

The GALAH experience

A flock of observers sitting on the fence
but ready to get going...

By Joss Bland-Hawthorn, while observing from home.

GALAH remote observing at-a-glance (JBH)

Remote observing starts with
your home environment.

The DELL widescreen is 70cm,
but you can go twice that if you
want. Sergio L-S has one in his
office if you want to see an
ultrawide screen. Insane!

Talk to me about discounted
screens.



Quick things:

- Join Zoom Meeting to site – use the details emailed to you – mine looked like this:

<https://anu.zoom.us/j/83534848312?pwd=Tm9la3BneVJkVS9JYnJWR2hMMU43QT09>

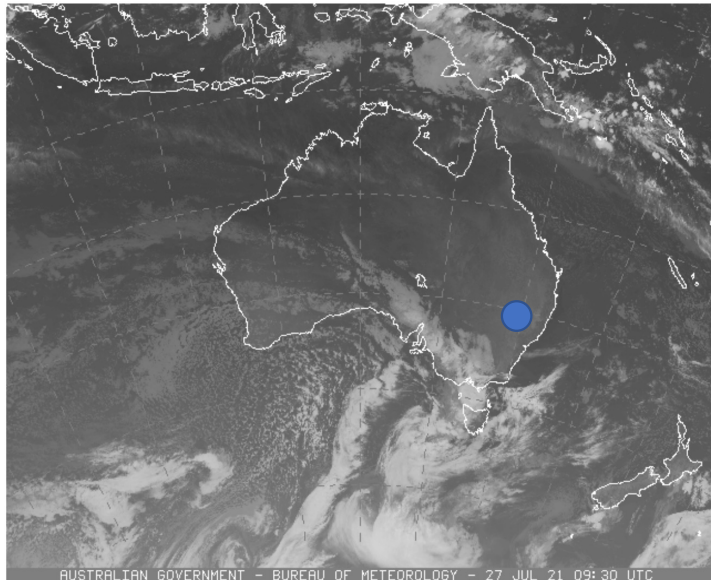
- Open GALAH observing slack channel – the other GALAH people are your brains trust. Be sure to report each night what is going on via this channel. I found my fabulous colleagues invaluable with their touch-up advice on exposure times, what to observe, quick fixes, gotchas, etc.

<https://app.slack.com/client/TQCMPC4EA/CQA1XLS4C/thread/CQA1XLS4C-1627303071.360600>

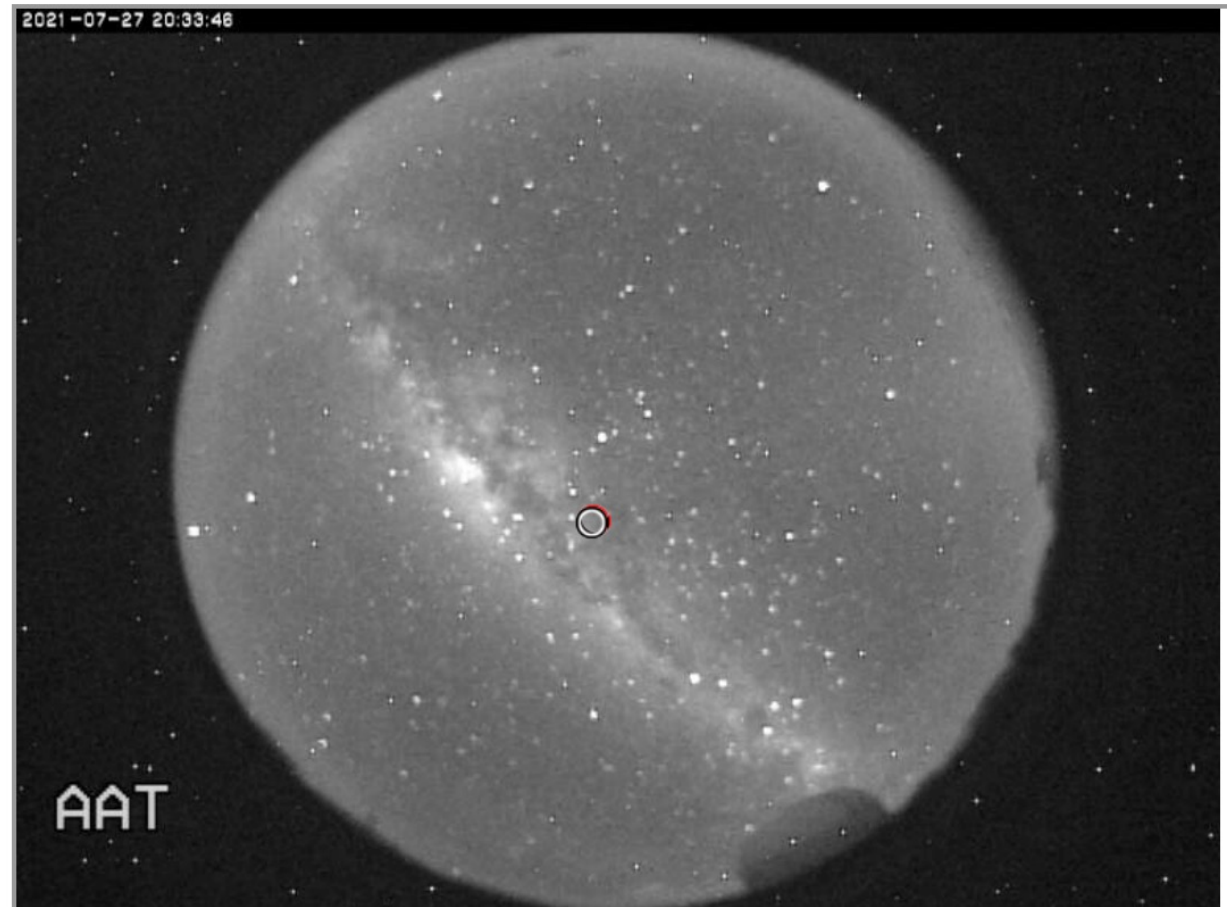
- Download the GALAH observing plan from the Slack channel. There may be bright fields to be done near twilight, for example. There may be faint fields for when the moon is down.
- Download Sarah's excellent notes on the GALAH observing procedure if this is your first time (in a long time). There are a few pages also from Chris Lidman about observing from home with a few key guidelines and phone numbers (see Appendix).

- Get your **weather cameras** up, e.g. AAT camera that gives you inside vs. outside dome temp and so on. That's one indication of good vs. bad seeing across the night. See the first link on the next slide.

If it looks to be clear, you need to get going **3 hours** before twilight to have enough time. The instrument focus can be a pain, and you want to check that 2df is behaving on both plates.



Australian Bureau of Meteorology - latest IR



Images from AAT [cloud cam](#).

Weather channels

- The key site:

<http://aat-ops.anu.edu.au/AATdatabase/met.html>

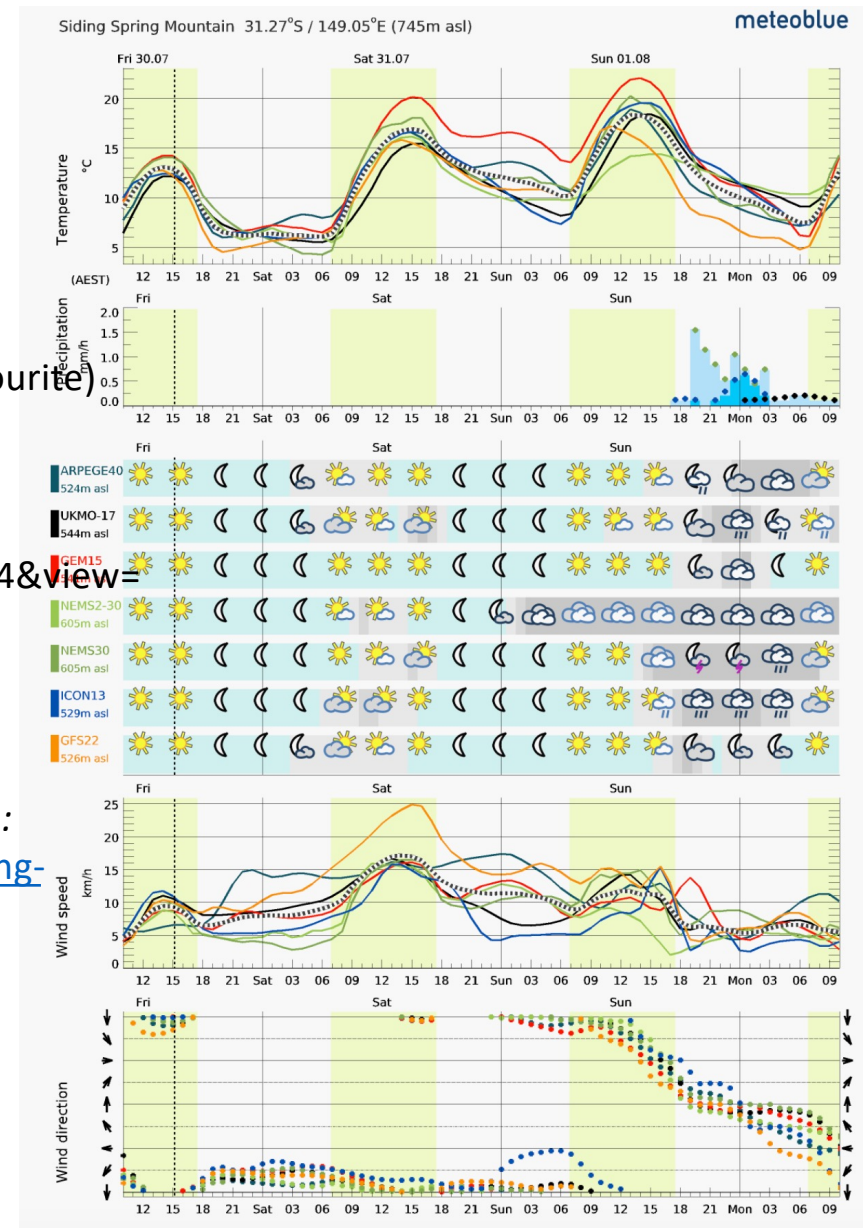
<https://www.weatherzone.com.au/satellite/nsw/infrared-bw> (site staff favourite)

<https://www.weatherzone.com.au/radar/nsw> (site staff favourite)

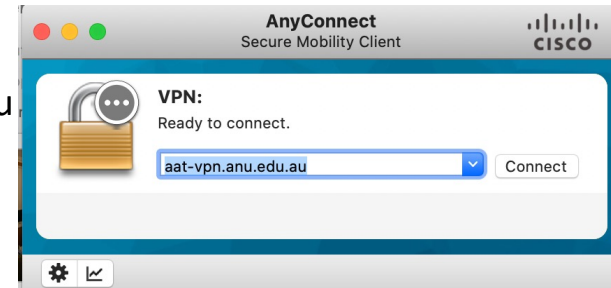
<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/satellite/?tz=AEST&unit=p23&domain=14&view=34&satSubmit=Refresh+View>

- This site gave me RHS data – I found this reliable 2-3 days into the future:

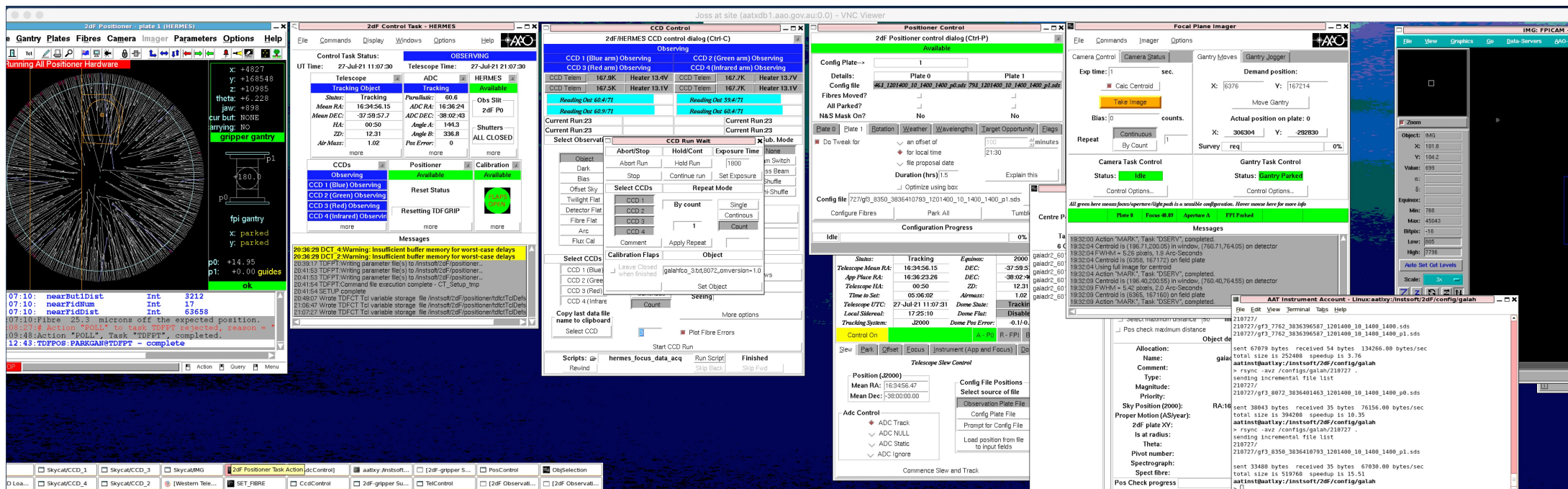
<https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/forecast/multimodel/siding-spring-mountain-australia-2149557>



- Get **VPN** running – if you filled out the AAT observing form, details are emailed to you by Zoe Holcombe (ANU) before run. Without VPN, you have no access to **galah@aatlx**; you may be blocked until 3pm. See later for how you can get early access via the Tech button.



- Get **VNC** running to see telescope/instrument console at site. If you click on the top bar, you can set the image to the lowest resolution to speed up the connection. Sometimes, the screen freezes but you can reset the connection in <2 mins. Look at the telescope time – *the seconds should be changing*. Also, note that half your screen may be missing to the RHS so click bar at bottom.



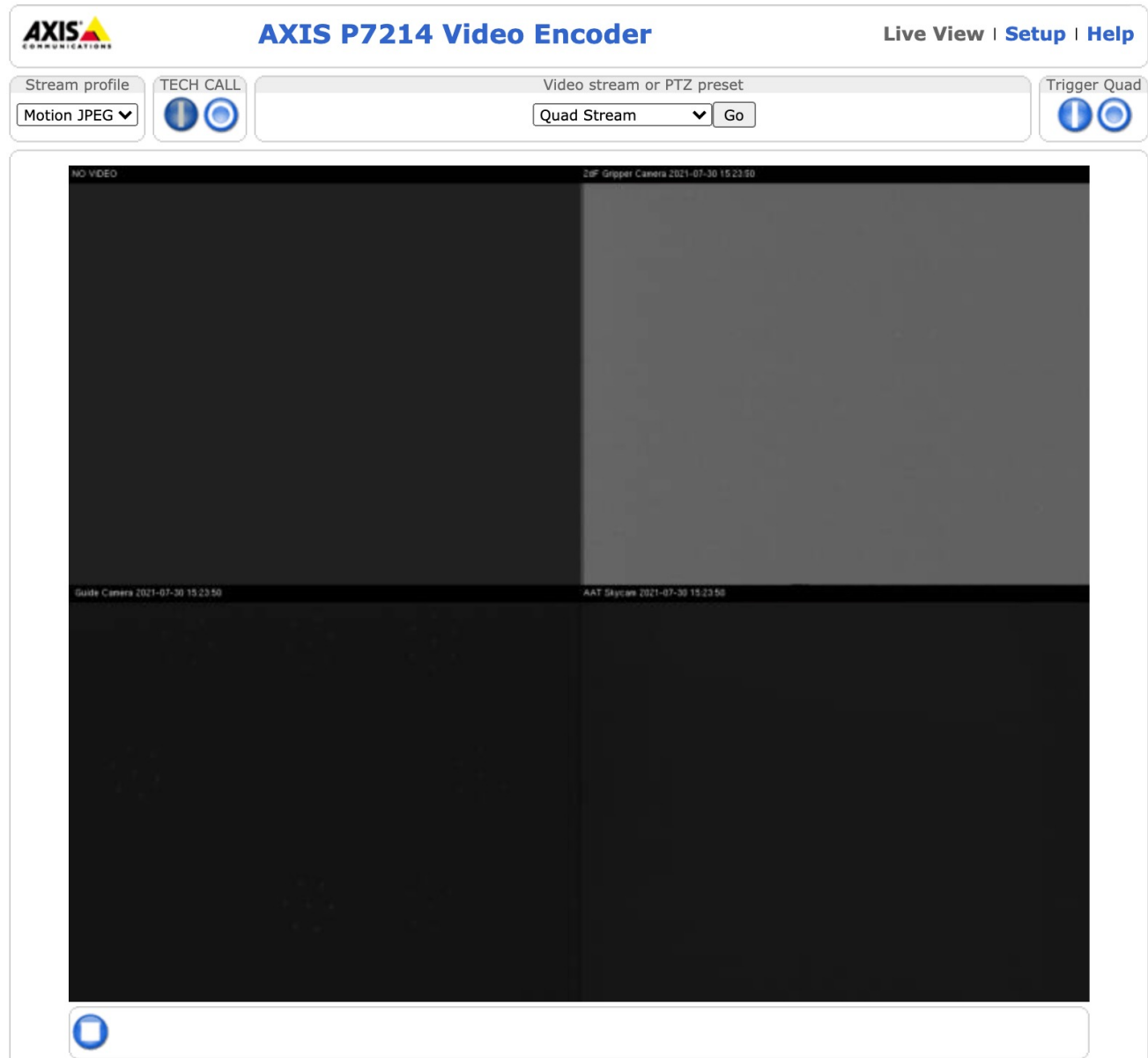
- After the VPN connection is made, bring up the **robot camera** in your web browser that shows instrument, dome slit, etc.

<http://10.88.90.80/view/>

If you run into issues, click on **TECH CALL** and this sounds the alarm. Turn off once you hear footsteps.

The technicians will come.

For example, you may find VNC does not let you in after 3pm – they can accept you.



- The **night clock** on the instrument console gives you all the important local times. Note when twilight starts and ends. I think of the observing plan as hour blocks from one to the other since 2df takes 45 min to configure, and calibrations are about 10 mins. Also notice when the moon is up in case you plan faint fields.

The screenshot displays the 2df/HERMES instrument control interface, which is divided into several main panels:

- CCD Control (2df/HERMES CCD control dialog (Ctrl-C))**: This panel shows the status of four CCDs (Blue, Green, Red, and Infrared arms) and their respective heaters. It includes a table for observation parameters (Object, Run Type, Exposure Time, Sky Sub. Mode) and a section for selecting CCDs and repeat modes.
- Focal Plane Imager**: This panel provides camera control options, including exposure time, demand position, and actual position on plate. It also includes a camera task control section with status indicators (Idle, Gantry Parked) and a messages log.
- Object selection dialog**: This panel allows for selecting objects by allocation and target type. It includes a list of objects and a section for object details (Name, Comment, Type, Magnitude, Priority).
- IMG: FPICAM - 22:19:42**: This panel shows a live image from the focal plane imager, with a zoomed-in view of a specific object.
- Night Clock**: A small window overlay that provides astronomical information, including UT, AEST, ST, Sun set, Moon rise, and Moon set times.

A red arrow points from the text in the first list item to the Night Clock window, highlighting its importance for observing planning.

Night Clock Data:

Time	ST
UT: 2021/07/26 12:20:22	
AEST: 2021/07/26 22:20:22	
ST: 18:34:18	
Sun set: 17:30	(ST 13:43)
-12° twilight: 18:21	(ST 14:34)
-18° twilight: 18:49	(ST 15:03)
Moon rise: 19:34	
Moon set: --	
Moon phase: 0.923	
-18° twilight: 05:31	(ST 01:46)
-12° twilight: 06:00	(ST 02:15)
Sun rise: 06:50	(ST 03:06)

Astronomical twilight starts in 07:11


```
jhawthorn — galah@galah-obs: ~/obsmanager/current — ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe — 176x22
```

5565	17:45:37.97	-56:24:18.7	266.408224	0.014903	1.112211	322	322	0	9.00	12.00	856	2967	-1	bright	1	bright
5566	17:45:51.86	-60:47:42.6	266.466091	0.013606	1.205882	255	255	0	9.00	12.00	856	2235	-1	bright	0	bright
5565	17:28:51.62	-60:57:55.4	262.215072	0.006473	1.166452	384	304	0	9.00	12.00	856	2897	-1	bright	9	bright
5567	17:49:13.92	-52:51:32.3	267.307992	0.017670	1.081964	327	327	0	9.00	12.00	856	3242	-1	bright	9	bright
5550	17:20:45.15	-64:30:50.8	260.188132	0.005453	1.214875	270	270	0	9.00	12.00	856	2704	-1	bright	23	bright

```
[Name the fco_id you want to write (or n to exit):5567
```

```
vmag of fiducials           = 12.004126 <V< 12.082801
vmag of normal targets     = 9.0   <V< 12.0
No of fiducial targets      = 35
No of priority targets      = 0
No of normal targets        = 327
No of extra targets         = 0
No of already observed targets= 9
No of total galah targets = 394
(RA,DEC,radius)=( 267.307992131 -52.8589654389 1.0 )
No sky targets = 100
file written: /galah/obs/survey/210728/flid/gf3_3242_3836488725_901200_1_1200_1200.fld
vmax=11.99842453 exposure required=854 s
Written file: ./obsmandata/archive/galahfo3_3.txt
galah@galah-obs:~/obsmanager/current$
```

TERMINAL 1 – basic terminal.

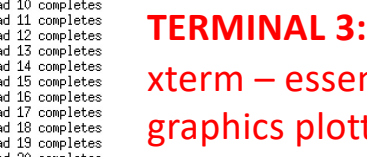
jhawthorn — ssh -X -Y galah@aatlx — 92x23

```
jaatlxe:~> !!  
~/scripts/flid_sds.sh 210728  
sending incremental file list  
sds/  
sds/gf3_3242_3836488725_901200_1_1200_1200.sds  
  
sent 131,704 bytes received 41 bytes  263,490.00 bytes/sec  
total size is 356,863  speedup is 2.71  
receiving incremental file list
```

```
sent 57 bytes received 395 bytes 301.33 bytes/sec
total size is 356,863 speedup is 789.52
sending incremental file list
./
qf3 3242 3836488725 901200 1 1200 1200.sds
```

```
sent 131,460 bytes received 38 bytes  262,996.00 bytes/sec
total size is 261,148  speedup is 1.99
sending incremental file list
```

```
sent 102 bytes   received 16 bytes   78.67 bytes/sec
total size is 0   speedup is 0.00
aatlxe::~>
```



```

Thread 10 completes
Thread 11 completes
Thread 12 completes
Thread 13 completes
Thread 14 completes
Thread 15 completes
Thread 16 completes
Thread 17 completes
Thread 18 completes
Thread 19 completes
Thread 20 completes
Thread 21 completes
Thread 22 completes
Thread 23 completes
Initial setup took 20 seconds (49 CPU sec)
Starting the Annealing Schedule
Annealing Schedule Complete
Optimization effect = 0,000000
Over 1044132569 calculations:
Affect values: min 0,000000, max 0,000000 mean 0,000000
Priority values: min 128,000000, max 256,000000 mean 137,315123
Over 353 allocations:
Max alpha 12,099970, mean 1,902698

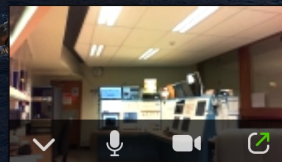
```

TERMINAL 3: Xquartz

I close the Zoom window
And you get this tiny
active window – useful.



