

ATCA/Parkes Forum Meeting Minutes

DATE: 15th December 2015
TIME: 11:30 - 12:30
LOCATION: Basement Conference Room
FOCUS: ATCA

ACTION Items are preceded with *** and are summarized at the end.

Science Operations Update, Phil:

- Proposal Deadline Today at 5:00 pm!!!
- OPAL issues:
 - Bjorn submitted a proposal and then logged back in later to find it had disappeared from OPAL all together.
 - One PI of a proposal did not get an email confirming submission
 - Phil tried to save a proposal and OPAL said it could not save it and then everything was lost; had to redo everything and then it was OK
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***If anyone has any OPAL issues please log them and let Phil know.
- Ghost lines in ATCA data: Jamie and Shari have been looking into this issue (see below)
- Summer students to go up to Narrabri in Jan.
- Stacy: Portal updates coming
- DAs have now been filled up through the end of the semester

ATCA System Scientist Update, Jamie:

- Sensitivity Calc - was working extremely slowly due to a server bug; new kernel upgrade fixed the problem and now it should be working
- Zoom problems with Ghost lines - Shari and Jamie observed a maser line and they found that if the line is near where 2 zooms have been stitched together, a lower intensity line appears 100 MHz away; Jamie hopes that it is simply an edge suppression issue
- Heat stows - when mm compressor does not get enough air passing through its radiator and the heat shuts the compressor down; problem may be solved after installing some big fans; if the heat condition is reached, the telescope will automatically stow so there's nothing the user needs to do, but it does cost time

Software/Computing Update, Mark:

- blflag: addressed concerned posted on ATCA forum
- has anyone tried MPICASA (task for parallel processing)? **ACTION ITEM:** ***Mark would like feedback, if anyone has tried it. Lives in the same place as CASA.
- Ian: found that 1934 is not well constrained in CASA, so he made a better model to be used and can post the python code on the forum, if anyone wants it
- Jamie: the coefficients in the Calibrator Database for 1934 are correct, but need to be updated in Miriad and will be as soon as paper is published
- Jamie to Mark: I thought that CASA had more flexibility with Taylor terms, but I tried to use it with the latest version and didn't get good results. Mark will enquire.

Lisa: did we get feedback from ATUC? Phil: not yet; Paolo: Virginia says she submitted a report but not clear if it was oral or written

Feedback from Observers, DAs, and Project Friends:

- Amy:
 - Portal issues - observers sign up for entire observing block, but could there be a way for observers to sign up for just a section of a block? Alerts are only generated if no one has signed up, regardless of whether they are doing the full run or partial run; the problems are (a) DAs don't know when a change over occurs if multiple people sign up for a single observing block; (b) observers within teams have difficulties determining who is observing when
 - Amy: what about downgrading a proposal if a team misses out on observing in a previous semester?
 - Lisa: we need clearer rules so that teams are aware of what happens
 - Jamie: what if we have a check box in the portal for a team to check if they need DA support?
 - Paolo: what about having project experts rather than DAs -- like the Parkes system?
 - Tasso: Teams need to take responsibility. It is up to the PI to organize within observing blocks who is observing when
 - Phil and Josh: some PIs sign up for every block to avoid spam emails
 - Jamie: Simon made the point that DAs need to be onsite unless they are told otherwise
- Amy - 2 things:
 - 1) DA being onsite: the DA room has not been prepared in time for use on a few occasions;
ACTION ITEM: ***Communication with Vicki and team needs to be improved --> Phil, Robin, and perhaps DAs need to meet with VSC team to discuss expectations and rules for DA room; possibly address cleaning schedule/cleaning day
 - 2) Comments on videos: maybe separating videos made for newbies from those designed for experienced observers?
 - Jamie is adding a new video on how to setup the telescope.
 - Robin wants to update the video on reprogramming CABB to include a warning at the start to alert less experienced observers; wants to edit video to include situations when reprogramming doesn't work
 - Amy suggests adding a video on making a Sched file

Robin: Feedback questionnaires are awaiting feedback form ATUC

Completed Action items: Yay!

- YouTube Video Feedback: Some suggestions/comments from Amy, which prompted useful discussions; Anyone else with feedback, please send along to Jamie.
- Jamie: RFI flagging:
 - progress has been made and this is now documented in User's Guide
- Phil: checked with Jessica about adding Archive of Issues - has now been added website and can be found here:
<http://www.atnf.csiro.au/observers/data/index.html>

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) OPAL:
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***If anyone has any OPAL issues, please log them and let Phil know.
- 2) CASA task MPICASA for parallel processing:
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***Mark would like feedback on this task, if anyone has used it.
- 3) Improve communication with Vicki and team regarding use of DA room and cleaning schedule
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***Phil, Robin, and perhaps DAs need to meet with VSC group to discuss expectations and rules for DA room; possibly address cleaning schedule/cleaning day
- 4) Focus Tests: 2 more new feed horns will be added (total of 4 now)
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***Robin to check with Ray on what's previously been done and how much time is needed to complete this task
- 5) Automation of observing: Should sched files be automatically run in a loop?
 - Shari and Amy: agree that running sched files should stay the same as they are now, which is not running them in a loop
 - Vince: suggested introducing a new word such as "loop" (instead of using "start")
 - **ACTION ITEM:** ***Please tell Jamie which way you would like the sched files to be run

- 6) Shari: has anyone else seen the CABB zoom aliased lines?
- **ACTION ITEM:** *** Jamie and/or Shari to put in a fault report to track the problem
- 7) Putting VIS on a webpage:
- **ACTION ITEM:** ***Jamie still to do
- 8) YouTube Videos:
- **ACTION ITEM:** ***Robin wants to update the video on reprogramming CABB; Jamie has a new video on setting up the ATCA to be completed soon; possibly adding a new video on making a Sched file; anything else?
- 9) Shari: **ACTION ITEM:*****Give Shari money for the Christmas Par-tay!!!