Cycle 30 Mid-Cycle Results & Cycle 31 Preparations

STUC

9 May 2023

Mid-Cycle I+II Review Process

- Reviewers were selected from the Cycle 30 External Panelist pool

- The numbers are for Round I and (Round II); the graphics show both rounds combined

- Over 200 reviewers were available

- 101 (31) were utilized for the review with 5 reviewers per proposal; 35 (10) F and 66 (21) M
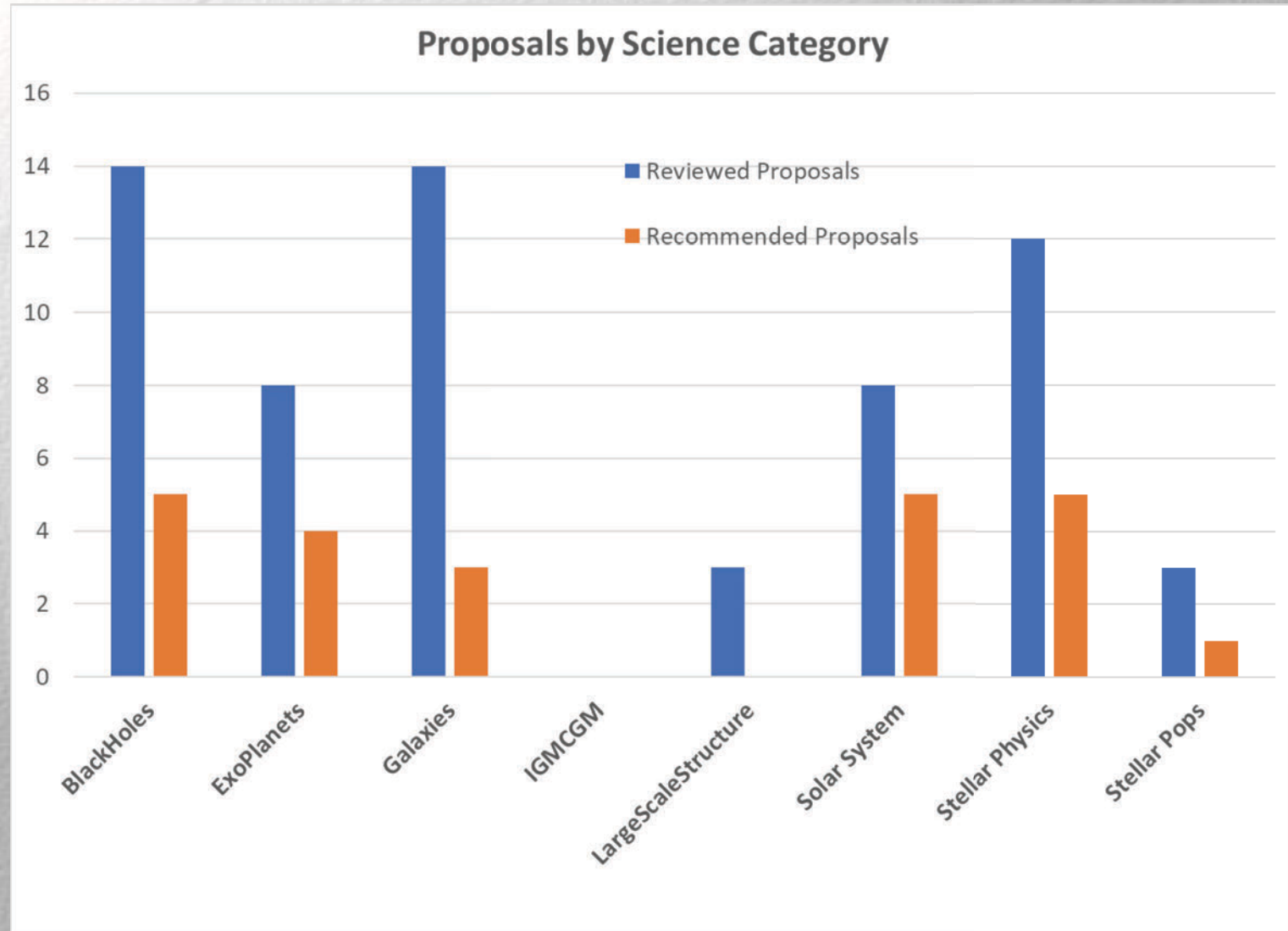
Process (continued)

- Proposals are graded against Scientific Merit, Importance to Astronomy and Urgency