**My
standard
layout.**



Q~ 210727

```
<ALSU>
vnc ip: aatxdb1.aao.gov.au
password: x2display
```

(VNC has a settings button, I put on LOW res to speed up display; it can Freeze on screen so be sure to check numbers changing. Takes a second to restart)

.....
 Activate Zoom link sent to Observer by ANU in email (Zoe Holcombe)

 anu.zoom.us/...

```
.....
We need three terminals running:
```

SSH times out - so this is how I got rid of password line:

1. ssh-gen
(When it asks for passphrase, hit return twice, i.e. no password)

```
2. cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub | ssh galah@aatlxe 'cat >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys'
```

(This will ask for actual password for aatlxe once)

3. `ssh -X -Y galah@aatltxe`

TERMINAL 1 - runs `obsmanager`.

`ssh -X -Y galah@aatltxe`
`aatltxe password: zYVysUBK23`

```
ssh -X -Y galah@galahobs.datacentral.org.au

cd obsmanager/current
(These commands print out object list, makes local directory 210728 on 1st call)
```

```
./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/28 18:20 (galah regular)
```

```
./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/28 18:20 10 galah_bright
./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/28 18:20 10 k2
```

AT VERY END OF NIGHT:
(Run scripts one more time, edit /home/galah/survey/210728/comments file - see App. A,
and if you're in obsmanager/current. then...)

```
./obsman1.py -update (* end of night to tell datacentral fields observed *)
./obsman_report.py -wiki 210728
```

=====

TERMINAL 2 - for syncing field and data files after obsmanager & configure

```
ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe
aaatlxe password: zYvysUBK23

~/scripts/fl_d_sds.sh 210728
(You run this AFTER obsmanager, and AFTER configure)
```

```
# diary/log file (Appendix A: structure of file)
cd /home/galah/survey/210728/
```

```
=====
TERMINAL 3 - for making sds files ahead of transfer to 2df control
```

```
ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe
aatlxe password: zYvysUBK23
```

TERMINAL 1: How the terminals are used 1, 2, 3, 2, 4 ...

ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe
aatlxe password: zYvysUBK23 (you can get rid of this line)

ssh -X -Y galah@galahobs.datacentral.org.au

cd obsmanager/current

(Command to print out object list, makes local directory 210731, say, on 1st call. The call structure is like:)

./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/31 18:20 (regular galah field)

./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/31 18:20 10 galah_bright

./obsman1.py -print 2021/07/31 18:20 10 k2

(copy and paste your favourite field into the google docs file in slide 9)

TERMINAL 2:

ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe

~/scripts/fld_sds.sh 210731 (choose right date)

(You run this AFTER obsmanager **and** AFTER configure)

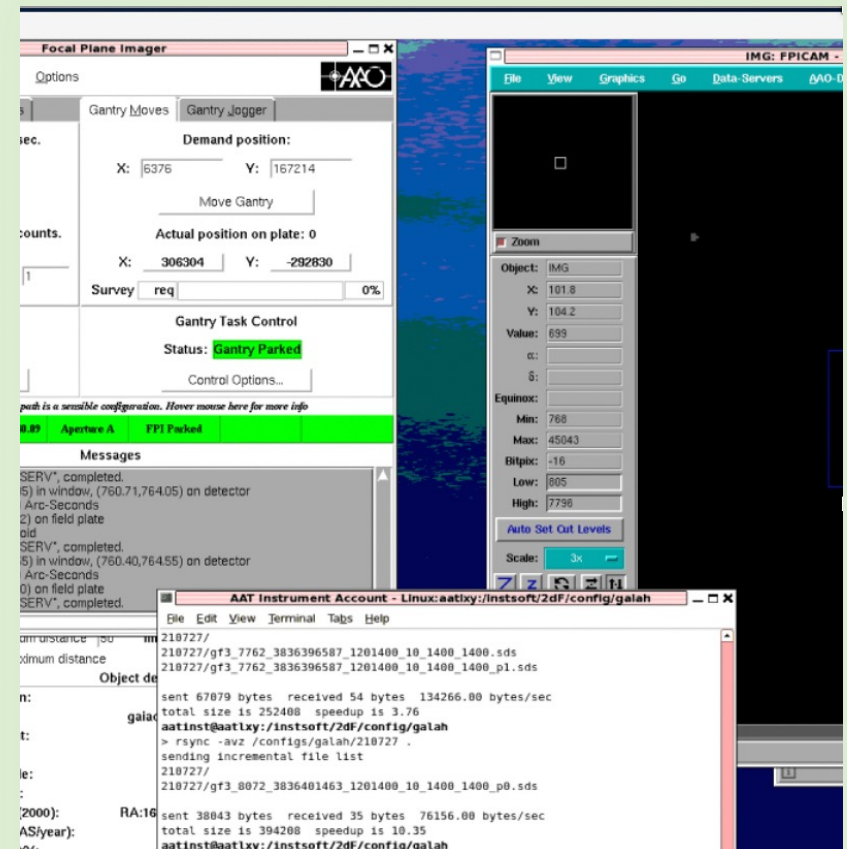
TERMINAL 3:

ssh -X -Y galah@aatlxe

configure (don't kill – keep running for all time since it then links to IO directories)
(see next slide for graphics.)

Note: if you are choosing a field you want to observe past midnight, change date to following day.

obsman1.py is the **only** time you use the next day's date.



TERMINAL 4:

Go find AAT Instrument Account on instrument console and type **rsync** command above from the top directory (default) using correct date.

Start of night, “mkdir 210731” then transfer sds file using:
“rsync -avz /configs/galah/210731 210731/.”

Configure should really be called **pre-configure**. This is run to convert the .fld file from obsman into a .sds file for the 2df positioner control window. This is not the same as the **configure** you run at the AAT console.

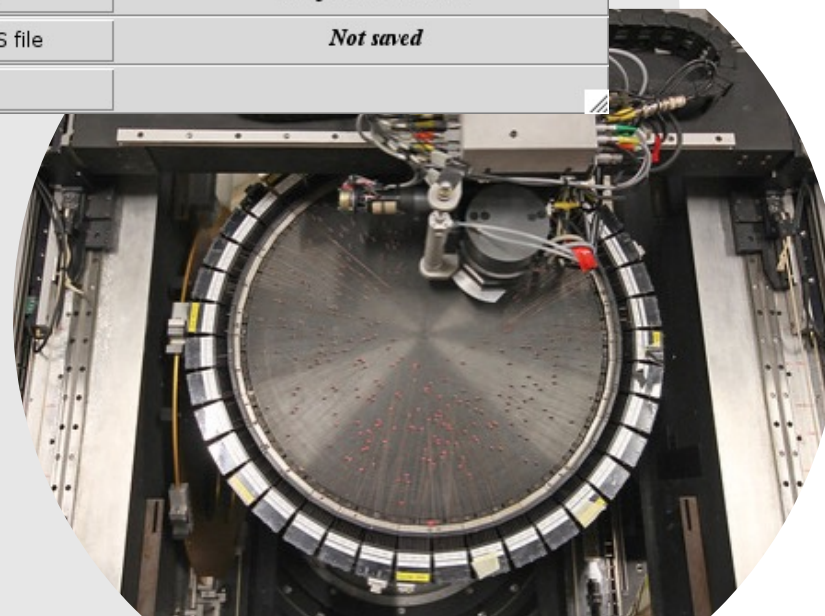
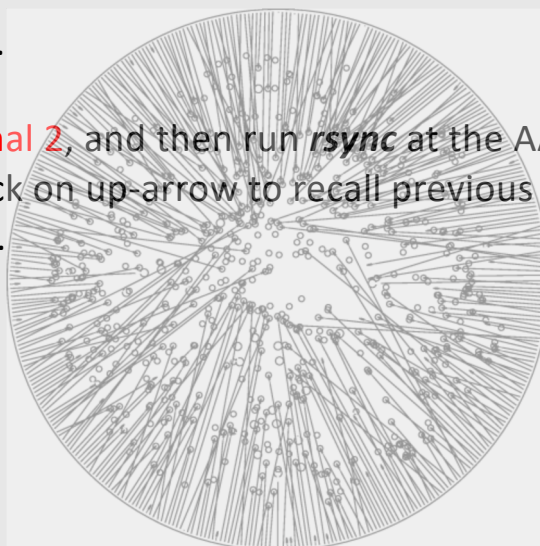
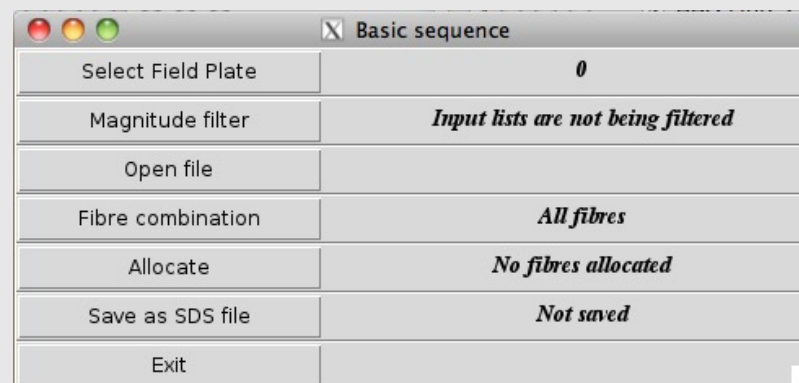
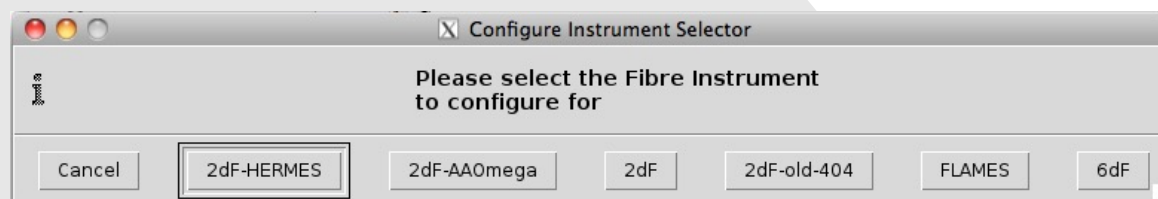
Click on *2df-HERMES* button.

Select *field plate*, then *Open file* and click on *survey/date/fld/*.

