OPERATIONAL INNOVATIONS

Andy Adamson Associate Director, UKIRT

Preparation and Execution Scheduling Evolution



Categorizing Innovation

TECHNICAL

Telescope Mechanical Design

High-level Software

Low-level Software

Upgrades / image quality

Instrument Integration

OPERATIONAL

Science Programme Mix

Scheduling

Responsiveness





A key design decision: ISU and tertiary mirror







PREPARATION AND EXECUTION

ukirtprep ORAC ORACDR OMP



Observation Preparation - ukirtprep

- Required advance preparation of observations
- ...advance meant "in Hilo"
- SMS-based system (VT100 terminals, menus etc.)
- Paved the way for later systems and moved the preparation stage off the summit
- Standard across facility instruments (e.g. CGS4, IRCAM)
- Wrote Execs and Configs still relevant



SMS

_	CGS4 Instrument Control	•					
<u>F</u> ile <u>E</u> dit <u>C</u> omm	ands <u>O</u> ptions <u>P</u> rint	<u>H</u> elp					
SMS C6S4 contro Take Movies wi Set to Interm Image_Rotator Filter Slit Slit_Offset Da Cvf Ba Cvf_Wavelength Us Grating Ba Wavelength Bi Order Se Focus Det_Offset Bl Calibrator Wa T_H_Level Da Effective_Ap AL ASTRONOMICAL conf Setting configura	I system th C654 ediate Configuration 2.779 blank open IJ B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 N1 N2 N3 N4 N5 lens B2+prise OF 0w 0ew 36.9m 36.9w blank pinhole 7.201 1.3-2.5 2.0-3.7 3.7-5.5 000000 40_1pmm 150_1pmm echelle_auto_order echelle safe 2.200258 1 1.967089 0.00000 off 5.0 3.2 2.0 1.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.9 0.10 0.10	n					
FLAT configuration achieved OK							
Set values then h	it PF1 PF2 recalls basic defaults PF4 aborts without act.	ion 🔻					



Observation Prep & Exec - ORAC

- Prerequisite for queue scheduling
- Introduced initially with UFTI
- Backported to CGS4 and IRCAM
- Standard with Michelle, UIST and WFCAM
- Elements: OT, Translator, Sequence console, Exec/Config system



Observation Prep & Exec - ORAC



Ukirtot launch screen

Side benefit: rapid instrument commissioning

Template library (example: polarimetry)





Reduction Pipelines: CGS4DR

(Very) early example of reduction pipeline technology
Almost publication-quality reduced data
Reduction was customizable on the fly
Queue mode, automatic reduction of the incoming stream
Distributed to the user community with Starlink





Reduction Pipelines: ORACDR

Standard issue at UKIRT since UFTI

Almost publication quality results

Useful in classical scheduling; critical prerequisite for flexible scheduling

Data-driven

Recipe/primitive structure

Available for all obs. modes



Observation Management (2003-) The OMP (Observation Management Project) Central databases for observation storage, history, users, communications etc.

"MSBs"



OMP Block Diagram



Summit information flow



Observation Management (2003-)





SCHEDULING

Service Programme Reactive Scheduling Pair Flexing Full Flexible Scheduling



Service Observing

Commenced in 1980s

One of the first such programmes

<3h projects

> 1700 projects

Produces 25% of UKIRT publications

First refereeing experience for many

25 Years of Service Observing at UKIRT (and Counting...)

Chris Davis (UKIRT Senior Support Scientist)

Versatility and opportunity have al- ham (Imperial College, London), down to the engineering detector ways been key pieces of the observ- later reported in an IAU Circular that which turned out to be more stable ing puzzle at UKIRT. This is particu- "the object has been designated as and in some ways better than the larly true with the Service observing both Type I and Type II. The blue H- 'science grade' arrays; the engineerprogramme, which has been in op- K colour [from the UKIRT observa- ing device lasted until it was reeration since the early 1980s.

struments were UKT1 and UKT2. each a single-channel photometer scanner working with a focal-plane chopper. The suite of detectors rapidly expanded (see Table 1 and Figpanel ever having to meet was now a citing observations! possibility. Tim Hawarden, based at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh at the time (though part of the UKIRT Division), suggested extending "IRASserv" to include any fast-turnaround observations. A fully fledged service programme would also allow astronomers to try out ideas before He recalls that "the service night putting in full PATT proposals, and occurred after two array detectors would facilitate synoptic studies that had been damaged and we were required relatively brief observations of slowly-varying objects spread over months or even years. The idea for

20

2009

SPRING

z

KIRT

UKIRTserv was put to the UKIRT Users Committee, and soon after, the Service observing programme was born.