- 1 = Excellent to 5 = Poor Scale

- Final Grade is the average of the individual grades

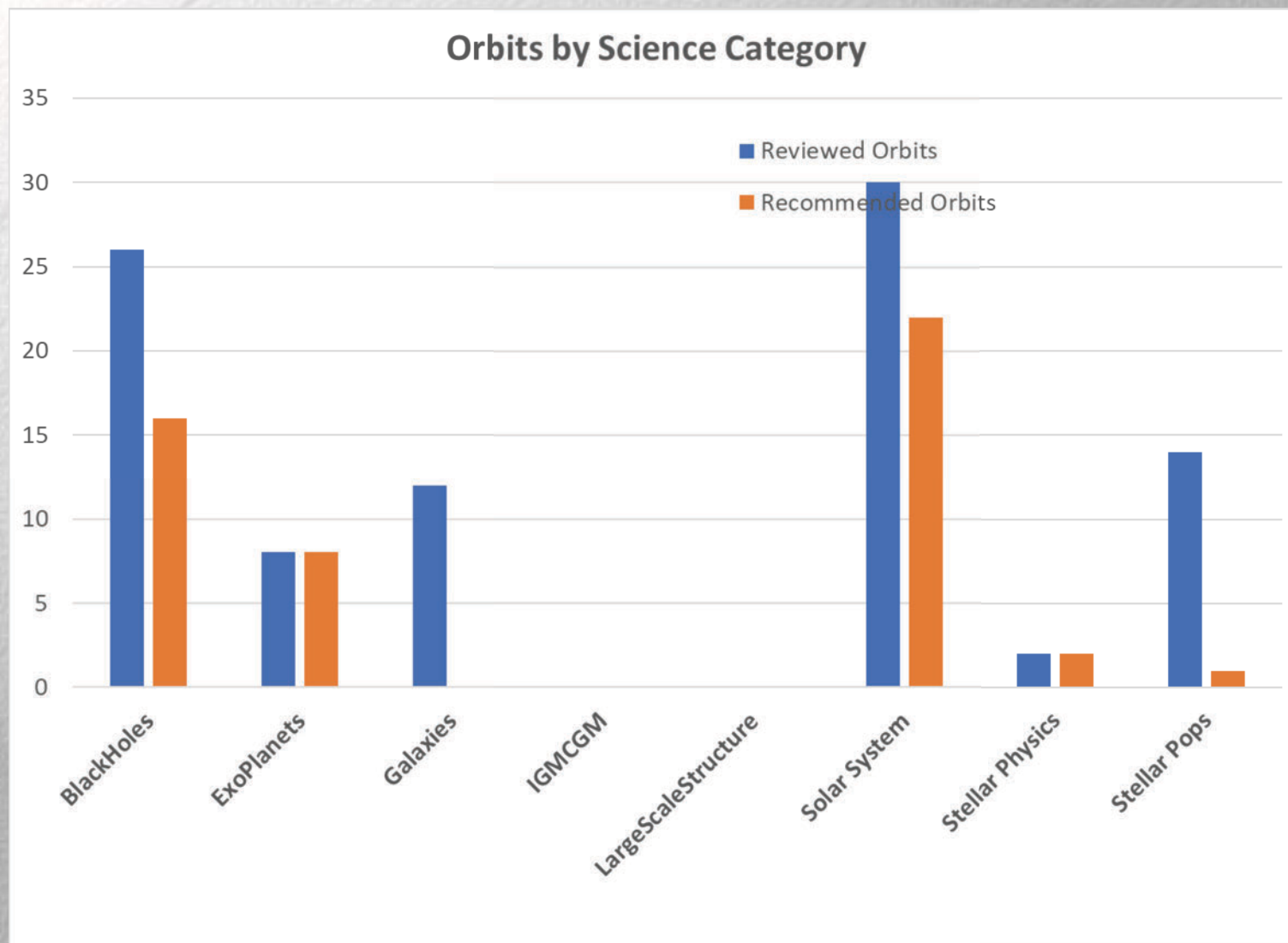- Mid-cycle proposals may request up to 15 orbits

