

Minutes of Meeting LOFAR Software

Date:	2010-02-03
Next meeting:	2010-02-10 9:30-10:30
	Multimedia room
Present:	
Andre Gunst	Yes
Ronald Nijboer	No
Ruud Overeem	Yes
John Romein	Yes
Michael Wise	Yes
Harm Munk	Yes
Hanno Holties	Yes

cc: Arnold Meijster, Rob van Nieuwpoort, Arthur Coolen, Jurjen Sluman, Pieter Donker, Chris Broekema, Joris v. Zwieten, Marcel Loose, Adriaan Renting, Ger van Diepen, Michiel v. Haarlem, Jan Reitsma, Ger de Bruyn, Arno Schoenmaker, Hanno Holties, Corina Vogt, Jan Noordam, Joe Masters, Lars Bähren, Johan Hamaker, Sven Duscha, Jan-David Mol, Teun Grit, Alwin de Jong, Frank Breitling, Anastasia Alexov, Jason Hessels, Joeri van Leeuwen, John McKean, George Heald.

Remarks previous minutes

- Marcel Loose (via mail): date of decision 49 is not correct.
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Announcements

- Yesterday an international network meeting was held and the statuses of all partners and issues were discussed. Also the archive plans were presented.
- A LOFAR risk meeting was held. One of the issues which were raised is the lack of an updated software development plan. The current one is 1.5 years old. Although the details of that plan are obsolete the same priorities put in that document still hold. However it needs to be updated. The second issue raised concerning software issues was the worry between necessary compute power and performance.
- Control and meta data flow busy week will be held from 15 February – 19 February 2010.
- There is an observation schedule on the web now where you can see the usage of the stations.

Action item overview

ID	Date submitted	Description	Owner	Planned date	Status
97	20100113	Should more people of the observatory be participating the standard imaging pipeline meetings? Not necessary now.	Harm	20100120	Closed

98	20100113	Organize a meeting to decide on the repositories structure and issue/bug trackers for LOFAR. Meeting is planned.	André	20100127	Open
99	20100113	Report on release management.	Harm	20100127	Open
100	20100120	Discuss actions to be done for the LOFAR opening.	All	20100127	Open
102	20100127	Get clear how users want to do 2000 observations in a week for MSSS. Discussion with John held about multiple pointings per beams. That is not supported. Multiple beams in one observation is supported. A detailed discussion will follow.	Ruud	20100210	Open
103	20100127	Why is the station hardware not used more often? There is already too much data to work with... This is more on the plate of science support. In the coming period also the commissioning proposals needs to be scheduled.	Harm	20100203	Closed

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Progress

Imaging Pipeline (Ronald):

Achieved since last meeting:

- An imaging busy week was held. A number of issues popped up which requires attention. One of the reasons is that more stations are used and results in more complicated datasets. Furthermore many short baselines are included as well.
- One of the issues was that BBS is not giving the same solutions than other packages. The next step is to find why. One of the things to be aware of is that the parameters in other packages are fine tuned at detailed level specific for the dataset at hand, while in BBS of course standard settings are applied.
- The LBA BeamServer was tested. The HBA part is now also included but gave the wrong results.
- LBA flagging procedure works for HBA as well.
- Solution based and condition based flagging tested.
- A positive outcome from the busy week was that the data was great, clean and stable.
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Problems / current activities:

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Next actions:

- Focus on the minimal required tasks for MSSS.

Pulsar Pipeline (Michael):

Achieved since last meeting:

- Previous version of the BF datawriter is working again. This needs now to be updated to the new format. Both on input and output format.
- Also the new data format is included in the DAL.
- Jan-David is busy with the second transpose operation. The work of Jan-David have been merged with the work of John (multiple observations). This gave a number of conflicts which John is now sorting out with Jan-David.
- Anastasia is working to make wrappers around the tools for the offline pipeline.
- Ken has started working on adapting John Swinbank pipeline tools to get the beamformer tools integrated.

Problems / current activities:

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Next actions:

- Implement second transpose operation.
- Update BF datawriter.

VHECR Pipeline (Michael):

Achieved since last meeting:

- This afternoon the first meeting will be held.

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Problems / current activities:

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Next actions:

- Identify all tasks necessary for getting a basic VHECR pipeline running.

System Integration

Achieved since last meeting:

- Number of validated stations is now 18.
- Michael and Jean-Matthias worked out a design for a solar spectrometer mode pipeline.

Problems / current activities:

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Next actions:

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Infrastructure (Harm)

Achieved since last meeting:

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Problems / current activities:

- Yet another meeting about the repositories and issue trackers will be organized to decide on the final way of working concerning these matters.

Next actions:

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User Data and Archive (Hanno)

Achieved since last meeting:

- Kick off of Target meeting was held yesterday.
- Hanno presented the current plans for the archive in the network meeting.

Problems / current activities:

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Next actions:

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Decisions

ID	Date submitted	Decision
02	20061220	Every Step will start with a Kick-off meeting, in which the complete software team participates.
03	20061220	The project team starts immediately with the preparations of the next CDR in order to preserve progress of the CSI realization
04	20070116	This meeting will take place every week on Tuesday 11:00. The existing software team meeting with all developers will stop to exist.
05	20070130	Step 1 will be changed to 16 subbands instead of 32 subbands.
06	20070130	Step 2 will contain a multiple node BBS. 6 μ Stations/Station will be postponed. Instead of this, 32 subbands measurements will be realized.

