
- Make recommendations for scheduling priorities

Science Review Panel (SRP)



Science Comments for PI and
Normalized Linear Rank

Telescope Time Allocation Committee (TAC)



Scheduling Priority

Directors' Review

Directors' Review

- Observatory Directors consider scheduling recommendations by the TAC and scientific assessments by SRPs
- Approves allocation of resources

Science Review Panel (SRP)



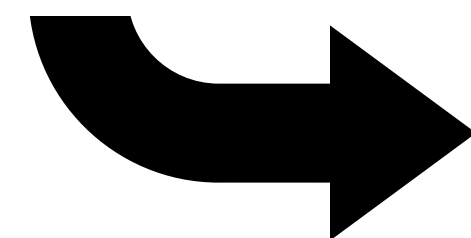
Science Comments for PI and Normalized Linear Rank

Telescope Time Allocation Committee (TAC)



Scheduling Priority

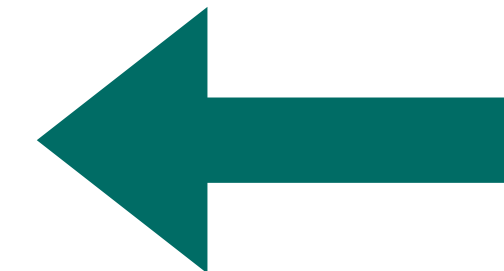
Directors' Review



Disposition Letters

Online Documentation

- General
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/proposal-types/proposal-review-system>
- Details about SRPs
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/proposal-types/sciencereviewpanels>
- Document and guidelines for SRP Reviews and Chairs
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/proposal-types/documentation>
- Criteria for Conflicts
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/policies/docs/manuals/users-policy/proposal-review-process/conflicts-and-confidentiality-in-the-review-process>
- Reviewer guidelines
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/proposal-types/documentation/srp-review-instructions>
- Timeline of Review Process
 - <https://science.nrao.edu/observing/proposal-types/timeallocation>



Highlights from the Reviewer Guidelines

What to consider during the review process

- Evaluate **first and foremost on** scientific merit
- **Be aware** of biases such as ethnic, English fluency, gender identity, institutional prestige, and racial biases
- **Do** consider publication record*, selection of resources, resource requirements, student status, the possibility of acquiring more appropriate data, and compliance with proposal preparation requirements
- **Don't** consider scheduling issues unless it directly impacts the scientific merit of the proposal, as the TAC handles such scheduling considerations
 - e.g., a large time request is not automatically a weakness and a short request is not necessarily an advantage

*Currently, the review process is not dual anonymous.

Highlights from the Reviewer Guidelines

What to write in **ISR** “Comments to SRP”

- Consider crafting a brief **summary** with a proposal’s **strengths** and **weaknesses**

What to write in **Consensus** “Comments to PI”

- Concisely **summarize** a proposal and list its **strengths** and **weaknesses**
 - Consensus comments should justify the final ranking in the list
- In “TAC only Comments”, the following items should be noted:
 - Recommendation for joint external proposals
 - Recommendation for future VLA configurations
 - Approval of a dissertation plan w.r.t the proposed science
 - If the proposal should not be observed
- Note, ISR comments and “TAC only Comments” are not exposed to the PI. Only Consensus “Comments to the PI” are delivered



- Dashboard
- Proposals
- Reviews
- Data Processing
- Obs Prep
- Helpdesk
- Profile
- Admin

Hi, | [Sign Out](#)

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Help

Options

- Dashboard
 - News & General Information
 - Information for Astronomers
 - Documentation
 - Policies
 - My Information
 - My Data

DASHBOARD

Web Browser

We recommend using the Firefox web browser for the Proposal Submission Tool (PST).

User Accounts

Please remember to update your user profile, especially if you have moved to a new institution.
Do not create a new account.

Proposal Confidentiality:

For successful proposals, the name of the Principal Investigator, proposal ID, title, hours awarded and proposal type (regular, triggered, Directors Discretionary Time...), as well as the list of Co-Investigators and the Abstract, are made public. Additional proposal metadata (such as source positions, observation frequencies, and integration times) are available publicly from the NRAO archive once data for a proposal has been collected.

[Proposal Finder Tool](#) - Search cover sheets of approved NRAO telescope proposals.

[Archive Access Tool](#) - Search for and access the data of observed projects.

Telescope News

Next Proposal Deadline: August 02, 2023 5 PM EDT (21 hours UT) in 42 days

Important All proposal authors must be registered users

Important [Information for VLA/GBT/VLBA/HSA/VLBI Proposers](#)

[VLA Configuration Plans and Proposal Deadlines](#)

[Proposal Help Desk](#)



The screenshot shows the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) website. At the top, there are logos for NSF and NRAO, the text 'National Radio Astronomy Observatory', and the tagline 'Enabling forefront research into the Universe at radio wavelengths'. Navigation links include 'my.nrao.edu', 'Public Site', 'Contact Us', and 'Staff Login'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search all of NRAO' and a 'Go' button. A main navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'About NRAO', 'Science', 'Observing' (highlighted), 'Opportunities', 'SRDP', 'VLASS', and 'ngVLA'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'NRAO Science Helpdesk', 'Call For Proposals', 'Proposal Prep', 'NRAO & GBO Users' Policy', and 'Prop Eval & Time Alloc' (highlighted). The breadcrumb trail reads 'Observing > Prop Eval & Time Alloc > Documentation'. On the left, a sidebar contains buttons for 'HelpDesk', 'VLA Proposals', 'GBT Proposals', 'VLBA Proposals', 'Time Allocation Committee', and 'Documentation'. The main content area is titled 'Documentation' and contains the text: 'Here is a list of documentation that include guidelines and instructions for the proposal review process.' Below this text are several blue underlined links: 'Technical Review Instructions', 'SRP Review Instructions', 'SRP Chair Review Instructions', 'SRP Meeting: Instructions and Guidelines', 'TAC Guidelines', and 'New Chair Advice'. A large green arrow points from the right towards the 'SRP Meeting: Instructions and Guidelines' link. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Staff', 'Policies', 'Diversity', and 'Code of Conduct'. The footer contains logos for NRAO, NSF, and AUI, along with the text: 'The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.'

Questions?

Submit a ticket to the NRAO Science Helpdesk at <https://help.nrao.edu/> under
 “VLA/GBT/VLBA Proposal Review”

Summary of phases and responsibilities

	Conflict Declaration responsibilities	Individual Science Review responsibilities	Consensus Review responsibilities	TAC responsibilities
SRP Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare conflicts on proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review proposals • Write comments • Assign scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review comments of fellow members • Come to a consensus on comments and proposal 	—
SRP Chair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign roles to reviewers: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Proposal meeting • TAC meeting