Cycle 30 Mid-Cycle I+II Results

- October 21, 2022 (February 17, 2023) was the deadline for the Mid-Cycle I (II) submissions
- 5 (2) Proposals rejected as non-compliant and removed from review
- 49 (14) Proposals reviewed for 357 (94) Orbits
  - 18 (7) Proposals recommended for 122 (49) orbits
  - Acceptance Rate: 1:2.7 (2.0) for proposals and 1:2.9 (1.9) for orbits
- Instrument breakdown: ACS: 8% (19%, parallel), COS: 12% (18%), STIS: 6% (6%), and WFC3: 75% (76%)
- Imaging: 82% (76%) and Spectroscopy: 18% (24%)
- ESA acceptance fraction:
  - PIs 19% (29%) for proposals and 19% (18%) for orbits
  - ESA CoIs are 19% (21%) of the total CoIs
- UV Initiative: 17% (43%) for Proposals and 24% (43%) for Orbits
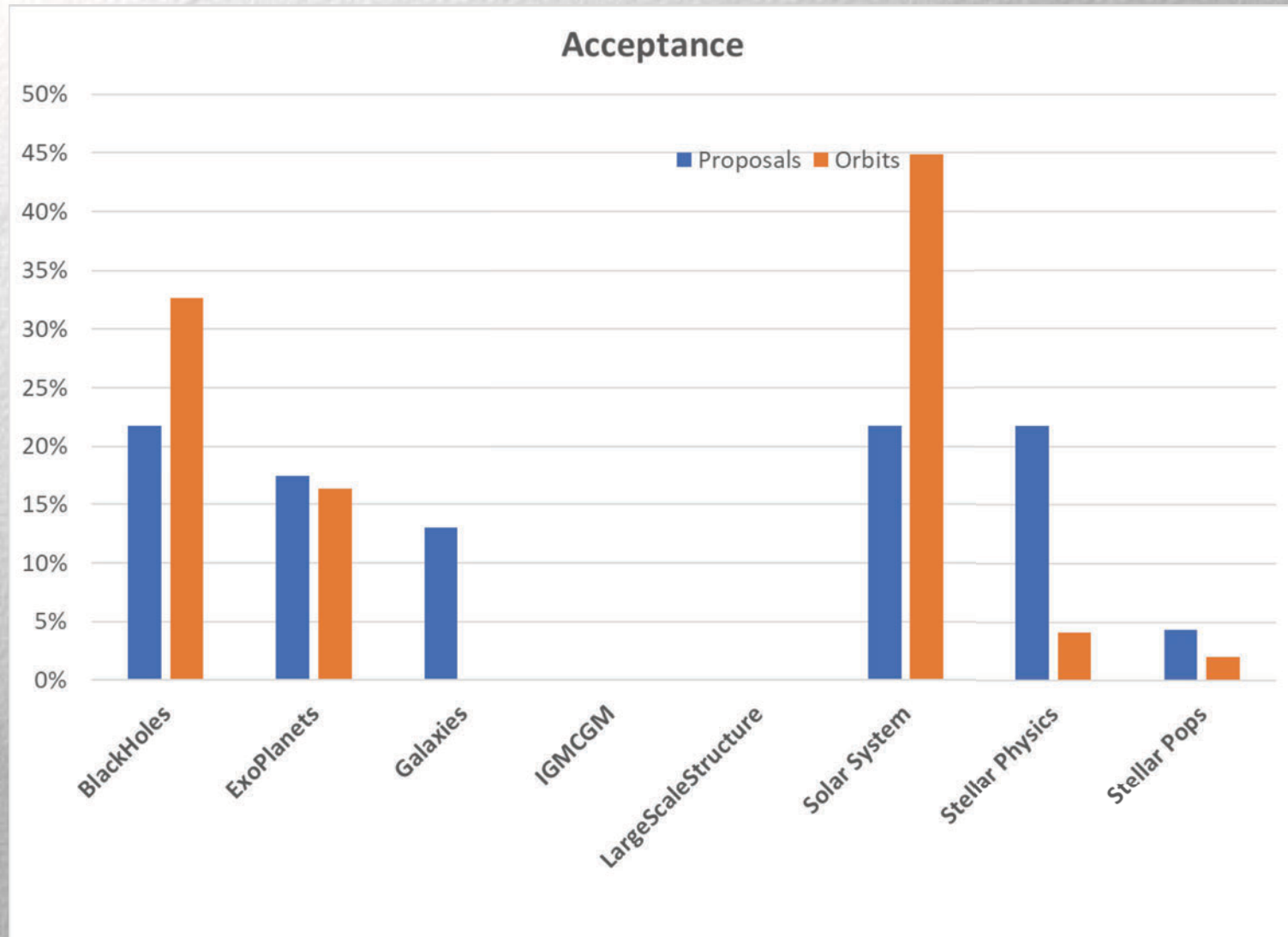
Mid-Cycle Results by Science Category (Proposals)

Mid-Cycle Results by Science Category (Orbits)

Orbits by Science Category

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Mid-Cycle Acceptance Rate by Science Category

Gender Distribution

	Submitted Proposals	Recommended Proposals	
Female	19	5	26%
Male	43	18	42%

Submitted: M/F = 69% / 31%
Recommended: M/F = 78% / 22%

Cycle 31 Mid-cycle

- In Cycle 31, up to 300 orbits will again available for Mid-Cycle GO programs.

