ALMA Director's Discretionary Time Proposals: Results from Cycles 1-12

Joint ALMA Observatory

October 15, 2026



Director’s Discretionary Time (DDT) Overview

5%

of the observing time in each cycle can be awarded through DDT

Review process

1. The DDT Review Committee assesses the proposal
   8 members: 2 each from East Asia, Europe and North America; 1 each from Chile and JAO
2. The committee sends its recommendation to the ALMA Director
3. The ALMA Director decides whether to accept the proposal

DDT Proposals at a Glance

Cycle 12 compared with all cycles combined

Proposals submitted

Cycle 12

39

Cycles 1–12

442

Proposals accepted

Cycle 12

16

Cycles 1–12

158

Acceptance rate

Cycle 12

41%

Cycles 1–12

36%

12-m Array time accepted

Cycle 12

67 h

of 215 h available

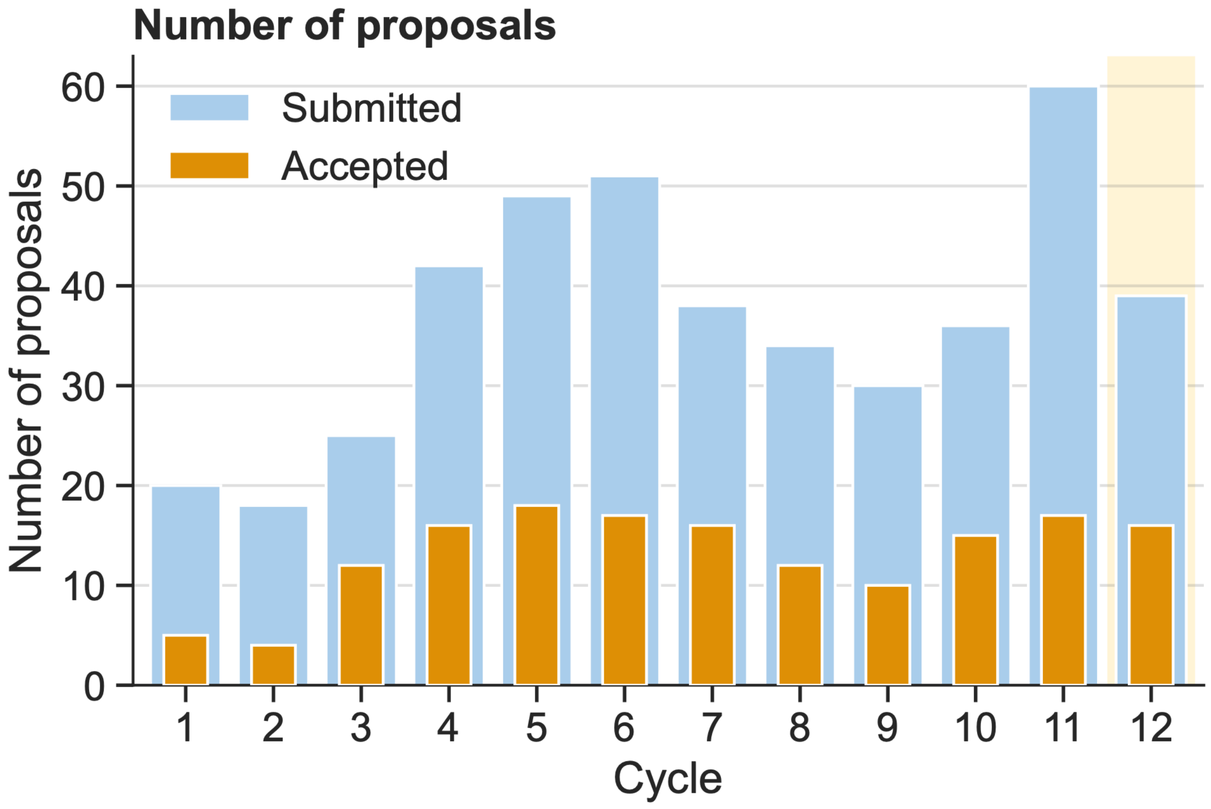
Cycles 1–12

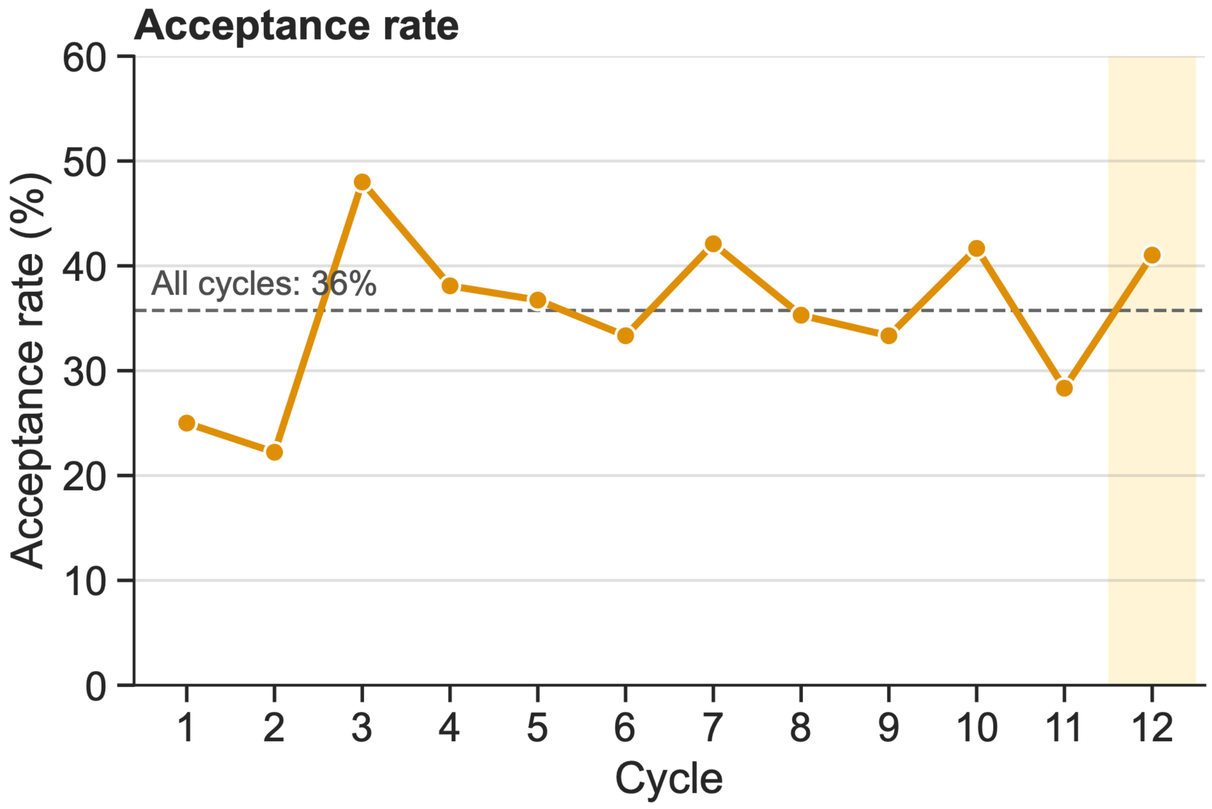
752 h

of 2085 h available

DDT Proposals per Cycle

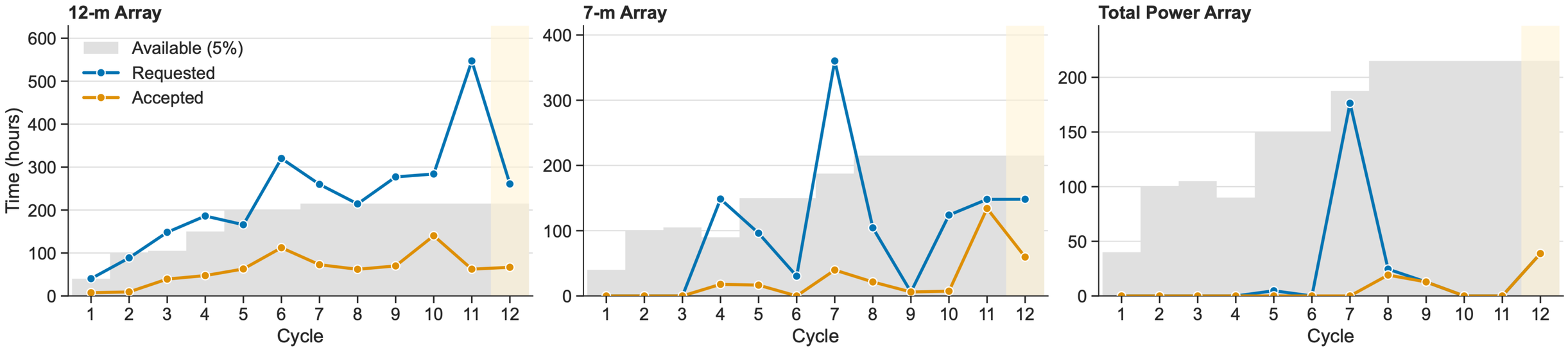
The Cycle 12 acceptance rate (41%) is consistent with the average over Cycles 1–12 (36%)





