ASTRON

Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy

A report from the 2nd LOFAR data school

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on behalf of the LOC (M. Wise et al.)

The 2nd LOFAR data school

- The 2nd LOFAR Data School took place at ASTRON on October 11-15.

- There were 40+ participants (all new LOFAR team members)

	Monday, October 11	Tuesday, October 12	Wednesday, October 13	Thursday, October 14	Friday, October 15
9:30 AM	Welcome (Wise)	ASTRON	Polarization	Dynamic Spectra with LOFAR	Particle Physics with LOFAR
	Intro. to Low Frequency	Plenary	(Haverkorn)	(Griessmeier)	(James)
10:00 AM	Radio Astronomy	Session			
	(Heald)		Q&A	Q&A	Q&A
10:30 AM	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00 AM	LOFAR Overview	Correlator and	Ionospheric Effects	VLBI with LOFAR	High Time Resolution
	(Wise)	Online Processing	(van Bemmel)	(Anderson)	with LOFAR
11:30 AM		(Romein)			(Hessels)
	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A
12:00 PM	LOFAR Station Processing	Introduction to	Wide-field Imaging	Observing with LOFAR	Observing Pulsars
	(Norden)	Calibration	(Nijboer)	(Polatidis)	with LOFAR
12:30 PM		(de Bruyn)			(Alexov)
	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	School Concludes (Wise)
1:00 PM					
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM	RFI and Compression	Calibrating LOFAR Data		Intro. to Hands-on Sessions	
	(Rafferty)	(BBS - van Zwieten)	Hands-on Exercises	(McKean)	
2:30 PM		(CASA - TBD)			
	Q&A	Q&A	End of Day	Hands-on Exercises	
3:00 PM	Intro. to Hands-on Sessions	Intro. to Hands-on Sessions			Hands-on Exercises
	(McKean)	(McKean)		End of Day	
3:30 PM			Excursion	ASTRON Colloquium	
			to		
4:00 PM	Hands-on Exercises	Hands-on Exercises	LOFAR	Philippe Zarka	
			Core	"Planetary Science with	
4:30 PM				LOFAR and more"	
			(Norden)		
5:00 PM	End of Day	End of Day		+	End of Day
5:30 PM	Borrel			Colloquium	
				Borrel	
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM			Workshop		
			Dinner		
7:00 PM					
7:30 PM					
8:00 PM					

Hands-on sessions

- 1.5--3 hours in the afternoons for hands on sessions.

  The aim of these sessions was to introduce the students to LOFAR data, and the data analysis packages - take the fear out!

- Run NDPPP (and RFIconsole) to flag and compress a dataset.

- Make an HBA image of Cygnus A in CASA.

- RM synthesis in action.

- Ionisphere modeling.

- Calibrate Cygnus A data in BBS (and image in CASA).

- These exercises will form the basis for tutorials that are being added to the imaging cookbook.

Image of Cygnus A

- The students worked together in 2s and 3s.

- All groups made an image of Cygnus A.

- The BBS tutorial was carried out on the Friday afternoon, so not all of the attendees took part in this exercise.

Success and Feedback
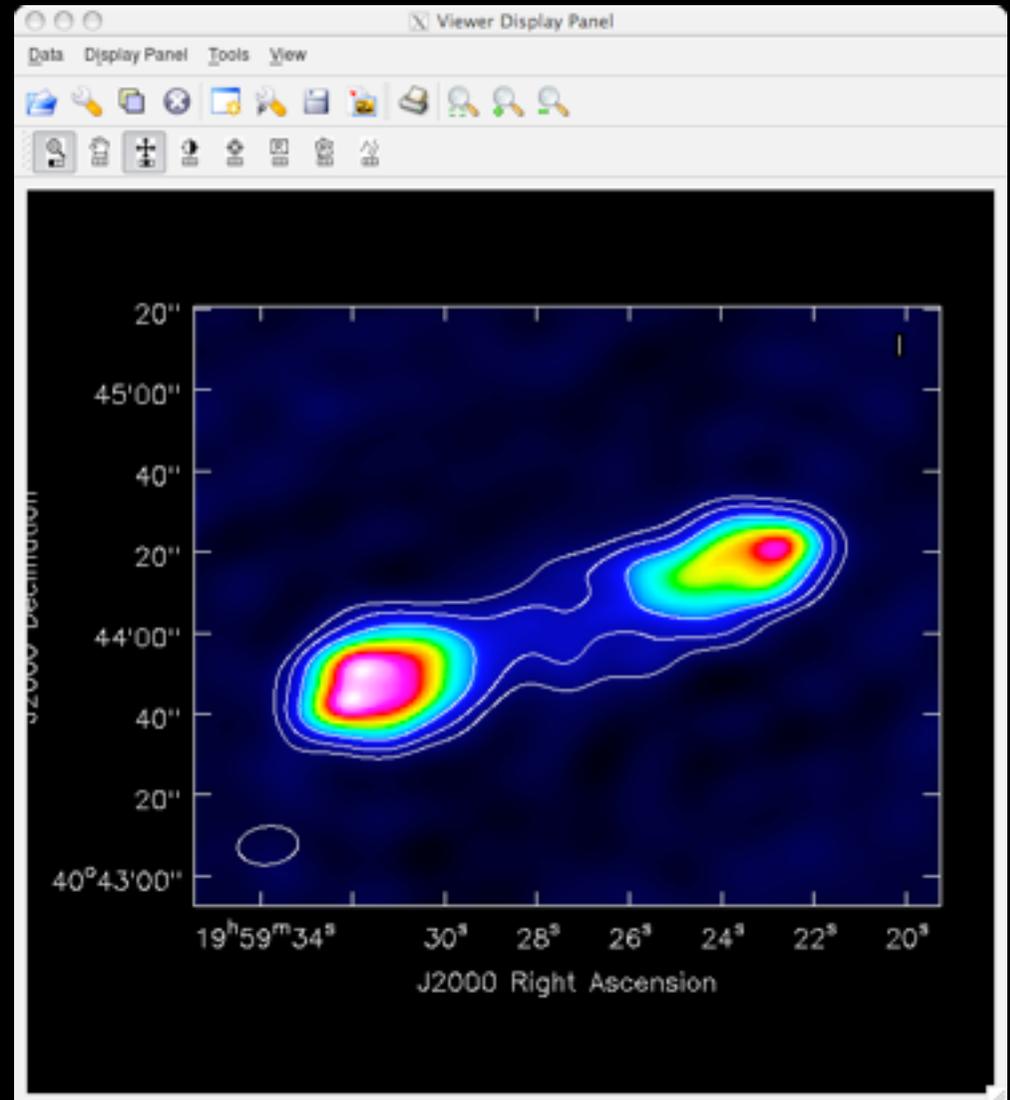
- The school was very successful, introducing a new class of commissioners to LOFAR and LOFAR data (more successful busy weeks in the future?).

- An excellent group that interacted well with each other and with the lecturers and tutors.

- Students wished that the school was longer (2 weeks) and that there was more time for the hands-on exercises.

- Congratulations and Well Done to the LOC (Wise et al.), RO staff, Secretaries, the Lecturers (near and far) and the Tutors that helped make the week a success.

  JUST DON'T MENTION THE 3RD DATA SCHOOL, YET.