ASTRON

Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy

Observatory Status, LOFAR Weekly Schedule

Harm Munk

Observatory status

- ITRF beamserver successfully tested on three stations (CS032, CS302 and RS503)
  - All modes
  - To be rolled out not before next week
- TBB test observations (SETI): zero in some subbands
  - Under investigation
- Long (18 hrs, LBA inner, 18 stations) observation of Cas A successful
  - Next two observations in queue failed to start
- Test: multi beam observations specified through MoM

Scheduling LOFAR system time

Observations:

- Software development is crucial to the success of LOFAR
- Current practice:
  - time divided between science and development/debugging in ad hoc fashion
  - Developers spend much time supporting scientist: inefficient
- Unfortunately, we have only one LOFAR telescope!

Proposal

- Allocate separate timeslots for scientists and for developers

Basic weekly schedule

Monday - Wednesday: development system

- LOFAR allocated to system development, debugging, maintenance

Thursday: roll back to/install production system

Friday - Sunday: system used for observations

- LOFAR allocated to observations

Consequences

This means:

- No observations from Monday to Wednesday

- No bug solving/maintenance from Friday to Sunday (in the operational system)

Consequences, relaxations

This means:

- No observations from Monday to Wednesday
- No bugs solved from Friday to Sunday (in the operational system)

But:

- Schedule will be changed for TOOs
- Schedule will be adapted for busy weeks
    - Busy weeks have to be announced early (at least four weeks in advance). Coordinated by Antonis Polatidis
    - No busy weeks back to back (please!)

Some more relaxations

Monday - Wednesday: if LOFAR is not used by developers, it can be used for observations. BUT:

- System is not guaranteed to work

- No support from developers available

- If developers need the system: observation is stopped

Friday - Sunday: if LOFAR is not used for observations, the (production) system can be used for debugging. BUT:

- Without changing systems

- If scientists need the system: debugging is stopped

Some additional remarks

- Schedule applicable to on-line LOFAR part: from stations through to BG/P+storage nodes

- Not applicable to off-line cluster (yet!)

- Schedule will be in place until October 2010

Request to Busy Week organisers:

- Arrange for evaluation of BW with scientists and developers!