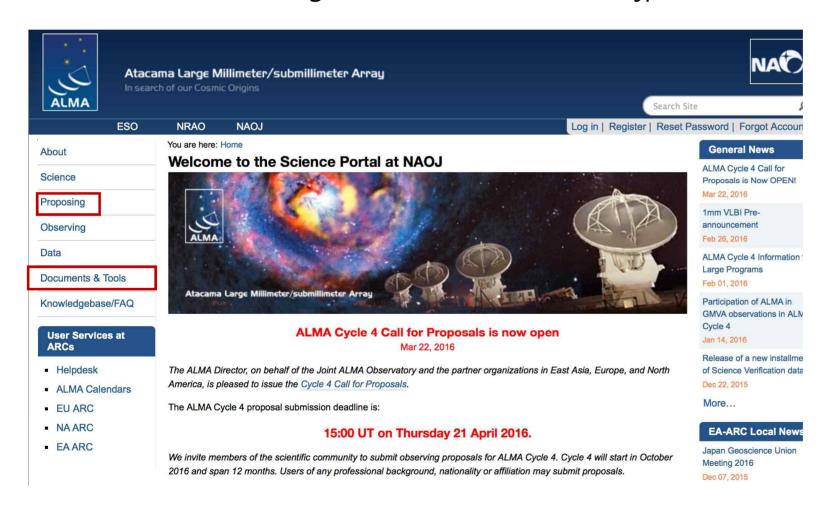
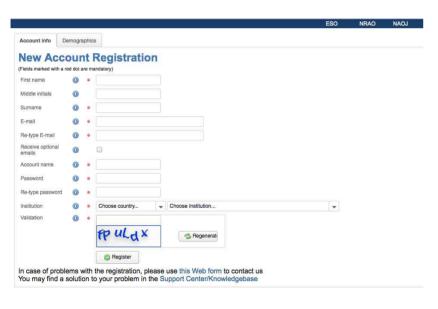
ALMA Cycle 4 Observing Tool (OT)

1. Registration to the ALMA Science Portal (www.almascience.org) → almascience.nao.ac.jp



Proposing → Call For Proposals (https://almascience.nao.ac.jp/proposing/call-for-proposals)

Get New account https://asa.alma.cl/UserRegistration/newAccount.jsp?arc=ea





2. Proposal Preparation

- Download LaTex template
 https://almascience.nrao.edu/proposing/proposal-template
- ALMA Cycle 4 proposals must be written in English and include the following sections:
 Total 4 pages (A4 or Letter), with a font size no smaller than 12 points (figure captions, tables and references may be listed in 10-point font).

Total 6 pages are allowed for "Large Program proposals", as these should contain additional sections on management and data products

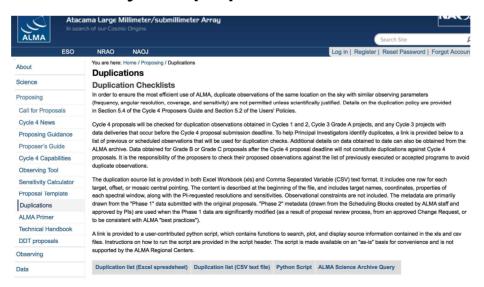
Technical Justification in OT (not in the single PDF)

3. Duplication Check

https://almascience.nao.ac.jp/proposing/duplications

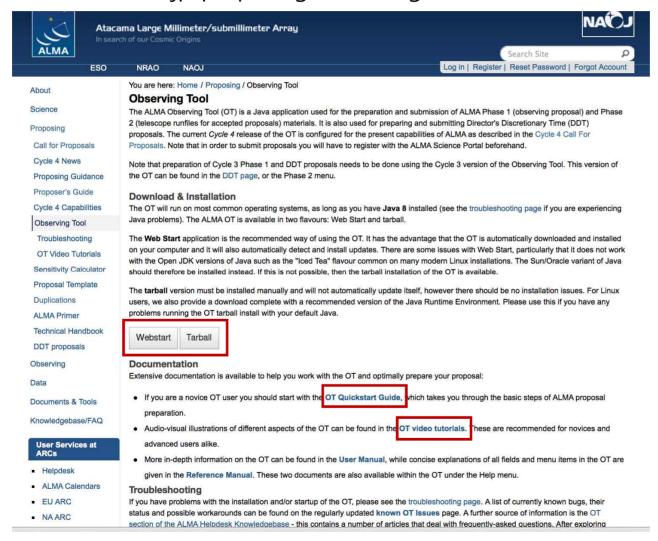
In order to ensure the most efficient use of ALMA, duplicate observations of the same location on the sky with similar observing parameters (**frequency**, **angular resolution**, **coverage**, **and sensitivity**) are not permitted unless scientifically justified. Archival data should be used whenever possible to accomplish the science goals of a proposed investigation.