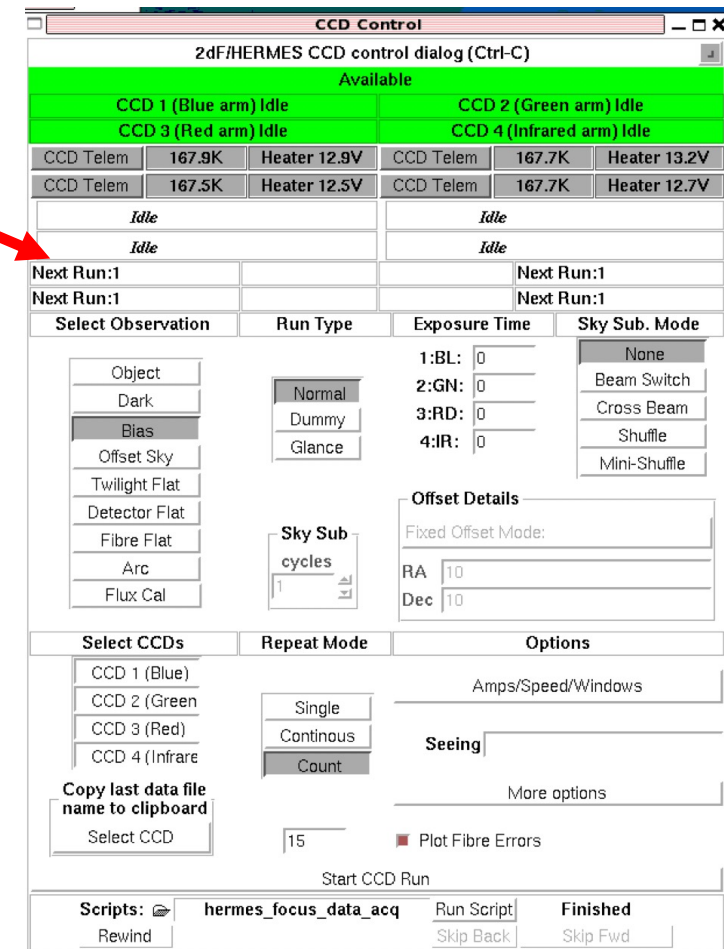
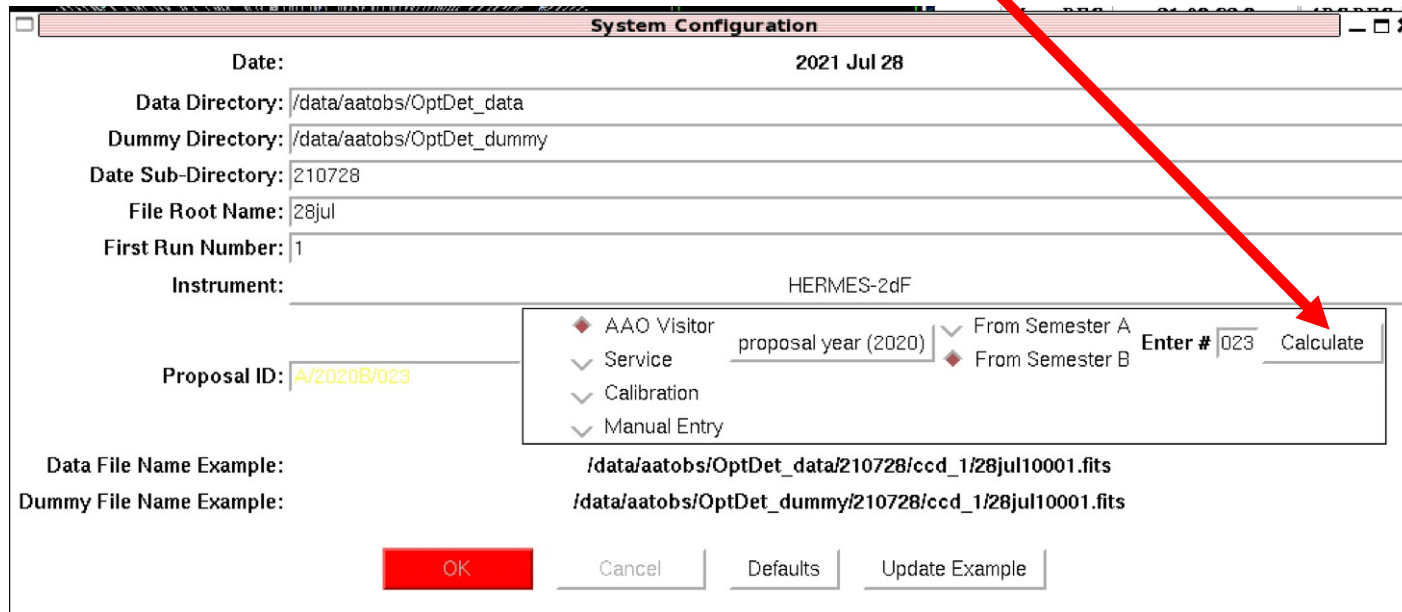
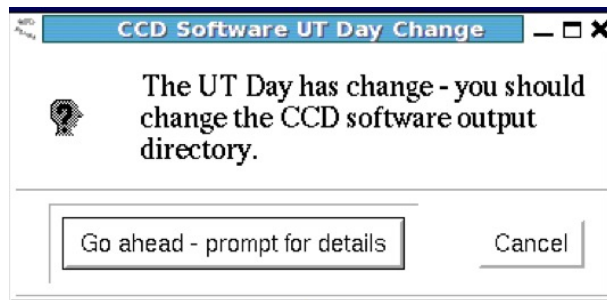
Allocate and check 6 guide stars allocated in 4 quadrants when the big graphic of the field plate pops up.

Save file in *survey/date/sds/*.

Run the shell script in **Terminal 2**, and then run *rsync* at the AAT console (**Terminal 4**). Just click on up-arrow to recall previous command on both terminals.



Now you're ready for site ops. Your first action is to check that the date has changed to a new day. Check for the icon below. Click on Go ahead, to see the second window, enter proposal number, click Calculate. If all has gone to plan, CCD window should show "Run 1". If you can't find this window, click on MORE under CCDs on the 2df control task window. Click on *Calculate* and *OK* also.



So don't stuff around – you need to get going with the **HERMES Hartmann focus** (pupil divided left right), and do it for both plates. This can take an hour, and no less than 20-30 mins. Make sure CCD window says DUMMY because you don't want to be recording any images. (The first images you will ever take will be biases before twilight ends and then you flip DUMMY to IMAGE – see later slides.)

To bring up Spectrograph window, click MORE under HERMES on 2df control window. So make sure Focus Follows Slit is green, click on Auto Hartmann. (Note that all the control function windows are under MORE on the main windows.)

The screenshot displays the HERMES control interface with several windows open. The '2df Positioner - plate 0 (HERMES)' window shows a circular diagram of the telescope's field of view. The '2df Control Task - HERMES' window displays the current status of the telescope and the CCDs. The 'CCD Control' window shows the status of the four CCDs (Blue, Green, Red, Infrared) and their respective heaters. The 'Positioner Control' window shows the status of the positioner and the current plate. The 'Automatic Focus (Using Hartmann) Window' shows the current focus settings and the status of the focus-following system. A red arrow points to the 'TUMBLE' button in the 'Positioner Control' window, which is used to flip the telescope from one plate to the other.

TUMBLE is on the 2df positioner control window, bottom RHS.

The **focus** procedure takes a bunch of exposures and processes them – messaging is shown on the screen. Then the table below fills out. Just worry about Piston and Spectral all coming in under 0.15 pix. If they greatly exceed, click on apply in that column and run the test again. There may be several apply labels to click. The focus will correct to the new offsets before repeating.

The screenshot displays the HERMES control interface with several windows open. The 'HERMES Focus Control' window is prominent, showing a table of focus parameters for four arms (Blue, Green, Red, Infrared) and a 'Focus Mech' button. A red arrow points to this button. Other windows include 'CCD Control', 'Positioner Control', and 'HERMES Spectrograph'.

HERMES Focus Control Table:

Arm	Piston	Spectral	Current	Request	Buttons
Blue Arm	3307.0	6592.0	3307.0	6592.0	Via home, Move, Clear, Save Settings
Green Arm	2527.0	3507.9	2527.0	3507.9	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings
Red Arm	1109.0	13194.1	1109.0	13194.1	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings
Infrared Arm	3162.1	10869.6	3162.1	10869.6	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings

HERMES Spectrograph Table:

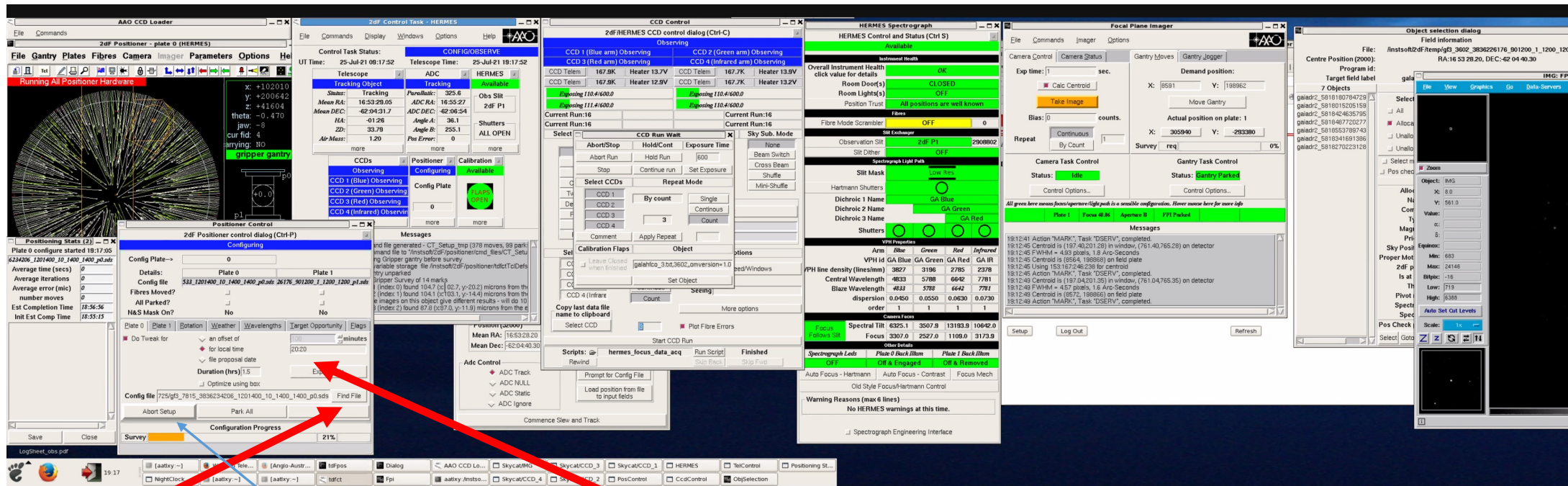
Arm	Blue	Green	Red	Infrared
VPH Id	GA Blue	GA Green	GA Red	GA IR
VPH line density (lines/mm)	3827	3186	2785	2378
Central Wavelength	4833	5788	6642	7781
Blaze Wavelength	4833	5788	6642	7781
dispersion	0.0450	0.0550	0.0630	0.0730
order	1	1	1	1

HERMES Focus Control Table:

Arm	Piston	Spectral	Current	Request	Buttons
Blue Arm	3307.0	6592.0	3307.0	6592.0	Via home, Move, Clear, Save Settings
Green Arm	2527.0	3507.9	2527.0	3507.9	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings
Red Arm	1109.0	13194.1	1109.0	13194.1	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings
Infrared Arm	3162.1	10869.6	3162.1	10869.6	Via home, Move, Clear, Load Settings

ONCE YOU ARE HAPPY, you must must click on Focus Mech and save settings. Focus Mech is bottom of HERMES spectrograph window hidden behind HERMES Focus Control in this view.

Let's get configuring. You need the 2df positioner window (LHS of figure below). So here it says configure plate 0, which means plate 1 was facing the sky ready to observe.



Find file will find the .sds file if you have completed four actions on four screens in the lead-up to this moment – see slide 11. **Set the expected local time of observation and duration**, e.g. 18:30, 2 hours (never less than 1 hour). **Fetch Weather Data** before you configure field. **Configure fibres is this button before Abort message**. In an emergency, you can stop and start this operation – talk to the NA or technician if a mistake is made. 2df configure has problems at times and they know what to do. You will see red flash up all over one of the consoles if it fails for any reason, and the 2df positioner graphic (top LHS) will appear to freeze. If your configured field is in **recent** past, say, 18:30, you can configure for UT time 19:30 and it will correct.

Slewing & Focussing telescope

Working with the NA, slew to the first field position to get ready for focusing the telescope on sky. *But first...*

Be sure to check the Mean RA and Dec is what you copied from Terminal 1 for this star into the logs.

You have two choices, i.e. to go to the field position that was configured and is now pointing at the sky, OR to go to the field position that was just configured and is looking back at the telescope. Try clicking on both *Plate File* options followed by *Load position from file* to see which one looks right. If the latter, you need to slew followed by a tumble to get the newly configured plate looking to the sky.

When ready, *commence slew and track*. You can *tumble* also using button on Positioner Control window.

