UC43 recommendations

The Users Committee (UC) is thankful to ESO for the continued successful operations of the Observatory and acknowledges ESO's efforts to maintain the highest standards. The UC highly appreciates ESO's initiatives in many fronts, such as organizing workshops/schools and updating reduction pipelines. The UC also welcomes ESO's scrutiny of comments from the community gathered periodically through the UC Poll. The UC gladly reports a high level of satisfaction of the community. Based on the most recent users' feedback and on the discussions during the UC43 meeting, the UC recommends to ESO:

UC43.R01: to clarify the existence of, and describe the mechanism for requesting an extension of the proprietary period, both in the Call for Proposals and on the Phase 1 web-form. To make clear that proprietary time is counted from the moment the raw data per OB are ingested into the archive.

UC43.R02: to keep the UC informed about decisions regarding the time line, scope and implementation of the distributed peer review proposal process.

UC43.R03: to promote VLTI both through workshops/schools for non-experts (i.e., at the basic level) and through conferences that highlight science cases relevant to a wide community. Up to 60% of users report not applying for VLTI time due to lack of knowledge on data reduction and/or its relevance to their science.

UC43.R04: to inform all European ALMA Users, through the ARCs or other ESO channels, that the calibrated measurement sets are currently available upon request for a limited period of time, and whether this will be done by default in the near future (even for a limited period of time).

UC43.R05: (a) to provide references/acknowledgments for archive users on the way Phase 3 products (raw data and software) are produced, in order to ensure that proper credit is given to Phase 3 contributors and thus encourage continued participation. (b) To develop a high level interface to query the ESO raw data without prior knowledge of specific instruments; for instance, a query by photometric filter (standard vs non-standard), optical and near-infrared spectroscopy, etc. (c) To ensure that the released description of the final data products of Public Surveys is clear and adequate for the correct interpretation of the data. (d) To make Phase 3 products available and visible through the ESO Request Handler (e.g., as a new Option).

UC43.R06: to enable handling ESO NIR data from different instruments in a homogeneous fashion by providing color transformations to a common NIR filter set. This recommendation continues from UC42 (UC42.R10). We recommend prioritizing most used instruments, e.g., VIRCAM, SOFI, HAWK-I, ISAAC, and other NIR imagers.

UC43.R07: (a) to increase the compatibility checks of ESO software to include operating systems for which security updates have been provided until the next update. (b) To increase the visibility of the interactive feedback platform dedicated to pipelines, allowing users to provide suggestions and propose improvements. A failure to promote this in the past has resulted in little or no use.

UC43.R08: to consider providing a dedicated python environment (e.g. based on Anaconda) delivered together with the software, which contains all required packages and which guarantees smooth usability on all Linux systems. This approach is successfully used by other communities.

UC43.R09: to ensure all visitor-mode observers have immediate access to their data, which is key to data quality and observing-strategy planning.