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Towards FAIR low-frequency radio data

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LOFAR is the world's largest low-frequency radio telescope. Since its official opening in 2010, it has produced data which has formed the basis for more than 1,000 refereed publications, spanning areas as diverse as extragalactic astrophysics, solar physics, and terrestrial lightning. The system is currently undergoing a major upgrade: over the coming years, it will become massively more capable and flexible, and will generate a dramatically larger volume of data. Around 50 PB of LOFAR data is currently publicly available through the LOFAR Long Term Archive. However, this data can be hard to discover, access, and use: the LTA predates much of the modern thinking around the FAIR principles. Further, while there are many data analysis tools available, they are inconsistent in terms of code quality, licensing, ease of use, and level of support. The LoFAIR project aims to change this. LoFAIR will upgrade the LTA to provide a fully-FAIR archive, and will roll-out a curated catalogue of analysis software for LOFAR data based on the Research Software Directory. Further, we will align this work with the broader community, notable the SKA Regional Centre Network, and will engage with the Radio Astronomy Interest Group in the IVOA. In this contribution I will discuss the context of the LOFAR data holdings, describe the current state of our software and data archive, and present our plans for the future.

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Classification de Session: Welcome and Logistics