

Radio Observatory Report

Antonis Polatidis

Developments of the Observing System

- CS021 and CS030: HBA tiles replaced and operational
- CS032 and CS306: measurements & correction of HBA polarization
- FR606 (Nancay): close to integration in the array (in SAS/MAC).

- ITRF Beamsolver rolled out to NL and international stations.
- Static calibration table is also applied for LBA modes.
- HBA calibration scheme under development.

- Useful tools and scripts in */opt/tools/*
- Contact A. Renting and R. Pizzo to add your tools there.

- Technical Issues under investigation:
 - o Corruption of HBA1 by HBA0 data. We do not use HBA1 yet.
 - o International stations: Transmit 61 instead of 62 beamlets
 - o RSP boards jump into ERROR state, need recycle of 48V power to reset.

Observatory "White Board" in Wiki (http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php?id=operator:current_station_overview)

Observations & other developments

- Several observations to test the beamserver and the calibration table (1-21 Oct)
- Completed 6 observations of fields where LIGO "events" were reported (LEA004).
- Completed multi-epoch imaging+pulsar observation for the Transients KSP (LEA032).
- LOFAR Data School (11-15 Sept)
- Previous week: Magnetism BW#2: a lot of new commissioners
Observations of polarized pulsars in both BF and interferometry
- Last weekend's observations: LEA128: 3 fields, at two HBA frequencies, 6hrs each = ~90 TB
- This week: several tests: for Solar KSP, CR group, scintillation etc
- Weekend: preparations for Pulsar BW

Short report on Pulsar WG activities

from J. Hessels and A. Alexov

- Recent achievements:
 - Advanced draft of a "pulsars with LOFAR" reference paper.
 - First version of 2nd transpose implemented online _and_ in the known pulsar pipeline.
 - MoM/.xml script now capable of creating a wide variety of useful observation types, including survey pointings.
 - Ran in-house observing/analysis training session with RO Support Scientists.
- Short-term priorities (for Pulsar Busy Week #10):
 - Finalize "pulsars with LOFAR" reference paper.
 - Solve any remaining issues with adding up the Superterp coherently.
 - Have known pulsar pipeline working within the "pipeline framework".
 - Observing and data analysis cookbook.

CALENDAR of requested busy weeks and other LOFAR activities

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/astronomers/commissioning/commissioning-plan>

- 25-28 October : Magnetism KSP meeting (Dublin)
- 1 November : CEP stopday
- 1-5 November : Pulsar Busy Week (Dwingeloo)
- 3 November : Imaging "Busy Wednesday"
- 8-9 November : Solar KSP meeting (Potsdam)
- 9-12 November : CEP stopdays (extra)
- 2 December : Dedication Nancay station (FR606)
- 6 December : CEP stopday
- 14-16 December : Imaging Busy Week in Leiden

