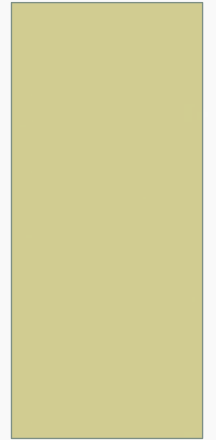


WRITING AN OBSERVING PROPOSAL

HANDS-ON EXERCISE



OBSERVING PROPOSALS

WHY WRITE AN OBSERVING PROPOSAL?

- You have a good scientific question/problem that you want to answer/solve

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Oversubscription rate = time requested/time available

Telescope	Oversubscription
Small telescopes (0.5-2m)	0.5 - 2
Middle telescopes (4m)	2-3
Large telescopes (8m)	5-6
Space telescopes	5-6

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Telescope	Cost [€/hour]
VLBA (radio)	740
Calar Alto (2.2m)	360
ESO NTT (3.5m)	1200
ESO VLT (8.0m)	7280
HST (2.4m space)	40000

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HOW IS THE PROPOSAL PROCESS?

- Observatories/agencies send a call for proposals (twice a yr)
- Panel committee evaluates proposals for: a) scientific case and b) technical feasibility and they are ranked (Not all members are specialists!)
- Rejection/acceptance is sent and observing priority (A,B,C)

OBSERVING PROPOSALS

HOW TO WRITE AN OBSERVING PROPOSAL?

- Investigate your scientific idea and convince the others about its importance and relevance
- Understand your instrument and the feasibility of the study (visibility, S/N, etc)

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HOW IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSAL?

- Abstract: short summary
- Scientific justification
- Technical feasibility
 - Targets and suggested observing dates

EXAMPLE PROPOSALS

1. Proposal to observe different type of supernovae (spectra) to improve cosmology
2. Proposal to observe nearby galaxies (imaging polarimetry) to better understand dust

PROPOSAL FOR FORS2/VLT

1. Make groups of max. 3 people and pick a scientific observing project that interests you
2. Find targets that are visible during the semester from October 2020 to March 2021.
3. Write a proposal (deadline: **09/10, 13:00**) with abstract, scientific case and time justification
4. For time justification calculate exposure times and take into account overheads