



Figure 8. Our strategy to guarantee a group of supernova discoveries on a certain date begins just after a new moon (represented by the dark circle at the top left), when we use two nights of the Cerro Tololo 4-meter telescope in Chile to “take pictures” of some 50 to 100 patches of sky. Each of these images has almost a thousand very distant galaxies in it. We return to Chile three weeks later to observe the same patches of sky, and then examine the images of all of the tens of thousands of galaxies. On average, in all of these galaxies, some two dozen supernovae will appear, looking like a small bright spot of light on a galaxy. We then study each supernova with telescope time that we scheduled to start at the new moon (in the upper right of the diagram), providing a time series of images and spectroscopy.