ZdF Control Task - HERMES

File Commands Display Windows Options Help

Control Task Status: **IDLE**

UT Time: 27-Jul-21 08:20:42 Telescope Time: 27-Jul-21 18:20:42

Telescope		ADC		HERMES	
Tracking Object		Tracking		Available	
Status:	Tracking	Parallactic:	326.1	Obs Slit	
Mean RA:	15:33:30.09	ADC RA:	15:35:03	2dF P1	
Mean DEC:	-49:59:59.8	ADC DEC:	-50:04:27	Shutters	
HA:	-00:55	Angle A:	44.8	ALL CLOSED	
ZD:	21.41	Angle B:	247.4		
Air Mass:	1.07	Pos Error:	0		
more		more		more	

Telescope Control (Ctrl-T)

Tracking Object			
Status:	Tracking	Equinox:	2000
Telescope Mean RA:	15:33:30.09	DEC:	-49:59:59.8
App Place RA:	15:35:03.40	DEC:	-50:04:27.0
Telescope HA:	-00:55	ZD:	21.41
Time to Set:	07:23:33	Airmass:	1.07
Telescope UTC:	27-Jul-21 08:20:43	Dome State:	Tracking
Local Sidereal:	14:37:55	Dome Flat:	Disabled
Tracking System:	J2000	Dome Pos Error:	-0.2/0.4

Control On **Available** A - P0 **R - FPI** B - P1

Slew Park Offset Focus Instrument (App and Focus) Dome

Telescope Slew Control

Position (J2000)

Mean RA: 15:33:30.10

Mean Dec: -50:00:00.00

ADC Control

- ADC Track
- ADC NULL
- ADC Static
- ADC Ignore

Config File Positions

Select source of file

- Observation Plate File
- Config Plate File
- Prompt for Config File
- Load position from file to input fields

Commence Slew and Track

Positioner Control (Ctrl-P)

Positioner control dialog (Ctrl-P)

Available

0

Plate 0

01400_10_1400_1400_p0.sds 587_1201400_1

No

Rotation Weather Wavelengths Target Obj

an offset of 100

for local time 19:30

file proposal date

Duration (hrs) 1.5

Optimize using box

8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0

Park All

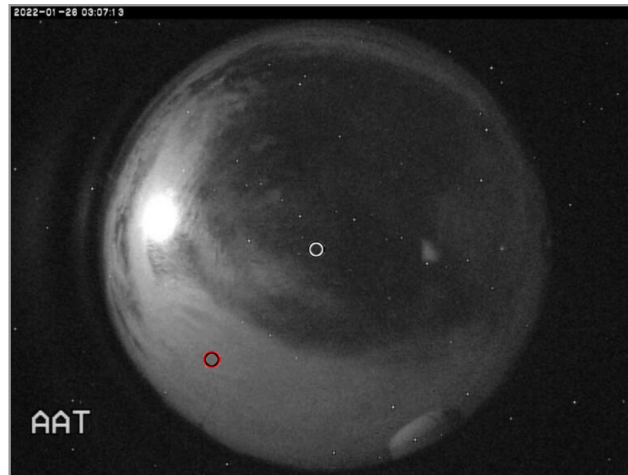
Configuration Progress

Slewing and tracking, watching as we go...

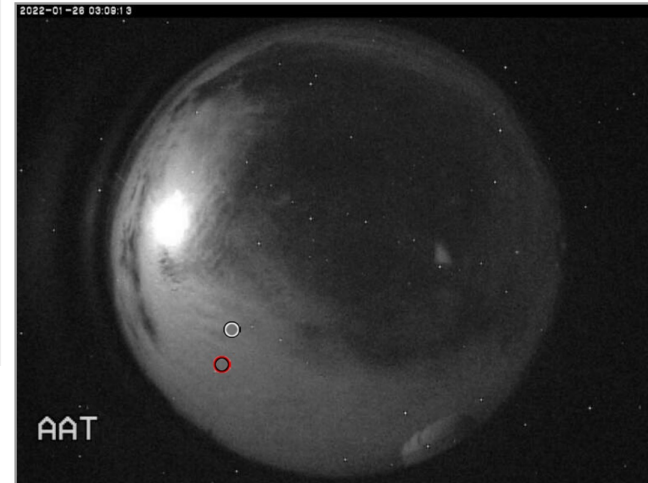
When the NA types in the location of the new field, it comes up as a red circle on the all-sky camera. There's a lot to learn from this.

Here, you see that zenith is clear (where telescope is pointing, shown as a white circle). You can also see the location of the moon.

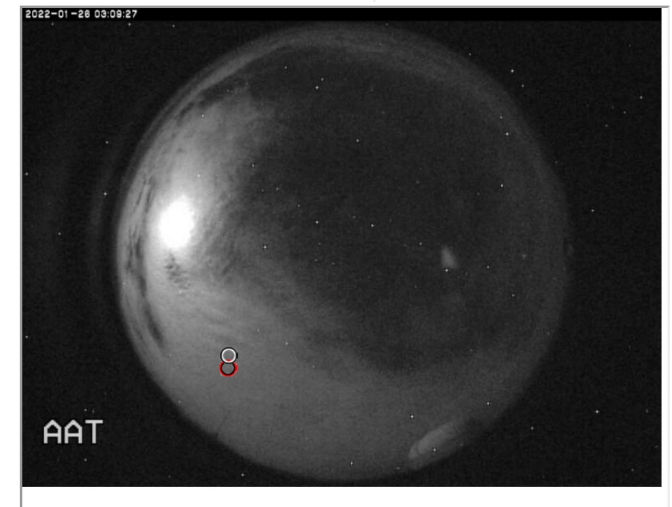
Note the airmass is about 1.45 at the target's current position. Through the night, the target's airmass dropped to about 1.2 at best.



Images from AAT [cloud cam](#).



Slewing action

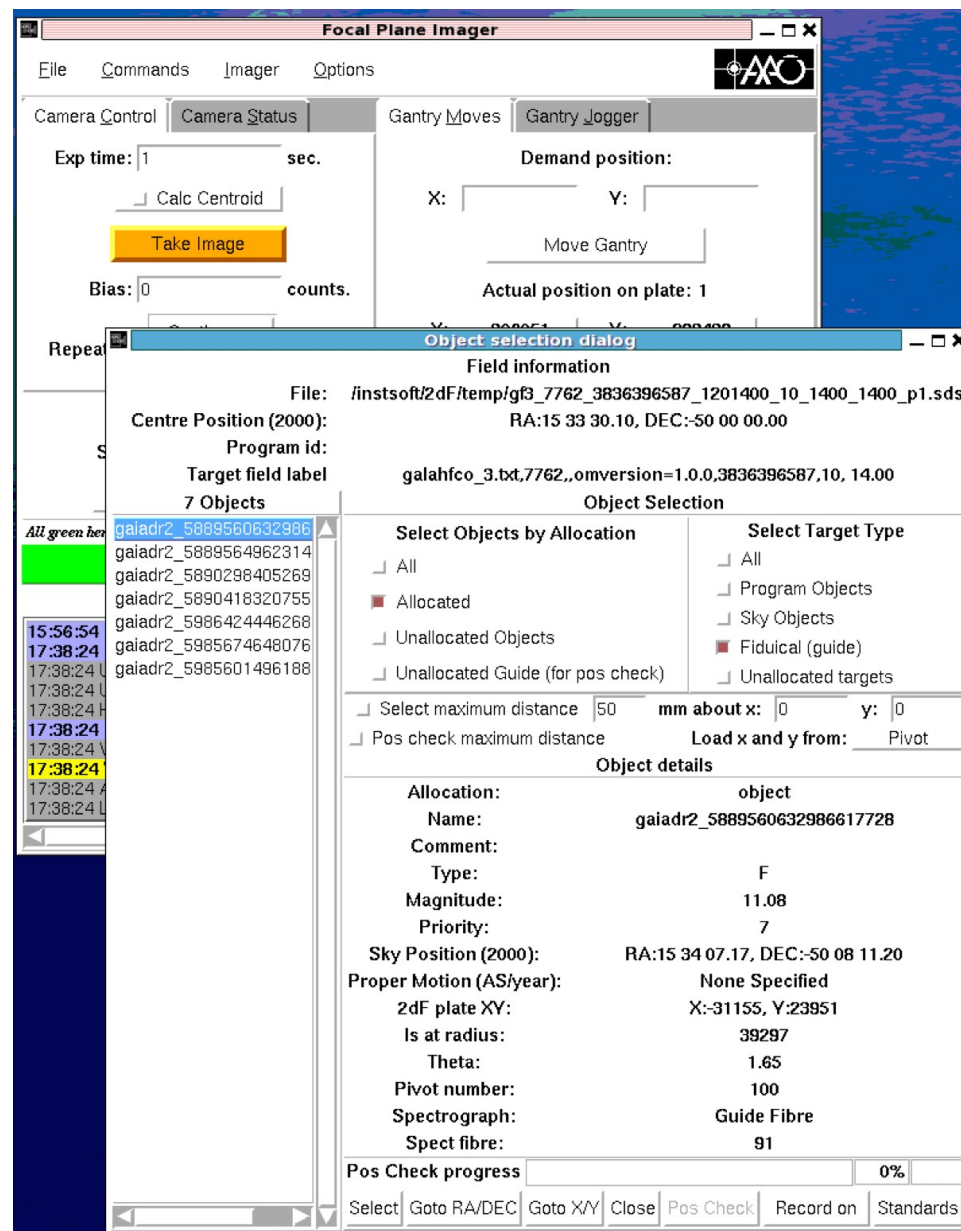


Once on target, talk to the NA. Say you are finding a star for focus. Use the **FPI window** as shown.

- Under *Commands*, click on *Select Object* and a long list of stars will be offered to you. Click on *Allocated* and *Fiducial* as shown. Click on the last star in the LHS list (Chen's trick) so that you remember this is the one you selected later. Now *Goto RA/Dec*.
- Turn off *Calc Centroid*, *Continuous* and *Take Image*. If PSF is bad and good seeing expected, try fainter star from list, shorter exp., in case image saturated.
- CTRL & click on star centroid. SHIFT & click to draw box.
- Under *Commands*, click on *Focus Telescope...*

A good result is on the next slide. If not good, you can always repeat or accept the original setting. This is a working relationship with the NA, so do communicate clearly.

MOST IMPORTANT: once happy, Park Gantry under Gantry Control Task Options, otherwise you're blocking light from sky. I suggest you place a post-it note on your screen which says "Have you parked the gantry?" The NA notices when returning to guide star.



