

JUNE 2012

SCIENCE OPERATIONS (Lars-Ake Nyman, Paola Andreani, John Hibbard, Ken Tatematsu)

The Cycle 1 Call for Proposals

The Archive has been open for proposal submission since May 31, and will close on July 12. So far 56 proposals have been submitted (July 6). Preparations are ongoing for the additional support for proposal submission provided during the last 72h before the deadline. 284 helpdesk tickets were received in June and 36 “Knowledgebase” articles were published.

A few issues with the time estimates in the Observing Tool for certain projects were discovered, and an updated version of the OT is now provided in the Science Portal. The users were informed by email. A problem with CASA simulations of ALMA Band 9 observations was identified and a patch released. Registered ALMA users were informed of both of these issues via email.

The Cycle 1 proposal review process will involve 77 science assessors (in total 11 review panels with 7 members each), compared to 48 for Cycle 0. Recruitment of the additional assessors is ongoing.

Cycle 0 Observations

The observations in June (observing blocks 16 and 17) went well although two days were lost during Block 17 due to bad weather (see Figure 1).

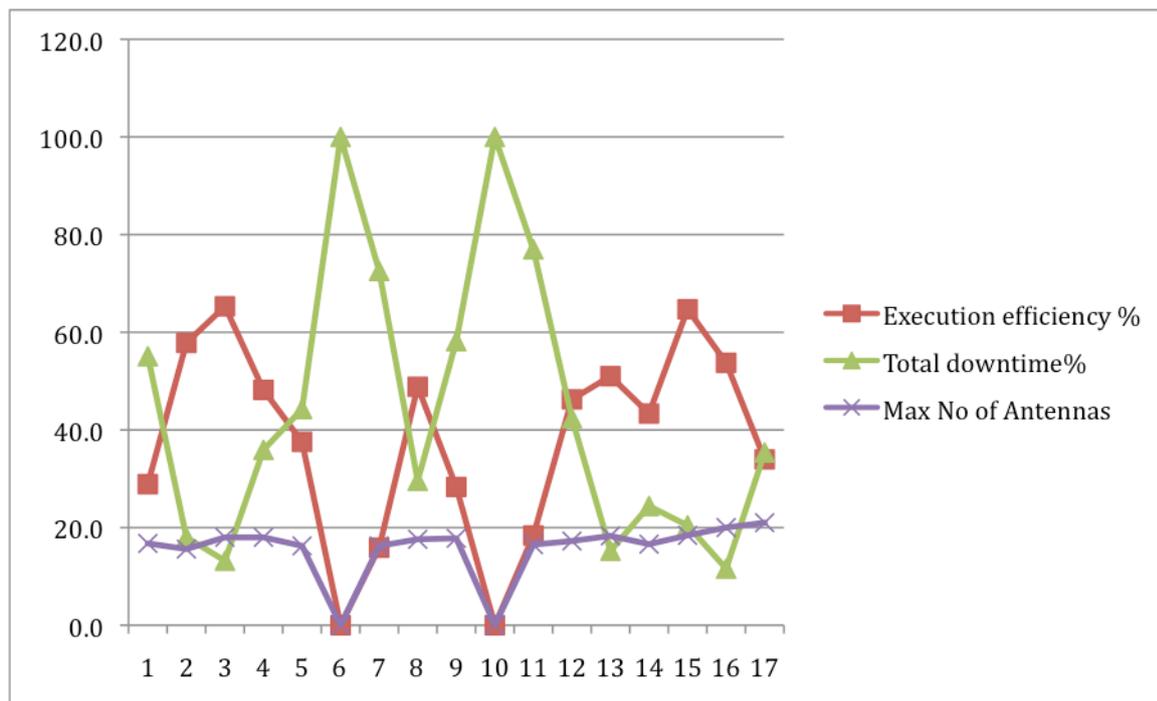


Figure 1: Efficiency statistics by observing block

Figure 2 shows the cumulative number of SBs that have been started to be observed, and the number of SBs that are finished (having passed the first level of quality assurance (QA0 – with enough successful executions done to reach the required noise level) as a function of observing block. The purple line is an estimate of how many SBs should have been finished

during these observing blocks in order to complete all 112 high priority projects (in total about 400 SBs executed in 29 observing blocks) at the end of the extended Cycle 0.

