CDO CUC Report: Overview

CDO Composition:

2 IT Specialists: Tara Gokas, Evan Tingle

4 Scientists: Thomas Connor, Amruta Jaodand,
Rodolfo “Rudy” Montez Jr. (Coordinator), Pat Slane (Director)

Agenda:

- Highlights of CDO Activities
- Cycle 28 Status and Statistics
- Distributed Peer Review Survey Results
- Chandra Cool Targets Call for White Papers
- Plans for Cycle 29
- Summary of Chandra’s Dynamic Universe

Highlights of CDO Activities

- **AAS and HEAD Meetings**
  - Organized and supported the booth at Summer AAS in Pasadena
    - Hosted a Chandra-focused Special Session
  - Planning booth for the Winter AAS Meeting in Salt Lake City
- **Completed the Cycle 28 Peer Review**
  - Statistics and DPR Survey Later
- **Recent and Upcoming Calls**
  - **Chandra Cool Targets** Call for White Papers
  - **Cycle 29** Call for Proposals
- **Meetings Hosted by the CXC/CDO**
  - **Chandra's Dynamic Universe** science workshop **(August 2026)**
  - **NASA Hubble Fellowship Program** symposium **(October 2026)**

Cycle 28: Schedule

- **Timeline**
  - 18 December 2025 - Call for Proposal and POG Release
  - 18 March 2026 - Deadline for Proposals
  - 30 March - 20 May 2026 - Distributed Review
  - 22-26 June 2026 - Peer Review Meetings (TOO and Big Project Panels)

Cycle 28: Statistics

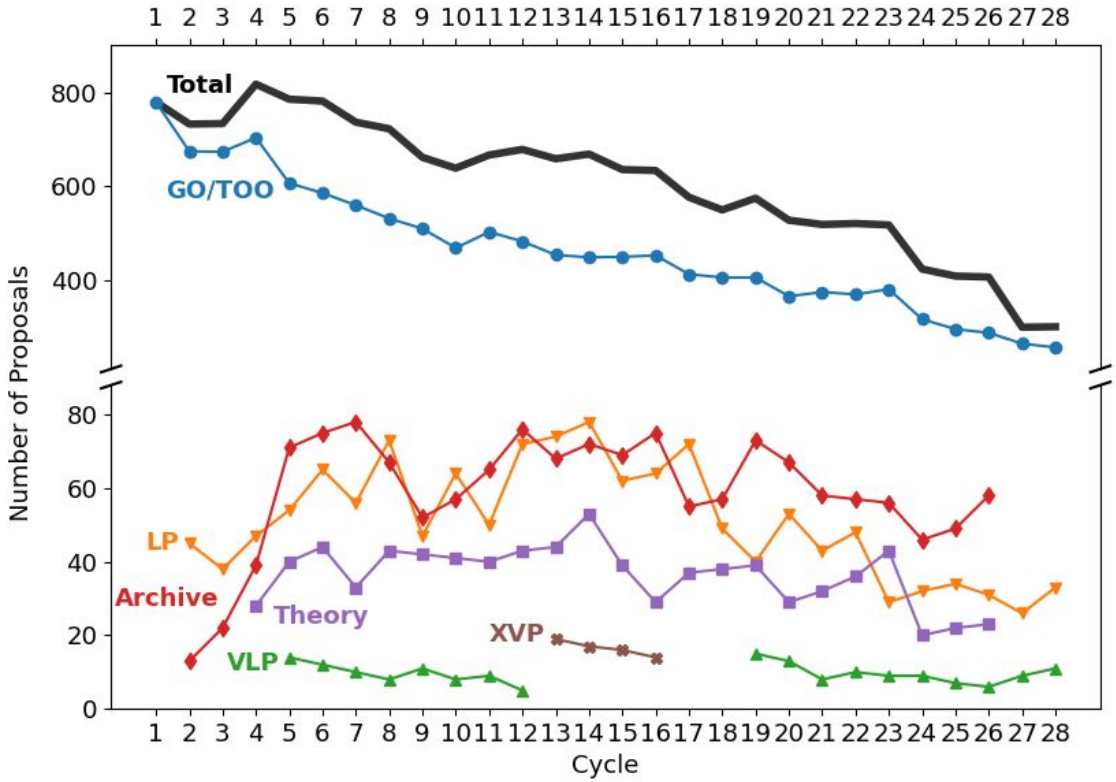
- **Statistics**
  - Slight decrease in GO (largely driven by decrease in TOO).
  - Increase in LP.
  - Slight increase in VLP.

	Cycle 27	**Cycle 28**
Total	299	**300**
GO (w/ TOO)	208 (264)	**202 (255)**
LP	25 (26)	**32 (33)**
VLP	9	**11**
Archive	0*	**0***
Theory	0*	**0***

* not solicited in this call.