- Given the shorter-than-usual 10-month Cycle 31, there will be **<u>one</u>** Mid-Cycle call.

- The deadline is planned for November 15, 2023.

Preparations
for the Cycle 31 TAC

Cycle 31 Timeline

- **May 24**: Phase 1 deadline
  - *This is Wednesday, not Friday. Will keep Wednesday in future cycles*
- **June 9**: proposals distributed to reviewers
- **June 12/14**: Panelist Orientations
- **July 14**: preliminary grades submitted
- **August 1 – 4**: Panels meet
- **August 7 – 9**: Executive Committee meets
- **August 18**: notifications sent
- **September 14**: Phase 2 deadline
- **September 28**: Budget deadline

TAC Process in Cycle 31 similar to Cycle 30

- Hybrid approach: dividing proposals between external panels and virtual panels meeting by video-conference. **<u>The Executive Committee will meet in person</u>**.

- EC members are offered the opportunity to be physically present at STScI during the week of the panel meetings (prior to EC meeting). Three members have accepted.

- **<u>External panelists</u>** provide the assessment and grading of a subset of Small GO proposals (1 – 15 orbits) including Snapshot and Archival proposals.
    - **<u>These proposals are ranked using the grades of the panelists.</u>**

- **<u>Virtual panels</u>** review the remaining Small GO, Medium, Archival Legacy, Large and Treasury proposals. Virtual panelists interact virtually by video-conference.
    - **<u>These proposals are ranked after the discussion and grading in the virtual panels</u>**.
    - Virtual panelists are expected to attend the meeting full time, except for emergencies.

- **<u>Exceptions:</u>**
    - All Solar System proposals will be reviewed by the virtual panel (due to the small proposal pool).
    - All Small proposals in CGM/IGM and Large-scale Structure are reviewed by the virtual panels.
    - All Target of Opportunity proposals will be reviewed by their corresponding virtual panels in order to review them in context.

TAC Process (continued)

- TAC Chair: **Rupali Chandar** (University of Toledo)
- Panel structure in Cycle 31:
  - Solar System
  - Planets and Planet Formation
  - Stellar Physics
  - Stellar Populations
  - Galaxies
  - IGM & CGM
  - Massive Black Holes and Hosts
  - Large-scale Structure
- Each virtual panel has 8 – 14 panelists, a Chair, and a Vice-Chair (except for Solar System, which has no Vice-Chair)
- The TAC Chair, the Panel Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the three At-Large Members form the **Executive Committee** (formerly the super-TAC)

Available Orbits in Cycle 31

- Roughly **2300** orbits available for Cycle 31 GO proposals
- Break-down:
  - o **500** orbits for the EC (Large and Treasury)
  - o **600** orbits for medium-sized proposals (35 – 74 orbits)
  - o **1200** orbits for the Small proposals (Regular GO with 1 – 34 orbits)
- Approximately **850** SNAP targets

Backup:
Review Process Details

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External Panel Review

- Each panel hosting external panelists has a specific allocation of **orbits for Small proposals.**

- Snapshot & Archive allocations are drawn from a central pool.

- External panelists review and grade the assigned proposals.

- STScI produces a ranked list of all programs in each panel based on the received grades.

- Small proposals on the rank-ordered list are recommended for acceptance until the cumulative orbit request exceeds the allocation.

- Archival and Snapshot proposals ranked within the list of recommended Small proposals are recommended for acceptance as well.

Virtual Panel Review

- Each proposal receives **preliminary grades from 6 panelists only** (instead of from all) to reduce the workload

- Two panelists will be assigned as reviewers to each proposal when the proposals are distributed. The assignment of Reviewer A vs. B will be made after the result of the triage is known in order to balance the number of A and B reviews for each panelist.

- Preliminary grades are due 14 days prior to the meeting. The triage list will be made available to the panel shortly thereafter so that the panelists can read any proposal they have not graded in more detail.

- During the actual panel meeting all panelists (except for the Chair and Vice-Chair) will vote.

- Chairs and Vice-Chairs are not assigned any reviews and grades in order to lower their workload.

Executive Committee Review

- The EC review of the Large and Treasury proposals follows the same scheme as the one for the panel reviews. The proposals are reviewed by the Panel Chairs, Vice-Chairs and At-Large members.

- Panelists are asked to comment on a subset of the Executive Committee proposals

- Proposals are assigned to appropriate sets of panels depending on topic and proposal load

- All Executive Committee proposals will also be sent to expert reviewers for comments. These are typically former TAC members.

- This process allows more scope for specialist commentary, informing the Panel Chairs and aiding discussion in the Executive Committee meeting