

GLOW Basic Interferometry 2008 Overview

Date and Time

2008 November 17-19

We will start modestly early in the morning on November 17, probably at 9:00 or 10:00, depending on arrival times. So you will probably need to travel to Garching on the weekend.

Location

MPA Garching — details to be provided by Sven soon

Hotels

Once you know your arrival and departure date, you can contact Maria Depner (maria@mpa-garching.mpg.de, Tel.: +49 89 30000-2214) and she'll book rooms in one of the following hotels.

The first two are located in Garching. Reaching the Institute is possible by foot (ca. 20mins), or by using the underground (1 Stop). The third hotel is in a business park, outside Garching, but beside the next U6 underground stop; the Forschungsgelände Garching is only two stops away.

[Hotel Hoyacker Hof](#), Freisinger Landstraße 9a, 85748 Garching rooms from EUR77 per night

[Hotel König Ludwig II.](#), Bürgerplatz 3, 85748 Garching rooms from EUR89 per night

[Etap Hotel](#), Daimlerstrasse 3, 85748 Garching (Garching-Hochbrück) rooms from EUR49 per night

Participants

Name	Type	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Hotel	Looking for roommate
James M Anderson	(T)	Nov 15	Nov 19	?	N
Sven Duscha	(S)	?	?	?	?
Frank Breitling	(S)	?	?	?	?
Jochen Eislöffel	(S)	?	?	?	?
Joerg Knoche	(S)	?	?	?	?
Thomas Riller	(S)	?	?	?	?
Christian Vocks	(S)	?	?	?	?
Matthias Hoeft	(S)	?	?	?	?
Petr Kuchar	(S)	?	?	?	?
Hristo Stoev	(S)	?	?	?	?
Enno Middelberg	(T)	?	?	?	?

Name	Type	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Hotel	Looking for roommate
Emanuela Orru	(B)	?	?	?	?

E-mail Announcement Log

2008 Oct 06

Hello everyone,

I have a few things I would like to update everyone on.

First, I will be sending out an announcement on a GLOW basic radio- interferometry school soon through Matthias.

Second, I have some good news to report. In the e-mail from Michael Wise below, you will see that the Dutch LOFAR group has come around to giving a higher priority to teaching the rest of us how to use the LOFAR software so that we can aid in the development and commissioning. Hooray! The proposed timeframe for such a school is January. Looking at the list of suggested topics, I believe that this school will be a fairly high level school. Thus, I think that the idea of having a ~few day school in Garching to cover the really fundamental basics of radio interferometry for our new people is still a good idea.

Third, through a series of e-mail exchanges and a long telephone conversation last week, I believe that there has been a significant shift in the software mindset in LOFAR. It seems that the MeqTrees package, which for so long has been officially downcast by the LOFAR management has now been blessed with some sort of official recognition. This is in part, I believe, a result of some work within Dwingeloo to have a software program to automatically convert MeqTrees software into something which can be run through BBS. This means that the LOFAR management is now officially recognizing that software development and commissioning using MeqTrees can be useful for LOFAR. For us, this means that we can officially start using MeqTrees to do LOFAR-related work, as MeqTrees is available now, and we do not have to wait some unknown period of time for BBS to appear in a usable state. I will try to keep everyone informed as this gets sorted out.

More later.

James M Anderson

2008 Oct 06, number 2

Hello everyone,

As announced earlier, we are planning a school to teach basic radio interferometry, with an emphasis on practical knowledge necessary for working with LOFAR, in Garching at some point around one month from now. In the previous polling, 12 potential students responded with interest, and we are now moving forward with planning the actual school. Details and a sign-up area are provided below. Note that we need to have people capable of teaching sign up in addition to the students. Please cast

your date votes by the morning of Monday, October 13.

Since the initial announcement of our basic interferometry school, Dwingeloo has announced that they are in the planning stages to hold a LOFAR-specific school sometime in perhaps January.

Date: Mon, 6 Oct 2008 14:04:05 +0200

From: Michael Wise wise@astron.nl

Subject: LOFAR data processing school

Dear All,

At the last meeting of the LAD board, James raised the idea on behalf of the GLOW community of holding a LOFAR data processing school to help train the growing pool of new students, postdocs, and staff that will be aiding in the commissioning activities early next year. This topic was also raised again at the Hamburg meeting. I think there is no question that such a workshop will be needed, so I'd like to begin the logistical planning now so we can organize it as soon as possible.

