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John Hibbard - 2024-10-08 - Early Science - Cycle 0

Because ALMA will be dynamically scheduled, users do not specify observing sequences. Instead, the Observatory's goal is to execute the highest ranked projects for the current observing conditions. For instance, some nights will be well suited for high-frequency projects, in which case low frequency observations may not be scheduled. So a multi-frequency project may be spread over different observing sessions spanning many days.

However, in Cycle 0 pure dynamic scheduling will not be available, and the ALMA staff may indeed elect to "block schedule" projects, i.e. attempt to conduct all observations associated with a project in a single block of time. This could involve cycling through observing bands in the manner suggested.

It is not possible to know how this will be handled for any given project. However, one should mention in the Technical Justification of the proposal whether the imaging requirements for the project would benefit from observations spread over a range of Hour Angles, to increase U-V coverage, and suggest that this could be achieved by cycling through the bands. (Note that there are other ways to achieve this, such as interspersing observations of one project with observations of another). If the proposal is well reviewed, the Observatory will attempt to achieve the imaging goals stated, although for Cycle 0 this will be done in a "best efforts" sense.