A good telescope focus

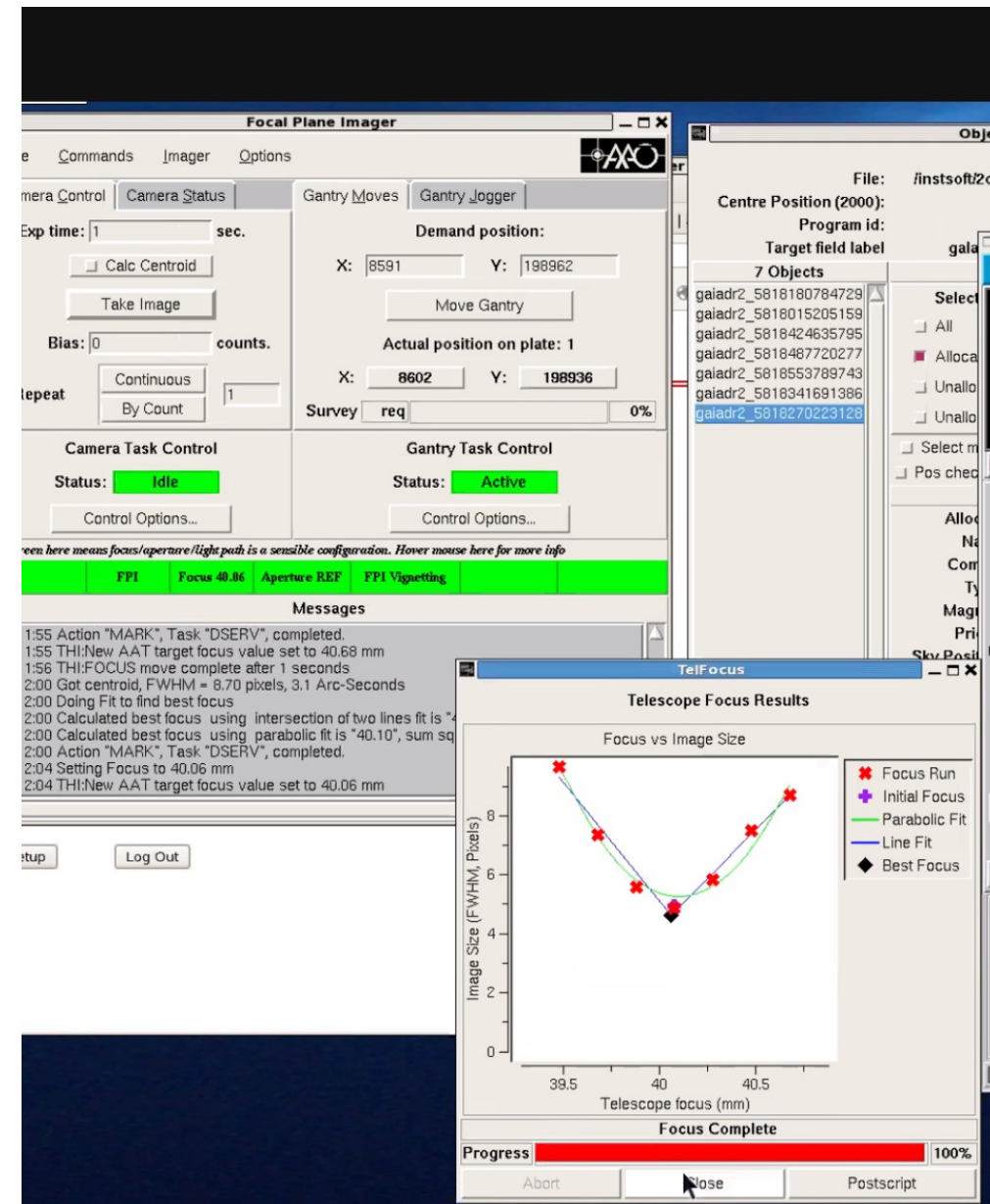
Once you are happy, get a seeing measurement by clicking on *Continuous* and *Calc Centroid*, *Take Image*.

You can kill this by flipping buttons back.

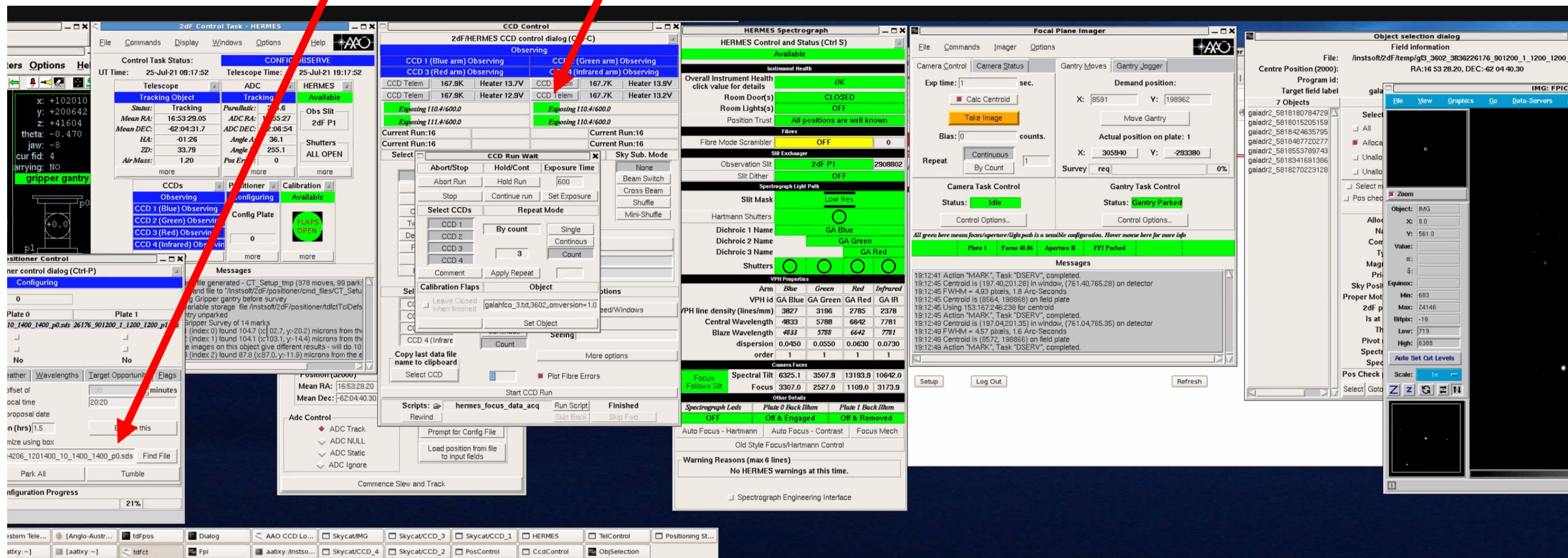
Park Gantry !!!

Why do you care? Remember Sarah's maxim that if the seeing is over 2.5", which of course never happens, you need to double the number of images for each field. If it's much over 3", well...

Rotation – by the way, if the NA requests a rotation check of the field on the sky, go to the 2df positioner control window, click on *Rotation* tab, then *Clone to NA*. They will clone back to you when ready. It only takes a few minutes.



Let's get observing. You need the 2df positioner control window. Now slew to your first field; then ready for exposures in sets of three. This is what it looks like for GALAH bright fields at the start of the night once you're under way. Your other plate should already be configured and ready at the start. Later, when you're exposing on regular GALAH fields, you have *plenty of time* to configure the plate that's not observing, and that action takes place concurrently. If the 2df positioner fails, be sure to complete the existing set first. Don't interrupt it.



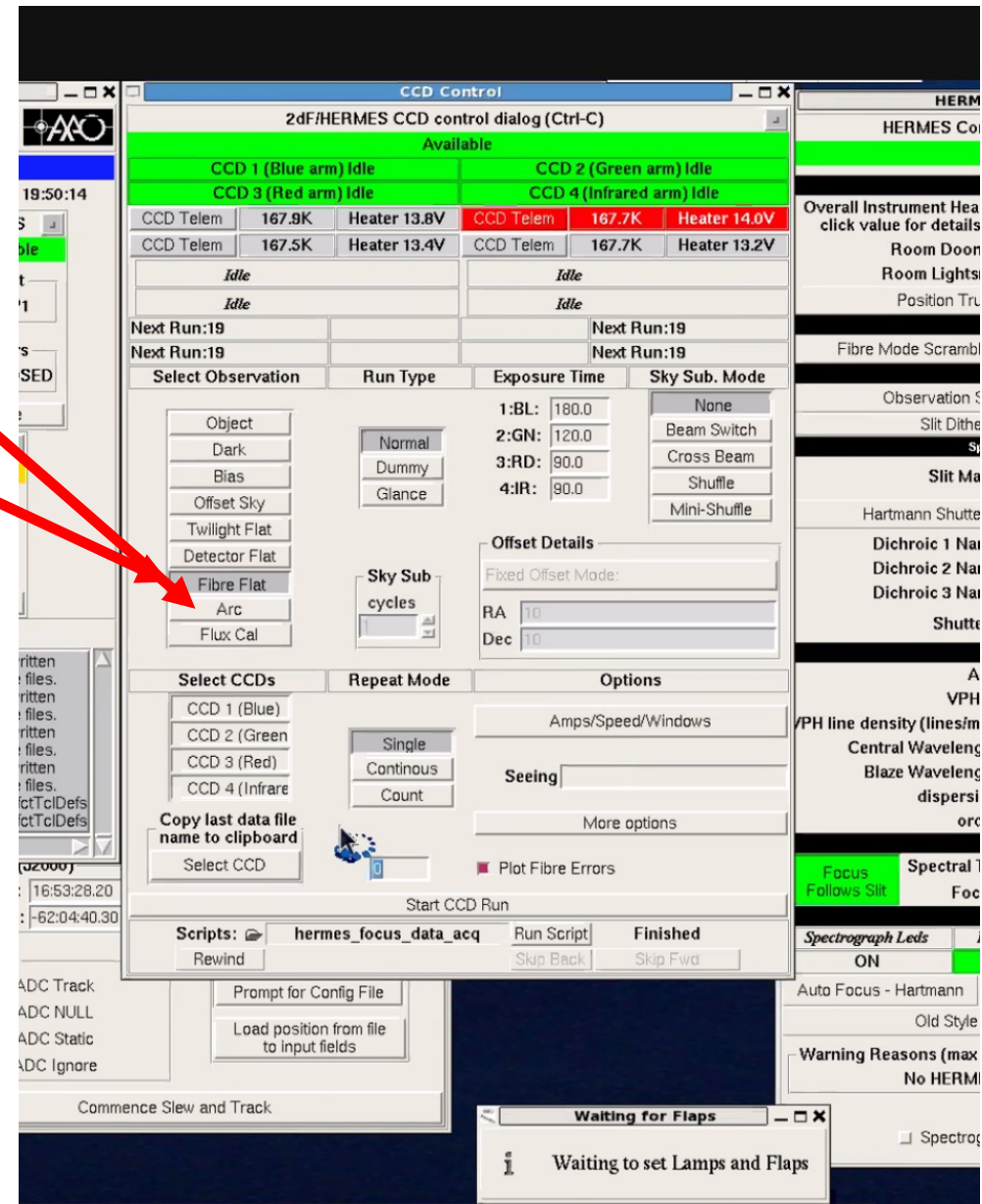
After 3+ GALAH fields have been observed...

Don't forget the *fibre flatfield* followed by the *arc*. The exposure times and buttons are set for you once you click on these.

Note that the CCD run count is correct, and keep updating the observing logs in slide 9.

There is a strange little text file you need to keep updating as well, but we can do that towards the end of the night, all in one go. More later.

To speed up the process, when you get the question "leave flaps closed when finished?" you say YES for fibre flat, and NO for arc.



Getting close to twilight – it's time for bias images ~ 20 mins.

Click back to NORMAL and COUNT and set for 15 bias images – see orange circle. Click on Start CCD Run below.

Once done, on **terminal 2**, you can type your shell script to transfer the images across.

Check the NA is venting the dome, and the dome lights are off.

Maybe click on Tech Call if you need to.

