Note 213: Contributing Scripts to AIPS++ (Green Bank)

J.P. McMullin

jmcmulli@nrao.edu

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1   Motivation

This note is intended to elaborate on the various options for contributing scripts to the AIPS++ system; this note contains some information specific to NRAO, Green Bank.

2   Code Levels in AIPS++

Though AIPS++ provides a broad battery of reduction and analysis tools, it is also conducive to being used as a platform or environment for further development.

Currently within AIPS++ there are several levels of incorporation into the system. The base level, or main-stream AIPS++, is uniform from site to site and is composed of a sophisticated set of general purpose applications and tools for astronomical analysis. Code at this level must pass stringent review by participating AIPS++ programmers before being incorporated into the system.

Table 1: AIPS++ Code Levels

Catagory	directory	notes
main-stream AIPS++	aips, synthesis, dish, vlbi	must be code-copped
site-specific AIPS++	nrao, atnf, nfra, bima, etc	controlled by consorti um partner
unsupported AIPS++	contrib[a]	donated
	trial	temporary directory for development

Currently in Green Bank, there are two additional directories (engr-scripts and gb-astro-scripts) which are effectively contributed script directories. These will be moved into contrib.

A second level of AIPS++ represents site-specific tasks, tools that don't have an extended general utility but provide essential applications for a given observatory. Currently, this level of programs is not officially code-copped or reviewed, but must be taken over by an AIPS++ programmer who will help conform the code to existing style requirements and check the script into a code management system; at this stage, it is in the AIPS++ system and it will evolve to track changes within AIPS++ and Glish.

A third level of AIPS++ is composed of contributed scripts. These are scripts that have a limited or transient utility but still utilize the AIPS++ environment. Code at this level is not interfered with in any way, beyond eliminating name conflicts. Currently in Green Bank, there are two directories of contributed scripts, /aips++/engr-scripts and /aips++/gb-astro-scripts.

Table 1 summarizes the different levels. Each level of scripts is upwardly mobile; for example, scripts on the contrib level which bring significant capabilities that other parties in the project might want can be taken over by an AIPS++ programmer and elevated to the next level.

3   Style Requirements

Scripts submitted into contrib will not be looked at but if you have designs on a script having broader applicability and being elevated into AIPS++, then following the AIPS++ style specifications will speed the process.

Note 197 describes in detail "How to Write an AIPS++ Application". This note covers interface considerations, a guide to writing an application (using the glish closure idiom), writing a GUI for an application, and documenting the application. Adherence to these procedures will expedite the process of moving a script from contributed status to formal acceptance.