ANASAC Face to Face Meeting

September 16-17, 2013 - Charlottesville

Policy Issues

P. R. Jewell, NA ALMA Project Director

Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array
Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array
Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope
Very Long Baseline Array

Outline

- PI Early Access to Raw Data
- ALMA Draft Duplication Policy
- Future of ANASAC

PI Early Access to Raw Data

- See provided position paper
- Overview of issues
  - 2013 NRAO Users Committee suggested raw data be distributed immediately through data archive, to be followed by pipeline-processed / QA2 products
  - Consistent with intent of Array Ops Plan (in NA contributors' view)
  - Several points in favor
    - Involve community experts to get "eyes on" data at an early stage
    - Provides incentive for young investigators to learn detailed data reduction
    - Allows opportunity to process data prior to upcoming proposal deadlines
  - Must in no way compromise emphasis or timescales for providing pipeline products / QA2-passed data
  - EU and EA ARCs do not support this position: believe raw data should be available only after QA2 / pipeline products have been delivered
    - Primary counterpoints:
      - 'Early access' may favor "expert" observers
      - 'Early access' may require additional user support
  - Will be discussed at Director's Council – Regional SAC views solicited

ALMA Draft Observation Duplication Policy for Cycle 2

ASAC has agreed to the following policy (see provided document):

Observations are considered duplicates if **all** the following conditions are met:

1. Target field location:
   a. For single--field interferometry, the map reference positions coincide within the primary beam (half--power beam width), or
   b. For mosaic observations, the fields of the two Science Goals (defined as the half--power beam widths) overlap by more than 50% of the size of the smaller one.
2. The values of the highest angular resolution for the two considered Science Goals differ by a factor of less than 2.
3. Spectral windows:
   a. Each spectral window of one Science Goal overlaps with a spectral window of the other by more than 50% of the narrower one (TDM mode), or
   b. At least 50% of the spectral lines to be observed in the Science Goal including the smaller number of lines overlap the lines of the other Science Goal (FDM mode).
4. The difference of spectral resolution between overlapping spectral windows (as defined above) is less than a factor of 2.
5. The difference in the requested rms (rms noise values in Jy for continuum observations and in K for line observations at the same velocity resolution and the same angular resolution) within each pair of matching spectral windows is less than a factor of 2.

Plus additional qualifiers. Science assessors will determine if the duplicate proposals are mutually exclusive or if more than one can be approved.

Future of ANASAC

- Transition time for ALMA – end of construction, start of regular operations
- Appropriate time to unify ANASAC with NRAO Users Committee, which also advises on ALMA
- Community input on science operations for ALMA critical; must continue to align with ALMA governance & advisory structure
- **Proposal**
  - ANASAC will become a subcommittee of the NRAO UC
  - Membership:
    - 6 appointed members to the UC / ANASAC subcommittee by NRAO Director; 3yr terms
      - Will include 1 Canadian, 1 Taiwanese
      - 5 NA ASAC reps, w/ NSF consent, ALMA Board-approved. Subcmte Chair is ASAC/NA vice chair
    - NRAO UC at-large members with ALMA interests may caucus with subcommittee
      - Currently includes: Sarah Church, Jeremy Darling, Mark Devlin, Shep Doeleman*, Mark Heyer, Karin Oberg*, Dominic Reichers, Eva Schinnerer (*current ANASAC)
    - Bi-monthly telecons
    - 1 face-to-face meeting per year at annual UC meeting (e.g., +1d or 1/2d breakout session)
  - Implementation Timescale:
    - Phase in by time of May 2014 UC face-to-face meeting
      - Incoming UC chair is Greg Hallinan

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.

www.nrao.edu • science.nrao.edu