

SWG Chairs Telecon 11-September-2018

Minutes by Evan Keane

Participants:

SWG: Ann Mao, Grazia Umana, Sarah Blyth, Garellt Mellema, Fernando Camilo, Diva Oberoi, Laura Wolz, Jason Hessels, Izaskun Jimenez-Serra, Willem van Straten, Mark Sargent, Francoise Combes, Gianni Bernardi

Apologies: Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro, Richard Battye, Eduard Kontar, George Heald, Natasha Hurley-Walker, Doug Johnstone, Erik Rosolowsky

SKAO: Robert Braun, Tyler Bourke, Jeff Wagg, Evan Keane, Cristina Garcia Miro

*Topic: SWG Posters*

TB: describe idea to get posters, per SWG, suitable for showing at AAS meetings etc. Tyler showed nice example from CoL group. Request made of each SWG to produce one by ~mid November, for Comms team to print ahead of Jan AAS.

Similar posters were made for design consortia a few years ago. Long format, for portable pull-up posters.

Tyler will send the poster template around during the week.

*Topic: Wikis*

Cristina: SWGs want common wiki platform for sharing news, activities etc.

Needs:

Common landing page for all groups, links to individual SWG pages from there

Needs to be accessible everywhere in world, NB some websites banned in some countries (e.g. China)

Must be able to handle ~500 users.

Wiki engines vs Wiki farms:

Cristina discussed pros and cons of both types and examples of these in use by various astro groups.

Conclusion: use a paid version of a wiki farm. Preference is PBWorks which costs \$2000/year.

Requesting feedback, comments and ideas. If feedback positive, will set this up ASAP.

*Topic: Data Challenges*

Anna has created a sky model, AGN + SF galaxies. 150MHz--20 GHz. Using TRECS and Galsim and DRAGNS images

Telescope simulation in progress. Some example images shown, very crowded.

Most realistic simulation done. Using actual Mid dish voltage pattern + dish configuration. New gridding algorithms essential in this regime of large Npix and large range of scales. Implementation of this now working in MIRIAD. Paper about this in progress. Plan to add to CASA etc. also.

Jason: has anyone put effort into putting transients into the data yet?

Robert: not yet. starting with 'easy' things (actually highly non-trivial), but this is a many year process. We will actually get a postdoc at SKAO to work on this for the next few years.

Jason: SWG members are itching to help with things like this.

Divya: Can you describe in one minute how the new gridding algorithm works?

Robert: The gridding weights are calculated with a variable convolving kernel size (scaling as radius to a power) to optimally track the systematic changes of visibility density.

Gianni: Is modified MIRIAD version in the standard version yet?

Robert: not yet. Plan to do this ASAP. In the interim, can share the code now if requested.

Mark Sargent: Is the image shown noise free?

Robert: yes.

Mark Sargent: How much does recoverability improve with different Tobs, noise etc.

Robert: This is one of the points of the data challenge.

#### *Topic: Science Meetings*

IAU GA. went very well. Thanks to volunteers who helped with the SKA booth.

SKA2019. Evan sent a reminder email yesterday. Reminder to register.

Jason: will there be anything about science data centres at the upcoming meeting. Will raise this at the SOC. Michael Wise interested.

Robert: agreed.

EWASS 2019. Last-minute submission prepared and submitted by Chiara Ferrari and Jeff Wagg.

URSI GA 2020, in Rome. Workshops/sessions call now open.

#### *Topic: Community Meetings*

Robert went through upcoming meetings across all of the SWGs.

#### *AOB*

Tyler mentioned that some SWG chairs are due to rotate off between now and the April meeting. Robert will circulate the names, times etc. with the telecon notes.

Another meeting of relevance:

URSI-AP-RASC, 9 – 15 March, New Delhi