Cycle 28: Statistics

- **Statistics**
  - Slight decrease in GO (largely driven by decrease in TOO).
  - Increase in LP.
  - Slight increase in VLP.



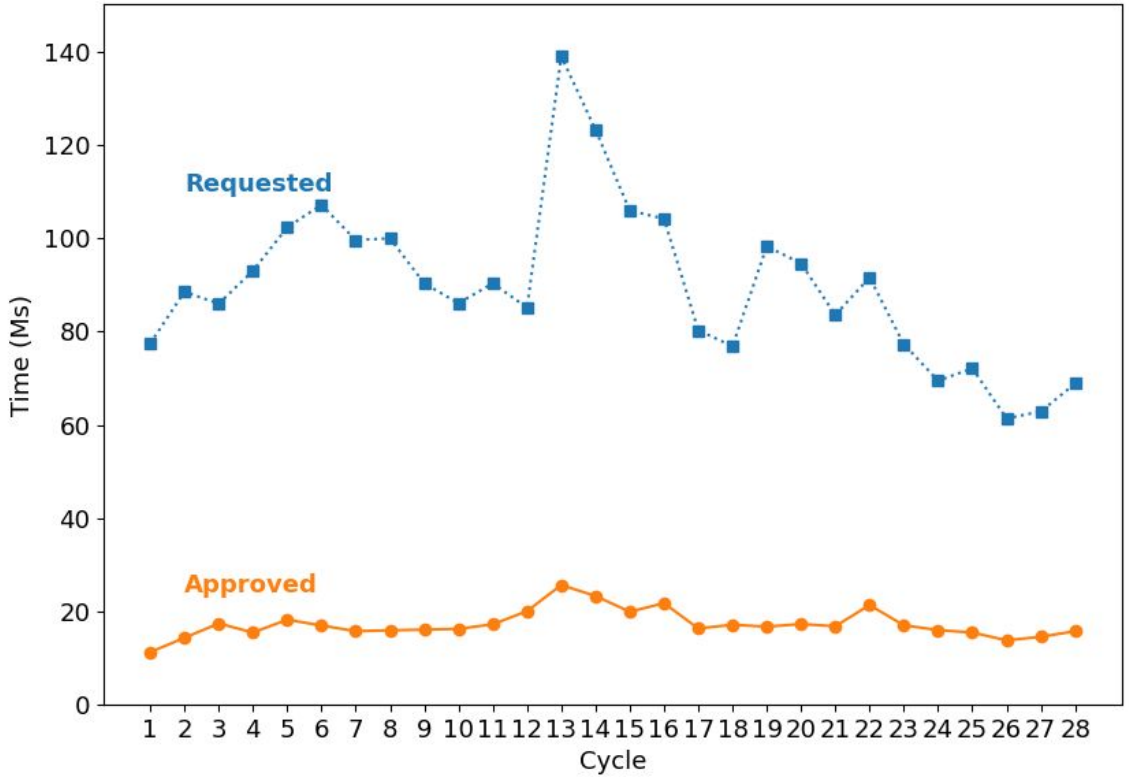
Cycle 28: Oversubscription

Oversubscription by Time

- **Overall: 4.8**

  (Time Available: 14.4 Ms,

  Time Requested: 68.8 Ms)