By 1984 the programme was in full swing, and had already been awarded "long-term" status by the UKIRT Panel for the Allocation of Telescope Time (PATT). One of the first service projects undertaken was photometry of a supernova in NGC 991. The PI of the project, J. Gra-

tions] is atypical of Type II but simi- placed by the (current) 256×256 lar to the colours of Type I superno- array in 1995. CGS4 had been put UKIRT was officially opened in Octo- vae". The supernova was later de- on the telescope in the spring of ber, 1979. Two of UKIRT's first in- fined as a peculiar (under-luminous) Type I object.

Right from the start, a wide range of projects were attempted in service mode: from spectroscopic monitorure 1), and it was not long before a ling of Nova Vul between 1 and 4 µm service observing programme was to Jband spectroscopy of the active area proposed. Andy Longmore recalls galaxy NGC 5506 (Figure 2); from suggesting in 1983 (or there abouts) some of the first maps and spectrosa means by which U.K. astronomers copy of molecular hydrogen line could obtain quick follow-up obser- emission in outflows from young vations to discoveries made with the stars (Figure 3), to monitoring of soon-to-be-launched IRAS satellite. "BL Lac type and Quasar-like" Such fast-track data collection might sources; from imaging of edge-on give UK astronomers an edge in the spiral galaxies and galaxies with rapidly-advancing field of infrared cooling flows to spectroscopy of astronomy. With email now linking silicate features in galactic IRAS astronomers across the globe, peer sources. At the time, these were review of proposals without the often ground-breaking and very ex-

> Tom Geballe, staff astronomer at UKIRT from 1981 to 1990 and Head of Operations from 1990 until late 1998, remembers one of the first service nights with CGS4. On June 29, 1991. Tom was the observer.



Baure 1. - A youthful jay Tautaumi tops up the lauld nitrogen & UKT6 at the Cassegrain focus of UKIRT (c. 1982). UKT5 can be seen to its left. (Image courtesy Roya Observatory Edinburgh |

1991, although not a lot of science had been done with it up to that Service Observing, continued on page 21)



- (upper panel) A CCS2 spectrum of Novo Vul 1984 No. 1 (PW Vul) taken in October 1984. This was one of a series of spectra covering 1-4 μm , taken at 2 month interval following the Nova event. At the time, suggestions were sought for the nonk and non-He transitions seen in the spectra. In 1984 a second The transition is set in the specific. In 1964 a second movel & Vulpecula (New Vull984 No. 2)) was also disarrowed in UKIRT service time. (lower painels) A CGS2 spectrum of the active galaxy NGC 5506. Near-IR data were needed to probe the dust-obscured nucleus of this galaxy. These service data, acquired in 1988 as a pilot study for Martin Ward et al., revealed for the first time both narrow and broad components to the Pa-8 line, demonstrating the true nature of this Sevient 1 nucleu. (the Seyfert 1 galaxy NGC 415) was observed for companison)

See article by Chris Davis in the most recent UKIRT newsletter



Service Observing











Reactive Scheduling (1999-2000)

Introduced as a prelude to flexible scheduling

- Aimed at selective completion
- Staff nights set aside in the semester



Reactive Scheduling (1999-2000)

