

# SOAR Quick Observing Guide



- Setup VPN connections for Goodman, NOAO (IRAF) and GACAM
- **NOTE:** Minimum of 2 preferably 3 monitors required.
- Start up SOAR vpnc in a terminal
  - `vpnc /etc/vpnc/vpnc2soar.conf`
  - Goodman: `vncviewer -Shared 139.229.15.132 &`
  - IRAF: `vncviewer -Shared 139.229.15.137:4 &`
  - GACAM: `vncviewer -Shared 139.229.15.168:1 &`
- Prepare Goodman Spectrograph Controls
  - Click on GSP\_Main-Shortcut Icon to open up Goodman GUI
  - Click on the arrow to run the Goodman GUI.
  - Click on **Main** → **Logon** → Then select the partner (brazil, noao, unc, msu, etc) and enter the password that was provided to you by the Support Scientist
  - Click on **User** → **Home Systems** → **Select All** → Then **Home Selected**
    - **WARNING:** Before you home systems, make sure the Goodman electronics has been powered on by the Telescope Operator (TO), and that the rotator angle is at 0 deg. Check with the TO.
  - Make sure the **Flexure Compensation** is **ON**
  - In the Target Control Box of the **Collimator Focus** enter **1000** → Then click on "Set". Wait until the collimator reaches the position 1000 in the actual indicator box.
  - Click on the **CCD Readout Speed** pull-up menu and select the desired readout mode.
  - Click on the **CCD ROI Mode** pull-up menu and select the region of interest (ROI).
  - Click and select the **Slit**.
  - Click and select the **Grating**.
  - Click and select the **Wavelength Mode**.

- Set up Focus Sweep to Determine Best Focus

- Set Stepsize → 100
- Set # Exposure → 21
- Set Mask → 0.45" Slit
- Set Readout speed → 400 kKz
- Set Exposure Time → 1 sec
- Set Custom CCD ROI Mode
  - Set Parallel Origin → 1900
  - Set Parallel Length → 400

- Measure results to get best focus

- *specfocus \*focus.fits*

Note: Before setting focus set value to -2000



## Comparison Lamps

- Set up Instrument Parameters for your science program
  - Set mask → e.g. 1.00" Slit
  - Set Readout speed → e.g. 200 kKz, ATTN 2
  - Set CCD ROI Mode → e.g. Spectroscopy 2x2
  - Set Grating → e.g. SYZY\_400
  - Set Correct Mode → e.g. 400WD
- Take Comparison Lamps
  - Turn ON Lamps e.g. HgArNe
  - Let the Telescope Astronomer know you want to take a Comparison Arc
  - Take 1 image - Verify Good then take 5 more
  - Let the Telescope Astronomer know you have finished with the Comp Arcs
  - Turn OFF Lamps

- Take Quartz Flats

- Set **Intensity** to **100 %**
- Turn Quartz Lamp **ON**
- Set **Exp. Time:** **1.0 sec**
- Verify good image in IRAF before continuing
  - display quartz.fits 1
  - implot quartz.fits 480
- Take 50 more exposures

- Take Bias Images

- **Remember to turn Quartz Lamp OFF**
- Update **File Name Base** to **bias**
- Take 50 exposures



**NOTE:** Verify the bottom right of GUI says **ARM IN** or **ARM OUT**

→ If not **restart** GACAM GUI.