Assuming everyone agrees about the need for such a workshop, as a first step, I'd like to ask each of you to take a moment and answer the following few questions:

- a) How many people from your group(s) would be likely to attend?
- b) What are their skill levels likely to be? (student, postdoc, experienced radio astronomer?)
- c) What topics would you like to see addressed? (system overview, data preparation, calibration, imaging, time series data, single station modes, etc.?)

Given the enormous range of things to cover for LOFAR processing, I doubt that the school being proposed for around January will be able to cover both the basics of radio interferometry, as well as details about what is going on inside the available LOFAR software and how to use the current LOFAR software.

Therefore, I feel that a school to introduce GLOW members to basic radio interferometry is still a good idea, prior to the subsequent school to be held in January which will go into far more detail. However, I realize that some of you who are already modestly familiar with radio interferometry may wish to skip the GLOW school and only attend the January school.

Therefore, I have created a doodle page for people to sign up for the GLOW school.

<http://www.doodle.ch/us7vrswy62ssaqw6>

The possible dates for the school are given on the doodle page (October 27 to November 21). We will aim for a 3 (or 2) day school with the greatest attendance possible. Please note that we also need a few people who can give lectures (the NRAO summer school lectures are available on-line) and run a tutorial session. So if you can come to Garching for a day or two and help out with teaching interferometry to other people, please sign up as well. I can talk for a while, but my voice will probably give out after the first day if it is only me doing the talking. (Students, please mark yourselves with an S after your name. Teachers, please mark yourself with a T, and people in-between can use B.)

The main plan is to take selected lectures from

<http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/events/synthesis/2008/>

and present them to the students during morning sessions. Emphasis will be given by the presenters on material which is most relevant for LOFAR, and for cases where LOFAR is different from existing instruments. We will probably have 10-15 people, so this will be a very informal group, and you can ask questions freely. Then in the afternoons we will have data processing tutorials to give the students an idea of what really goes on in practice. For the ease of the teachers, the tutorials will probably use AIPS with relatively simple datasets from existing instruments, to teach the students the basics of what goes on in radio interferometry.

A room will be organized for us in Garching. Accommodation information will be made available when we have selected the final dates for the school.

Suggested reading material to have available at your institution:

http://www.amazon.de/Synthesis-Imaging-Radio-Astronomy-Astronomical/dp/1583810056/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books-intl-de&qid=1223306412&sr=8-2

This is the book used by the past decade of summer schools in Socorro. It is aimed mostly at the astronomer wanting to reduce VLA data, with a few diversions into other instruments and frequencies. Unfortunately, they are no longer easy to get ahold of. Try asking for volume 180 from

<http://www.astrosociety.org/pubs/cs/csorder.html>

http://www.amazon.de/Interferometry-Synthesis-Radio-Astronomy/dp/0471254924/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books-intl-de&qid=1223306706&sr=1-2

This is the main radio interferometry book aimed more at the engineering astronomer side of things. I have found it quite useful for low-level thinking about the hardware and software development, but it is not terribly useful if you just want to process your data.

http://www.amazon.de/Fourier-Transform-and-Its-Applications/dp/0071160434/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books-intl-de&qid=1223306882&sr=1-3

Fourier transforms play a major role in radio interferometry, in the basic way that the interferometer “sees” the sky. One must become comfortable with the transform in order to understand the instrument.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Garching.

James M Anderson

2008 Oct 13

On Mon, 6 Oct 2008, James M Anderson wrote:

The possible dates for the school are given on the doodle page (October 27 to November 21). We will aim for a 3 (or 2) day school with the greatest attendance possible.

And the winner is ... November 17-19.

It looks like we will have 8 to 9 students. I will try to make arrangements with Garching in the next few days, and we will give you more details as we figure them out.

Please note that we also need a few people who can give lectures (the NRAO summer school lectures are available on-line) and run a tutorial session.

Only 2 people signed up as possible teachers. In order for this to work, we need to have a few more people show up to give the lectures and help through a tutorial session. Sven, can you twist the arms of some of the people in Garching? They would not need to travel far.

Back with more info soon.

James M Anderson

From:

<https://www.astron.nl/lofarwiki/> - **LOFAR Wiki**

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