07	20070206	Step 1 will support 160 MHz observations. The other steps will support 200 MHz as well.
08	20070424	Step 2 will support 16 subbands @ 200MHz and 24 MHz at 160 MHz
09	20070424	During the rest of step two, OLAP will only support observations during the weekend.
10	20070522	The number of subbands per Measurement Set is set to 6 or 8 default.
11	20070522	Scheduler activities will be preferably activated in Q4 2007.
12	20070522	Procure, three Local Control Units to accommodate 12 microstations in CS010 in a quick way.
13	20070529	Integrate version numbers in all software.
14	20070529	Distinguish the software between a production version and an engineering version (partly now already the case).
15	20070605	All developed software under CVS will be transferred to Subversion. The main reason for this is that Subversion supports the integration of version numbers in the executables. In this way you can always retrieve which software is used for a certain build. First the impact of the transfer will be investigated by Marcel.
16	20070619	Marcel Loose will be the librarian of the LOFAR software. The available time for this will be shared with his BBS work.
17	20070710	The known pulsar survey mode will be the next mode to support (not in its full extent but partly on-line and off-line).
18	20070710	The temporarily off-line part of the known pulsar mode pipeline will not be under control of SAS/MAC. This will be put under control of SAS/MAC as soon as that software is available in the on-line part of the system.
19	20070814	Joe Masters makes the routine to read in the TBB data.
20	20071002	Fault tolerance of the system (mainly OLAP) is put at the top of the priority list after closing the SAS-MAC and CEP integration.
21	20071123	Kubuntu 7.10 desktop 64 bit OS is chosen for all machines except the BG/L and MAC/SAS machines
22	20071123	Station calibration work is smeared out over Step 4 and Step 5.
23	20071123	Global bandpass shape is moved to Step 5 because of its low priority.
24	20071211	Multiple beams per observation will be implemented instead of multiple observations (this is consistent with the plan).
25	20071211	Step 3 will be closed next Thursday. Any open items will be finished in Step 4.
26	20080130	Multiple beams are defined as multiple directions with the same set of antennas. Hence, only the angle, subbands and beamlets can be modified per beam.
27	20080206	Step 4 and Step 5 for MAC/SAS will be changed. The control of the offline pipeline will be postponed because the offline subsystems are not fixed yet. Currently the definition and design of the metadata flows will be set as goal for Step 4 and the implementation of the metadata flow will be the end goal of Step 5. Hence, after Step 5 (part of) the metadata is included in the Measurement Set.
28	20080213	Currently a single subband and single beam is stored in a Measurement Set. As soon as we are ready for mosaicing this probably should be changed in the future.
29	20080220	For storing the raw station beams the sanitizing operations like input buffer will be included in the online part. For this OLAP has to give operational support or instructions to the observers how to start up manually such observations. Since, this is an between solution this will not be automated via SAS/MAC.
30	20080227	Weekly build environment will be updated and automated.
31	20080227	After Step 5 the software documentation will be updated and obsolete packages will be removed.
32	20080423	Basically two Low Band modes will be supported initially: a LBL and LBH mode. The connection between antennas and RCUs have to be chosen such that those to modes make sense.
33	20080528	The position of all individual dipoles will be made available centrally in the database.
34	20080603	The data format of the positions will be delivered in ETRS coordinates by the roll out

		team. However, the data format of the positions will be stored in ITRF format in the LOFAR databases. Hence, all software and configuration files dealing with coordinates must be made compatible with the ITRF dataformat. Hans van de Marel is responsible to convert the ETRS coordinates to ITRF coordinates for the LOFAR system.
35	20080903	Kubuntu will be installed on LOFAR18, which will serve as a software development machine.
36	20081022	Station cabinet will be heated (if necessary) to 10 degrees Celsius (for the LCU).
37	20081029	We will transfer the build environment to cmake.
38	20081029	Step 1 will be closed at 11 November.
39	20081112	Bugs found in the field have the highest priority to solve. Bugs which take more than a week to solve will be added to the task list and prioritized in the software meeting. During bug solving tests should be written up, which proves the correct behavior. These tests will result in a procedure to check the functionality when new soft/firm ware is loaded.
40	20081126	The 4 bit mode will be supported after MS^3.
41	20081203	We will modify the build environment to cmake from now on.
42	20090129	Transient source modeling tool under Python will be used for source modeling.
43	20090129	Delay deadline of Step 2 to 26 February 2009.
44	20090209	Remote Stations including the ring splitter near the core will be renamed to CS stations.
45	20090813	No connection from the Dwingeloo test environment to Groningen is necessary anymore.
46	20090825	Create a Bugzilla environment for the USG software.
47	20090825	Use one subcluster per group, contactpersons and guidelines defined (see section Software integration).
48	20090909	Use the filter range names of MAC/SAS for the ICDs and the archive model.
49	20100116	HBA beam pointing: we decided that one observation is prime and determines the HBA beam. The other observations will be ranked. An additional field for the HBA beam pointing can be set. If this field is not set, then an average of all digital beams will be made within the prime observation.

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Table round

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