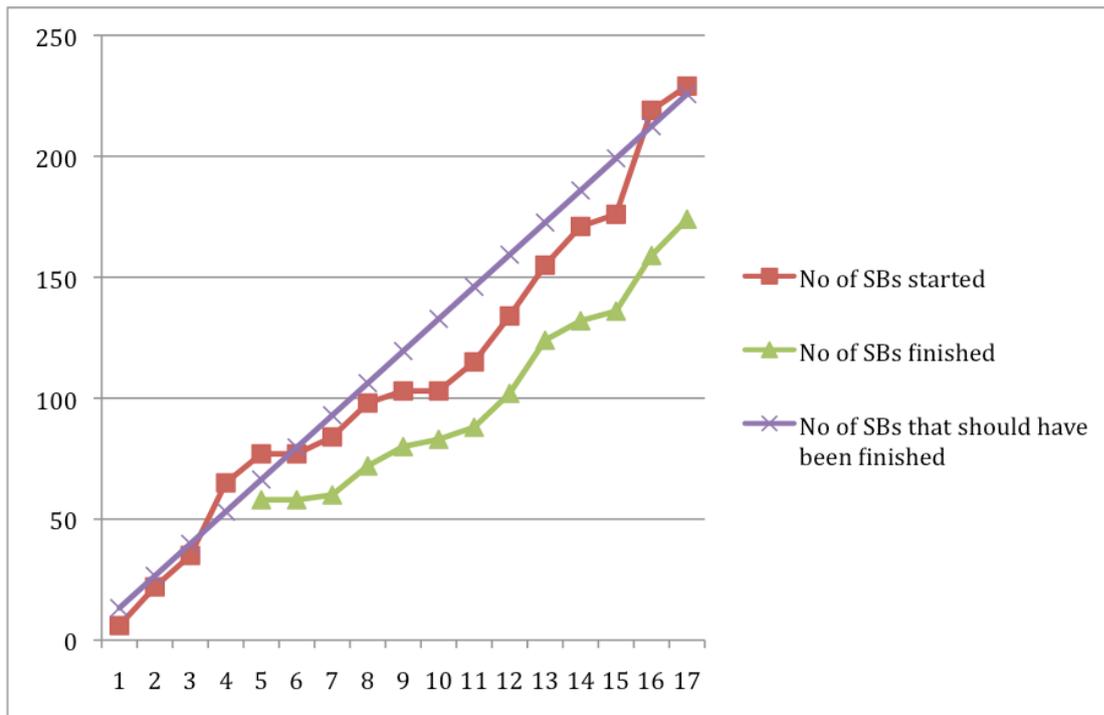


Figure 2: SBs started, and finished, by observing block

Figure 3 shows time execution time in hours per band as function of time. Band 9 observations have now started with the improvement in weather after the Altiplanic winter.