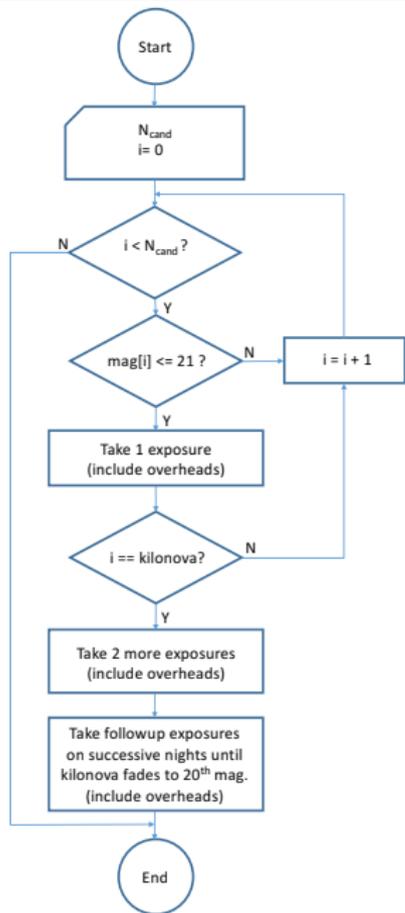
- Click the Withdraw Mask button to remove the mask from the optical path.
- Within GACAM GUI place the **ARM IN**
- Click on **Control** → **Offsets** to Open Offset Window
- Click on **Exposure** → **Exposure** to Open Exposure Window
- Click on **Scale** → **User MinMax** to display Scaling window
- Right click → Check **Show Cross-Hair** → UnCheck **Lock Cross-Hair**
- Drag to move cross hair to center it vertically over center of slit
- Right click → Check **Lock Cross-Hair**
- Center Target in Cross-Hair
  - Place **ARM IN**
  - Take **OUT** Mask
  - Center Object in cross hair
    - Click on center of object.
    - Click **COMPUTE** in Offset Window
    - Click **APPLY** in Offset Window
    - Repeat last 3 steps until Object in center of Cross-Hair
  - Place Mask **IN**
  - If target is visible in slit then Take **ARM OUT**
  - **OBSERVE !!**

- Instrument Configuration

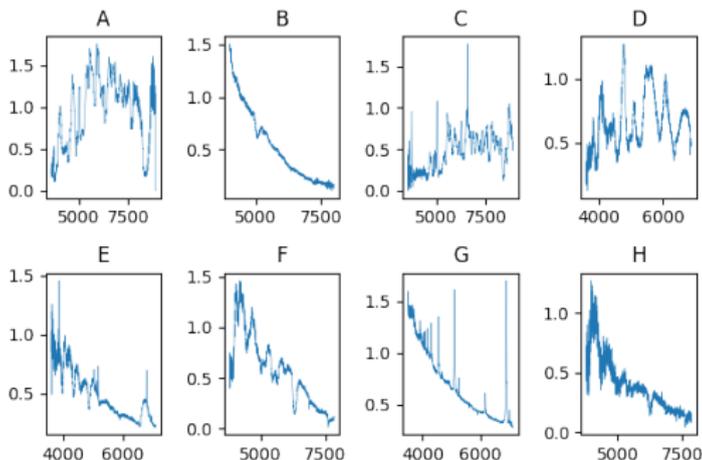
- Grating → 400 1/mm
- Order → 1st
- Slit → 1.0''
- Atmosphere disp. corr.: → Yes

- GW Candidate Identifications

- Standard Star → YES
- Exposure Time
  - $i \leq 19$  → 900 sec
  - $i \sim 20$  → 1200 sec
  - $i \sim 21$  → 1800 sec
- # of Exposures
  - For initial identification → 1 exposure per Candidate
  - Only if identified as a kilonova → 2 additional exposures

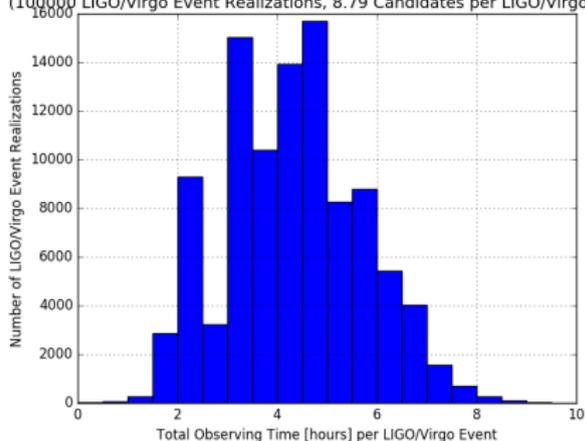


**Left:** A simplified flow-chart for a single realization of a simulated SOAR follow-up of a single GW event, where  $N_{\text{cand}}$  is the total number of candidates from an imaging search & discovery program. For the simulations here,  $N_{\text{cand}}$  is either 8 or 9, but averages overall to 8.79.



**Above:** Examples of SOAR spectra from an assortment of SNe: A=2010as (Ib/c), B=2015L (I-p), C=2010ae (Ia-p), D=2016bro (Ia), E=2018nw (II), F=2018po (Ia), G=2017ijn (II<sub>n</sub>), H=2017hvt (Ia).

