

# SALT Science Committee Brief Report: Nov 2012

Saurabh W. Jha (Rutgers), presented by Ted Williams (Rutgers)

- advisory committee to the SALT Board
- members:

Michael Albrow, Canterbury University

David Buckley, SALT Science Operations Manager (ex officio)

Claude Carignan, U Cape Town

Steve Crawford, SALT Data Pipeline Manager (ex officio)

Stefan Dreizler, Göttingen

Saurabh Jha, Rutgers (chair)

J. Kaluzny, Nicolas Copernicus Center

Sheila Kannappan, UNC

Darragh O'Donoghue, SALT Instrumentation Manager (ex officio)

R. Srianand, IUCAA

Christy Tremonti, U Wisconsin

Glenn White, Open University UK

David Zurek, AMNH



does the Board need  
to make this official?

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- one meeting (online/telecon via EVO): June 20, 2012
- most discussions over email
- would like to have face-to-face meeting in Cape Town, but has been difficult to schedule (teaching conflicts, etc.) and not yet an urgent need
- overall sentiment among members: **less talk, more work**
- incentivizing work: no carrots or sticks, so best hope is to align individuals' scientific self-interests in using SALT with work products that will be beneficial to the wider SALT community

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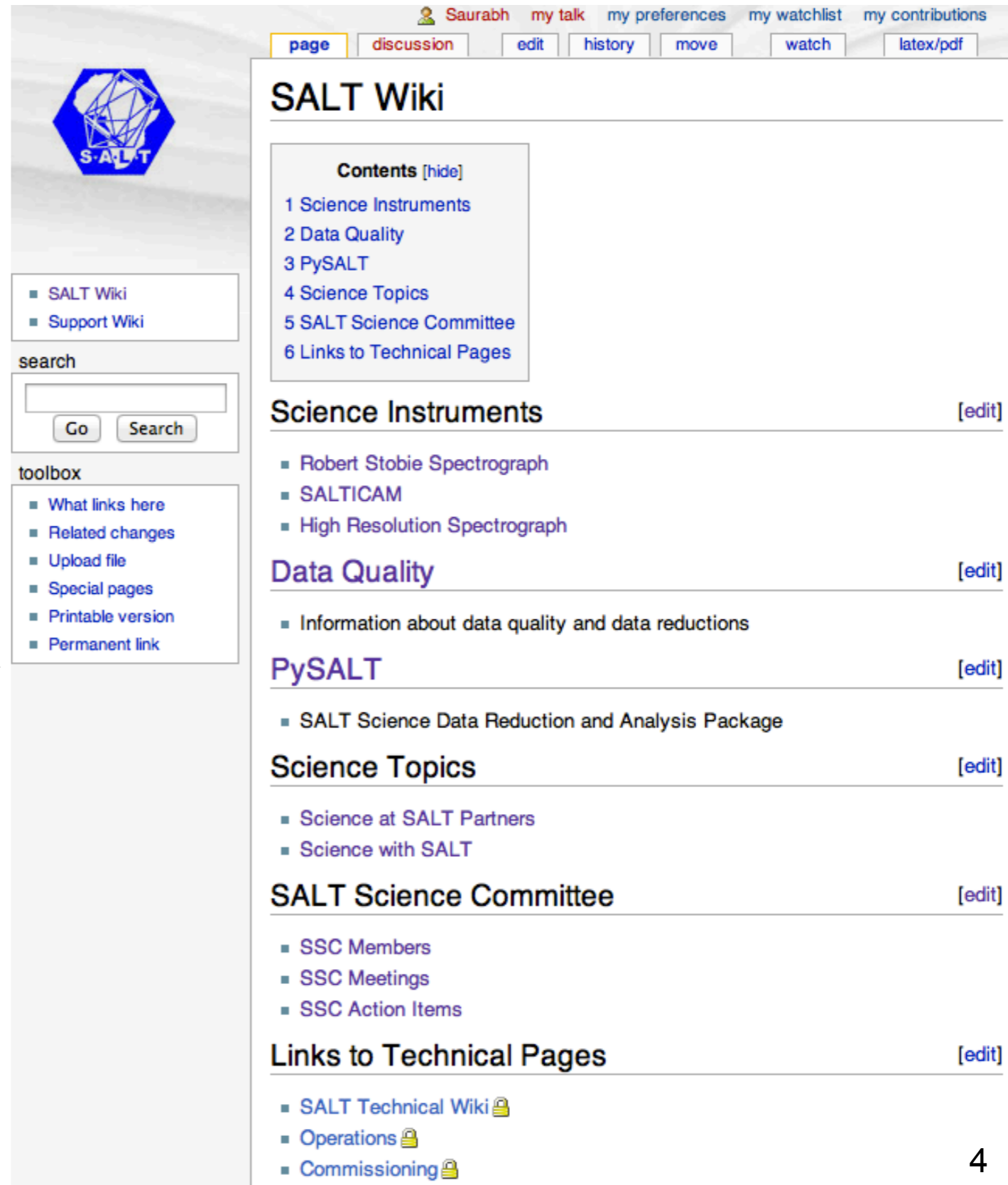
- current projects
  - SALTICAM/RSS flat-fielding (Williams, Pryor)  
in progress, report at this meeting
  - RSS fringing (Kaluzny, Srianand)  
in progress, email report Oct 25, looking for more data
  - RSS longslit recipes & best practices
    - RESOLVE survey longslit guide (Kannappan)  
under construction
    - UW longslit+PySALT notes (Tremonti, Eigenbrot)  
<http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~eigenbrot/SALT.html>
- good communication and partnership
  - software/reductions feedback (e.g., PySALT)
  - taking specialized data (e.g., flat-fielding, fringing)