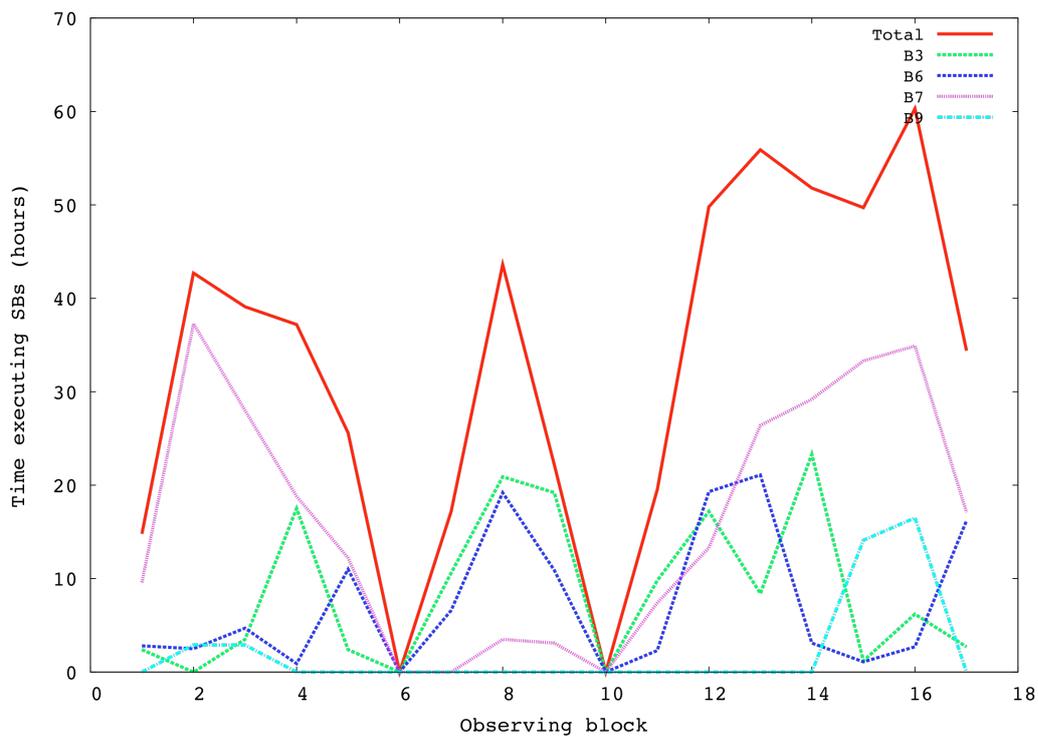


Figure 3: Execution time (in hours) per band as function of observing block.

The fractions of the total observing time dedicated to proposals from each of the ALMA regions currently are all within $\pm 3\%$ of the appropriate regional shares. These statistics are carefully monitored and are consistent with the goal of achieving the appropriate regional shares over the duration of Cycle 0 observing.

Data processing is proceeding at the ARCs as well as at the JAO. Figure 4 shows the number of datasets that have been processed and delivered to PIs as function of time (=completed executions of SBs that have passed QA2). 113 datasets belonging to 38 projects have been or are in the process of being delivered. The data processing time has now been reduced to about 3-4 weeks.