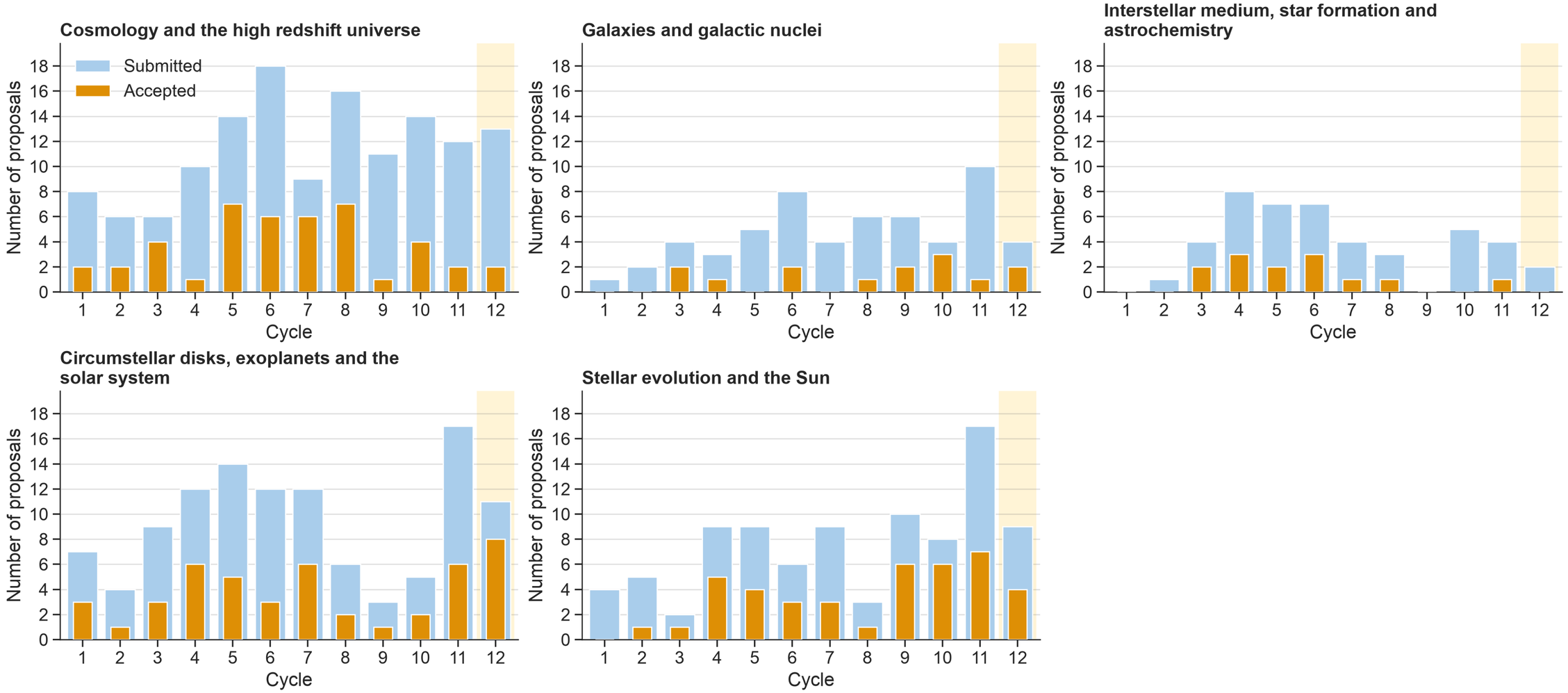
DDT Observing Time per Cycle

About 30% of the 12-m Array time available for DDT was allocated in Cycle 12 (67 of 215 hours)



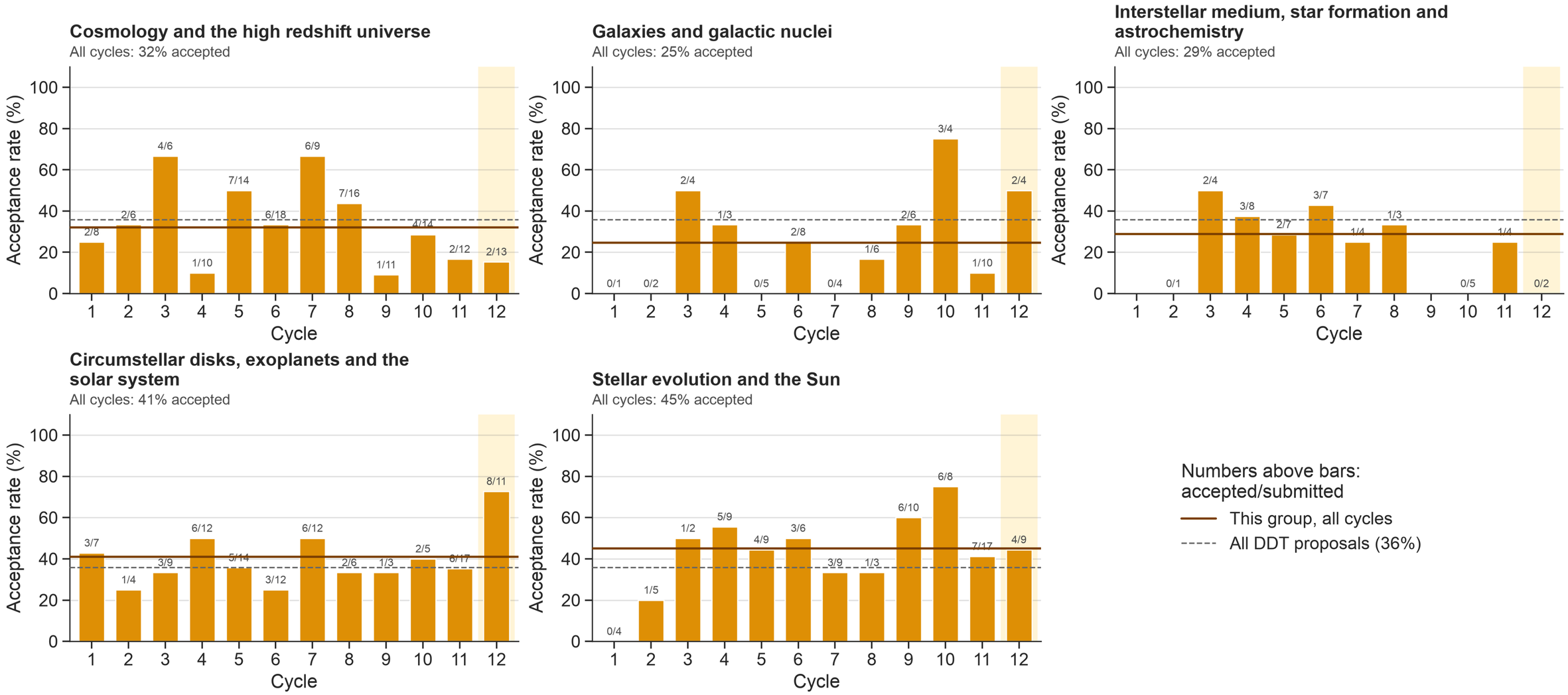
Science Category: Number of Proposals

Cosmology and the high redshift universe (31%) and Circumstellar disks, exoplanets and the solar system (25%) account for over half of all DDT proposals