nov1999

Date	Day	Observers	Prog	Inst	SS	TSS	Comment	Moon	UT
1NOV	Mon	Hodgkin,Jameson,Kenyon,Irwin	49*	UFTI	(Adamson)	Wold	-	3rd Q	2-nov
2NOV	Tue		н	н		н	ESA Election Day.	-	3-nov
3NOV	Wed	Dunne	08*	UFTI	Kerr	Davis	-	-	4-nov
4NOV	Thu	n . n	н		(")	н	-	-	5-nov
5NOV	Fri	н н т	н	Ш	(")	н	-	-	6-nov
6NOV	<u>Sat</u>	н н т	н	н	(")	Carroll	ESA Shift	-	7-nov
7NOV	<u>Sun</u>	Dobbie,Kenyon	React	UFTI	Davies	"	Rovr 49,ESA Shift	New	8-nov
8NOV	Mon		н	н	н	н	-	-	9-nov
9NOV	Tue	н	н	н	0	н	Rovr 49 or 08	_	10-nov
10NOV	Wed	Rees :Davies (Lucas)	ENG:42	UFTI	Davies	н	TCS +Service mode	-	11-nov
11NOV	Thu	Davies	Serv:ENG	UFTI:WFS	н	н	Veterans Day	-	12-nov
12NOV	Fri	Davis	ENG	TUFTI+POL	Davis	"	-	-	13-nov
13NOV	<u>Sat</u>	Kerr,Kuhn	ENG	CGS4	Kerr	Wold	CGS4 Checkout	-	14-nov
14NOV	<u>Sun</u>	п	н	н	н	н	-	-	15-nov
15NOV	Mon	Garnavich	H16A	UFTI	u .	н	-	1st Q	16-nov
16NOV	Tue	н	н	н	(")		-	-	17-nov
17NOV	Wed	Dunne	08*	UFTI	(Davies)	н	-	-	18-nov
18NOV	Thu	Geballe	65	CGS4+ech		Kuhn	+Wold, o/r + visit	-	19-nov
19NOV	Fri	Ш	Ш	н	(")	п	-	-	20-nov
20NOV	<u>Sat</u>	Chrysostomou	03*	CGS4+IRPOL	Davis	н	-	-	21-nov
21NOV	<u>Sun</u>	н	н	н	(")	н	-	-	22-nov
22NOV	Mon	Chrysostomou	19	UFTI + IRPOL	(")	н	-	-	23-nov
23NOV	Tue	Davis,Ray	33	CGS4+ech	Davis	Carroll	ESA Shift	Full	24-nov
24NOV	Wed	н н т	н	н	u .	н	-	-	25-nov
25NOV	Thu	1	Ш	н	н	п	Thanksgiving	-	26-nov
26NOV	Fri	Lucas:(Fassia),Geballe	42:16	CGS4(40)+TUFTI	Leggett	н	-	-	27-nov
27NOV	Sat	n - n 	н	CGS4(40)+UFTI	(")	н	-	-	28-nov
28NOV	Sun	n - n 	н		(")	н	-	-	29-nov
29NOV	Mon	н н ,	н	н	(")	Wold	-	-	30-nov
30NOV	Tue	Garnavich, Marx	H16A	UFTI	Kerr	н	-	3rd Q	1-dec



Pair Flexing (2001-2002)

An experiment in both scheduling and social engineering

Could observers do each other's projects and/or stand aside while at the summit?

Answer: yes, UKIRT observers could do it



Pair Flexing (2001-2002)