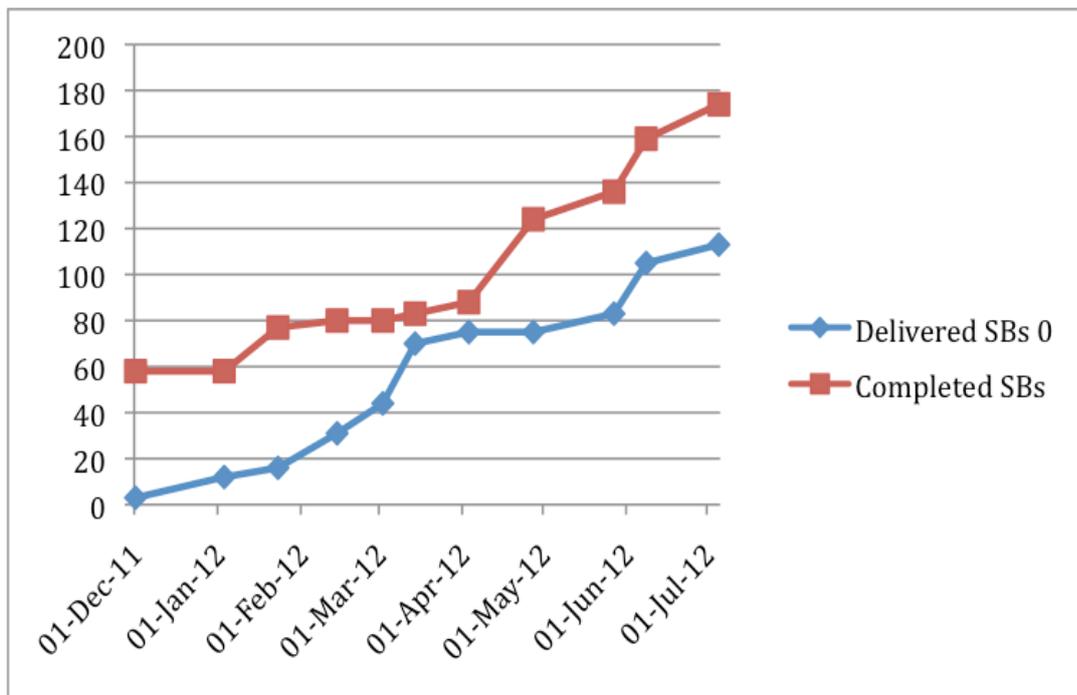


Figure 4: Data Processing and data delivery

The Cycle 0 observations and data processing are proceeding reasonable well. 54% of the observing time is completed and nearly 50% of the total number of executions are done.

Other Activities:

DSO and ARC staff attended the CIPT CDR10 meeting in Garching regarding planning and requirements for the coming software releases.

DSO Hiring:

The selection processes for the Data Analyst and PHT Operations specialist positions are ongoing. The interviews were done and job offers have been sent out.

The first 3 JAO postdoctoral fellowships are advertised with a deadline of August 31. Mark Rawlings is leaving the JAO and will take up a position at the NAASC. The position for his replacement has been advertised.

ARC activities

EA ARC:

EA ARC has held six Town Meetings in Japan (June 7 at Kyoto University, June 12 at Nagoya University, June 13 at Tohoku University, June 18 at NAOJ Mitaka, June 28 at Osaka Prefecture University and June 29 at Kagoshima University) and one workshop in Taiwan (June 9). At these Town Meetings, Cycle 1 capabilities, Observing Tool information, CASA simulation information, etc, were explained.

Furthermore, the EA ARC supported ALMA related seminars (AGN June 6, AGN-high z June 12, milliarc second astronomy June 7, nearby galaxies June 2, Astrobiology June 21, star formation June 29), and workshops (SNR June 1-2, stellar evolution June 11-12).

Erik Muller stays in Chile from June 10 to August 18 to serve as Astronomer on Duty.

EU ARC:

Tim Davis (ESO-ALMA Fellow) spent 2 turnos at the OSF working as AoD for the EU ARC.

EU ARC was heavily engaged in preparing and organizing community days, which took place at almost all the ARC nodes including ESO. EU PIs have been invited to show their Cycle 0 data.

EU ARC continues to work on the quality assurance of Cycle 0 data.

Participation in the mm-VLBI workshop (June 27-28). Discussion about proposal to submit to the ALMA development steering committee has taken place.

NA ARC:

Stuartt Corder spent most of the month in Chile working with CSV on Cycle 1 observing modes. Remy Indebetouw traveled to Chile for two turnos as Astronomer on Duty at the end of June through mid July.

The results of the first year of the North American ALMA Development Studies were sent to PI's and announced in the NRAO eNews. Seventy-seven investigators associated with 26 institutions responded to the call with a total of 21 study proposals. Eight proposals were selected for funding by an external (to NRAO) review panel.

NA ARC supported several Cycle 1 user events, including ALMA lectures and tutorials at the NRAO Synthesis Imaging Summer School (May 29th-June 5th); a special session "ALMA Early Science Results and Opportunities" at the 220th AAS meeting (June 14th), and a Proposal Preparation Webinar (June 11th). Sixty people attended the AAS special session (in spite of it being held on the last day of the meeting), which included invited talks from four Cycle 0 PI presenting the results of their ALMA data, and ALMA proposal support was given at the NRAO booth. The webinar covered all NRAO instruments and was attended by ~100 users, 40 of which participated in the ALMA portion. The webinar talks are posted in powerpoint, pdf, and video format from the NRAO science webpage.

Alison Peck transferred from her job as Deputy Project Scientist at the JAO to a scientific staff position in the NAASC. In related news, NAASC scientist Stuartt Corder accepted the ALMA CSV Project Scientist job at the JAO. The NAASC hired a fourth Data Analyst. A Scientific Programmer position to work on CASA High Performance Computing is being recruited.

The NAASC announced the workshop "Molecular Emission at High Redshift Comes of Age", to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, 13-15 September, 2012.