

Interoffice

AIPS MEMO NO. 16

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Very Large Array

August 31, 1982

To: Scientific, Computer Staff, Visiting Observers

From: Tim Cornwell

Subject: AIPS Rules

The attached sheets summarize the revised rules for the use of AIPS. The only major changes are to the policy concerning advance signup for time. These rules will come into effect immediately.

TC/bmg

AIPS POST-PROCESSINGS AT THE VLA

August 31, 1982
Tim Cornwell

AIPS (Astronomical Image Processing System) is a computer system on the VAX 11/780 for producing and analysing maps. Data input is via EXPORT-format tapes containing calibrated and edited u-v data or FITS format tapes containing maps already produced elsewhere (e.g. 11/70 mapper). It is a multi-user system, supporting three AIPS users (AIPS1, AIPS2, AIPS3) and several other peripheral users.

The system, based on the VAX 11/780, consists of an array processor for fast map making, cleaning and selfcalibration, a high quality TV display, tape drives, a printer/plotter, and several output devices.

AIPS is now running on two separate VAXes at the VLA site which are fondly known as VAX#1 and VAX#3. The only difference visible to users is that VAX#3 only has one tape drive.

In the following by a user we mean a person or group of people associated with one VLA project. The following two types of user will have higher priority when processing time is limited:

1. A current non-NRAO observer who has just finished his/her observations and must leave the VLA within a week or so.
2. An observer returning to the VLA with NRAO support to finish a project.

The three ways in which time can be obtained are:

1. Sign-up directly on the sheet for AIPS1 and/or AIPS2 on either VAX for time on the following two days only. Limitations on the amount of time allocation are listed below. A user may only use one VAX for a given research project although in special circumstances the usual time allocation may be split.
2. Anyone may sign up for AIPS time (see Ina Cole) up to two weeks in advance for a maximum of 8 hours per week. The total time which can be signed up in this manner is restricted to 50% of the available time. Ina Cole will use the following priority list to reduce the time to 50% whenever necessary. Her ruling is not negotiable.

Displace users in the following order :

1. Anyone with more than 6 hours per week in the slot 8 a.m. - midnight .
2. Biggest inhouse user until total inhouse usage is less than 25% of the total time.
3. Time not requested for EITHER current observing program OR data reduction trip.

4. Biggest user.

3. NRAO will support a return trip to the VLA or to Charlottesville for further data reduction on the various AIPS' systems. Please telephone Ed Fomalont to coordinate travel plans and to reserve AIPS time. Because of the pressure on the VLA AIPS system, only 10% of the VLA time will be reserved for returnees. It is strongly advised that the facilities in Charlottesville be used.

The maximum time on each of AIPS1 and AIPS2 that any one group of users can sign-up for is:

Between 8:00am and 5:00pm weekdays	2 hours maximum
Between 8:00am and midnight all week	4 hours maximum contiguous
Between midnight and 8:00am all week	6 hours maximum
Maximum total reserved time	6 hours in any calendar day
	20 hours in any calendar week

These time limits may be changed at short notice in periods of unusually high demand.

The sign-up sheet for time reservations will be posted as follows:

1. Monday PM for processing on Tuesday and Wednesday
2. Wednesday PM for processing on Thursday and Friday
3. Friday PM for processing on Sat., Sun. and Mon.

Time reserved for systems work and software updating (shaded time in the schedules) can be reserved by a user at his own risk but he must relinquish the system with five minutes notice. OCCASIONALLY THE SYSTEM MUST BE PREEMPTED UNEXPECTEDLY. THIS WILL OCCUR ONLY WHEN NECESSARY.

There is no sign-up sheet for AIPS3 use. It should be used sparingly and is mainly for program development and debugging, for new-user instruction and for limited map-plane analysis such as contour plotting. Permission to use AIPS3 must be obtained from the AIPS1 and AIPS2 users.

The AIPS1 user has highest priority on all facets of the system but only in the case of the Array Processor is this implemented in the software. In the case of conflicts over the use of the other resources verbal agreements will be necessary. However, users are encouraged to share the system as much as possible; this will aid efficient use of the machine.

Failure to use allocated time will result in loss of priority in obtaining additional time. Please release unneeded time as soon as possible, especially during the late night hours. Try to inform other users of the newly freed time.

Please destroy or backup all uv data or maps as soon as possible. Data which remains untouched for longer than fourteen (14) days will be deleted. As soon as observers leave the site at the completion of data analysis their data will be wiped from the disks. With the pressure on the

AIPS system further complications caused by a lack of disk space are intolerable.

Private disk packs are available in limited numbers for users with particularly high data storage requirements e.g spectral line observers. See Ina Cole for further details.

Desired deviations from the above rules or other comments should be addressed to Ron Ekers, Tim Cornwell, or Ed Fomalont. In particular, any person under pressure of limited time at the VLA can be given extra consideration, if possible.

VAX ADVISORS

(1) PROBLEMS WITH AIPS USE:

Tim Cornwell	VAX bldg. room 24, ext 264.
Arnold Rots (spectral line)	VAX bldg. room 18, ext 259.
CV VAX Room	FTS 938-1271, ext.266 804-296-0348

(2) HARDWARE PROBLEMS:

Al Braun	Control bldg. room 109, ext.306
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(3) SCHEDULING:

Ina Cole	Control bldg. room 203, ext.305
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(4) PROBLEMS REQUIRING SEMI-DIVINE INTERVENTION:

Ron Ekers	Control bldg. room 105, ext.308
Ed Fomalont	VAX bldg. room 6, ext.247