12-Meter

PROPOSAL HANDLING AT THE 12 M

The new trimester proposal schedule, advertised in the last two Newsletters, has taken effect at the 12 m. Under this system, very high frequency proposals will be handled somewhat differently than lower frequency proposals. Since observing time is available for frequencies below 270 GHz in each of the trimesters, proposals for frequencies in this range will automatically compete for observing time for two consecutive trimesters. Proposals for frequencies above 270 GHz can be scheduled only during the winter trimester. Since these high frequency proposals would be well over a year old on their second consideration for time, they will receive consideration for scheduling only once. The contact authors will be notified of the disposition of their proposals each time a selection of proposals is made. As always, observers are free to resubmit any proposal that did not receive time, after either its first or second consideration. As a final reminder, the new proposal schedule is given below:

Period	Observing Season	Proposal Deadline
I	Mid-September to 31 December	1 July
II	1 January to 31 March	1 October
III	1 April to mid-July	1 January

P. R. Jewell

NEW DATA FORMAT FOR THE 12 M TELESCOPE

The VAX data analysis programs LINE and CONDAR were heavily modified during the 1986 summer shutdown. The most significant change was the reconfiguration of data files in support of the General Single Dish Data Format developed by IRAM, Mullard Observatory (Cambridge), Steward Observatory (University of Arizona), and NRAO. This format was developed to facilitate the interchange of data between different observatories and data reduction programs. TCUS (Telescope Control User Standards) Memo 23, by R. L. Brown and E. B. Stobie, describes this format in detail. Most of the changes are hidden from the observer except for the access of header variables. All header parameters are stored as either REAL*8 or CHARACTER*8, and must now be accessed by command verbs rather than directly through the TWH array. A description of these commands is contained in the memo "Access of Header Parameters at the 12-Meter Telescope" by M. A. Gordon and E. B. Stobie.

In addition to updating the analysis programs to the new format, the file names and directories have changed. Every observer is now given his own VAX subdirectory. His data files and LINE and CONDAR memory files are kept in this subdirectory, and the extension letters of the file names are the observer's initials. There are no more community data files to be shared by observers. Each raw data file has space for 2,048 spectral line scans (each filterbank is a scan) and can easily expand to include 4,096 scans. The spectral line individual record file holds 12,600 records. Each observer must monitor his own individual records file so that it does not fill up and begin writing over itself. The spectral line calibration scans ("GAINS" and "ZEROS") are now stored in a file for reference by the LINE program. The observer's KEEP and EDIT files have been merged with space for 100 SAVE areas. All of the observer's data files are archived on tape at the end of his observing run and stored in Tucson for one year. FITS tapes are written as requested by the observer from these archive tapes for data exportation. TCUS Memo 24, "Single Dish FITS Tape," by B. Stobie and L. Morgan describes the export tapes.

E. B. Stobie