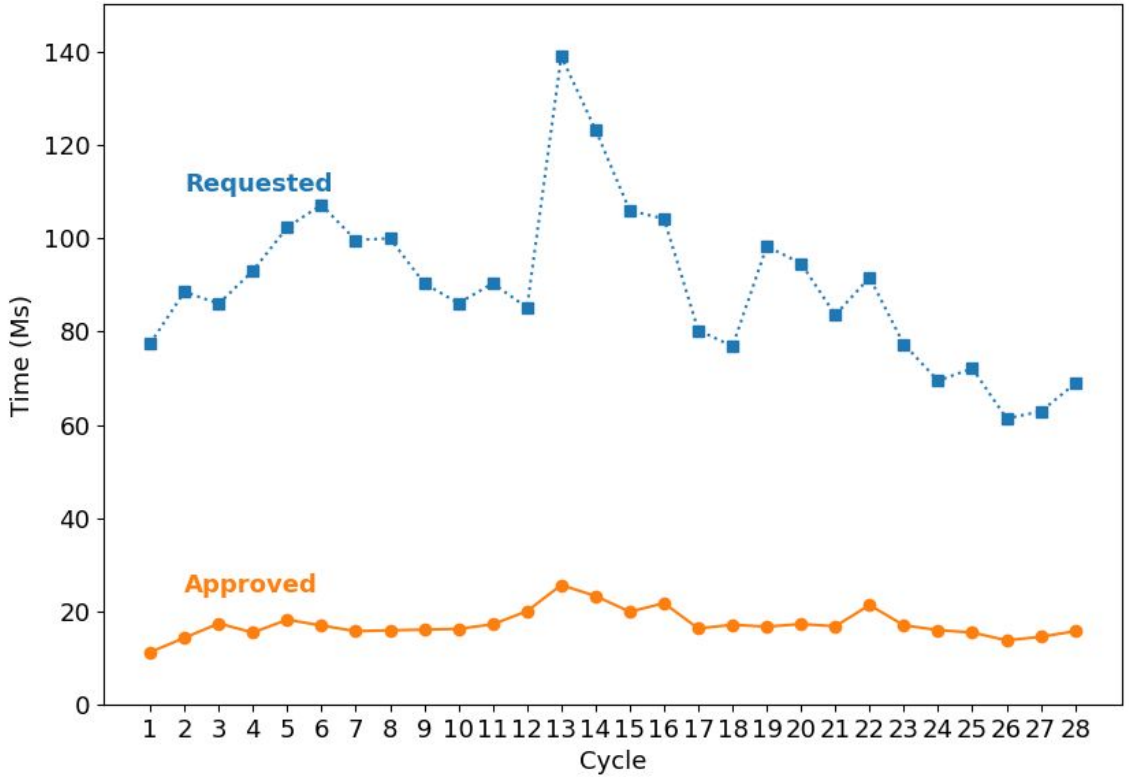


Cycle 28: Oversubscription

Oversubscription by Time

- **Overall: ~~4.8~~ 4.3** 16.0*
  (Time Available: ~~14.4~~ Ms,
  Time Requested: 68.8 Ms)