aug2000

Date	Day	Observers	Prog	Inst	ss	TSS	Comment	Moon	UT
1AUG	Tue	Kerr,Hirst	CGS4 ENG	CGS4	Kerr	Wold	Need to Chec	New	2-aug
2AUG	Wed	Kerr,Hirst	CGS4 ENG	CGS4	Kerr	н	before ORAC	-	3-aug
3AUG	Thu	Kerr,Hirst,Davis	ORAC ENG	UFTI,CGS4,FP,POL	Economou	н	Edge proj?	-	4-aug
4AUG	Fri	Kerr,Hirst,Davis,Leggett	ORAC ENG	UFTI,CGS4,FP,POL	Economou	Varricatt	Edge proj?	-	5-aug
5AUG	Sat	Kuhn	H29B	IRCAM+POL	Leggett		-	-	6-aug
6AUG	Sun	Kuhn	H29B	IRCAM+POL	(")		-	-	7-aug
7AUG	Mon	Staff	QA	WFS,UFTI	Adamson	"	-	1st Q	8-aug
8AUG	Tue	Hirst,Davis,Economou	ORAC ENG	UFTI,CGS4,FP,POL	Davis	н	-	-	9-aug
9AUG	VVed	Crawford,Fabian,Gandhi	20 F +	UFTI	Hirst	Carroll	Flex 62 for	-	10-aug
10AUG	Thu	Crawford,Fabian,Gandhi	20 F	UFTI	(")	н	Flex 62 for	-	11-aug
11AUG	Fri	Levine,Lada,Elston	62 F	UFTI	(")		Flex 62 for	-	12-aug
12AUG	<u>Sat</u>	Levine,Lada,Elston	62 F	UFTI	(")		Flex 62 for	-	13-aug
13AUG	<u>Sun</u>	Clark,Steele:staff	51 F :Serv	CGS4+150:UFTI	Kerr		Flex 60 for	-	14-aug
14AUG	Mon	Clark,Steele:Jones,Ellis,Fairly	51 F :26	CGS4+150:UFTI	(Kerr):Hirst	Wold	Flex 60 for	-	15-aug
15AUG	Tue	Clark,Steele:Jones,Ellis,Fairly	51 F :26	CGS4+150:UFTI	(") :Hirst	0	Flex 60 for	Full	16-aug
16AUG	Wed	Rawlings,Adamson:Staff	60 F :DDT +	CGS4+40+UFTI+IRCA	Adamson:Adamson	"	Flex 60 for	-	17-aug
17AUG	Thu	Rawlings,Adamson:Staff	60 F :DDT	CGS4+40+UFTI+IRCA	(") :Adamson	"	Flex 60 for	-	18-aug
18AUG	Fri	Rawlings,Adamson:Staff	60 F :DDT	CGS4+40+UFTI+IRCA	(') :TBD	"	Flex 60 Admi	-	19-aug
19AUG	Sat	Rawlings,Adamson:Staff	60 F :DDT	CGS4+40+UFTI+IRCA	("):TBD	Kuhn	Flex 60 for	-	20-aug
20AUG	<u>Sun</u>	(Eyres),Geballe:Staff	LT46:Serv	CGS4+UFTI	Hirst	н	-	-	21-aug
21AUG	Mon	Staff	Serv +	CGS4+UFTI+IRCAM	Hirst	н	-	-	22-aug
22AUG	Tue	Bunker,Warren	25	CGS4+150	Kerr		-	3rd Q	23-aug
23AUG	Wed	TRISPEC Team	TRISPEC ENG	TRISPEC	Davis	"	-	-	24-aug
24AUG	Thu	Yamazaki,Sato,TRISPEC group,Hou	44	TRISPEC+IRPOL	(")	Carroll	-	-	25-aug
25AUG	Fri	Chrysostomou, Hough,Gledhill,M	23	TRISPEC+IRPOL	(")		-	-	26-aug
26AUG	Sat	Chrysostomou, Hough,Gledhill,M	23	TRISPEC+IRPOL	(")		-	-	27-aug
27AUG	Sun	Harries,Cropper:Jameson,Dobbie	22:54	TRISPEC+IRPOL	Davis	0	-	-	28-aug
28AUG	Mon	Harries,Cropper:Jameson,Dobbie	22:54	TRISPEC	(")		-	-	29-aug
29AUG	Tue	Harries,Cropper:Jameson,Dobbie	22:54	TRISPEC	(")	Wold	-	New	30-aug
30AUG	Wed	Harries,Cropper:Jameson,Dobbie	22:54	TRISPEC	(")		-	-	31-aug
31AUG	Thu	Kuhn	H29B	IRCAM+POL	Hawarden	н	-	-	1-sep



Flexible Scheduling (2003-)

Unique points:

- Visiting observers do all the observing
- Flexibility in submission and alteration
- Allows for significant involvement on the part of PIs through the semester

Prerequisites:

- DR pipeline for immediate feedback on data quality
- Distributed preparation tools
- Observation database