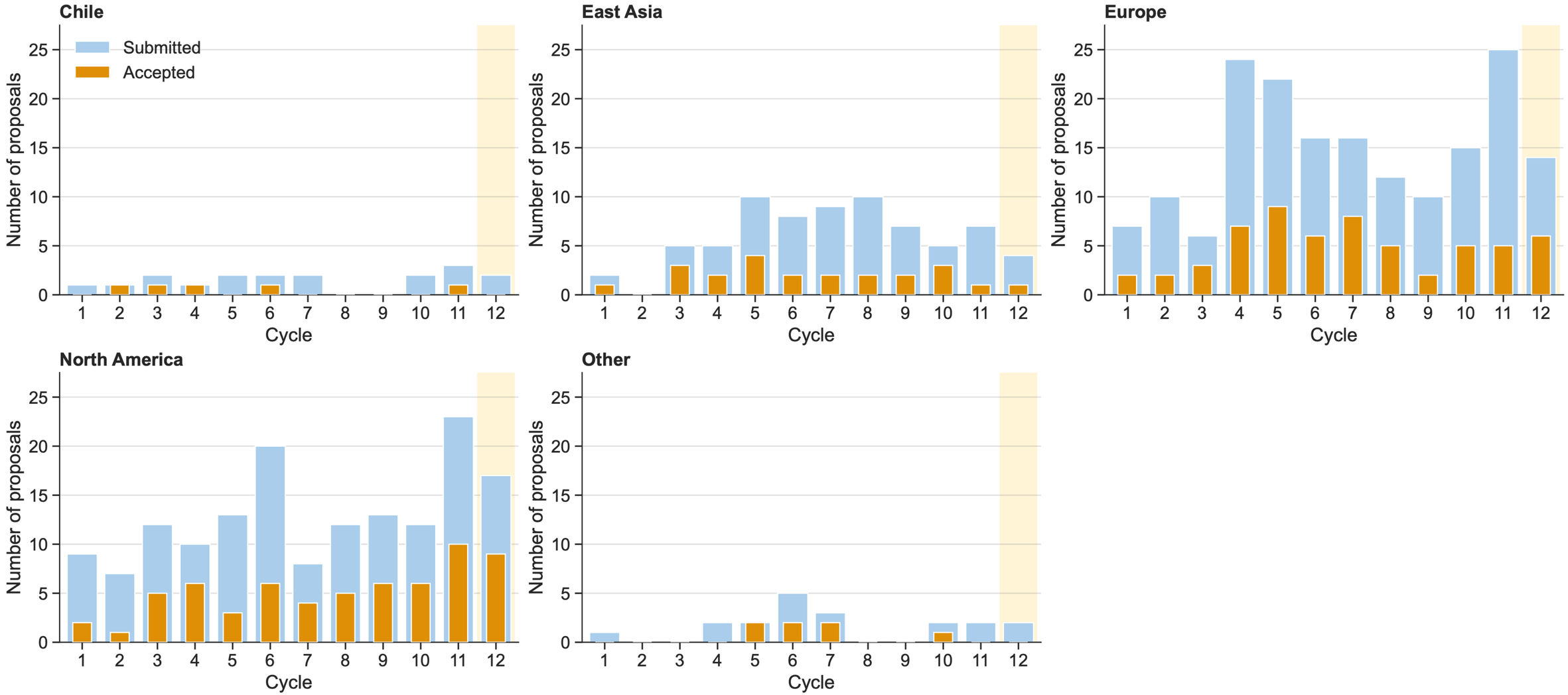
Science Category: Acceptance Rate

Over Cycles 1–12, the acceptance rate in every science category is between 25% and 45%



