ASTRON

Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy

Programme:

1. *Array status & Observatory update – R. Pizzo*

2. *LTA status update– H. Holties*

3. *Making LOFAR Cycle data Public – W. Frieswijk*

4. *LOFAR MSP population. Pulsar flux calibration – V. Kondratiev*

International LOFAR Telescope (ILT)

Onsala

Dutch stations

Norderstedt

LOFAR Core (NL)

Potsdam

Chilbolton

Poland funded & in progress

Jülich

Effelsberg

Tautenburg

- *46 operational stations completed*
- *38 NL stations, 8 international stations*
- *4 new stations to come: Germany (1), Poland (3)*

Unterweilenbach

Nançay

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Array Status

International LOFAR Telescope (ILT)

- Repair by KPN of 12 faulty fibers between concentrator node and Groningen on Jan 6th

- TBB board broken on RS509

- CS013: clock error. Broken GPS cable. Replacement coaxial cable yesterday

- Lost contact with Weather station on 29/12. Solved.

- RS208: broken hard drive. Hardware collected and issue being investigated

- DE604: broken airco

- DE609: last configuration bits will be worked out this week by Surfnet. Station will go in production by the end of the week or beginning of next week

Overview, including IS

LBA: 1.6%; HBA: 3.3%

see https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/
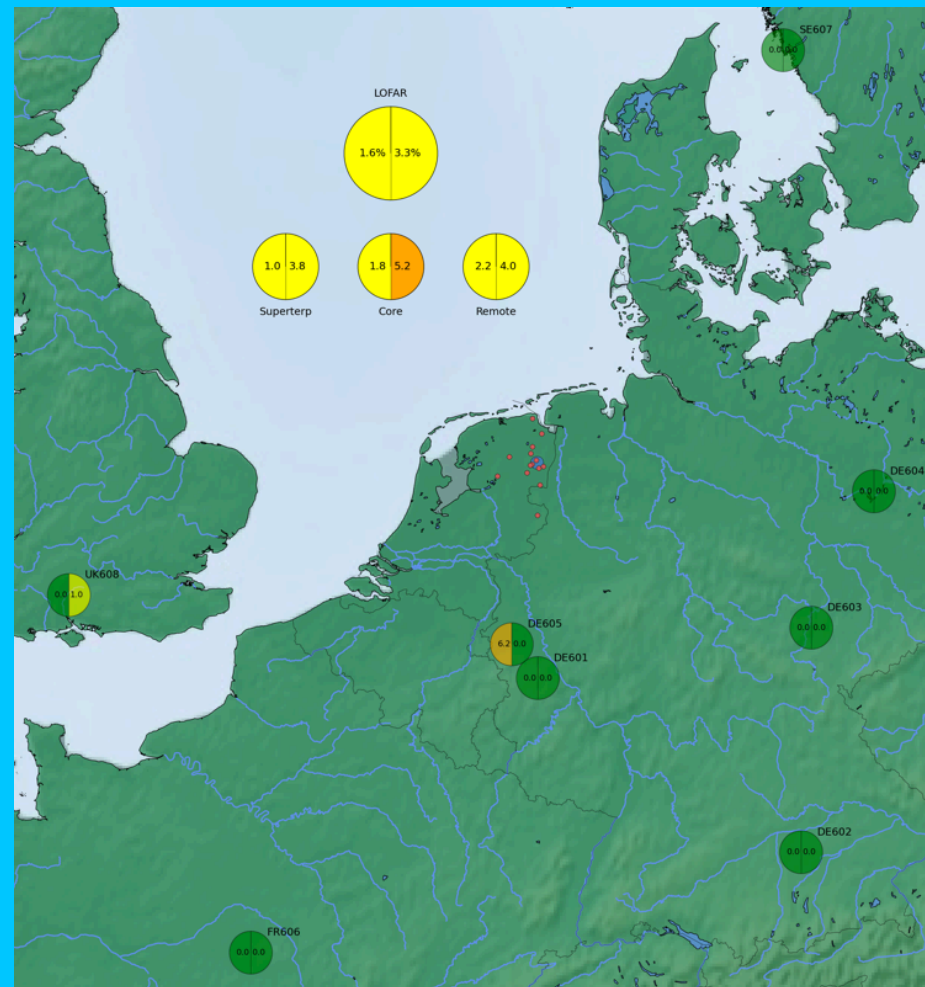
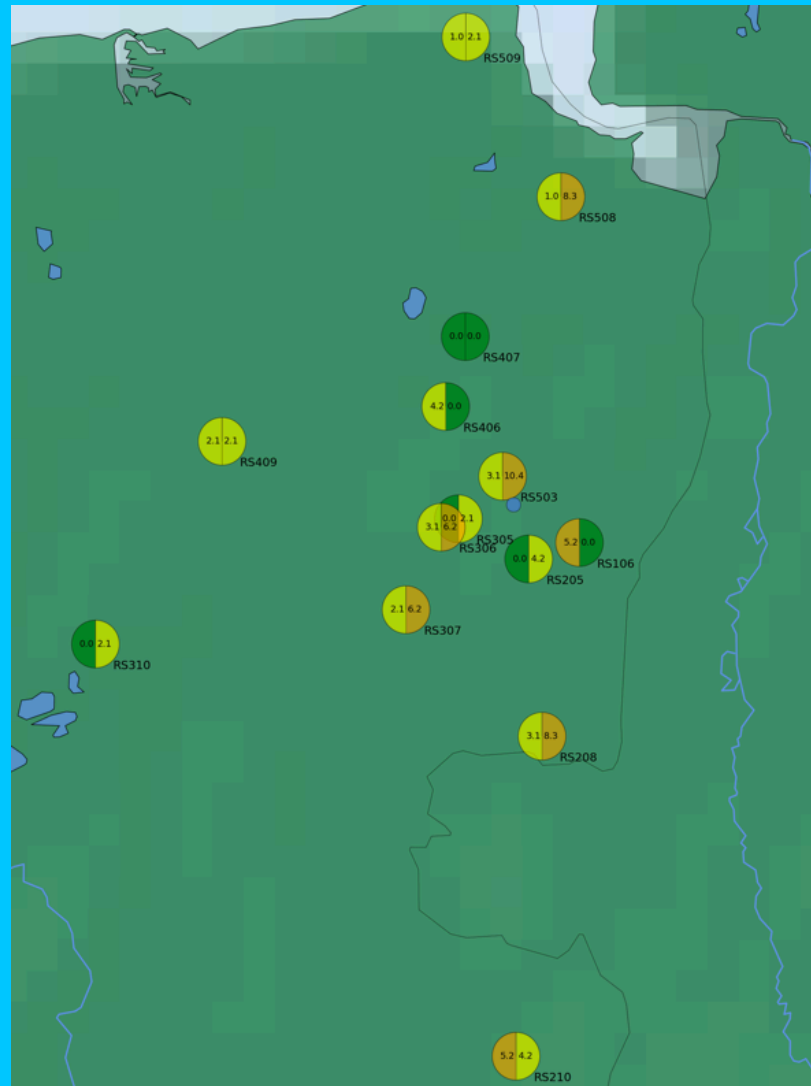# Superterp