* After Returned
Time from JPOs



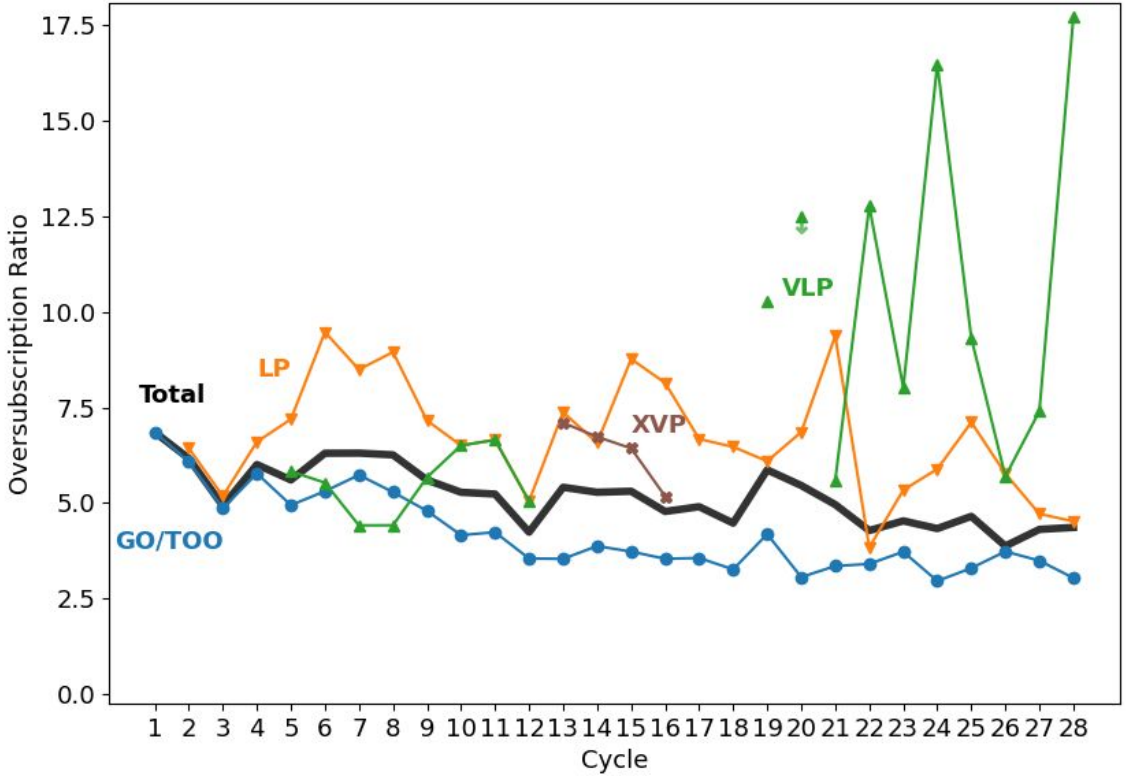
Cycle 28: Oversubscription

Oversubscription by Time

- **Overall: 4.3**

  (Time Available: 16.0 Ms,

  Time Requested: 68.8 Ms)
- **GO/TOO**: 3.0
- **LP**: 4.5
- **VLP**: 17.7



Cycle 28: Big Projects and Resources

- 4 Ms to Big Project Panel with at least 1 Ms awarded to Very Large Project(s).
  - **Large Programs (4.1 Ms):**
    - The most massive binary star in the Milky Way: WR20a (PI: Guenther, 0.5 Ms)
    - The Sharpest X-ray View of Interstellar Dust (PI: Rogantini, 0.59 Ms)
    - The Transonic Pulsar Wind Nebula of PSR B1951+32 in CTB 80 (PI: Klingler, 0.42 Ms)
    - Picking Blueberries in Our Own Backyard: Establishing the X-ray Binary Contribution in Reionization Era Analogs (PI: Su, 0.44 Ms)
    - Caught in the act: A Deep HRC-I Campaign to Capture the Dynamical M87 Jet (PI: Schellenberger, 0.75 Ms)
    - The stability of the largest radio bubble in a cluster core (PI: Russell, 0.54 Ms)
    - Why Is AGN Feedback Behaving Differently in Clusters at z~1? (PI: McDonald, 0.81 Ms)
    - Community Discovery Program: panchromatic CXO/VLA/HST observations of NS mergers (PI: Xray, 0.47 Ms)
  - **Very Large Programs (1 Ms):**
    - Looking Long and Hard at the Prototypical Seyfert 2: A Chandra Legacy (PI: Maksym, 1Ms)

Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Changed to a Distributed Peer Review (DPR) model for all proposals submitted to the CfP with proposals for TOO, Large Programs, and Very Large Programs also going thru a review by traditional panels informed by the DPR.

Key Elements:

- No more than 16 review assignments per reviewer.
- Quick turn around from proposal deadline to reviewer assignments.
- Two-phase review for adjusting scores and reports based on other reviews.

Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Survey sent to all 232 Designated Reviewers, currently accepting responses until Nov 20th, 71 responses as of Nov 2nd.

Questions ranged on preparedness, amount of time made available for the review, and general sentiments on various aspects of the review.

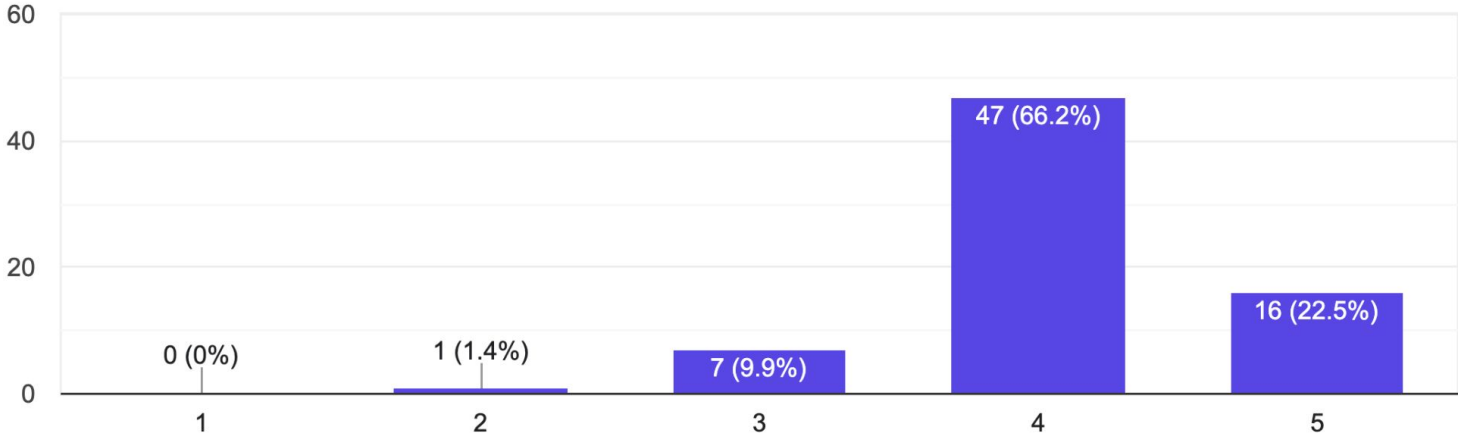
Current sentiment is that the execution of the review is good.

Responses suggest reviewers have mixed sentiments on distributed review.

Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

How well did your assigned proposals match your experience and interests?

71 responses



I felt unqualified to review most of the proposals.

All of the assigned proposals matched my experience and I was confident in my ability to review.

Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Did other reviewers' feedback have an impact on how you reviewed proposals in Round 2?

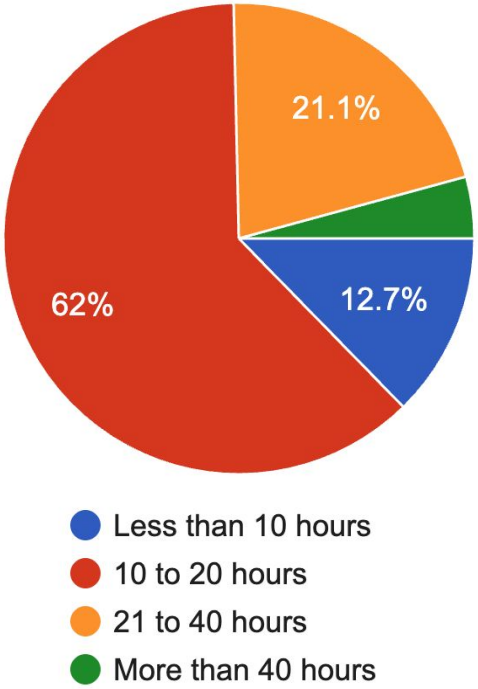
71 responses



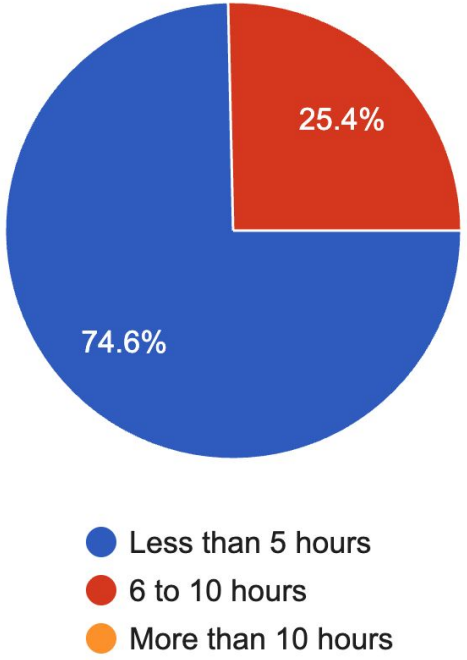
Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

How much active time spent completing actions for a given round?

Round 1



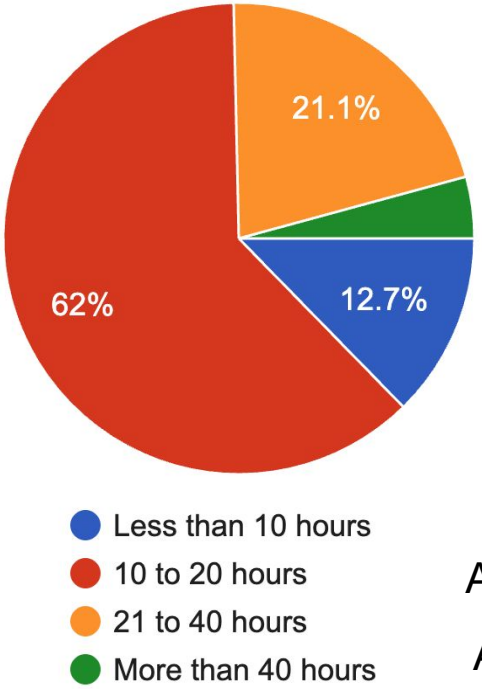
Round 2



Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

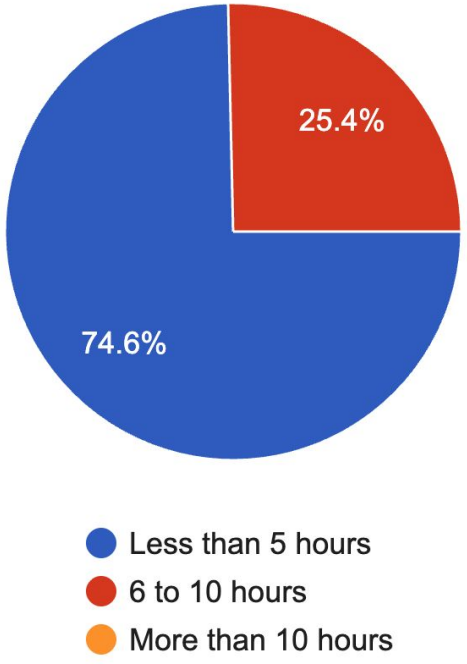
How much active time spent completing actions for a given round?

Round 1



Majority (75-85%) Responded that Amount of Time Made Available is Sufficient

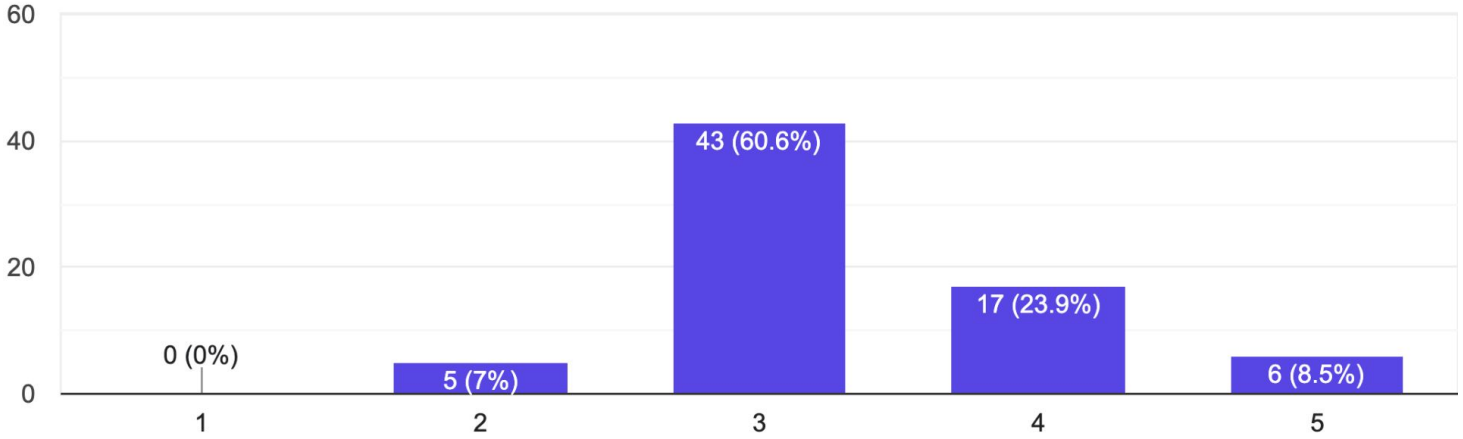
Round 2



Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

What is your sentiment on the amount of time and effort you had to spend on the review.

71 responses



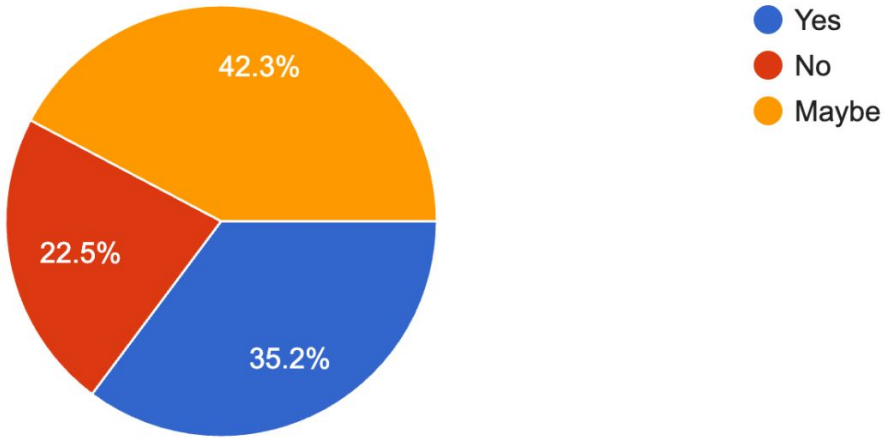
The amount of time spent was minimal.

I spent too much time on the review

Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Would you recommend that the CXC continue to incorporate distributed peer reviews of proposals in future cycles?

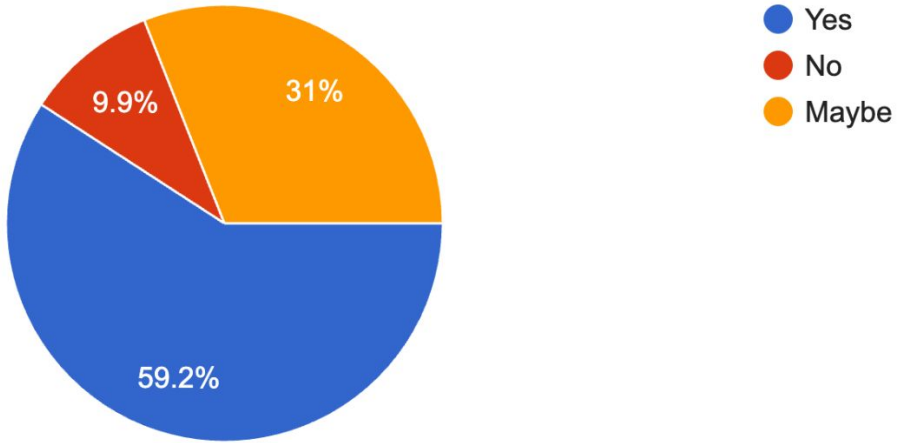
71 responses



Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Would you volunteer to be a Designated Reviewer again for a proposing team in a future cycle?

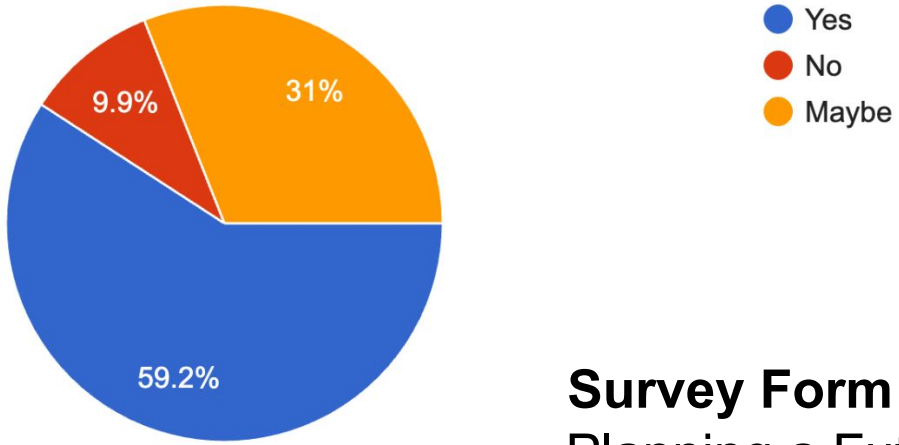
71 responses



Cycle 28: Distributed Peer Review

Would you volunteer to be a Designated Reviewer again for a proposing team in a future cycle?

71 responses



Survey Form is open till Nov 20th

Planning a Future Newsletter Article on Full Survey Results

Chandra Cool Targets

- While used only sparingly, Chandra Cool Targets (CCTs) are intended to produce scientifically useful data while the observatory is cooling (i.e., so the observatory will never be pointed at blank sky to cool off).
  - Last call was in October 2018.
  - The most helpful targets (based on maintaining efficiency) are limited.
  - New preference for observational configuration (shorter exposures and increased sky coverage) warranted a new call.
  - White Papers require at least 200 potential sources.

Chandra Cool Targets

- Call for White Papers released September 1st, 2026 with a deadline of October 23rd, 2026: https://cxc.harvard.edu/proposer/CCTs.html
- 19 White Papers Received (PIs from 12 unique world-wide institutions)
  - Over 32,000 potential sources provided (20,000-40,000 targets desired).
  - Broadly-defined categories:
    - 8 in *The Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies*
    - 11 in *Extra-Extragalactic*.
  - Review planning is underway.

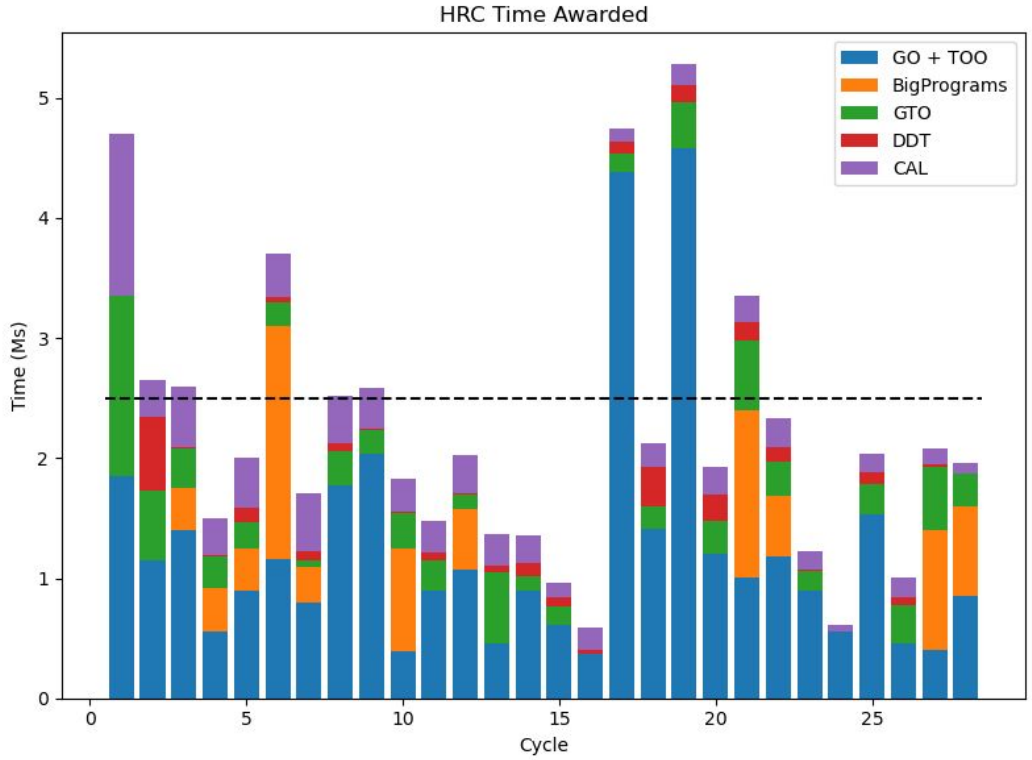
Cycle 29: Planning & Schedule

- Continue with Distributed Peer Review and TOO/BPP Panels.
  - Improved instructions for reviewers (both for scoring and report writing).
- Continue with ~4 Ms to Big Project Panel with at least 1 Ms awarded to Very Large Project(s).
- Putting a limit on the amount of HRC-S time accepted (2.5 Ms) to clear backlog.
- New Joint Partner Observatories!
- Timeline:
  - 17 December 2026 - Call for Proposal and POG Release
  - 17 March 2027 - Deadline for Proposals
  - April - May 2027 - Distributed Review
  - 14-17 June 2026 - Peer Review Meetings (TOO and Big Project Panels)

Cycle 29: Planning & Schedule

- Putting a limit on the amount of HRC time accepted (2.5 Ms) to clear backlog.
  - Planning limit has a maximum of 60 ks per week (can go more some weeks at risk of increased CCT time)

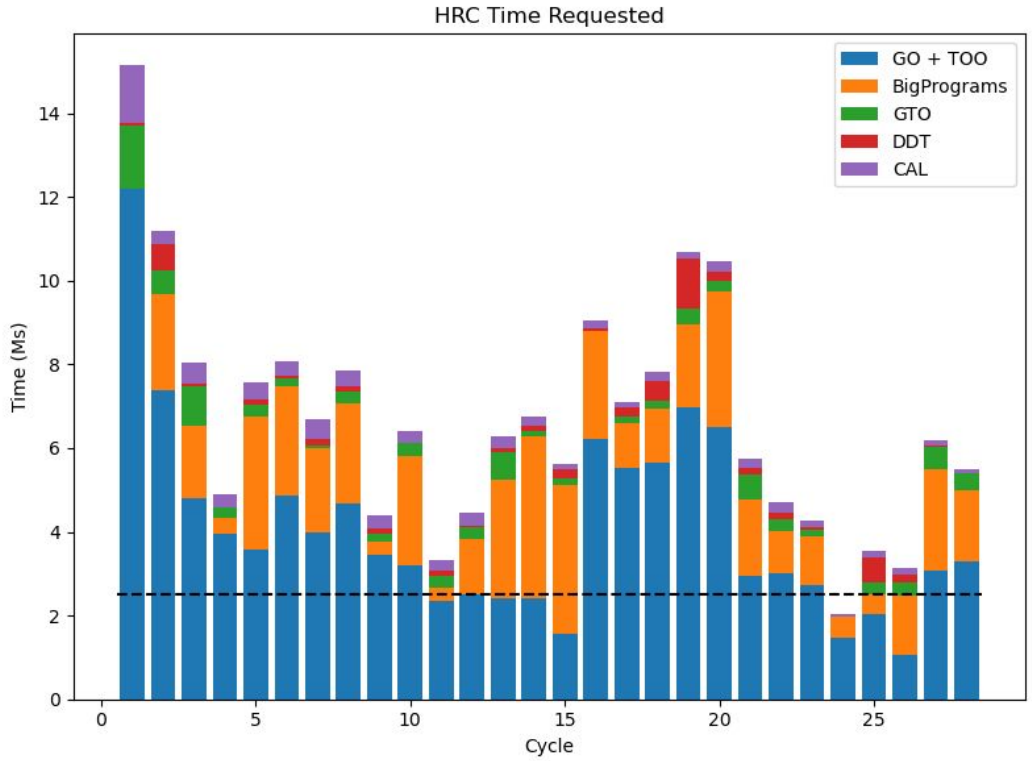
    ⇒ 3.1 Ms per Cycle
  - Last two cycles (pauses in observations): 4.0 Ms



Cycle 29: Planning & Schedule

- Putting a limit on the amount of HRC time accepted (2.5 Ms) to clear backlog.
  - Planning limit has a maximum of 60 ks per week (can go more some weeks at risk of increased CCT time)

    ⇒ 3.1 Ms per Cycle
  - Last two cycles (pauses in observations): 4.0 Ms



Cycle 29: Planning & Schedule

- New Joint Partner Observatories (JPOs)!
  - **NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF)** based in Hawaii
    - Proposers can request up to 48 hours (24 hours per semester; including classic, time critical, or TOO programs).
    - 5 instruments available this cycle: SpeX, MORIS, iSHELL, ‘Opihi (optical finder scope]), and MIRSI/MOC
  - **NASA Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)**
    - Proposers can request up to 500 ks.
    - IXPE proposers can request up to 200 ks of Chandra time, including one slow trigger (20-40 day response time).
  - **X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM)**
    - Proposers can request up to 200 ks.
    - XRISM proposers can request up to 200 ks of Chandra time, including one slow trigger (20-40 day response time).

Summary of Chandra's Dynamic Universe





Science workshop held August 18-20 on all things Chandra + time-domain.

- 75 + additional unregistered CfA/CXC attendees (talks only)
- 13 invited reviews, over 30 contributed talks, 4 panelists and several lightning talks

Summary of Chandra's Dynamic Universe

Workshop Discussion and Takeaways

- Updating "Conventional Wisdom"
- Community TOO Program
- Interfacing with ACROSS
- Automated Serendipitous TOO Detection



A summary of potential action items/takeaways from the discussions held throughout the meeting is in development by CXC members: Amruta Jaodand, Malgosia Sobolewska, and Jack Steiner