CCD Control
2dF/HERMES CCD control dialog (Ctrl-C)

Available

CCD 1 (Blue arm) Idle			CCD 2 (Green arm) Idle		
CCD 3 (Red arm) Idle			CCD 4 (Infrared arm) Idle		
CCD Telem	167.9K	Heater 12.9V	CCD Telem	167.7K	Heater 13.2V
CCD Telem	167.5K	Heater 12.5V	CCD Telem	167.7K	Heater 12.7V
Idle			Idle		
Idle			Idle		
Next Run:1			Next Run:1		
Next Run:1			Next Run:1		

Select Observation	Run Type	Exposure Time	Sky Sub. Mode
Object	Normal Dummy Glance	1:BL: 0	None
Dark		2:GN: 0	Beam Switch
Bias		3:RD: 0	Cross Beam
Offset Sky		4:IR: 0	Shuffle
Twilight Flat			Mini-Shuffle
Detector Flat			
Fibre Flat			
Arc			
Flux Cal			

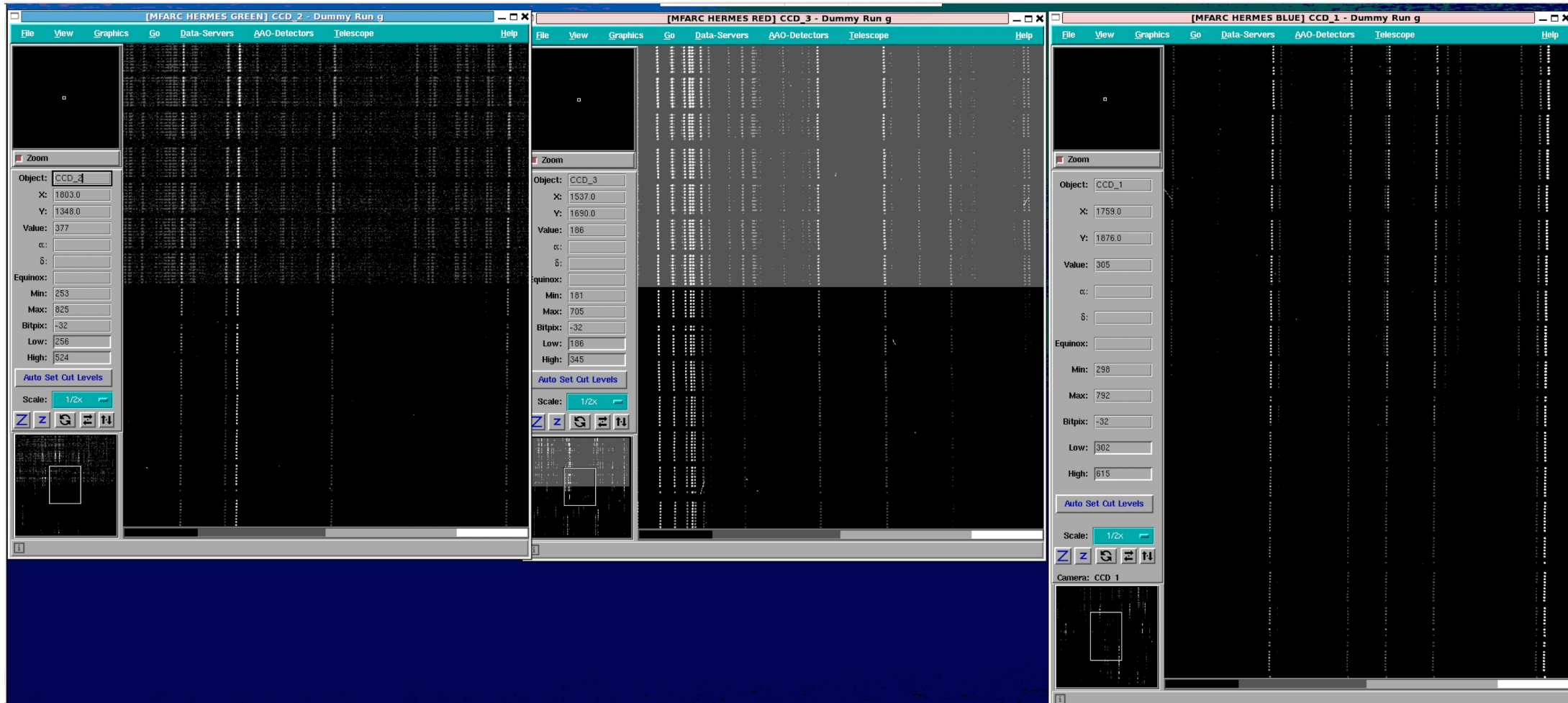
Sky Sub cycles
1

Offset Details
Fixed Offset Mode:
RA 10
Dec 10

Select CCDs	Repeat Mode	Options
CCD 1 (Blue)	Single Continuous Count	Amps/Speed/Windows
CCD 2 (Green)		Seeing
CCD 3 (Red)		More options
CCD 4 (Infrared)		Plot Fibre Errors
Copy last data file name to clipboard Select CCD		15
Start CCD Run		

Scripts: hermes_focus_data_acq Run Script Finished
Rewind Skip Back Skip Fwd

4 CCD display windows and FPI display window. If you lose any of these, close the ones that remain. Then go to the AAO console in the VNC window. Run “skycat”. The five windows pile up over each other (this caught me out!) so separate them on the far RHS of the VNC display. I am showing arc observations in this particular example.



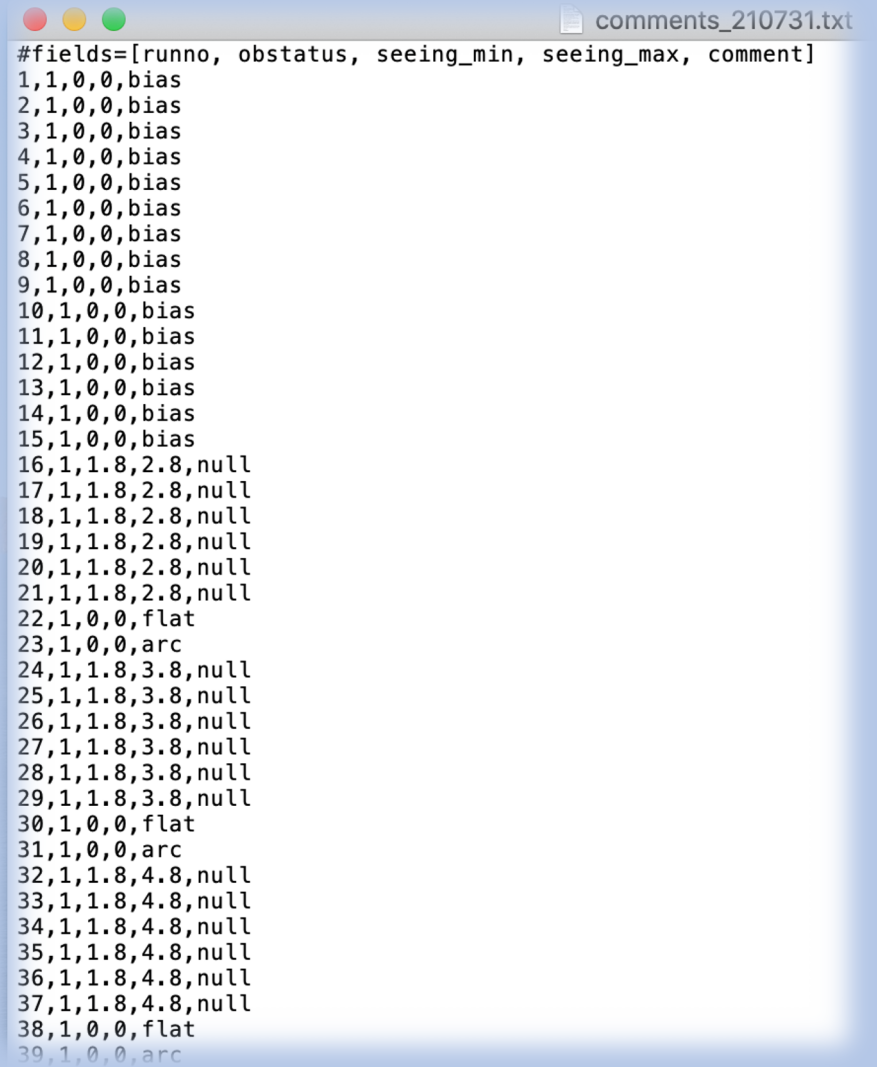
In the early morning hours, say, 3 a.m., when you're not functioning as well, here's a boring job you need to do.

Copy a **comments file** from a previous night and update it to reflect the observing log for the night. At the end of observing, be sure to get the complete number of files right, or **obsman1.py -update** (below) will fail.

You can do this in **Terminal 2**. Look at the default file in

`/home/galah/survey/210727/comments/.`

and update as shown on the RHS.



```
comments_210731.txt
#fields=[runno, obstatus, seeing_min, seeing_max, comment]
1,1,0,0,bias
2,1,0,0,bias
3,1,0,0,bias
4,1,0,0,bias
5,1,0,0,bias
6,1,0,0,bias
7,1,0,0,bias
8,1,0,0,bias
9,1,0,0,bias
10,1,0,0,bias
11,1,0,0,bias
12,1,0,0,bias
13,1,0,0,bias
14,1,0,0,bias
15,1,0,0,bias
16,1,1.8,2.8,null
17,1,1.8,2.8,null
18,1,1.8,2.8,null
19,1,1.8,2.8,null
20,1,1.8,2.8,null
21,1,1.8,2.8,null
22,1,0,0,flat
23,1,0,0,arc
24,1,1.8,3.8,null
25,1,1.8,3.8,null
26,1,1.8,3.8,null
27,1,1.8,3.8,null
28,1,1.8,3.8,null
29,1,1.8,3.8,null
30,1,0,0,flat
31,1,0,0,arc
32,1,1.8,4.8,null
33,1,1.8,4.8,null
34,1,1.8,4.8,null
35,1,1.8,4.8,null
36,1,1.8,4.8,null
37,1,1.8,4.8,null
38,1,0,0,flat
39,1,0,0,arc
```

Twilight approaches and there are things to do each night at the end of observing.

- ❖ Go to **Terminal 2**, and run the shell script one last time. Everything needs to be moved across.
- ❖ Go to **Terminal 1** and ensure you are in obsmanager/current.

❖ `./obsman1.py -update`

```
Last login: Wed Jul 28 00:52:46 2021 from 192.231.166.201
galah@galah-obs:~$
galah@galah-obs:~$ ./obsman1.py -update
-bash: ./obsman1.py: No such file or directory
galah@galah-obs:~$ cd obsmanager/current
galah@galah-obs:~/obsmanager/current$ ./obsman1.py -update
/home/galah/.local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/pyfits/__init__.py:22: PyFITSDeprecationWarning: PyFITS is deprecated, please use astropy.io
  PyFITSDeprecationWarning) # noqa
Updating observed fields for date, 210727
7762 3836396587 gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
7762 3836396587 gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
7762 3836396587 gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
-1 3836396587 gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
-1 3836396587 gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
8072 3836401463 gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0
8072 3836401463 gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0
8072 3836401463 gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0
-1 3836401463 gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0
-1 3836401463 gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0
8350 3836410793 gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
8350 3836410793 gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
8350 3836410793 gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
-1 3836410793 gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1
```

❖ `./obsman_report.py -wiki 210727` (get right directory) (see next slide)




```
galah@galah-obs:~/obsmanager/current$ ./obsman_report.py -wiki 210727
```

```
/home/galah/.local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/pyfits/__init__.py:22: PyFITSDeprecationWarning: PyFITS is deprecated, please use astropy.io.fits
  PyFITSDeprecationWarning) # noqa
```

```
Printing wiki observation log-----
```

```
-----+2021 Jul 27- GALAH Survey
```

```
Low resolution.
```

