

## **Minutes Busy Wednesday Videocon of February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Present: Roberto Pizzo, John Mckean, Chiara Ferrari, Francesco de Gasperin, Annalisa Bonafede, Reinout van Weeren, David Rafferty, Ilse van Bemmelen, Aleksander Mueller, Cyril Tasse, Ashish Asgekar, Ken Cavagnolo, Jana Koelher, Sandra Shumann, Jess Broderick, Jan Noordam, Aleksandar Shulevski, Bas van der Tol**

### **Progresses with the commissioning:**

- We summarized the progresses made by the different groups working on the following targets/tasks:
  - a) A2256
  - b) Her A
  - c) Cyg A
  - d) NDPPP (test automatic plots)
  - e) Gain transfer in HBA observations

The reports are available on line at the wiki address:

[http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=commissioning:busy\\_wednesdays](http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=commissioning:busy_wednesdays)

- Cyril Tasse implemented the 3 methods for off-axis sources removal in python. They seem to work fine on simulated data. Of course each of them has its own advantages and 'problems'. More to come. The next step is to try them on real data. See report on the wiki.

## ISSUES:

## SOLVED

- a) Sven gave a presentation about a workaround to clearcal (that so far needed to be run before BBS if you were planning to use CASA at some point). The essence is that now the 'calibrate' script used to run BBS will automatically produce the columns needed by CASA in a Measurement sets and there is no need to run clearcal anymore (see pdf on the wiki at [http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=commissioning:busy\\_wednesdays](http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=commissioning:busy_wednesdays))
- b) 'Automatic' plots are now available after NDPPP. See the wiki page of NDPPP for more info. Check the report from Aleksandar on the performance of this feature.
- c) BBS had the wrong station configuration file for the HBA. Pandey implemented a workaround:

*'I had discussion with Joris and we rethought on testing the HBA beam size in BBS. Instead of changing the code in BBS (for now) I have modified the StationConfig files appropriately so as the correct 24 tile positions (and not 48) are read by BBS for HBA\_0 and HBA\_1 ministations. So there is no change at all in BBS for now.'*

*Please, change the following line in your parset.*

-----  
*Step.solve.Model.Beam.StationConfig.Path=/home/zwieten/StationConfig*  
*to*  
*Step.solve.Model.Beam.StationConfig.Path=/home/pandey/StationConfigModified*  
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***THIS IS ONLY FOR THE HBA BEAM***

*PS: Of course Joris is working on a proper change so as to read*

*the New configuration and format in a more standard way which would be released in later version of BBS...'*

## **OPEN (work in progress)**

- a) A parset library will contain the best parset files made by the commissioners. These could be used for different data reduction strategies.
- b) A completion bar is needed in BBS to more easily understand how long the calibration step will take: Joris is working on this.

## **Announcements:**

- a) The wiki now has also the reports from BW1 till BW8:

<http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=commissioning:start>

- b) The cookbook is undergoing a re-organization. Other few commissioners/software developers will help me in the update of the manual. A new version of the cookbook will be available by the end of next week. Soon it will be possible to use the Lofar Issue Tracker to report errors present in the manual and give suggestions to improve its quality. Here is the announcement of the release of the bug tracker:

Lofar Issue tracker is now open and available at

<https://proxy.lofar.eu/redmine>

People are strongly encouraged to read the introductory Wiki page at

[http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php?id=maintenance:lofar\\_issue\\_tracker](http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php?id=maintenance:lofar_issue_tracker)

There they will find instructions on registration, the acceptance procedure and an introduction on how to use the LOFAR Issue tracker.

The next Busy Wednesday will take place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your host will be John McKean.