Flexible Scheduling (2003-)

jan2009

Date	Day	Observers	Prog	Inst	SS	TSS	Comment	Moon	UT
1-Jan	Thu	(Burningham)	(15)	uf	(wpv)	Ehle	New Year's Day em	-	2-jan
2-Jan	Fri	Ш	Ш	н.			-	-	3-jan
3-Jan	<u>Sat</u>	Ш		н.			-	1st Q	4-jan
4-Jan	<u>Sun</u>	II.				Wold	-	-	5-jan
5-Jan	Mon	staff	QA	c/uf/ui	cjd	Ш	em	-	6-jan
6-Jan	Tue	staff	eng	н	cjd	ш	em	-	7-jan
7-Jan	Wed	staff	serv	н	cjd	Ш	-	-	8-jan
8-Jan	Thu	Smith,Pathak,Kerr	22	ui	thk	Carroll	-	-	9-jan
9-Jan	Fri	"	"		thk	Ш	em	full	10-jan
10-Jan	<u>Sat</u>	"	"	"	thk		em	-	11-jan
11-Jan	<u>Sun</u>	u	н	c/uf/ui			-	-	12-jan
12-Jan	Mon	Yang	h65	ui	lr	"	-	-	13-jan
13-Jan	Tue	u .	"	"		Ehle	-	-	14-jan
14-Jan	Wed	Aoki	j4	"	aja	"	em	-	15-jan
15-Jan	Thu	Cirasuolo,Pearce	12	uf	thk	Ш	em	-	16-jan
16-Jan	Fri	"	"	"		Ш	-	-	17-jan
17-Jan	<u>Sat</u>	"	"	"		Ш	-	3rd Q	18-jan
18-Jan	<u>Sun</u>	Ш	н	н		Wold	-	-	19-jan
19-Jan	Mon	н	н	н			MLK Day em	-	20-jan
20-Jan	Tue	Oi	j9	c/uf/ui	aja	"	em	-	21-jan
21-Jan	Wed	Simeonidis,Oates	32	u .	aja	Ш	-	-	22-jan
22-Jan	Thu	"	"	"		Carroll	-	-	23-jan
23-Jan	Fri	"	ш	"	"	"	em	-	24-jan
24-Jan	<u>Sat</u>	"	н	"	"	"	em	-	25-jan
25-Jan	<u>Sun</u>	staff	q/serv	c/uf/ui	cjd	"	-	new	26-jan
26-Jan	Mon	Closed (start of 09A)					WFCAM on		27-jan
27-Jan	Tue	Closed	-	-	-	-	-	-	28-jan
28-Jan	Wed	staff	eng	wfcam	thk	Ehle	-	-	29-jan
29-Jan	Thu	staff	eng	"	thk	n	07b20	-	30-jan
30-Jan	Fri	staff	QA	"	aja jk?	"	-	-	31-jan
31-Jan	Sat	staff	ukidss	"	aja jk?	"	-	-	1-feb



Flexible Scheduling (2003-)

The final Cassegrain night...

U/08B/32: Characterising the ionised winds in X-ray absorbed QSOs – UIST spec U/08B/15: Follow-up of late T and Y dwarf candidates from UKIDSS – UFTI im U/08B/24: H3+ in translucent cloud sight lines – CGS4 ech U/SERV/1624: Infrared observations of nova V445 Puppis - UIST im U/SERV/1810: Atmospheric structure of pulsating carbon stars – UIST spec U/SERV/1811: Photometry of a young embedded cluster – UFTI,UIST im





Fully automated GRB overrides



Recent result: z=8.2 GRB (Tanvir et al.)

Next: Neutrino triggering



Current UKIRT Science Mix

UKIDSS Sky Survey (flexed) UH, Japan, Korea PI projects (mostly classical) Campaigns (mix of semi-classical, reactive, overrides) Open Time (flexed within defined schedule blocks) Service Programme (flexed within defined schedule blocks) Monitoring projects (UH, UKIDSS followup)





In Conclusion



<u>http://outreach.jach.hawaii.edu/</u> ...and look for "The center of our milky way"



Caveats

A significant fraction of the development work referred to here was carried out outside the JAC.

The JCMT can also lay legitimate claim to some of the innovations described here.

Developments at UKIRT have often paralleled those elsewhere.

Preaching to the converted...



Evolution

ukirt_prep

ORAC

• OMP

Classical Schedule

Classical + Service

Selective Reactive Schedule

Selective Pair Flexing

Full Flexible Schedule