The first part goes to Record Observing Log

```
*Field_ID* | *RunNo* | *exp* | *RA (hhmmss)* | *Dec (ddmmss)* | *Plate* | *Ob_status* | *Min Seeing* | *Max Seeing* | *Comment* |
```

```
:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|:-----|
Bias-gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 1- 15 | 0,0,0,0 | 14 17 48.55|-31 10 35.1|1| 1| 0.0" | 0.0" | bias |
Object-gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 16- 18 | 600x3 | 15 33 30.17|-49 59 51.9|1| 1| 1.8" | 1.8" | |
Flat-gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 19 | 180,120,90,90 | 15 33 30.12|-49 59 52.1|1| 1| 1.8" | 1.8" | flat |
Arc-gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 20 | 180,180,180,180 | 15 33 30.09|-49 59 52.0|1| 1| 1.8" | 1.8" | arc |
Object-gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 21- 23 | 1800x3 | 16 34 56.28|-37 59 57.6|0| 1| 2.0" | 2.0" | |
Flat-gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 24 | 180,120,90,90 | 16 34 56.09|-37 59 57.6|0| 1| 2.0" | 2.0" | flat |
Arc-gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 25 | 180,180,180,180 | 16 34 56.08|-37 59 57.7|0| 1| 2.0" | 2.0" | arc |
Object-gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 26- 28 | 1800x3 | 18 34 28.13|-27 59 52.4|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | |
Flat-gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 29 | 180,120,90,90 | 18 34 27.86|-27 59 50.9|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | flat |
Arc-gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 30 | 180,180,180,180 | 18 34 27.86|-27 59 50.8|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | arc |
Object-gf3_544_3836417709_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 31- 36 | 1800x6 | 20 34 31.10|-26 35 40.1|0| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | |
Flat-gf3_544_3836417709_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 37 | 180,120,90,90 | 20 34 30.95|-26 35 39.1|0| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | flat |
Arc-gf3_544_3836417709_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 38 | 180,180,180,180 | 20 34 30.97|-26 35 39.2|0| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | arc |
Object-gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1 | 39- 42 | 1800x4 | 23 37 03.85|-51 20 54.6|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | |
Flat-gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1 | 43 | 180,120,90,90 | 23 37 03.56|-51 20 53.9|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | flat |
Arc-gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1 | 44 | 180,180,180,180 | 23 37 03.57|-51 20 54.1|1| 1| 1.7" | 2.0" | arc |
```

```
Printing wiki field log-----
```

```
| gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 15 33 30.17|-49 59 52.6| 210727 | 600x3 | 16-18 | 1| 1| 1.80"-1.80" |
```

```
Number of targets for gf3_7762_3836396587_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 : 349
```

```
| gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 16 34 56.18|-38 00 00.3| 210727 | 1800x3 | 21-23 | 0| 1| 2.00"-2.00" |
```

```
Number of targets for gf3_8072_3836401463_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 : 346
```

```
| gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 | 18 34 27.99|-27 59 54.1| 210727 | 1800x3 | 26-28 | 1| 1| 1.70"-2.00" |
```

```
Number of targets for gf3_8350_3836410793_1201400_10_1400_1400_p1 : 349
```

```
| gf3_544_3836417709_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 | 20 34 31.47|-26 35 44.1| 210727 | 1800x6 | 31-36 | 0| 1| 1.70"-2.00" |
```

```
Number of targets for gf3_544_3836417709_1201400_10_1400_1400_p0 : 346
```

```
| gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1 | 23 37 04.04|-51 20 55.8| 210727 | 1800x4 | 39-42 | 1| 1| 1.70"-2.00" |
```

```
Number of targets for gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1 : 348
```

```
galah@galah-obs:~/obsmanager/current$
```

```
jhawthorn@AC02DT3GNMD6T ~ %
```

The second part goes to Record Field Log, do this N times for N targets, just one line.

internal.galah-survey.org/node/add/fieldlog



Website and actions

- jbland-hawthor
- [My account](#)
- [Log out](#)
- [All Wiki Pages](#)
- ▼ [Create content](#)
 - [Event](#)
 - [Field Log](#)
 - [News Item](#)
 - [Observation Log](#)
 - [Project/Paper](#)
 - [Create New Wiki Page](#)
 - [Data Table](#)
 - [Help Request](#)

Field Log

g each field observed. Copy and paste a single field line from obsman_report.py into the Log Entry field below.
YOU MUST CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL LOG FOR EACH FIELD.

Note: please avoid using commas as it makes it difficult to output things as a CSV table.

Log Entry:

Please copy and paste a SINGLE line of text from the obsman_report.py Field output into this section, including pipes.

Field Type: *

Type of field observed. To select multiple categories use the control (Windows) or command (Mac) button.

- Survey
- Twilight
- Bright
- K2
- Faint High Lat
- Dome Flat
- Thin/Thick Disk
- Globular Cluster
- Open Cluster

Number of Targets:

The number of targets on this field (not including guide/sky fibers). This information is available from the Configure program.

Resolution:

Low Resolution ▼

Additional Comments:

Please note any peculiarities or other important information related to this observation.

Submitted by [Joss Bland-Hawthorn](#) on Wed, 2021-07-28 05:41

Text Name:
gf3_6835_3836421276_1201430_1_1430_1430_p1

Date:
210727

RA:
23 37 04.04

Dec:
-51 20 55.8

Exposure Number:
39-42

Exposure Time:
1800x4

Observation Status:
1

Number of Targets:
348

Resolution:
Low Resolution

Plate:
1

Seeing:
1.70"-2.00"

APPENDICES

ADC tracking

A manual that illustrates recovery from every conceivable crash is impossible. There are so many subtleties, and site staff know most.

Here's an odd one.

If the system is rebooted, I worry that the ADC is no longer tracking correctly. You can reset and slew the ADC back into position easily. It takes a few minutes – see graphic. Click on MORE under ADC on the 2dFCT window.

This is much like telescope slewing.

The screenshot displays the '2dF Control Task - HERMES' software interface. The main window shows the 'Control Task Status' as 'IDLE'. The 'Telescope' section lists 'Tracking Object' with status 'Tracking'. The 'ADC' section shows 'Slewing ADC' with parameters: Parallactic: 197.0, ADC RA: 07:27:34, ADC DEC: -24:02:51, Angle A: 487.1, Angle B: 110.8, Position Error: 26986. The 'HERMES' section shows 'Warning' and 'Obs Slit 2dF P0'. The 'CCDs' section lists 'Available' and 'Config Plate 1'. The 'Messages' window shows a log of events, including '00:03:36 ADC:Commencing slew via home, new position'. The 'ADC Control (Ctrl A)' window shows 'Slewing ADC' with a diagram of the ADC's position and a 'Move Progress' bar at 45s/60%. The 'ADC General Controls' window shows 'Stop Tracking', 'Set Tracking', 'Null ADC', 'Slew to Tel Pos and Track', and 'Update Position'. The 'ADC Slew Controls' window shows 'Mean RA', 'Mean Dec', 'Equinox: 2000', and 'Slew ADC and Track'. The 'ADC Operation Cancel' window shows a 'Cancel' button and the text 'Press "Cancel" to stop the ADC Slew operation'.

2dF Control Task - HERMES

File Commands Display Windows Options Help

Control Task Status: IDLE

UT Time: 24-Jan-22 13:04:45 Telescope Time: 25-Jan-22 00:04:45

Telescope	ADC	HERMES
Tracking Object	Slewing ADC	Warning
Status: Tracking	Parallactic: 197.0	Obs Slit
Mean RA: 07:26:37.30	ADC RA: 07:27:34	2dF P0
Mean DEC: -24:00:07.3	ADC DEC: -24:02:51	
HA: -00:10	Angle A: 487.1	
ZD: 7.62	Angle B: 110.8	
Air Mass: 1.01	Pos Error: 26986	

more more

CCDs **Positioner**

Available Available

CCD 1 (Blue) Idle

CCD 2 (Green) Idle

CCD 3 (Red) Idle

CCD 4 (Infrared) Idle

more more

Messages

00:01:12 No need to change HERMES slit
00:02:16 Wrote TDFCT parameter file /instsoft/2dF/pos
00:02:17 TDFPT:Writing parameter file(s) to /instsoft/2dF/pos
00:02:17 TDFPT:Field plates tumbled - new config plate
00:02:58 CCD 1 telemetry ok
00:02:58 CCD 2 telemetry ok
00:02:58 CCD 3 telemetry ok
00:02:58 CCD 4 telemetry ok
00:03:07 Wrote TDFCT Tcl variable storage file /instsoft/2dF/pos
00:03:36 ADC:Commencing slew via home, new position

ADC Control (Ctrl A)

Slewing ADC

Parallactic: 197.0
ADC RA: 07:27:34
ADC DEC: -24:02:51
Angle A: 487.1
Angle B: 110.8
Position Error: 26986
Adc Status: Slewing to new position
X Elem Status: Moving Positive
Y Elem Status: Idle
X Elem Step No.: 46850
Y Elem Step No.: -1036

Move Progress 45s 60%

ADC General Controls

Stop Tracking
Set Tracking
Null ADC
Slew to Tel Pos and Track
Update Position

ADC Slew Controls

Mean RA:
Mean Dec:
Equinox: 2000
Slew ADC and Track

ADC Operation Cancel

Press "Cancel" to stop the ADC Slew operation

Cancel

Observing with the AAT from Home

13 October 2020 – Chris Lidman

1. Some important reminders first

- Do not share your visitor account details with anyone else
- Access is allowed from 3pm AEST/AEDT on the first day of your run
- Make verbal contact (e.g. using zoom) with the afternoon shift technician before trying to access the instrument

2. Contacting site on the day of your run

With up to six remote observing sites connecting to the telescope console from across Australia, and several more to come, communication is key for a successful remote observing run. **You are required to contact Site at 3pm on the afternoon of each night (4pm during daylight saving time).**

A good time at which to notify the afternoon technician of your plans for the next day is when the afternoon technician signs off for the night. You can also contact the afternoon technician using the technician call button, the AAT building PA system (6842 6351), or the **SSO emergency mobile** (0427 685 288). If you use the PA system, wait for the beep to end before speaking. The SSO emergency mobile is carried by the afternoon shift technician during the day and the night assistant at night.

Additional information on remote observing is available from the [AAT web pages](https://aat.anu.edu.au/science/observing/remote-observations):
<https://aat.anu.edu.au/science/observing/remote-observations>

3. Important Numbers, Addresses and Locations

AAT console Polycom IP: 192.231.166.51

AAT console phone: 6842 6279

AAT observer's desk: 6842 6276

AAT public address system (wait for the beep to end before speaking): 6842 6351

SSO emergency mobile: 0427 685 288

AAT VPN: aat-vpn.anu.edu.au

VNC desktop used for observing: aatxdb1.aao.gov.au, IP 10.88.80.26¹

aatlxe: 10.88.90.24

aatlhx: 10.88.90.25

[Weather](http://aat-ops.anu.edu.au/AATdatabase/met.html): <http://aat-ops.anu.edu.au/AATdatabase/met.html>

[Robot viewer](http://10.88.90.80/view): <http://10.88.90.80/view>. We advise against running this from a browser that is started on aatlxy, as this seems to slow down the VNC connection.

¹ IP addresses that start with 10 (e.g. 10.88.90.80) are only available within the AAT network.

4. Setting up yourself before the run

- Send us a request that you wish to observe remotely from home using the [AAT Visitor Form](https://aat.anu.edu.au/science/observing/travel/overview): <https://aat.anu.edu.au/science/observing/travel/overview>
- Once approved, you will receive the details of an account that will enable you to VPN into the AAT network and ssh into AAT computers. (Note that these functions have the same account name usually of the form 'visitor[n]', VPN access has been added to the system that has been in use for many years.)
- Install VPN and VNC clients on your laptops. We recommend that you use Cisco's AnyConnect Security Mobility Client and Real VNC's [VNC viewer](#).
- When using 2dF, screen real-estate is an important factor. At the very least, you should have two screens. This will enable you to see half of the four screens. One can then scroll to see the other half as required. Recall that 2dF windows can pop up in unexpected places.
- If you are using the NBN, check that there are no [scheduled maintenance activities](#) that might affect your connection.
- If you have access to two computers it is recommended that you set Zoom up on a different machine to the one you use for controlling the instrument. This is because Zoom will be piped through the VPN otherwise, which will slow the connection somewhat.

5. Connecting

Follow the following sequence.

- Establish communication with the afternoon shift technician via zoom (the polycom is unlikely to be a realistic option if you are observing remotely from home). SSO staff will establish one zoom link per scheduled run. You will be informed of the details once the visitor form is submitted.
- VPN into the AAT network: aat-vpn.anu.edu.au, using the account details you have been given. (If you later have trouble logging in, returning to this page and logging in again serves as a test of the validity of your credentials.)
- VNC into aatxdb1.aao.gov.au, IP 10.88.80.26. If you do not know the password, the afternoon shift technician will give it to you.

6. The end of the night

- Close the VNC window². Under no circumstances, should you log out of aatlxx to aatlxy. The consequences could be grave.
- Log out of the VPN session if you do not plan to run reductions on aatlxx, for example.

² The VNC session will be killed by a cron job at 9am, but it is best to close it manually to prevent any unauthorised access.

