# Introduction to the ALMA Observing Tool (OT)

Argelander-Institut für Astronomie

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## The ALMA-OT

#### The ALMA Observing Tool (ALMA-OT):

#### ✓ for **proposal preparation** (phase I)

- => Science Goals (SGs)
- ✓ for creation of the **observing program** (phase II) = School where P looks (SPc)
  - => Scheduling Blocks (SBs)

Scheduling Blocks are created from Science Goals!

- downloaded and run locally by webstart (recommended) or tarballs for Linux, Mac and Windows
- needs Java 8 (javaws)! IcedTea doesn't work
- internet connection required to access online databases and catalogues
- many tools included (name resolver, visual editors, sensitivity calculator, spectral line picker, …)



collaborators, they make use of Band 7 ALMA observations to detect warm <sup>12</sup>CO(3-2) and <sup>13</sup>CO(3-2)

emission (Cloud D1) from the core of a giant star-forming region, in the dwarf galaxy NGC 5253. This

"supernebula" is the source of one-third of the galaxy's infrared luminosity and is in proximity to optical clusters with measured stellar ages of ~ 1 Myr. From radio recombination line analysis, the region is estimated to have 1400-1800 O stars.. Full Summary...

55.8

Declination (J2000)

24

25

26

13 39 56.1

56.0

Right Ascension (J2000)

55.9



#### **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 5* release of the OT is configured for the present capabilities of ALMA as described in the <u>Cycle 5 Call For Proposals</u>. Note that in order to submit proposals you will have to register with the ALMA Science Portal beforehand.

Note that preparation of Cycle 4 DDT proposals needs to be done using the Cycle 4 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 a 64-bit version of Java 8 is installed see the troubleshooting page if you are experiencing Java problems). The ALMA OT is available in two flavours: Web Start and terball.

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 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 with your default Java.

Webstart Tarball

#### Documentationbutton\_webstart

Extensive documentation is available to help you work with the OT and optimally prepare your proposal:

- If you are a novice OT user you should start with the OT Quickstart Guide, which takes you through the basic steps of ALMA proposal preparation.
- Audio-visual illustrations of different aspects of the OT can be found in the OT video tutorials. These are recommended for novices and advanced users alike.



#### Web Start Download Page



Click the OT Logo to start the OT. If the OT has not been downloaded before, or if an update has been released, a download window will appear. For first-time users, after the download has completed, you may (depending on your operating system) be given the option to create a shortcut, or one will be created automatically for you, usually on the desktop. Future use of the OT can then most conveniently be started by double-clicking the shortcut. Even if a shortcut is not created, the OT will have been downloaded into the Web Start cache and can be started from the Java Cache Viewer (accessible using 'javaws -viewer' or from Java Preferences on a Mac).

#### USEFUL TO KNOW

- The Web Start will automatically detect if an update to the installed version of the OT has been released and will automatically download it.
- If a network connection is not available, the Web Start version will still work, but will obviously not be able to update itself or use the OT's external services such as the user database, online spectral line search, etc.

#### **The ALMA-OT**

EBO Project Structure ditors Proposal Program Spectral Spatial ScienceGoal (Copy of Bright molecular gas tracers in NGC1232: 12CO, HCO+, HCN : Band 7) Unsubmitted Proposal General (Optional) ? -👇 🚞 Project 🛉 🖿 Proposal Science Goal Name Copy of Bright molecular gas tracers in NGC1232: 12CO, HCO+, HCN : Band 7 - C Planned Observing This template focuses on the 12CO(3-2), and HCO+/HCN (4-3) transitions 🕂 💓 ScienceGoal (Copy of Bright molecular ga in band 7. In this case, the target is the very inner core of NGC1232, and Total power data are required. General Field Setup An additional baseband is configured to sample continuum, to aid calibration and to constrain dust temperature. Spectral Setup Calibration Setup This template can be used in conjunction with band 3 or 6 (See also the Description template for band 10) to more completely sample the CO, HCO+ HCN Control and Performance J-transition ladder, and signifiantly constrain radiative transfer Technical Justification analysis. While the interval for the sensitivity calculation is 10 km/s, the the 2 requested resolution is much lower, to explore any bright, low-velocity width components NGC1232 Source ? -Source Name NGC1232 Resolve • • Choose a Solar System Object? Name of object Unspecified Cycle 4 template library (read-only) × Sexagesimal Parallax 0.00000 mas -ICRS -System display? 🖌 e 4 template library PM RA 0.00000 Source Coordinates mas/yr -Proposal RΔ 03:09:45.5140 Planned Observing PM DEC 0.00000 Dec -20:34:45.480 mas/vr ScienceGoal (B7 Continuum: Pluto/Charon) Source Radial Velocity 1677.400 km/s 👻 Isrk 👻 z 0.005610945 Doppler Type RELATIVISTIC 👻 💽 ScienceGoal (Multi-source mosaics. Band 6: N66 (S ScienceGoal (GRB Target of opportunity: Band 4) Target Type Individual Pointing(s) 

