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# The LOFAR Imaging Cookbook



Initially written by Timothy Garn Now maintained by **Roberto Pizzo** (pizzo@astron.nl)

#### Assumptions

- Basics idea of radio data reduction
- Basic knowledge of GNU/Linux systems

# Chapters

I. The LOFAR cluster
II. LOFAR data
III. Pipeline

a. NDPPP
b. BBS
c. MWImager

## Aims

- Learn how to use LOFAR pipeline
- A few technical details
- See a general picture
- Save lots of time!

# l. The Wofar Cluster

#### Cookbook chap. I











## The LOFAR Cluster





Portal











#### The LOFAR Cluster



#### The Cluster Environment

- Use the (t)csh
- Use package to set the environment
- Set . mypackages file
- \$ use <package name>
  \$ use LofIm <day>

Package	Description	Initialize	Update frequency	Comments				
Casa	Browser, viewer, plotms, casapy	use Casa	infrequent	NRAO development				
GDL	Gnu data language	use GDL	infrequent	Contains: GDL, GSL, PLPlot				
Loflm	Lofar Imaging	use LofIm	daily	Contains: casacore, casarest, pyrap, LOFAR, ASKAPsoft				
LUS (LOFAR User Software)	USG DAL and Pulsar tools	use LUS	daily	Provided by USG				

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#### Follow cookbook chap. 1.3

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# II. Kofar Data

### Cookbook chap. 2

## The LOFAR Measurement Set (.MS)

- Directory (not file)
- Table System
- Each row is a data

ANTENNAIFirst antenna in baselineANTENNA2Second antenna in baselineFIELD\_IDField (source no.) identificationTIMEIntegration midpoint timeUVWUVW coordinatesFLAGcumulative data flagsWEIGHTweight for a rowDATAcomplex visibility data matrixMODEL\_DATAvisibility for the modelCORRECTED\_DATAdata after calibration

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Applying solutions



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How the data look like?

#### Looking inside a data file

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How the data look like?

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Which frequency has this SB?	How the data look like?	Which antenna were included in this observation?

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#### \$ msinfo SB111.MS

y of UV data for SB111.MS	5
<pre># of visibilities:</pre>	1809456
<pre># of flagged vis.:</pre>	653140
Phase center:	+19:59:28.4, +40:44:02.1
Frequency range (MHz):	148.340 148.535
Wavelength range (m):	2021 2.018
Observation time span:	2010-09-11T17:00:00 2010-09-11T22:59:58
Duration (hrs):	6.00
time bin / integration:	3.01990
<pre># of channels:</pre>	256
channel width (KHz):	0.8
<pre># of polarizations:</pre>	4
# of antennas:	22
	<pre>ry of UV data for SB111.MS # of visibilities: # of flagged vis.: Phase center: Frequency range (MHz): Wavelength range (m): Observation time span: Duration (hrs): time bin / integration: # of channels: channel width (KHz): # of polarizations: # of antennas:</pre>

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Which frequency has this SB?	How the data look like?	Which antenna were included in this observation?

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653140 +19:59:28.4, +40:44:02.1 148.340 -- 148.535 2021 -- 2.018 2010-09-11T17:00:00 -- 2010-09-11T22:59:58 6.00 3.01990 256 0.8 4 22

Are my data full of RFI?			Which average h een performed my data?		VVhat was the elevation of the source?			
	Which frequency hat this SB?	as	How the data look like?	V we thi	Which antenna were included in this observation?			

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+19:59:28.4, +40:44:02.1148.535 2010-09-11T17:00:00 -- 2010-09-11T22:59:58 I want to see some plots! What was Which average has the Are my data been performed on elevation of full of RFI? my data? the source? Which antenna Which frequency has How the data were included in this SB? look like? this observation?



#### casaplotms







## NDPPP (New Default Pre-Processing Pipeline): Flagging and squashing!



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Specify parameters in a NDPPP.parset file:

```
msin = SB111.MS
msin.datacolumn = DATA
msin.startchan = 8
msin.nchan = 240
```

```
msout = "SB111 DPPP.MS"
msout.datacolumn = DATA
```

steps = [preflag,flag1,avg1,flag2,avg2,count]

preflag.type=preflagger preflag.corrtype=auto

```
flag1.type=madflagger
flag1.threshold=4
flag1.freqwindow=31
flag1.timewindow=5
flag1.correlations=[0,3] avg2.type = squash
```

avg1.type = squash avg1.freqstep = 240

\$ NDPPP NDPPP.parset

flag2.type=madflagger flag2.threshold=3 flag2.timewindow=51

avg2.timestep = 5

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#### \$ NDPPP NDPPP.parset

Time, baseline, elevation, azimuth, uv-distance, channel, frequency, amplitude, phase, real, and imaginary.

steps = [preflag, flag1, avg1, flag2, avg2, count]

preflag.type=preflagger preflag.corrtype=auto

flag1.type=madflagger flag1.threshold=4 flag1.freqwindow=31 flag1.timewindow=5 flag1.correlations=[0,3] avg2.type = squash

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flag2.type=madflagger flag2.threshold=3 flag2.timewindow=51

avg2.timestep = 5

## NDPPP (+RFlconsole): Flagging and squashing!



RFIconsole, a new flagger from: André Offringa (offringa@astro.rug.nl) -in the cookbook from v3.1-

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## NDPPP (+RFlconsole): Flagging and squashing!



Broadband

Line

Other

Total

## NDPPP (+RFlconsole): Flagging and squashing!





#### BBS (BlackBoard Selfcal): Calibrating!

- Calibration (also directional)
- Source subtraction
- Model data creation
- Ionosphere and beam corrections



(courtesy J. van Zwieten)

BBS (BlackBoard Selfcal): Calibrating!

\$ makevds sub1.clusterdesc <MS file>

Clusterdesc: Describes the layout of the cluster nodes VDS file: Describe content and location of the MS files

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\$ makevds sub1.clusterdesc <MS file>

\$ combinevds <output file>.gds <vds file 1> [<vds file 2> ...]

\$ calibrate -f --key test --cluster-desc sub1.clusterdesc

--db ldb001 --db-user postgres <global gds file>

bbs.parset bbs.skymodel <directory>

Clusterdesc: Describes the layout of the cluster nodes VDS file: Describe content and location of the MS files GDS file: Describe location of all the VDS files BBS parameters





#### BBS (BlackBoard Selfcal): Calibrating!

\$ parmdbplot.py SB111.MS/instrument/

#### BBS (BlackBoard Selfcal): Calibrating!











#### MWImager (Master-Worker Imager): Imaging!

MWimager is a wrapper for:

- cimager: developed for ASKAP and LOFAR observations
- Iwimager: using CASA imaging libraries
- imaging from the DATA, MODEL DATA, or CORRECTED DATA column
- imaging individual channels
- multi-frequency synthesis
- imaging of all Stokes
- wide-field imaging using facets or W-projection (or combination)
- deconvolution (though not all clean algorithms are supported by both imagers).

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parameters file (Cookbook chap. 6.2) cluster description file

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cluster description file

```
$ casaviewer
$ image2fits in=<input image> out=<output image>
```

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## Official download page: www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/~fdg/LOFAR\_cookbook/

Last version: 3.0 - 22/07/2010



