

# Available packages on the LOFAR offline clusternodes

This page gives an overview of available packages, other than the 'standard' ones distributed as part of the Linux distribution, and how to initialize these. See the [Login environment](#) page for instructions on activating packages at login time.

## Packages

Package	Description	Initialize	Update frequency	Comments
<a href="#">Casa</a>	Browser, viewer	use Casa	infrequent	NRAO development
<a href="#">GDL</a>	Gnu data language	use GDL	infrequent	Contains GDL, GSL, PLPlot
grid				
hdf5	library		– infrequent	Used by other packs, now 1.8.2
hdf5viewer		–	infrequent	
<a href="#">LofIm</a>	Lofar Imaging	use LofIm	daily	<a href="#">Follow this link</a>
pipeline				
<a href="#">Pythonlibs</a>	Several useful Python modules	use Pythonlibs	infrequent	<a href="#">Follow this link</a>
wcslib	library	–	infrequent	Used by other packs, now 4.3

## Descriptions of Packages

### Casa

This is the NRAO developed package that provides Graphical interfaces like those available in the old AIPS++ packages. It provides the following useful tools (see directory /opt/Casa/bin):

- casabrowser → A table browser (much like the old glish-based browser)
- casaplotms → A tool to make 2-D plots of data in a MS
- casaviewer → Visualizer
- casapy → Casa's Python interface.

Extensive documentation can be found [on this NRAO-hosted webpage](#).

- The release and helpdesk can be obtained from <http://my.nrao.edu>. Versions are available for Linux and Mac OSX 10.5 and 10.6.

- Details about the release including new capabilities, release notes, and the full user reference and cookbook can be found at the CASA home page: <http://casa.nrao.edu>
- We are also pleased to announce the creation of a new CASA wiki with fully annotated tutorials and tips: <http://casaguides.nrao.edu>. More guides covering a wider range of data possibilities will be added over time.

The current version (as of Jan 14th 2010) is Casa 3.0.0 (1st non-beta release of NRAO).

## Loflm

The package Loflm (Lofar Imaging) consists of the following previously known subpackages:

- casacore
- casarest
- pyrap
- LOFAR
- ASKAPsoft

All these are build every night in a single go, with source code extracted from each package's source repository. Activating the Loflm package ensures that you will have a consistent set of libraries and executables.

To activate it on commandline use:

```
> use LofIm
```

This will activate the version that was build last night. It will add all settings needed to use the subpackages to your PATH, PYTHONPATH and LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH environment variables.

As all of the individual subpackages are in a development phase, we **cannot** guarantee that each nightly build is bugfree, or even that it has succeeded. Therefore, we keep a 'buffer' of previous builds for a week. This ensures that if a nightly build has failed, you can use a (working) previous build. To activate a previous build on commandline use:

```
> use LofIm <day> (e.g., use LofIm Wed)
```

If the problem that caused a build to fail has not been solved in a week's time, you will not be able to use the package until it has been fixed. In due time we will implement a system with a release policy, that will enable you to use 'stable' versions of these libraries.

## GDL

The GDL package contains the following subpackages:

1. [gdl \(Gnu data language\)](#)
2. [gsl \(GNU Scientific Library\)](#)
3. [plplot](#)

These work together and form a useful packages used by the Pulsar group.

## Pythonlibs

We have made available several useful Python modules. These can be activated with a single command:

```
> use Pythonlibs
```

(see [this page](#) for information on how to activate at login time). The Pythonlibs currently contain:

- [Numpy](#) → version 1.3.0
- [SciPy](#) → version 0.7.1
- [matplotlib](#) → version 0.99.1.1
- [PyFits](#) → version 2.2.2
- [PyEphem](#) → version 3.7.3.4
- [PyFFTW](#) → version 0.2
- [PyTables](#) → version 2.1.2
- [H5Py](#) → Version 1.2.1
- [Aipy](#) → Version 0.9.1

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