 1 Rectangular Field

 ScienceGoal (Full Polarization: 3C286: Band 6) ScienceGoal (Disk: TW Hya: Band 7) ScienceGoal (Single-point spectral sweep of Sgr B2 eedback ScienceGoal (Solar observations; Band 3) Validation Validation History Log 💽 ScienceGoal (Bright molecular gas tracers in NGC1. ScienceGoal (Bright molecular gas tracers in NGC1) Description Suggestion ScienceGoal (ACA Standalone: 10'x10' : G333.1250 💽 ScienceGoal (widely scattered, high redshift target • • Overview **Contextual Help** Phase I: Science Proposal 1. Please ensure you and your co-Is are registered with New Create Validate Submit the ALMA Science Portal Science Science Science Science

2. Create a new proposal by either:

File Edit View Tool Search Help

- Selecting File > New Proposal
- Clicking on the 1 icon in the toolbar
- Or clicking on this <u>link</u>
- Click on the proposal tree node and complete the relevant fields.



Perspective 1









0 0

#### H0 to five decimal places - Observing Tool for ALMA, version Cycle0

<u>File Edit View Tool Search H</u> elp					Perspective 1
1 2 0 4 1 2 2 2 2 2					
Project Structure	Editors				
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial Proposal				
Unsubmitted Proposal	- Proposal Information				<b>_</b>
P I HO to five decimal places			H0 to five decimal places	?	
Planned Observing     Planned Obser		Propusal Cycle	2011		
Science Goal     General     General     Field Setup     Spectral Setup	is and	00	<b>B</b> h <mark>bar</mark>		
	monly	Abstract (max 300 wr as)			
•					
Unsubmitted Proposal (read-onli	lons)	Cosmolo     Redshift	gy and the High Organization Galactic Universe Nuclei		
Template library. Turn the keys on the JTree below & rei		ISM/Astr	ochemistry/Star Stellar Evolution/the Sun		
Panned Observing		disks/e	xoplanets		
<ul> <li>B3 spectral sweep CO (9–8): COSMOS SMGs</li> <li>B7 continuum: COSMOS SMGs</li> </ul>		Proposal Type			
• O B7 CO(9-8): Cosmic Eyelash (z=2.326)		Standard	I 🔷 Target Of Opportunity		
B9 continuum: Cosmic Eyelash (z=2.326)		Student Project			
B3 spectral sweep. PK31830-211 (2=0.5)					
B6 continuum: GRB ToO: days 0 to 14					
B7 continuum: GRB ToO: days 0 to 14     B6 continuum: GRB ToO: day 17		Related Proposals			-
← 🖉 B3 continuum: GRB ToO: day 30					
B6 12CO (2-1): NGC3256 mosaic					
<ul> <li>➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡</li></ul>					
🗢 🧟 B9 spectral line: Massive Protostellar Cluster n	V No problems found				
B3 continuum: Protostellar Disks					
R7 continuum: Protostellar Disks					
Overview					
	Contextual Help				
1.	Please ensure you and your co-Is are registe	ered with the <u>ALMA</u>			
2.	Create a new proposal by either:		Proposal / Science Science Proposal /		
	<ul> <li>Selecting <i>File &gt; New Proposal</i></li> <li>Clicking on the line icon in the toolbar</li> </ul>				
	• Or clicking on this <u>link</u>		Importing Tompleto	Niew	
3.	Click on the <i>proposal</i> tree node and com fields.	plete the relevant	And Library More Hain?	) Phase 2 Steps	

