Welcome to [CHIRON]!

The CHIRON Queue is managed through our Scheduling Site (CSS): chiron.astro.yale.edu. If you have purchased or been allocated time for the 2015A semester, which runs from February 1st through July 31st, 2015, you will be able to upload your target requests and download your data from this site.

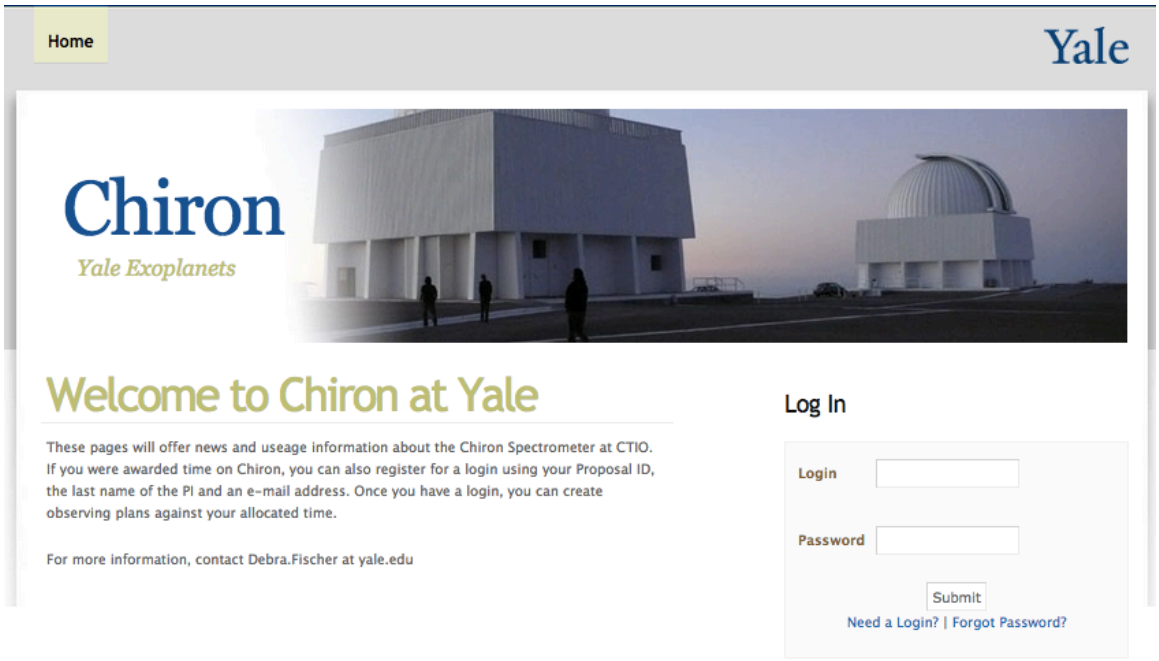

Figure 1

LOGGING IN

If you have used CHIRON in a previous semester, you may use the same login and password as you've used before. If you have forgotten your password, you may update it using the "Forgot Password?" link in the credentials field of the site's homepage (See Figure 1).

If this is your first time using CHIRON, you will need to request a password using the "Need a Login?" link in the credentials field (See also Figure 1). Three pieces of information are needed, and they have been provided to you in your Welcome email: PI Last Name, Email Address, and Proposal ID. IDs may be accessed on our current SMARTS schedule, found here: astro.yale.edu/smarts/telescopes.htm.

UPLOADING YOUR TARGET REQUESTS

After logging into your CSS account for the first time, you will be sent directly to your "Edit Plan" page (See Figure 2). If you would like to create additional plans, click the "Schedule" link in the top navigation bar (See also Figure 2). On the "Schedule" page, you will be able to click the "(+)add plan" link to create and name new plans.

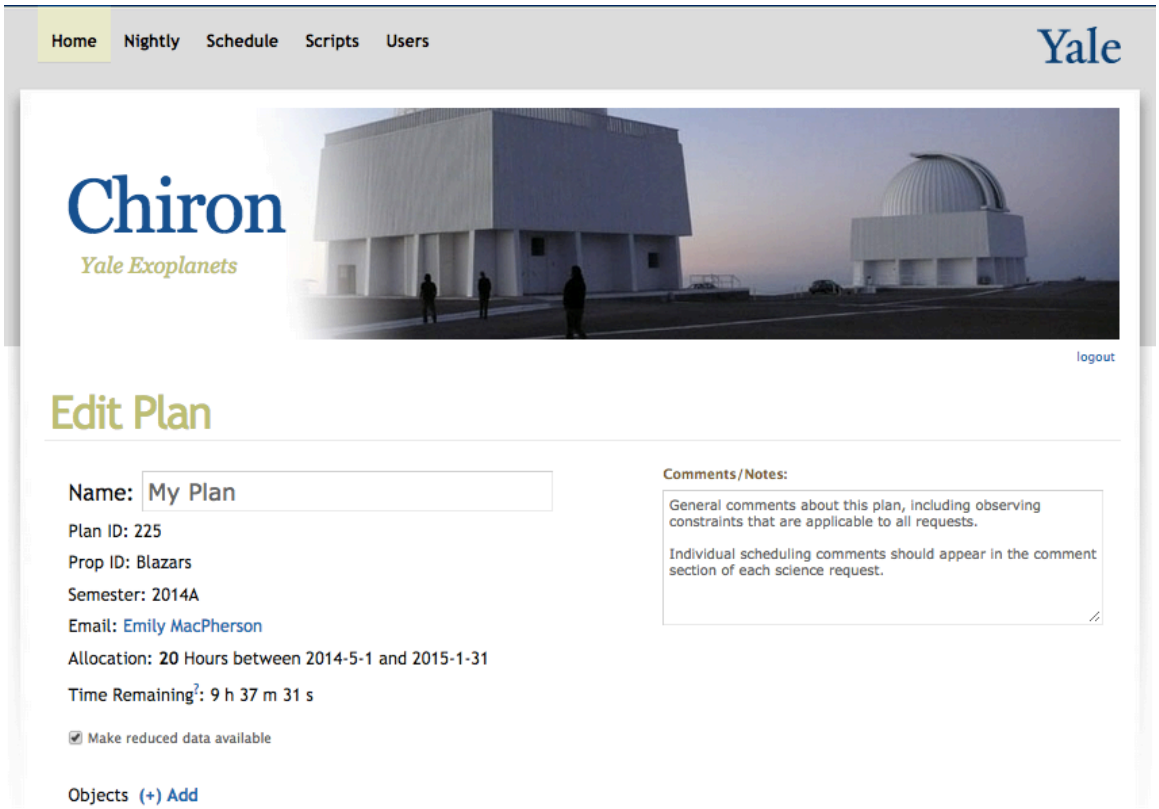

Figure 2

WHAT IS A PLAN?

A plan is meant to help you organize your observing requests, and may be useful to help you organize your data, as each unique plan ID will be written to the corresponding data headers. You are more than welcome to enter all requests into one single plan, but the option exists so that you may separate targets, strategies and/or observing constraints, if necessary.

ADDING TARGET REQUESTS ("OBJECTS")

To add objects to your plan, start on the "Edit Plan" page and click the "Objects (+) Add" link to bring up the "ADD New Object" pop-up window (See Figure 3).

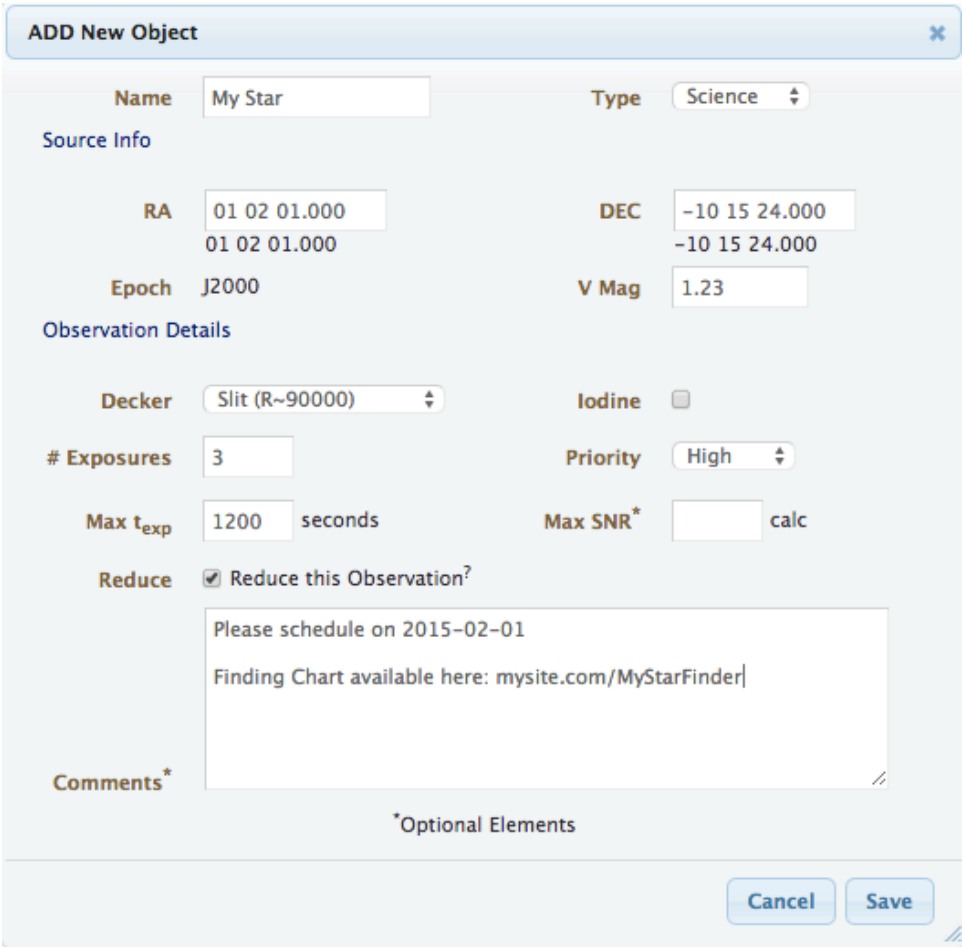

Figure 3

Enter the information pertaining to this specific request:
-Target Name: Using accurate star names or identifiers is encouraged, but not required.
-Type: Science, Standard, Dark, ThAr, Quartz or Iodine
-RA & DEC: J2000 epoch coordinates (stored as hexadecimal, please ignore slight rounding errors – these errors are much smaller than the pointing accuracy of the telescope. If in doubt, providing finding charts for objects is appreciated and encouraged.)
-V magnitude
-Decker: Fiber (R~28000), Slicer (R~80000), Slit (R~90000) or Narrow Slit (R~120000)
-Iodine Cell: In or Out (In if checked)
-# Exposures: Number of duplicate spectra acquired in immediate succession
-Priority: A metric based on other target requests within your plan. In a bind, we will choose targets from your plan based on the priority with respect to your other requests.
-Max t(exp): Maximum exposure time (required) is equal to total exposure time per spectra as long as a Max SNR has not been set

-Max SNR: Maximum Signal to Noise Ratio (optional). If set, the exposure will stop integrating when the Maximum SNR is reached **OR** the Maximum exposure time is reached, whichever comes first
-Reduce: Request automatic pipeline reduction alongside raw data
-Comments: If you need to specify a desired cadence, date constraints or other scheduling information. This is the only comment field that is visible to the Queue Scheduler during the daily scheduling process. The default observing strategy is to schedule all of your targets over many nights in order to reduce the impact of time lost due to bad weather or mechanical problems. If your constraints differ, please enter them here. General scheduling information for your entire plan should appear within the Plan Comments/Notes section.
Examples of Object Comments: "Please observe on 2015-02-15", "To be observed 7 – 14 days after last visit", "Mid-March – April, minimum 4 days between visits", "April 4 – 10", "Secondary Standard, please observe on the same night as _____", etc.

Once you have saved the request, the pop-up box remains active so that you may save multiple times for additional requests. You may also change the type and attach other items to your science requests (See Figure 4, See also STANDARDS & CALIBRATIONS below). If you are finished, please press cancel to close the window.

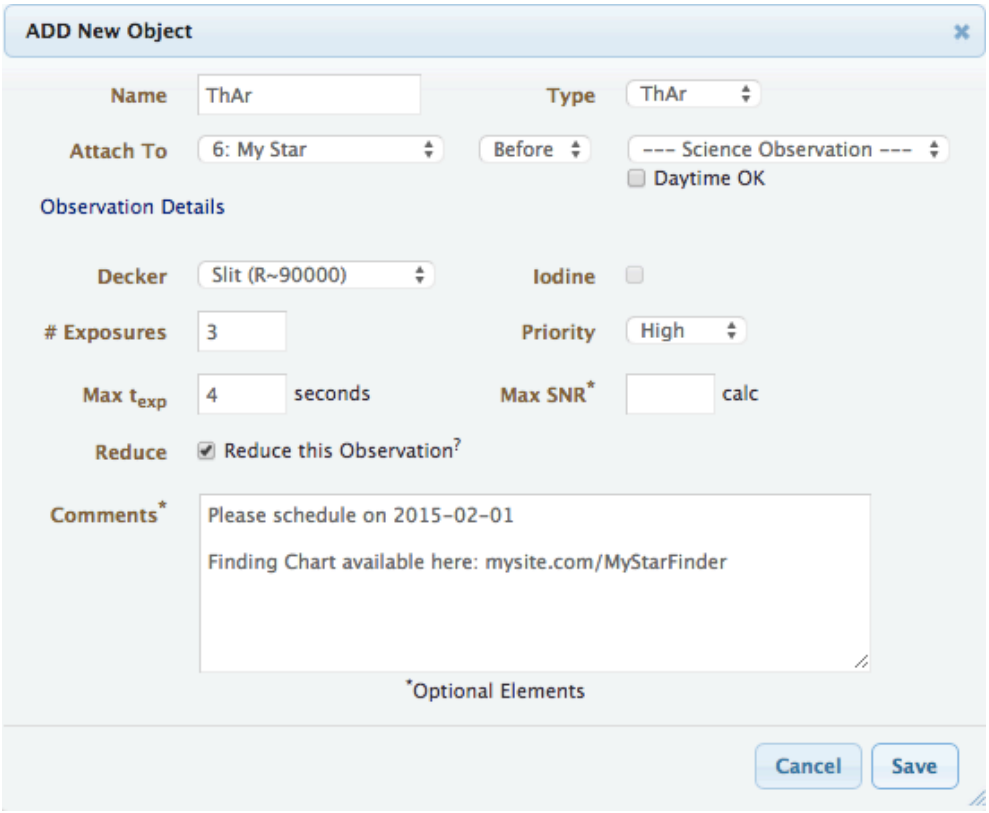

Figure 4

STANDARDS & CALIBRATIONS

Daytime calibrations are acquired twice each day: a set is taken each afternoon before observations begin and each morning after observations are through, consisting of:
1 ThAr exposure per decker for wavelength calibration
1 Iodine exposure per decker for radial velocity measurements
10 Quartz exposures per decker for flat fielding
9 Bias frames in the 4x4 binning mode with normal readout speed (fiber mode)
9 Bias frames in the 3x1 binning mode with normal readout speed (other 3 modes)
Dark frames

If you need additional daytime calibrations, please let us know; these will not be charged to your time allocation. However, if you require additional calibration frames during dark time (i.e., alongside your science requests), these will be charged to your account. Historically, there was an option for "Daytime OK?" once a calibration was entered into your plan page. If the calibration is OK for Daytime, please don't add it to your plan, as it will automatically deduct the time from your account. Instead, send us an email about this.

Once a science request object has been created, you may then link a standard star, ThAr, or other calibration to your science target; you will be able to choose whether this calibration is preformed before or after the science request. Only science observations are listed in the "Attach To" menu, so if you would like a ThAr to be taken before a standard star observation, you must first attach the standard star request to the science observation, then create a ThAr object and attach it to the science observation. Note: ThAr exposures are auto-set to the optimal exposure time base on each of the four decker modes.

Note on comment fields and multi-object requests: If you have a sophisticated request consisting of multiple calibrations or standard star line items, the dialog box will copy your science comment into each additional comment field by default. You may leave this as is or update it, but please keep in mind that only the comment section of the science request will be visible to the Queue Scheduler during the daily scheduling process. All of the comment fields within the request will be available to the Observer during the night, including comments on attached calibrations and standard stars.

OBJECT STATUS AND DATA RETREIVAL

Once the semester has commenced, you will start to see flags appear in the right-most column of your target requests. If you mouse over these flags, additional information about these flags as it pertains to your request will be available. For example:
-R: You requested pipeline reduction for these data
-S: Your request has been scheduled; if you mouse over the S, the scheduled date will appear
-K: Your request was scheduled and skipped; a reason for skipping may accompany this flag upon mouse-over
-W: Your request was scheduled and was not observed due to weather conditions; details may be available upon mouse-over
-E: Your request was scheduled and was not observed due to technical problems; details may be available upon mouse-over
-O: Your request was scheduled and observed; mouse over for date of observation
-O (u): Your request was scheduled and observed; but part of the multi-item request was either not completed, or not completed on the first try and subsequently completed
-Download Icon: A shortcut to the link provided at the bottom of the page in your "Downloads" section, you may also scroll down. These links appear only after data has been reduced for a particular night, even if you have not opted to receive reduced data. Therefore, it is normal to see the O flag present without an accompanying Download icon or link. Especially over weekends and holiday breaks.

QUEUE MANAGEMENT TEAM @ Yale

For day-to-day communications regarding your allocation, observing strategies, and/or data, please contact the SMARTS Data & Queue Managers:

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The SMARTS office is open from Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm EST unless otherwise specified. The SMARTS office is closed when other business offices at Yale University are closed, including holiday and recess days.