

LOFAR Status Meeting

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LOFAR is about to move beyond CS1.

Rollout schedule will generate “major events” (Bentum, ...)

Development (of software) is ongoing (Gunst, Wise)

Operational modes/(sub)systems will be changing (Woestenburger, Brentjens)

Commissioning in full swing, and needs observations to be going on (Wise, Brentjens)

All parties must be aware of the status of all efforts.

Coordinators to communicate developments, get input on impact / daily priorities within overall fixed plans.

Observations - Michiel Brentjens

Last weekend

Cas A HBA observations:

- To reproduce the effects of rain
 - No rain fell
 - Verification of 24 micro-station mode
 - Needed for short baselines
 - Map the Milky Way with the HBAs
 - S24 and S27 had no signal before weekend
 - RCUs were reset, seemed to cure problem
 - But again no signal this weekend
 - A number of instances at when all correlations drop out
 - Due to flagging ? In correlator ?
- Sarod now imaging the data - will report later

Observations - Michiel Brentjens

Next weekend

Repeat of Cas A HBA observations:

- To reproduce the effects of rain
Rain predicted for Saturday

Prospects to observe bursters (high interest in short term !)

Ger de Bruyn and Michiel Brentjens to develop observing plan for coming weeks - report/discuss next week.

Short list of “available operational” modes to be made:

Must be used/checked for aliveness regularly

e.g. It is now 4 months ago that a fringe tracking LBA observation was done; must be done soon as a night-observation.

Observations - Ramesh

Pulsar test observation with LOFAR in the next few weeks.

1. Observe pulsar B0329+54 at another Hour Angle- Observation length at least 2 hours - to test tracking.
2. Observe B0329+54 in the 110-170 MHz range - this overlaps with the WSRT LFFE frequency.
3. Observe B0329+54 using the 200 MHz sampling clock - 30-minute observation should be enough.
4. Observe PSR B0521+31 - Observation length - one hour
5. Observe another pulsar, eg. PSR 2016 - observation length 1 hour.
6. Check LBA observation of a steep spectral index source.

