

Chandra Observing Proposal Workshop

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NASA Peer Reviews: General Issues

- Volunteers working (largely) pro bono
- Typically, volunteer base is comprised of people who propose
- Difficult juggling act for organizers; match expertise but avoid Col's
- One strong personality can drive discussions
- Limited time for evaluation, discussion
- In reality, few excellent or poor, rather large gray area

Chandra Specific Issues

- Panels are over tasked:
 - ~60+ proposals per panel
 - >~7+ per lead referee
 - Triage scheme often employed
- Topically focused committees, but in reality often problematic
 - Experts go where there proposals (and competing ones) aren't
- Imaging and spectroscopy proposals not separated

Response to Chandra NRAs

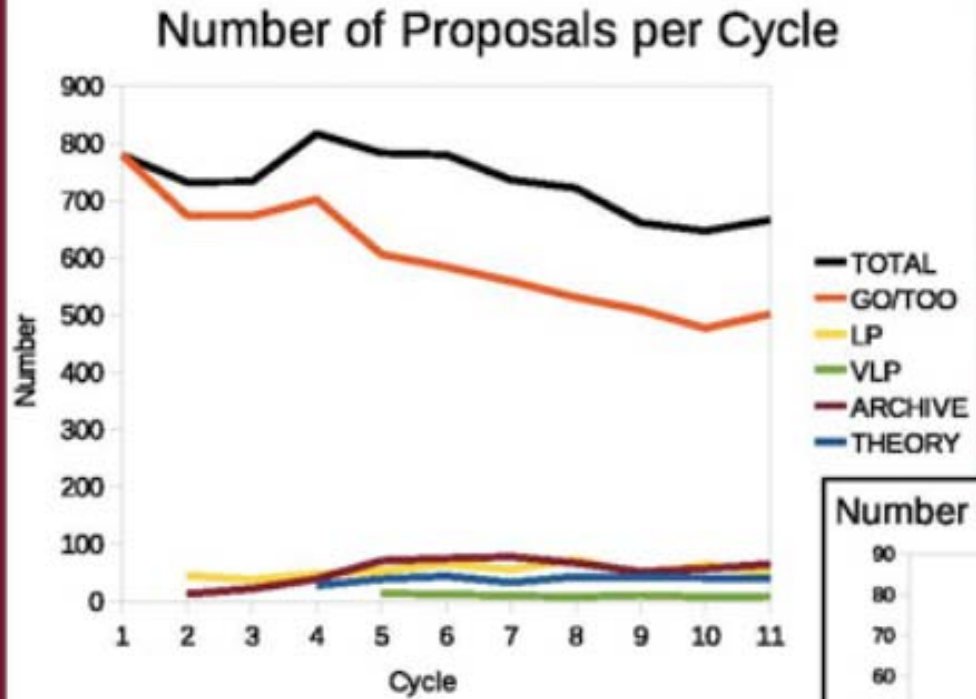
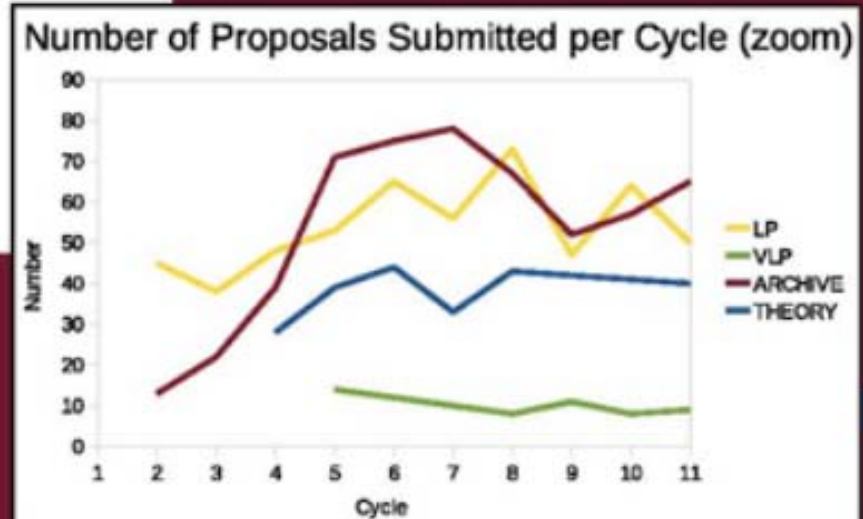


FIGURE 44: Left: The number of proposals submitted in each proposal type (e.g. GO, LP, Archive etc.) Right: zoom on lower curves, as a function of cycle. Since more proposal types have become available in each cycle, the number classified as GO has decreased as other types increase. The total number of submitted proposals is remarkably constant.



Chandra Panel Breakdown

Topical Panels	
<u>Galactic</u> Panels 1, 2	Normal Stars, WD, Planetary Systems and Misc
Panels 3, 4	SN, SNR + Isolated NS
Panels 5,6,7	WD Binaries + CVs, BH and NS Binaries, Galaxies: Populations
<u>Extragalactic</u> Panels 8,9,10	Galaxies: Diffuse Emission, Clusters of Galaxies
Panels 11,12,13	AGN, Extragalactic Surveys
Big Project Panel	LP and VLP Proposals

A Few Tips

- Don't pitch solely to experts in your sub niche
- The joint programs (NRAO, HST) have generally not been heavily oversubscribed
- Don't propose for a Large Program unless you REALLY need it
- Program should draw on unique capability of Chandra
- Don't cheat on the format guidelines
 - Tiny margins and small print annoy reviewers

A Few Tips (con.)

- Don't promise resources – e.g. supporting observations facilities – that you don't really have
- There is cycle-to-cycle 'institutional' memory
 - If you re-propose unsuccessful proposal, show that you addressed criticisms
 - If you propose to continue previously approved program, show that progress was made