It is the responsibility of the proposers to check the proposed observations against the catalog of previously executed or accepted programs to avoid duplicate observations. Proposed targets should be checked against the list of prior and scheduled observations provided by the JAO. This list will include observations obtained in previous cycles (with the exception of Cycle 0), Cycle 3 Grade A projects, and any Cycle 3 projects with data deliveries that occur before the Cycle 4 proposal submission deadline.



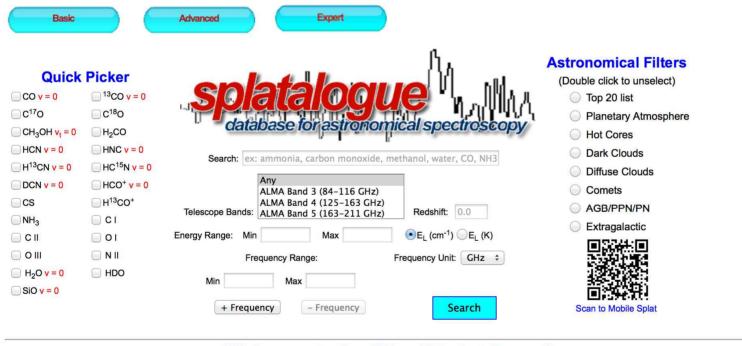
4. Observing Tool

https://almascience.nao.ac.jp/proposing/observing-tool



Splatalogue

http://www.cv.nrao.edu/php/splat/



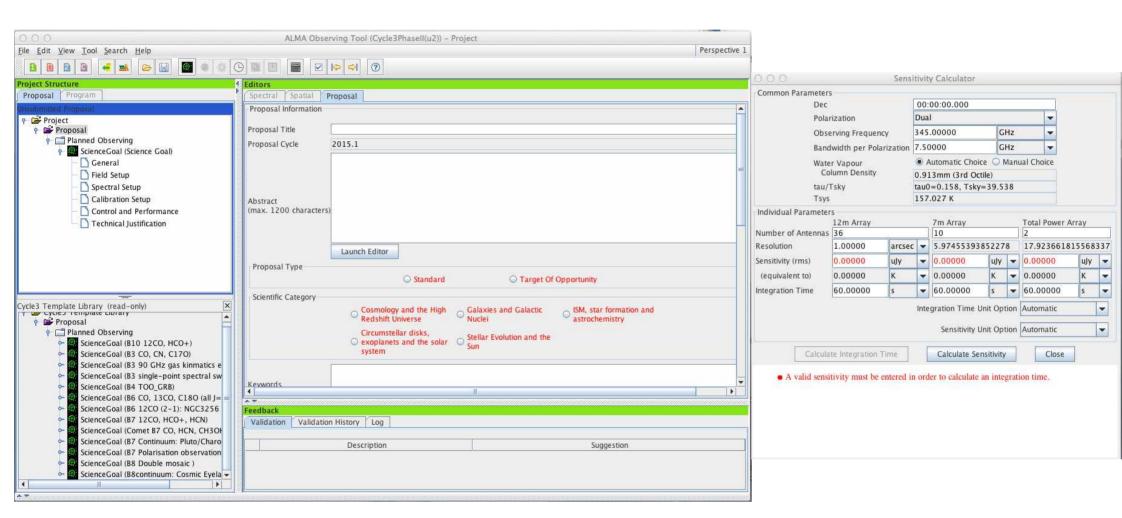
Welcome to the "New" Splatalogue!

Over the past several years, there has been an active effort to improve the overall functionality and usability of Splatalogue. We are now offering new options to navigate the nearly 6 million spectral lines available via Splatalogue. The user community has suggested a simpler, more efficient way of searching for and obtaining the more common spectral line features from the radio to submillimeter wavelength.