## The ALMA-OT

#### A Science Goal consists of:

- 1) (a basic description)
- 2) basic source information: coordinates, velocity, flux density, field
- 3) spectral setup: lines or continuum, frequency, correlator modes
- 4) calibration setup: choose "system-defined"
- 5) control and performance parameters: angular resolution, largest angular structure, required sensitivity. special modes
- 6) technical justification (text)



## **Science Goal: General**

#### enter a name and description of the science goal (optional)

Project Structure 🧕	Editors		
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial	General	
Jnsubmitted Proposal			
Project Proposal Planned Observing ScienceGoal (NGC1232: band 7) General Field Setup Spectral Setup Calibration Setup Control and Performance Technical Justification	Enter a name and d This text is optional General (Optional) Science Goal Name	lescription for the purpose of this science goal. but you may find it useful to keep a note. NGC1232: band 7 This template focuses on the 12CO(3-2), and HCO+/HCN (4-3) transitions in band 7. In this case, the target is the very inner core of NGC1232, and Total power data are required.	
	Description	An additional baseband is configured to sample continuum, to aid calibration and to constrain dust temperature. This template can be used in conjunction with band 3 or 6 (See also the template for band 10) to more completely sample the CO, HCO+ HCN J-transition ladder, and signifiantly constrain radiative transfer analysis. While the interval for the sensitivity calculation is 10 km/s, the the requested resolution is much lower, to explore any bright, low-velocity width components.	

and a state of the sector of t		
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial Field Setup	
Insubmitted Proposal	[	? 🗕 🔺
Project Proposal Proposal ScienceGoal (NGC1232: band 7) General Spectral Setup Calibration Setup Control and Performance Technical Justification	Peak Continuum Flux Density per Synthesized Beam 0.00000       yv         Continuum Polarization Percentage       0.0       per cent         Peak Line Flux Density per Synthesized Beam       35.00000       mlyv         Line Width       15.00000       km/s         Line Polarization Percentage       0.0       per cent         Rectangle       Coords Type • ABSOLUTE • RELATIVE       System         Field Center       Offset(Longitude) 0.00000 • ercsec •       0         Coordinates       Offset(Latitude) 0.00000 • ercsec •       0         p length       1.50000 • arcmin •       estet to Nyquist         # Pointings       12m Array       126       7m Array       45       Export	? -

basic source information: coordinates, velocity, strength, line width, pointings/map area, ...

Image:	M100
	Source
	2 - Source Name M100 Resolve
	Choose a Solar System Object?
	System J2000 V display?
	RA 12:22:54.8990 PM RA 0.00000 mas/yr ▼
	Dec 13:43:20:372 PM Dec 0.00000 mas/yr V
	Source Velocity 1570.000 km/s v hel v z 0.005250741 Doppler Type RELATIVISTIC v
	Target Type O Multiple Pointings   1 Rectangular Field
	Expected Source Properties
	Back Continuum Elux Doncity per Boom 0 50000
	Peak Line Flux Density per Beam 3.00000 mJy
	Polarisation Percentage 0.0 %
	Line Width 10.00000 km/s 🔽
12:22:45 020 +15:50:22 64 (12000)	Rectangle
image filename : /.jsky3/cache/jsky447059814345440488.fits	
FOV Parameters	Coords Type ABSOLUTE ® RELATIVE
? -	Field Center
Antenna Diameter	Coordinates Offset(Longitude)U.00000 arcsec
Antenna Beamsize 53.926 arcsec	Offset(Latitude) 0.00000 arcsec 💌
Show FOV(circle)	p length 260.00000 arcsec 💌
Image Query	
Image Server Digitized Sky (Version II) at ESO	q length 2260.0000 arcsec V
Image Size(arcmin) 10.0 Query	Position Angle0.00000 deg 🔻
	Spacing 0.48113 fraction of main beam 🔻 Reset to Nyquist
	#Pointings 12m Array 126 7m Array 39 Export
	Add Source Load from Ella Dolate Source Dolate All Sources
	Add Source Load from File Delete Source Delete All Sources

**Spatial Visual Editor:** show ALMA and ACA pointings and beam widths overlaid on FITS images (define rep. freq. first!)