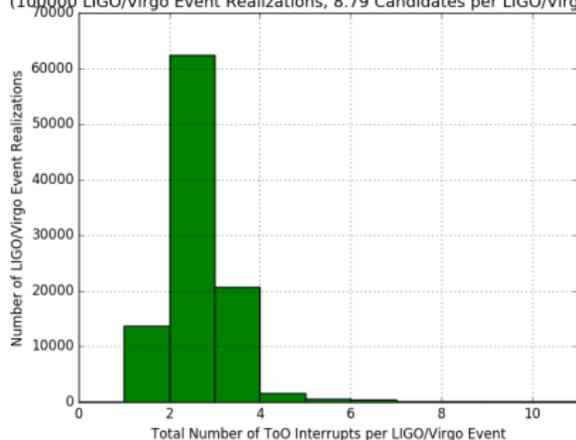
Distribution of Total SOAR-4m Observing Times Per LIGO/Virgo Event  
(100,000 LIGO/Virgo Event Realizations, 8.79 Candidates per LIGO/Virgo Event)



**Right:** Results of the simulation (using 100,000 realizations): histogram of the total number of SOAR ToO interrupts for a single LVO O3 event. (Note that the number of interrupts does not scale exactly as the total duration of interrupt time, since the number of hours per interrupt will vary between the “search & discovery” phase and the follow-up phase of the observations for a given kilonova event.)

**Left:** Results of the simulation (using 100,000 realizations): histogram of the total durations of SOAR ToO interrupt time [in hours] for a single LVO O3 event.

Distribution of Total SOAR-4m ToO Interrupts Per LIGO/Virgo Event  
(100,000 LIGO/Virgo Event Realizations, 8.79 Candidates per LIGO/Virgo Event)



Comp Mirror  M3   
 Slewing  Tip/Tilt   
 Guiding  Dome Moving   
 ADC

RA 19.52.53.529 DEC -17.45.29.962  
 Airmass 1.66 Focus -1159.31

Mount Az 90.122800 Mount El 37.001100  
 Dome Az 180.124147 Dome Shutter 0.000000

Date 2018-09-28 Sidereal 16.07.19.258  
 UT Time 20:20:01.491 Hour Angle -03:45:34.272  
 Rotator Angle 0.000000 Position Angle (E of N) 0.000000

Outside Temp 9.300000 Wind Direction 298.000000  
 Pressure 735.300000 Wind Speed 28.080000  
 Seeing -1 Humidity 38.100000

Reading telemetry from TCS...

Camera General Object Flat Comp Dark Zero Focus

Camera Color Blue  # Flat Exposures 49

Reset Connection

Connection Open Getting Data

CCD Temp. Vacuum Pressure

Obtain Camera Status

File Name Base quartz Exp. Time (s) 1.00 Image # 0072 RO Done

Image File Name 0072\_quartz

CCD Readout Speed 200 kHz, ATTN 2 CCD ROI Mode Spectroscopic, 2x2

Current Pixel Values: x 0 y 0 0.00 to the East  
 Desired Pixel Values: x 0 y 0 0.00 to the North

Calculate Required Offset  
 Open Multislit Alignment Tool

Exposure Readout 00:06  
 Acquiring image 17 of 49

Hg Ar Cu Ne Bulb Ar Qu Fe

Primary Filter  Mask 1.0" long slit Withdraw Mask Mask Is In

Secondary Filter  Mask Imaging Image Mask Imaging

Mask Assembly  Grating SYZY\_400 400 lines/mm

Grating Selection  Wavelength Angles Grating Camera  
 5.85010 Actual 11.70940  
 5.85000 Target 11.71000  
 Select Mode: 400WD Set  
 Littrow Configuration  
 0 Central wavelength(nm)  
 Grating Camera Load  
 0 0

Camera/Grating  Flexure Compensation  
 Left 28 Right 28  
 Camera flex target 28571.4  
 Active?

Collimator Focus  Shutter Open

Camera Focus  Collimator Focus  
 1001 Actual  
 1000 Target  
 10.2 Set

TCS Connected

Primary Filter <NO FILTER>

Secondary Filter <NO FILTER>

Camera Focus  
 1532 Actual  
 1530 Target  
 15.3 Set

