

Dear colleague,

Please find below the first announcement of the Fifth LOFAR data processing school. We would appreciate it if you circulate this announcement within your institution and in your network.

Best regards,

Emanuela Orrù & Matthijs van der Wiel  
on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

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Fifth LOFAR Data Processing School

<http://www.astron.nl/lofarschool2018/>  
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ASTRON, Dwingeloo, September 17-21 2018

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The Fifth LOFAR Data Processing School will take place on September 17-21, 2018 at ASTRON in Dwingeloo, the Netherlands. The school will be hosted by the ASTRON Radio Observatory and the LOFAR project.

LOFAR is delivering unique scientific data in the relatively unexplored spectral window below 200 MHz. At the present time, 51 operational stations are part of the LOFAR array, of which 38 are located in the Netherlands, and 13 are in Germany, Ireland, France, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom. A new station will soon be built in Latvia. In parallel, several data processing pipelines have been developed and are able to generate science ready data products. These go to the benefit of users who have obtained observing and processing time through the observing Cycles or want to make use of public LOFAR data.

The aim of this School is to introduce the LOFAR system to new members of the community who will analyze both interferometric and high time resolution beam formed LOFAR data. Hands-on sessions will play a crucial role during the School giving attendees an opportunity to gain experience with real LOFAR data.

Students, postdocs, and staff are all encouraged to attend. The School will cover the many aspects of the LOFAR system from the capabilities of the basic station hardware to the software pipelines and science products they produce. Lectures and tutorials will be presented by members of the LOFAR project team as well as staff from the many institutions involved in the collaboration.

Presentations will be given at a level appropriate for someone new to LOFAR. Familiarity with the concepts of radio interferometry and standard data processing software, such as CASA, will be useful, but not

required. Minimum requirements should include some familiarity with scripting languages and in particular Python. Parallel sessions for more expert students are also planned.

Attendance will be limited to approximately 50 people. While initial preference will be given to applicants from teams with accepted Cycle projects, space will also be reserved for applicants from the general astronomical community. Therefore all potential LOFAR users are encouraged to apply.

Workshop attendees will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs while attending the workshop.

More details about the Fifth LOFAR Data School will be circulated during the next few weeks. A registration form and methods of payment of the registration fee will be made available online.

You will be reminded by email to visit the website once the registration opens. In the meantime, please mark the aforementioned dates in your calendars. We look forward to seeing many of you in September in Dwingeloo.

Emanuela Orrù and Matthijs van der Wiel  
on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee