Observing with SOAR

Time in La Serena: [1]

OBSERVING MODES AT THE SOAR TELESCOPE
SOAR offers both classical (on-site) observing [2] (SOAR Control Room, right), and remote observing [3] (MSU Remote Observing Room, far right) for experienced users.
In this section you will find the tools you need for preparing your science proposal and then carrying out your program.

**Tracking at Non-Sidereal Rates with SOAR**
The SOAR telescope has the ability to track at non-sidereal rates, ideal for observing fast-moving Solar System targets. The maximum non-sidereal rates at which the telescope can track are determined by low-level software. **The maximum rate in declination is ±2700 arcsec/hour and the maximum rate in right ascension is ±180 seconds of RA/hour.** This specification for the RA rate limit means that the *maximum RA rate in seconds of arc/hour on the sky is 2700*cos(declination).* **Note** - at present, the guiders do not support non-sidereal targets, so observations must rely on the telescope tracking. For information on how to create target lists for Solar System objects [go to this page.](#)
Tools for SOAR proposers

- Summary of Instrumentation Capabilities at SOAR [5]
- Overheads, and Tips for observing efficiently with SOAR [6]
- Optical instrumentation currently available at SOAR [7]
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- Access to Visitor Instruments [10]

Tools for SOAR Observers

- SOAR Observing Calendar (NEW) [12]
- Creating Targets lists for SOAR [4]
- Instrument Setup forms and Night/End-of-Run Reports [13]
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Source URL: http://www.ctio.noao.edu/soar/content/observing-soar

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