

The new e-MERLIN CASA pipeline

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VLBI has traditionally been a field for which significant specialization has been needed to understand and process data in order to obtain robust scientific results. That means that an expert "VLBI friend" is still essential for many astronomers, even radio astronomers, that want to use high resolution radio interferometers due to common fear to work with VLBI data. Also, although AIPS has been a robust tool to process any kind of VLBI data for the last decades and interfaces like ParseITongue have made it more friendly, the reality is that new generations of students are more used and willing to develop their data calibration, analysis and scientific workflow using more modern and flexible tools. In that context the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics is developing the e-MERLIN CASA pipeline (eMCP), a set of tools to calibrate e-MERLIN data based on python and CASA. The pipeline provides an easy way to use standard and optimized calibration strategies, progressively flag data (including automatic RFI flagging) and automatically generate diagnostic plots to understand problems with the data. One of the emphasis is data reduction repeatability so full calibration can be reproduced easily, especially for large data sets. Also, its modularity will allow the community to implement new strategies or improve the existent ones.