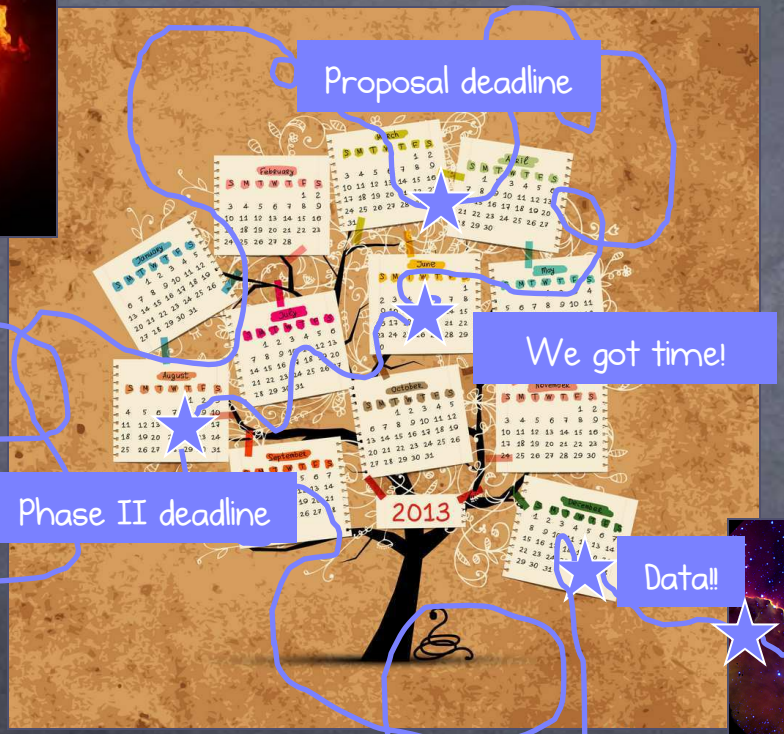
The Fast Turnaround Program

Best. Idea. Ever.



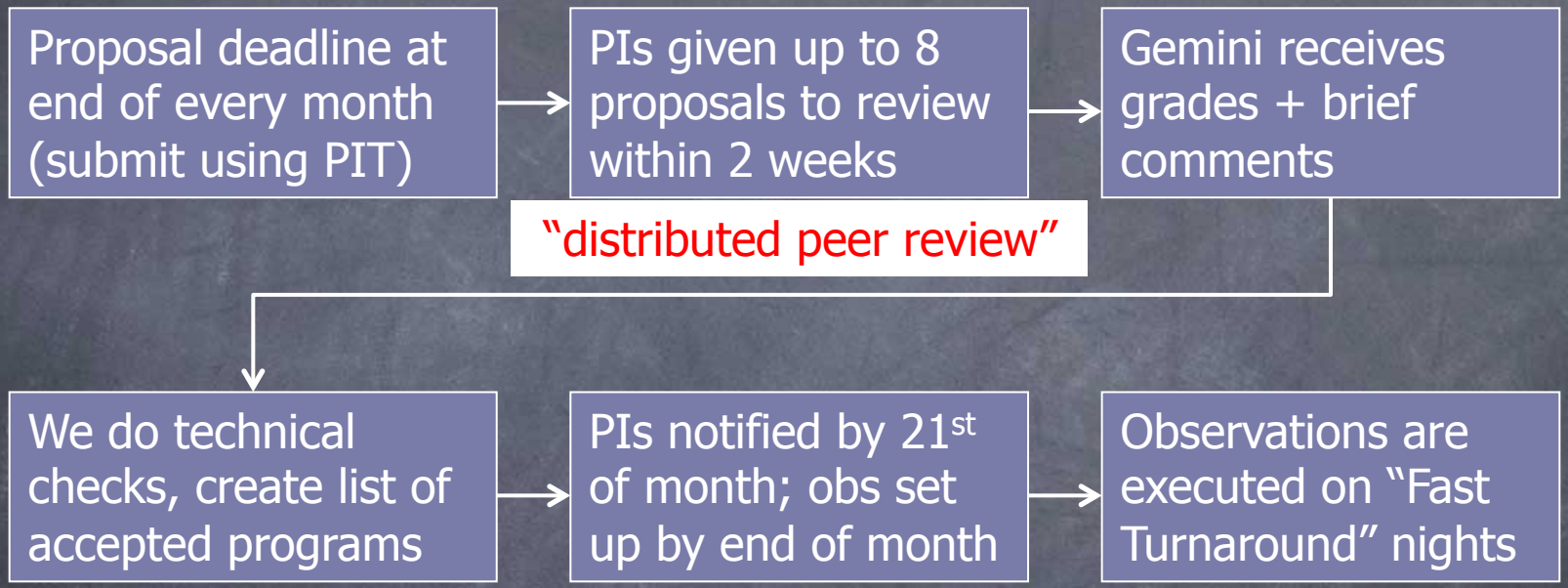
Bloggs et al. 2017 Important Result

Paper??

Data!!

R. Mason + FT team, Toronto, June 2015

How it works



Started as pilot program in January 2015 with ~10% of time at Gemini North only (likely to expand to Gemini South around the end of the year). Will start to merge observations with regular queue in 2015B.

What's it for?

- Anything you like, more-or-less
  - Some restrictions on amount of time you can ask for
  - Some instrument modes not available
  - See www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/observing-modes/fast-turnaround

We anticipate that the FT program will be used for:

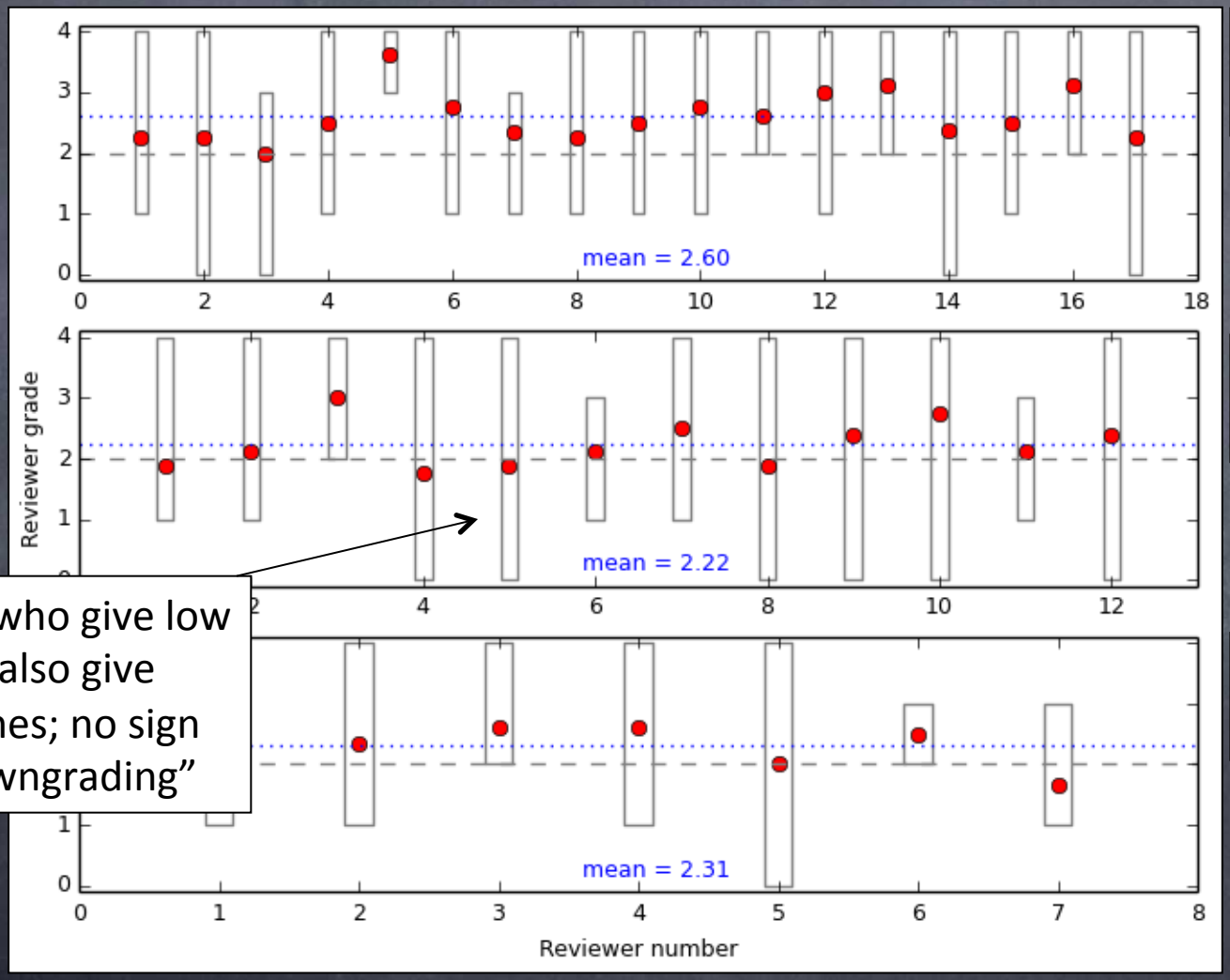
- following up unusual/unexpected astronomical events,
- pilot/feasibility studies,
- short, self-contained projects,
- speculative/high risk - high reward observations of fairly short duration,
- completion of a thesis project, when only a few short observations are needed, and
- completion of an existing data set to allow publication, when only a few short observations are needed.

However, users may propose for any kind of project that they believe is suited to the program.

Participants are enthusiastic

- "***As a graduate student … I found it both interesting and educational, giving many examples of how to (not) write an effective proposal***."
- "I really like this program. It's a valuable option for getting quick data when you need it without creating an excessive extra work load. I will definitely use it again should the need arise."
- "My experience has been positive! I hope this method of reviewing continues."

Is the peer review system fair?



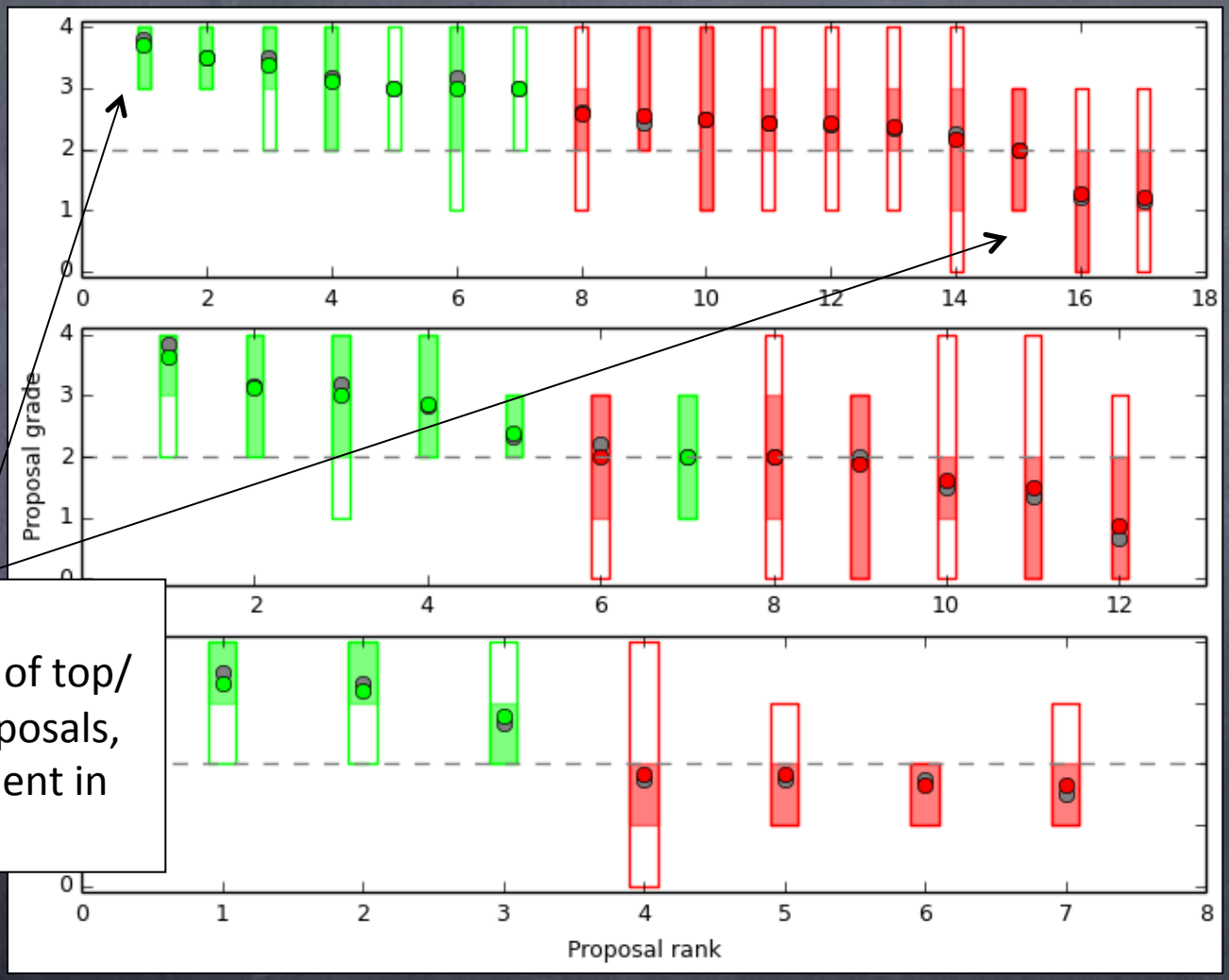
January proposals

February proposals

March proposals

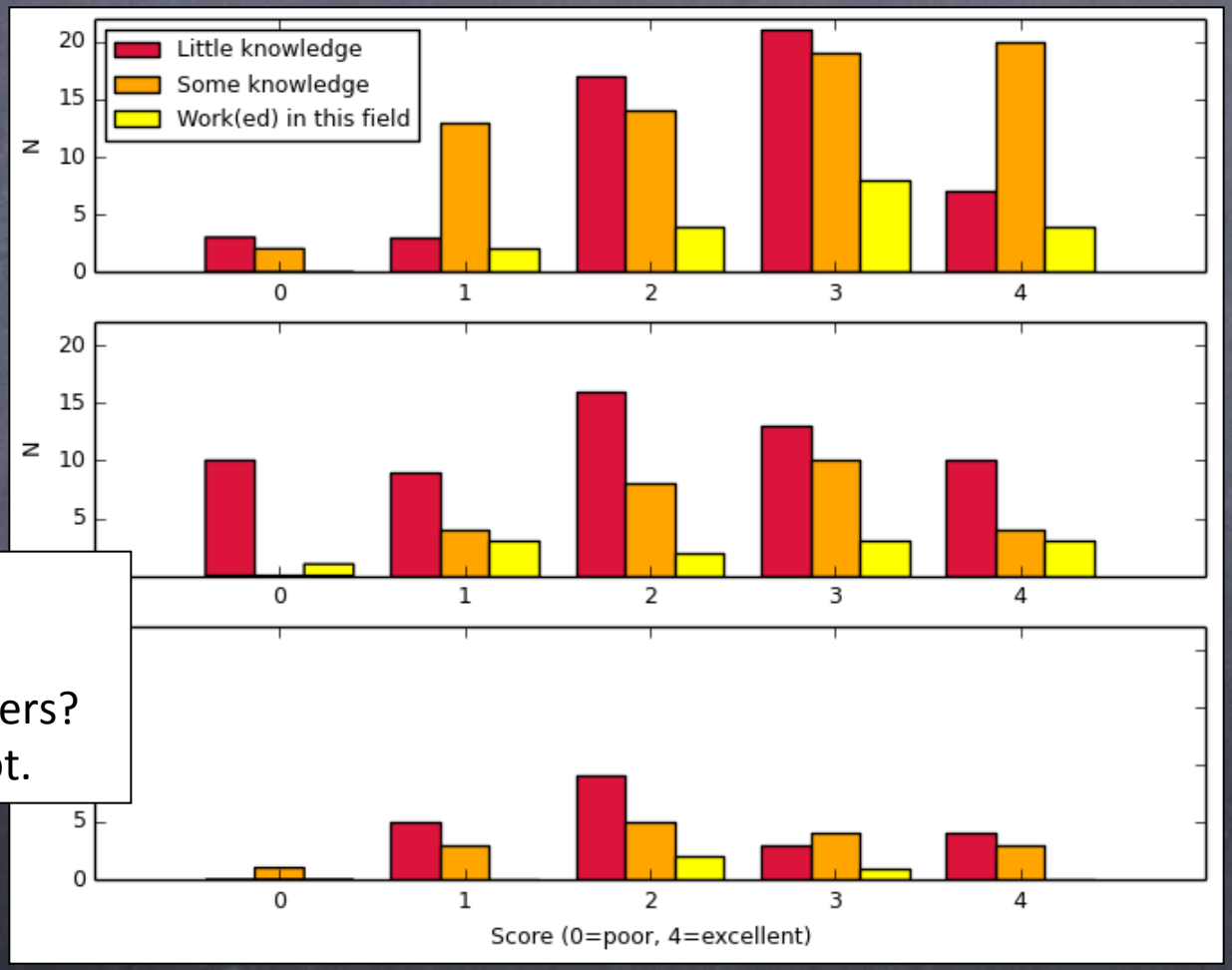
Those who give low scores also give high ones; no sign of “downgrading”

Are the best proposals chosen?



Fairly good recognition of top/ bottom proposals, less agreement in middle

Are the best proposals chosen?



Are “experts” finding flaws missed by others? Apparently not.

Are the accepted proposals good?

- This is a question on participants' feedback surveys (low response rate...)
  - General feeling is that proposals are comparable to those submitted to other observatories/TACs
- *Accepted* proposals also sent to 2 former Gemini TAC members
  - One thinks most but not all successful proposals would be competitive in regular TAC
  - Other has only assessed cycle 3 proposals but found they would all "be taken seriously"

Are we getting the data?

GN Fast Turnaround Time Queue Band 1

Ref #	PI	Partner	Title	Instrument	Hours allocated
GN-2015A-FT-1	Lunnan	US	Late-Time Spectroscopy of the Extraordinary Superluminous Supernova PS1-14bj	GMOS	3.00
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150311 20150328		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-2	Maksym	US	Spectral Evolution and Host of an X-ray Bright Tidal Flare at Only 90 Mpc	GMOS	4.20
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150315 20150329 20150401 20150416		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-3	Van Kerkwijk	CA	Late time Near Infrared spectroscopy of SN2014J	GNIRS	3.00
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150315 20150426 20150524		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-8	Scarlata	US	Ionized gas conditions in the first known OVI emitting starburst galaxy	GMOS	5.50
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150508 20150515 20150521 20150607 20150609		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-9	Lacy	US	Weighing the super-massive black hole in luminous QSO J1554+1937	GNIRS	1.40
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150331		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-14	Milisavljevic	US	The Unprecedented Supernova Metamorphosis of SN 2014C	GMOS / GNIRS	3.30
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150518 20150526 20150527		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-17	Romani	US	The PSR J2030+4415 Bowshock: Close or Fast?	GMOS	2.00
Execution Status:		*Dates Taken:*		*Completion Status:* 0%	
GN-2015A-FT-18	Meech	UH	Enigmatic Novel PanSTARRS Discoveries-Testing Solar System Formation Models	GMOS	1.33
Execution Status:		*Dates Taken:* 20150606 20150612		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-19	Hsieh	US	Search for Sublimation-Driven Dust Emission from Asteroid (24) Themis	GMOS	2.60
Execution Status: complete		*Dates Taken:* 20150609 20150612		*Completion Status:* 100%	

www.gemini.edu/sciops/schedules/ftTime_GN_2015A.html

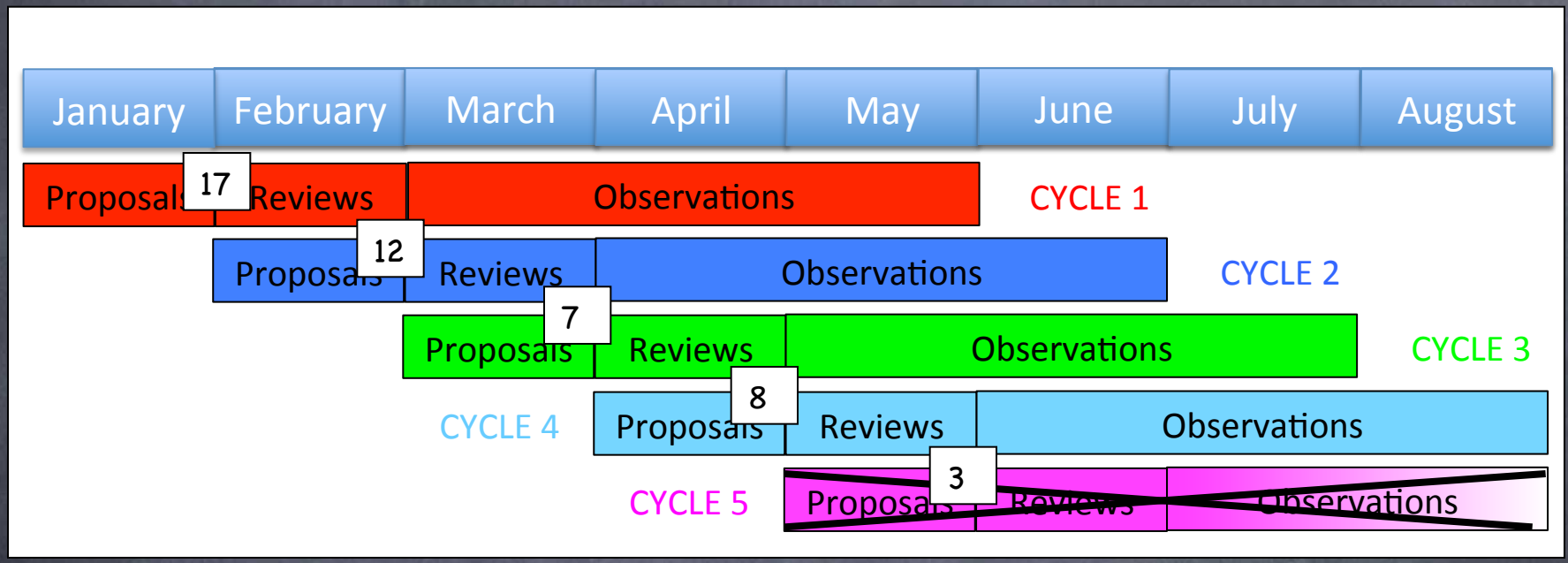
- "Band 1" FT: almost everything completed
- "Band 2" FT: working on it...

	US	Nature and Dynamics of Clumps in Star-Forming Galaxies at z ~ 1-2	NIFS+AltairLGS	1.50
	Dates Taken: 20150509		*Completion Status:* 33%	
	US	Observations of SU Tauri While In Deep Decline	GMOS	0.60
	Dates Taken: 20150315		*Completion Status:* 100%	
arrondo	CA	Hunting down the most massive black hole in the Universe	GMOS	3.80
	Dates Taken: 20150426 20150428		*Completion Status:* 34%	
	US	AGB Star Dust Production at Extremely Low Metallicity	NIRI	3.30
Execution Status: complete	*Dates Taken:* 20150402		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-10 Cote	CA	The Most Massive UCD? Internal Dynamics and Black Hole Content from NIFS Spectroscopy	NIFS+AltairLGS	6.00
Execution Status:	*Dates Taken:*		*Completion Status:* 0%	
GN-2015A-FT-11 Meech	UH	Enigmatic Novel PanSTARRS Discoveries--Testing Solar System Formation Models	GMOS	1.70
Execution Status: complete	*Dates Taken:* 20150609 20150610		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-12 Corlies	US	Investigating seasonal changes in Titan's meteorology through cloud monitoring with NIRI	NIRI+Altair / NIRI+AltairLGS	0.50
Execution Status: complete	*Dates Taken:* 20150415 20150426 20150427		*Completion Status:* 100%	
GN-2015A-FT-15 Johnson	US	Resolving star forming clumps in a lensed z=2.5 galaxy: supporting ground-based spectroscopy of secondary arcs in the field of SGAS 1110	GMOS	4.75
Execution Status:	*Dates Taken:* 20150509		*Completion Status:* 6%	
GN-2015A-FT-16 Gladders	US	Time delays for the sextuply-lensed quasar SDSS J2222+2745 from GMOS	GMOS	1.90
Execution Status:	*Dates Taken:* 20150523 20150526 20150527		*Completion Status:* 79%	
GN-2015A-FT-20 Ebeling	UH	GRI imaging of massive galaxy clusters at z>0.5	GMOS	1.50
Execution Status: complete	*Dates Taken:* 20150606 20150609		*Completion Status:* 100%	

How to succeed

1. Make your science accessible to a broad audience
   - Why should a high-z quasar person think your brown dwarfs are cool?
2. Make a strong case for Fast Turnaround
   - Assessment criteria clearly spelled out, and scientific merit is #1
   - ...BUT...
   - Reviewers often put a lot of weight on whether a proposal is “urgent”

Demand for the program?



- Not an interesting mode?
- "Proposal fatigue"? 15B schedule not known?
- Little deadline pressure, and extra work?
- ***We would appreciate your feedback!***

Two requests:

1. Apply for time!
   - If you try it, you'll probably like it
   - ***Next deadline: June 30***
   - Lots of info on web pages
     - www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/observing-modes/fast-turnaround
2. If you don't want to apply for time, tell us why
   - In person, or use suggestion box at our poster