Project Structure	Editors
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup
Unsubmitted Proposal Project Proposal Proposal Planned Observing Quarter ScienceGoal (NGC1232: band 7)	In the table below, it is possible to define up to 16 spectral windows, 4 per baseband as long as the total Fraction per baseba Each baseband is 2GHz wide and can be separately configured i.e. each spectral window can have a different bandwidth and r Note that for bands 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, it is not possible to put 3 basebands in one sideband and the fourth one in the other.
<ul> <li>General</li> <li>Field Setup</li> <li>Spectral Setup</li> <li>Calibration Setup</li> <li>Control and Performance</li> </ul>	Spectral Line     Spectral Type     Single Continuum     Spectral Scan
L Technical Justification	Spectral Setup Errors         Spectral Line         Baseband-1         Fraction       Centre Freq         Centre Freq       Centre Freq         (sky,bar)       Transition         Bandwidth, Resolution (smoothed)       1         (feul)       339,09000 GHz 337,18082 GHz (CH30Hy t=0
	Select Lines to Observe in Baseband-1       Add       Delete         Baseband-2       1/2       339.49953 GHz 337.58804 GHz CO v=2 3-2       58.594 MHz( 52 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.108 km/s)         1/2       341.41564 GHz 339.49337 GHz CH30Hv t=0       58.594 MHz( 52 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.107 km/s)



each ALMA receiver has two sidebands (telescope output); widths and separations are band-dependent

up to 4 basebands sample the sideband signals, each 2-GHz wide, two polarizations (X and Y)

- spectral windows sample the baseband signals
- possible to define up to 4 spectral windows per baseband
  - different high-resolution and low-resolution correlator modes possible within the same frequency tuning (limiting factor: correlator channels)

one correlator setup, one set of calibration and control parameters and up to 5 frequency tunings per Science Goal



displays sidebands, spectral windows, LO1, atmospheric transmission, spectral lines...



ditors							
Spectra	Spatial	Spectral Setup					
Spectra	Line						
							? -
Baseba	ind-1	1	1	I			
Fractio	Centre Fr (rest,Isrl	eq Centre Freq <) (sky,bar)	Transition		Bandwidth, Resolution (smoothed)	Spec Avg	. Representative Window
1(Full)	339.09000	GHz 337.18082 GH	z CH30Hv t=0	117.188 MHz(	104 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.108 km/s)	4	
Selec	t Lines to O	bserve in Baseband	l-1 Add	Delete			
Baseba	nd-2						
1/2	339.49953	GHz 337.58804 GH	z CO v=2 3-2	58.594 MHz(	52 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.108 km/s)	4	۲
1/2	341.41564	GHz 339.49337 GH	z CH30Hv t=0	58.594 MHz(	52 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.107 km/s)	4	
Selec	t Lines to O	bserve in Baseband	I-2 Add	Delete			
Baseba	nd-3						
1/2	352.64125	GHz 350.65577 GH	z NHD2 18(14,	58.594 MHz(	50 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.104 km/s)	4	0
1/2	354.09000	GHz 352.09637 GH	z HCN v=0 J=4-3	58.594 MHz(	50 km/s), 121.155 kHz( 0.103 km/s)	4	
Selec	t Lines to O	bserve in Baseband	I-3 Add	Delete			
Baseba	ind-4						
1(Full)	351.76865	GHz 349.78809 GH	z H2CO 5(1,5)	937.500 MHz(	804 km/s), 488.281 kHz( 0.418 km/s)	1	

## **Science Goal: Calibration Setup**

roject Structure	🖞 Editors
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial Calibration Setup
Insubmitted Proposal 우 🚔 Project 후 🚔 Proposal	Select calibration setup. If "system" is selected, the ALMA system will select default calibrators.
<ul> <li>Familie Observing</li> <li>Science Goal (NGC1232: band 7)</li> <li>General</li> <li>Field Setup</li> <li>Spectral Setup</li> </ul>	Solar Calibrators Select User-defined calibration to choose your own calibrators, or System-defined calibration to let the system automatically select the calibrators to be observ We STRONGLY suggest that you leave this choice at 'System-defined' - the Observatory will ensure that suitable calibrators are selected. System-defined calibration
<ul> <li>Calibration Setup</li> <li>Control and Performance</li> <li>Technical Justification</li> </ul>	O User-defined calibration

in almost all cases, "system-defined calibration" is fine

if "user-defined calibration" is requested, one needs to justify that in the scientific justification