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- SALT Science Wiki

[https://sciencewiki.salt.ac.za/index.php/SALT\\_Wiki](https://sciencewiki.salt.ac.za/index.php/SALT_Wiki)

- can be edited by any SALT PI
- projects in progress, data reduction recipes, calibration links, SSC meeting minutes, SSC action items, etc.
- right now, we're in "throw things up there" mode; we will organize it better as it fills up
- please contribute! anything you find useful



The screenshot shows the SALT Wiki homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'page', 'discussion', 'edit', 'history', 'move', 'watch', and 'latex/pdf'. The user 'Saurabh' is logged in, with links for 'my talk', 'my preferences', 'my watchlist', and 'my contributions'. The main heading is 'SALT Wiki'. Below it is a 'Contents' table of contents with links to 'Science Instruments', 'Data Quality', 'PySALT', 'Science Topics', 'SALT Science Committee', and 'Links to Technical Pages'. Each section has an '[edit]' link. The 'Science Instruments' section lists 'Robert Stobie Spectrograph', 'SALTICAM', and 'High Resolution Spectrograph'. The 'Data Quality' section lists 'Information about data quality and data reductions'. The 'PySALT' section lists 'SALT Science Data Reduction and Analysis Package'. The 'Science Topics' section lists 'Science at SALT Partners' and 'Science with SALT'. The 'SALT Science Committee' section lists 'SSC Members', 'SSC Meetings', and 'SSC Action Items'. The 'Links to Technical Pages' section lists 'SALT Technical Wiki', 'Operations', and 'Commissioning'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a search box, a 'Go' button, a 'Search' button, and a 'toolbox' with links for 'What links here', 'Related changes', 'Upload file', 'Special pages', 'Printable version', and 'Permanent link'. The SALT logo is also visible in the top left of the sidebar area.

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- would like feedback from the SALT Board
  - are we doing the right things?
  - what more should we be doing?
  - but please note the point about incentives:  
it's hard to get people to do things for the SSC or the SALT community more broadly unless it's work they already need to do for their own science!
- we should aim to minimize the marginal effort in going from individual or institutional efforts to things that are useful to the whole community (e.g., have a reduction guide for new students? just throw it on the wiki!)
- emphasize two-way communication/feedback