2.3 New OT Features

The OT had a very large number of updates for this cycle. Some of the more notable changes for Cycle 4 include:

- There is a new field in the "proposal" tab to list the project code for uncompleted Cycle 3 proposals that are being resubmitted for Cycle 4
- The restriction that each SG be limited to targets that are within 10 degrees on the sky and need no more than five tunings has been removed. However, multiple SBs will be generated in Phase 2.
- The data rate that triggers a warning has been increased to 40 MB/s
- The need for ACA in concert with 12-m Array observations is based entirely on the user-specified "Largest Angular Structure in source", and cannot be deselected



Source List file

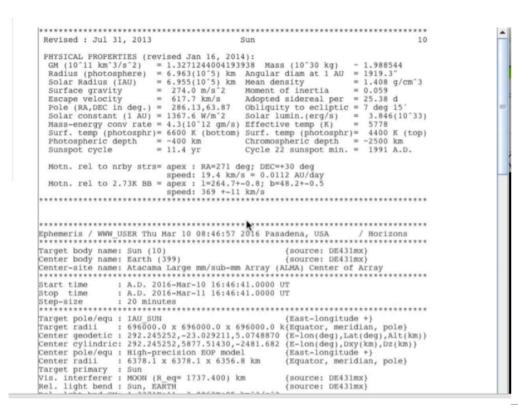
• Load from File...: Add one or more sources, including their properties, using a local ASCII file. The format of the file is as follows:

```
Name, RA(sex), Dec(sex), PMRA(mas/yr), PMDec(mas/yr), vel(km/s), Ref frame, Doppler type, peak cont flux(mJy), peak line flux(mJy), cont pol(%), line pol(%), line width(km/s)

-- This signals end of the header
ngc253, 00:47:33.134, -25:17:19.68, 0.0, 0.0, 258.688, lsrk, RADIO, 200, 1000, 2, 0, 1500
ngc1068, 02:42:40.771, -00:00:47.84, 0.0, 0.0, 1142.075, topo, OPTICAL, 1100.0, 30, 0, 0, 20
```

http://celestialscenes.com/alma/coords/CoordTool.html

ALMA Solar Ephemeris Generator Tool



File: AlA image (test) \$ Choose File no file selected Date: 2015-02-27T13:54:42.84 Size: 1024 x 1024 Format: 32 View header
Visualization Scaling function: cuberoot Color: heat Frame o of 1. ✓ Show grid Stonyhurst ✓ Show ALMA 12m beam size in band: Band 3 cursor (wcs) = (-, -), intensity = -

When you like to resubmit the previous proposals



If you would like to re-submit a proposal from a previous cycle as a Cycle 4 proposal, you can use the new $File > Open \ Project \ as \ New \ Proposal$ feature. Regardless of its Phase 2 status, the old proposal will be retrieved from the ALMA archive and open in the OT as a new Phase 1 proposal without a project code. You can edit the proposal as desired and then follow the normal procedure for submission, whereupon the proposal will be assigned a Cycle 4 project code. Note that time estimates, allowed configurations etc. will have changed from previous cycles, therefore you should check the technical setup carefully. Some edits may be required for the proposal to validate.



Large Programs, offered for the first time in Cycle 4, are proposals that require more than 50 hours of 12-m Array time, or more than 50 hours of stand-alone Atacama Compact Array (ACA, also known as the Morita Array) time. For these programs, co-PIs may be specified and the observing time required will be split between the PI and co-PIs' Executives (Europe, North America or East Asia).