#### **Science Goal: Control/Performance**

Editors				
Spectral Spatial Control and Perfo	ormance			
These parameters are used to control	various aspects of the obse	rvations, including the requi	ired antenna configurations ar	d integration times.
Control and Performance				
Configuration Information				?
Antenna Beamsize (1.13 * λ / D )	12m 17.248 arcsec	7m 29.568 arcsec		
Number of Antennas	12m 40	7m 10	TP 3	
	ACA 7m configuration	Most compact 12m cor	nfiguration Most extended 12	m configuration
Longest baseline	0.049 km	0.157 km	6.855 km	
Synthesized beamsize	3.723 arcsec	1.094 arcsec	0.035 arcsec	
Shortest baseline	0.009 km	0.015 km	0.168 km	
Maximum recoverable scale	19.771 arcsec	8.605 arcsec	0.388 arcsec	
Desired Performance				
Desired Angular Resolution (Synthesize	ed Beam) 1.0	00000 arcsec 💌		
In order to request stand-alone ACA, enter an ang	ular resolution that is similar to the	synthesized beamsize displayed ab	ove for that array.	
Largest Angular Structure in source 1.00000 arcmin 👻				
Desired mosaic sensitivity	<u> 0.</u>		107.28 MK	
Bandwidth used for Sensitivity AggregateBandWidth - Frequency Width 1.289063 GHz				
Science goal integration time estimate Time Estimate				
overnde of s sensitivity-based time estimate (must be justified) Ves  No				
Are the observations time-constrained? O Yes  No				

### **Science Goal: Technical Justification**

#### enter brief explanations for the chosen parameters: Sensitivity, Imaging, Correlator configuration, other choices to be justified

Project Structure	f Editors
Proposal Program	Spectral Spatial Technical Justification
Project Structure Proposal Program Unsubmitted Proposal Project Proposal Project Proposal Project ScienceGoal (NGC1232: band 7) General General General General General Gridd Setup Gilibration Setup Gilibration Setup Gilibration Setup Gilibration Setup Gilibration Gilibration	Spectral       Spatial       Technical Justification         Enter a Technical Justification for this Science Goal, paying special attention to the parameters reproduced below.       Image: Content of this Science Goal, paying special attention to the parameters reproduced below.         Sensitivity       Requested RMS over 1.289 GHz is 10.00 mJy       For a peak flux density of 35.00 mJy , the S/N is 3.5         Achieved RMS over the total       1.289 GHz bandwidth is 795.53 uJy       For a continuum flux density of 0.00 Jy , the achieved S/N is 0.0         For a peak line flux of 35.00 mJy , the achieved S/N over 1/3 of the source line width ( 15.00 km/s / 3 = 5.00 km/s ) is 2.9       Note that one or more of the S/N estimates are < 3. Please double-check the RMS and/or line fluxes entered and/or address the issue below.
	This particular SG is part of the Band 7 bright molecular lines template and is not intended to be necessarily copied verbatim. The PI should be sure they update/modify the source parameters in the Field setup tab, and complete the Technical justification text to address and justify their selections.
Cycle 4 template library (read-only)	Requested angular resolution : 1.00 arcsec
ScienceGoal (Single-point spectral sweep of Sgr E	Requested largest angular scale : 1.00 arcmin

### **Tools: Validation**



New

Science

Proposa

 Flease ensure you and your co-is are registered with the <u>ALMA Science Portal</u>
 Create a new proposal by either:

- Selecting File > New Proposal
- Clicking on the II icon in the toolbar

Click on the overview steps to view the contextual help

Science

Proposa

Submi

Science

Proposal

Create

Science

## **Tools: Sensitivity Calculator**



- calculates sensitivity (or time) for all three arrays (for experimentation!)
   weather is described in terms of PWV octiles
  - PWV can be set manually, but ALMA always chooses for you!
- version in OT is independent from SG inputs

•

Selecting File > New Proposal

Clicking on the 1 icon in the toolbar.

Click on the overview steps to view the contextual help

## The ALMA-OT

#### Other tools and help:

- Sensitivity Calculator also available via Science Portal
- > ALMA simulator (in CASA or online tool)
- Iots of documents, manuals, guides, video tutorials available on the ALMA Science Portal, updated before each deadline
- German ALMA Community Day ~2-4 weeks before the deadline, this year: 05 April 2018