LBA: 1.0%; HBA: 3.8%
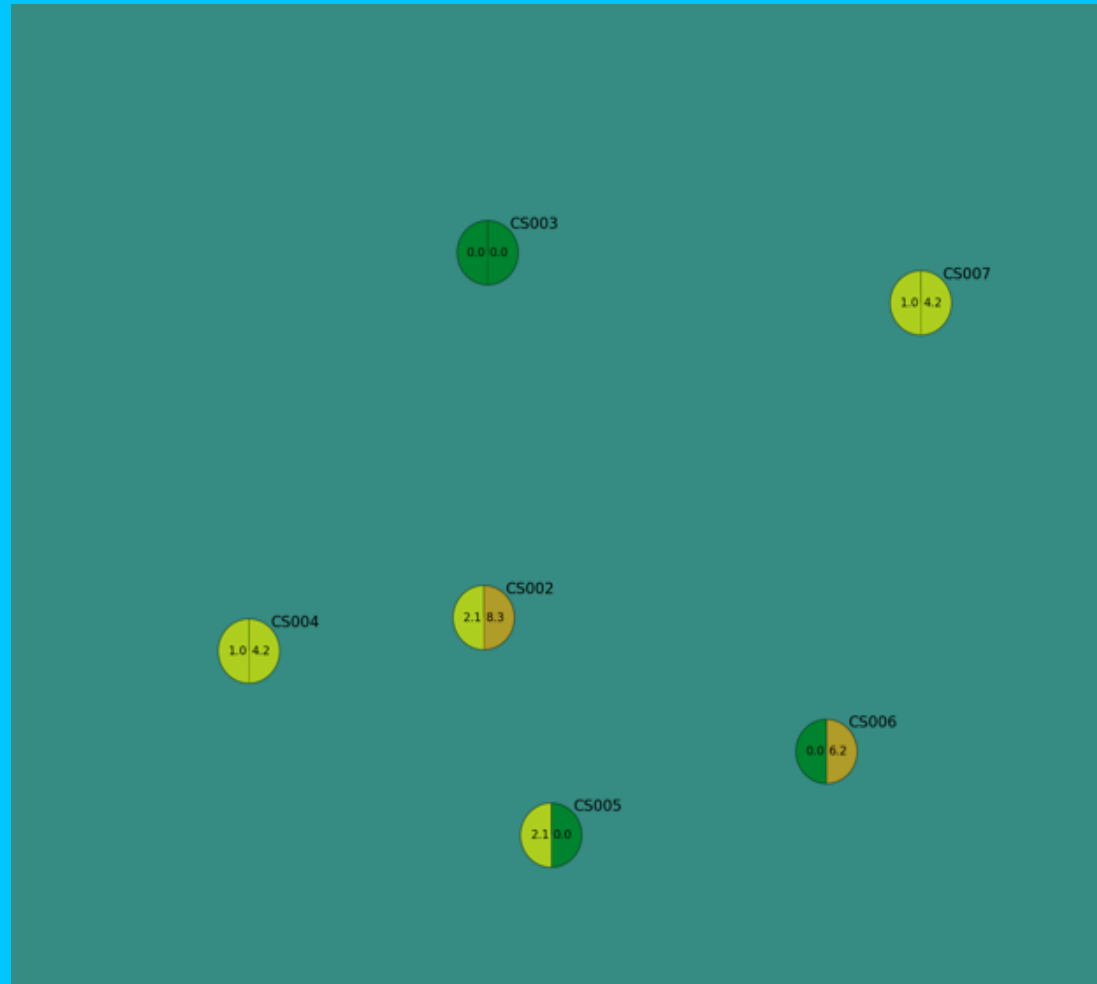
Core Stations

LBA: 1.8%; HBA: 5.2%

Remote Stations

LBA: 2.2%; HBA: 4.0%

News regarding the observing system Observations

- Observing system performed relatively fine during the last two weeks(Mostly EoR observations and TBB runs during the Christmas period)

- System issues:

  - Issue in multi beam HBA_DUAL_INNER observations where HBA 1 stations have a significantly higher signal than HBA 0 stations

    - Some RCUs remained in mode -1 on core stations, causing loss of signal. This problem did not occur when the observation was converted to single beam

    - Roll-back to LOFAR 2.6 on the stations fixed the issue

    - Solution in development being looked for

  - CS501 HBA1: problem in 8 bit mode on subbands 244-365 giving high visibility amplitude

News regarding the observing system Pipelines

I. Problem with incorrect status of pipelines of LC3_007 on Dec 22nd

- Investigations showed that this is related to a MAC bug: If a pipeline ObservationXXXABC is running and another pipeline Observation YYYABC starts, where ABC is the same for both pipelines, there will be a collision in MAC and both pipelines might or might not correctly report back their status to OTDB/MAC/MoM

- MAC restarted on Dec 22nd -> fixing status of pipelines running on lhn001 when MAC was restarted + pipelines that experienced issues because of MAC bug

- Pipelines scheduled at a reduced rate during last two weeks

- A fix for the MAC bug will be investigated

II. Issues with long baseline pipeline when more than one SB per locus node – fix rolled out into production yesterday

News regarding the observing system CEP

- CEP2:
  - Locus100: cannibalized for spare parts
  - Locus080: Infiniband problems -> network cables changed
  - Overview of content of LOFAR_PULSAR_ARCHIVE -> significant amount of data could be deleted to prepare for observations during the Christmas break
- CEP1: nodes switched off
- CEP3: in use by limbo, Cycle users
  - Policy regulating access to CEP3 and data handling available at

    http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/observing-capabilities/depth-technical-information/cycle-1-observing-and-processin

News regarding Cycle observations CYCLE 3

- ➤ Detailed Cycle 3 schedule available here:

- ➤ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/
  1jDWvZmpH0ycusJTwBsMU6SxQYK5efawtk0jHSxMbo9M/pubhtml

- ➤ Changes can be applied on a daily basis! Contact Science Support in case of questions/issues

- ➤ **Always cc 'sciencesupport@astron.nl' and include the proposal code in the subject line**

CALENDAR LOFAR activities

- Next LSM : 21 January

- Cycle 4 proposal call : End of January

- Cycle 4 proposal deadline : Beginning of March

- Next Stop Day : 3 March

- Second LOFAR Users Meeting : 1 June, Assen

- The 2015 LOFAR Community : 2 – 3 June, Assen
  Science Workshop

Note: to subscribe to the lofar-news mailing list:

http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/subscribe-lofar-news/subscribe-lofar-news