VLBI proposals are another new type of proposals first offered in Cycle 4. Selecting this proposal type will bring up a special VLBI proposal interface at the Science Goal level. VLBI Science Goals may contain only one source with a correlated flux density > 0.5 Jy in intra-ALMA array baselines out to 1 km (weaker sources cannot currently be handled by the phasing system). The spectral setup is limited to pre-defined Band 3 and Band 6 continuum setups. Users should normally select the system-defined calibration option as all necessary calibrations will be carried out by the observatory. Unlike standard proposals, VLBI observations require a time estimate (including overheads, which make up $\sim 50\%$ of the expected time on source) rather than a sensitivity to be entered. A minimum of three observing hours is required in order to make a clean linear-to-circular transformation of the data. Note that ALMA VLBI programs must also have been submitted to the appropriate VLBI network by their independent deadline. For more details, please see the Proposer's Guide

In Cycle 4, Solar observations are offered for the first time. Simply select the Sun as a source from the Solar System Object drop-down list to invoke the special Solar observing Science Goal interface (see Fig. 4). This will allow you to fill in all the specific details necessary for a Solar observing proposal. You must specify the Solar Activity Level and provide a dummy ephemeris file such as the one available from the OT Template Library or created using the ALMA Solar Ephemeris Generator Tool available at http://celestialscenes.com/alma/coords/CoordTool.html. The ephemeris will be updated in coordination with the observatory before any observations take place. You will be restricted to the Band 3 and 6 continuum setups offered for Solar observations, and asked to specify the total requested 12-m Array time (including overheads, which amount to ~25 minutes per maximum 2 hour execution) rather than a sensitivity. Note that the accompanying ACA 7-m and Total Power observations will always be added automatically, and that the Total Power observations will provide a map of the entire Solar disk. More details on Solar observing capabilities can be found in the Proposer's Guide.





The restriction that all sources and pointings of a Science Goal must lie within 10° of each other on-sky has been lifted for Cycle 4. The OT now uses a clustering algorithm to group sources within 10° into separate SBs rather than requiring the user to split them into separate Science Goals. Information on the different source clusters can be found in the *Time Estimate* pop-up available from the *Control and Performance* node.



It is your responsibility to ensure that the source information is correct. The source coordinates and the velocity are used by the OT to calculate the pointing(s) and the sky frequencies respectively, and can normally not be changed after a proposal has been accepted. The expected source properties are used for the technical feasibility assessment of your proposal, and incorrect or incomplete information may lead to the rejection of your proposal on technical grounds. For more information on how to convert existing flux measurements for your source to the peak flux density per synthesised beam required by the OT please see this and this Knowledgebase article, or consult video number 2 available here.



Single Continuum and Spectral Scan observations are specified in the sky reference frame. Unlike for Spectral Line mode, the velocity information entered in Section 5 is ignored, and all sources are observed with the same frequency tuning.



The spectral scan interface may in certain cases yield a very inefficient observing strategy, causing the time estimate to skyrocket. This will happen mostly for observations with relatively long on-source times and many frequency tunings. It may be more efficient to set up such spectral scans using separate Science Goals for each frequency tuning.



Unlike in previous Cycles, users do not directly select whether ACA 7-m and/or Total Power observations should be scheduled or not. Instead, the ACA is imposed by the OT if required to achieve the LAS requested. Whether or not ACA observations will be scheduled can be easily seen in the *Time Estimate* pop-up, or from the cover sheet of the pdf file created by the *Tools* > Generate PDF of Whole Proposal action.



In Cycle 4, it is possible to request ACA stand-alone observations, i.e. to apply for observing time only on the ACA 7-m and (if needed) Total Power Array without asking for 12-m Array time. This is achieved by entering the Synthesized Beamsize reported in the Configuration Information for the ACA 7-m configuration. If necessary to achieve the LAS requested, Total Power observations will be added only for spectral line observations in Bands 3,4,6,7 and 8. Note that for stand-alone observations the ACA 7-m time estimate is specifically computed for the sensitivity requested, rather than being a multiple of the 12-m Array time. Given the greatly reduced total collecting area of the 10 7-m antennas compared to the 40 12-m antennas offered in Cycle 4, a stand-alone ACA proposal will by design require significantly more ACA time than a proposal including the 12-m Array for the same sensitivity request.



The time estimates for Cycle 4 have been extensively revised compared to those for Cycle 3 taking into account the experience gained by the project particularly in the areas of imaging and scheduling. They are expected to be more realistic than the Cycle 3 estimates, however users should be aware that despite the increased number of antennas, the estimated observing time required to reach the requested sensitivity may have increased for some projects. The Time Estimate pop-up now provides information not only on the time required for a Science Goal, but also gives an indication of the configuration(s) required and how widely separated sources will be clustered into separate SBs.