

SWG Chairs Telecon 20-October-2020

Notes: Tyler Bourke

Participants: SWGs: Abhirup Datta, Adriano Ingallinera, Andrei Mesinger, Françoise Combes, George Heald, Jan Forbrich, Jason Hessels, Josep Miguel Girart, Laura Wolz, Mark Sargent, Phil Edwards, Sarah Blyth, Sebastien Mueller, Stefano Camera, Valentina Vacca, Willem van Straten

Apologies: Divya Oberoi

SKAO: Robert Braun, Anna Bonaldi, Tyler Bourke, Philippa Hartley

SWG Updates

RB

- start with the question of round table format going forward
- email yesterday floating idea of more in-depth updates at future meetings - smaller number of teams to update at each meeting, so less often.

Andrei - team activity is sporadic, so might not be able to update every month or two (maybe 3 times a year)

RB - cycle would be longer than that, given the number of SWGs

RB - if presentable items arise (science updates) then drop Robert an email in advance so space can be put into the agenda for a more in-depth update from an SWG.

RB - two approaches - regularly scheduled, or request ahead of each meeting

Jason - online agenda possible for adding items? Example use Slack

RB - could put a proto-agenda on Confluence

Andrei - start with self-nominate, if lack of interest then RB can beat the bushes

Mark S. - concerned that this takes over from the flow of information from SKAO to the Chairs and hence the SWGs. If gaps in agenda known say a week before the meeting, then that would be good to fill

SKA Science Meeting

- March 15-19, 2021, virtual

- two platforms being considered, aim to make final decision very soon

Natasha - have the SOC talked with Vanessa Moss about lessons learned from Meeting of Meetings?

RB - aim to set up such a meeting but has not been arranged yet

Jason - Up to 5 parallel sessions - not possible to have parallel sessions for each SWG?

RB - Anna has looked into this. This means up to 5 at any one time. There are 14 SWGs

Jason - ok, misunderstood, this is ok

SDC2

PH

- Thanks to HI group for feedback, believe that all has been implemented

- datacube is nearly stabilised
- more than 40 teams have expressed interest
- designing an award for reproducibility, as well as for overall winner
- work with Software Sustainability Institute in Manchester on this
- aim is still to begin the challenge at the end of this year

Mark S. - when will the actual metrics be published, that are used to judge the challenge

PH - soon on the website. Source finding and characterisation, details will be published in advance

- A scoring code will be made available as part of the challenge
- Dataset is 1 Tb, only available through the HPC centres. Smaller test set will be available for download with the scoring code

Mark S. - knowing the scoring metrics may impact the type of code teams may propose to use

PH: Here's a link to the challenge expression of interest details:

<https://sdc2.astronomers.skatelescope.org/register-your-interest>

Roundtable

Abhirup – Discussion of EoR/CD simulations team with Anna and Robert of SKAO about jointly preparing an EoR/CD-based SDC3 for release in 2021. Good prospects for moving ahead with this.

Adriano - ASKAP presentation to the SWG by Adriano, on GP work. Will have future telecons to whole SWG, speakers already arranged.

Andrei - aim to start a monthly seminar series for the SWG, aim to promote talks by junior members.

Francoise - team members working with precursors, submitting proposals etc. Mongoose commissioning work, and Mightee, involving SWG members. HI/OH redshift on PKS 1830-211 observations to be published.

George/Valentina - Recent Core telecon with updates on precursors. Aim to have telecons with all members every other month to present plenary talks, and updates from the chairs on SKA activities.

Jan - SWG report already from Adriano.

Jason - pathfinder/precursor. Transients results appearing from ASKAP/MeerKAT/Apertif, and Lofar. Awaiting CHIME results, sitting on about 1000 FRBs.

Josep-Miguel - renewal of the Core membership complete. Will have a telecon with the core when Laurent is back.

Mark S. - SWG members participated in the RadioNet Workshop on Future Trends in Radio Astronomy Instrumentation <https://events.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/indico/event/154/> - classical format, was ok for a short meeting. Some lessons learned from that meeting - put people into rooms during coffee breaks, arranged by the organisers, didn't always work well in getting people to actually join. New prescriptions on how to measure SF rates from GHz observations

NHW - Exgal. Cont. from Australia. RAPID ASKAP continuum survey 15" close to publication at 890 MHz. Taster for EMU.

Phil E. - paper mentioned by NHW accepted by PASA. ASKAP Phase 1 pilot surveys complete, gearing up for a Phase 2. SKA Australia update for community on Oct 21. Australia has finished their ratification process.

RB - UK has essential finished ratification, with approval by the Privy Council. Now 5 countries have completed, including the 3 host countries, so now have the minimum number needed to form the IGO. Documents will be taken to UN, and first council meeting can happen in December

Sarah - HI input into the data challenge has taken SWG time. First 32k channel result from Mightee published. MeerKAT open time call over-subscribed - good news.

Sebastien - SWGs aims to host two x 2 hour sessions for the SKA meeting.

Stefano - getting back to bimonthly telecons with the SWG. Getting ready to use Mightee as a test for SKA source finding. Process for Mightee probably not suitable for SKA SDC2 due to resolution.

Willem - IPTA community had a remote meeting Sep 22-23. 3 x 3 hours, over 38 hours. 80-100 in each session. Talks available

here: <https://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/conferences/2020/ipta/> nanoGrav 12.5 year possible detection receiving a lot of interest. Sensitivity of a PTA increases with time, and the increase due to adding e.g MeerKAT is substantial (plot shown at meeting). Check out MeerTime publications <http://www.meertime.org/publications.html>

AOB

RB - Francoise Combes received the CNRS 2020 Gold Medal. (Round of virtual applause). <https://www.cnrs.fr/en/astrophysicist-francoise-combes-awarded-cnrs-2020-gold-medal>

Jason (in the chat)- SALF-VI: <https://salfconference.org/2020-7th-annual-science-at-low-frequencies-salf-conference/>

Please sign up if you're interested in SKA-Low pathfinder/precursor science! :-)