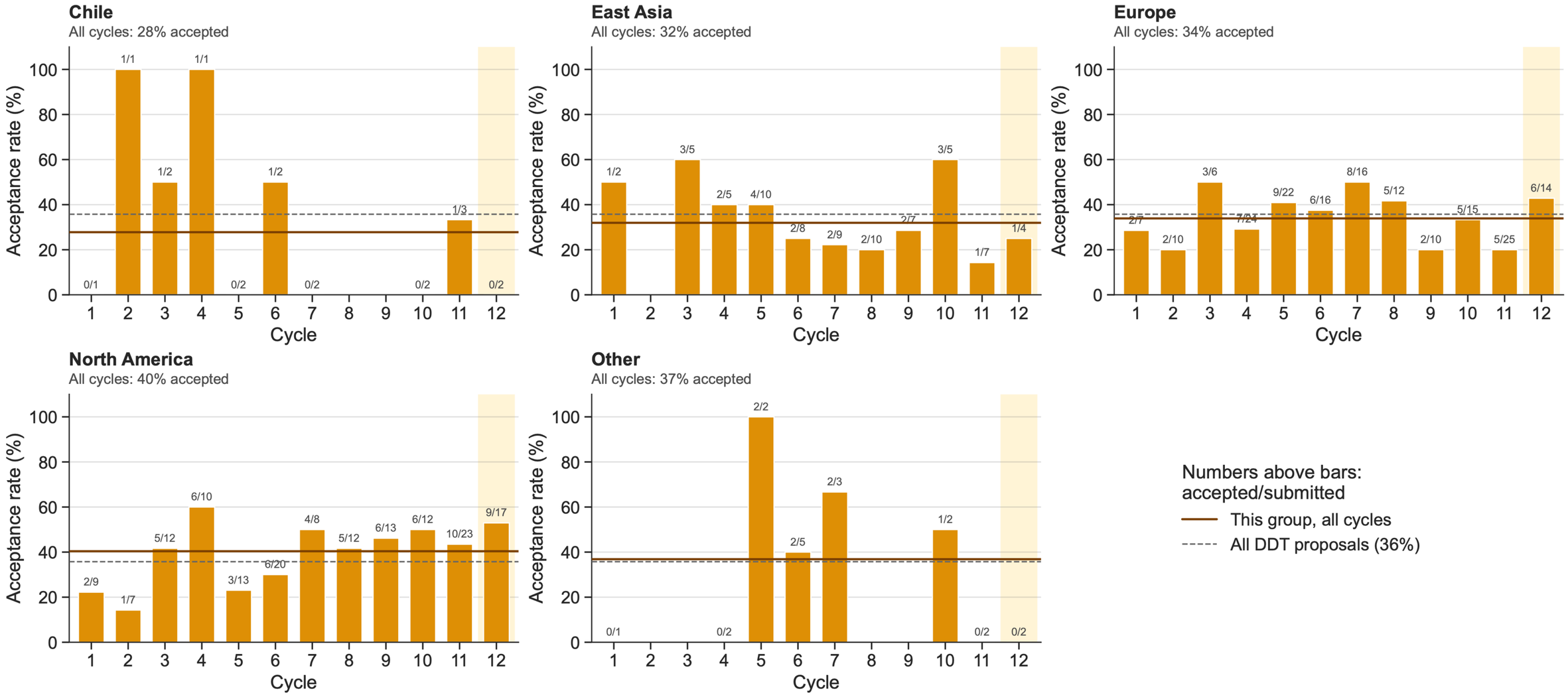
PI Region: Number of Proposals

DDT proposals are received from PIs in all ALMA regions, most often from Europe and North America



PI Region: Acceptance Rate

Acceptance rates do not differ significantly by PI region (Cycles 1–12 combined)



Cycle 12: 12-m Array Time per Proposal

Most Cycle 12 requests (21 of 32) were for less than 10 hours of 12-m Array time

