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Summary

This document presents work package progress by CASU during September 2004.

For further details of group activities over the past month and quarter see

http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/diary.html

For the minutes of all group meetings see

http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/docs/minutes

- UKURD for VDFS V1.0 is imminently about to be released after much iteration and discussion. In a nutshell the VDFS UKURD represents a modest series of enhancements on the WFCAM pipeline capabilities. After the URD is agreed we need to assess how much more development work will be needed to fulfill the extra requirements. We also need to factor in preparation work for the UK PDR in the work plan, though the details of this remain contingent on deciding a date for the PDR.

- APM building refurbishment continues on schedule. All of the movement of computer equipment and personnel is now completed and the building cleared of its other ancillary contents inc. the APM. The data processing racks are installed and up and running in a temporary air-conditioned office. The purchased cooling unit seems well able to cope with the load so all data processing machines (bar one - a spare) are in operation.

- ESO docs: the DIC was submitted at the start of August according to plan and represents a good chunk of the v0.5 document agreed for FDR; the CPL+QFITS assessment document was agreed and forwarded to ESO for comment; there was good progress on the draft version of the ETC document helped by the availability of a new version (2.0) of 1618. Although this new document has stirred the lake bed in terms of timescales and deliverable specification, in the longer term it should lead to a more focussed and useful set of ESO software deliverables if the CPL+QFITS issues can be resolved.

- The IPHAS Galactic Plane survey has been an excellent test bed for various aspects of operational pipeline development and process monitoring, including automatic generation of DQC web pages. It has also proven useful in shaking out bugs in the pipeline and documentation.

- PSF determination and estimation (stages 1,2) has proceeded well. We now have alternative schemes in hand for PSF generation that give us a range of options to deal with real WFCAM data. However, we are reaching the point in this development where access to real WFCAM data is needed to make the final push to a production system. This problem is also restricting the development of the Sersic profile fitting functionality.

- There is much better news on the WFCAM corrector front and it now looks like several aspects of on-sky characterisation will be possible in the autumn commissioning. Jim Lewis will be going out toward the end of November to take part in the on-sky characterisation and ensure that the summit processing setup proceeds according to plan. The resulting new schedule is also much better aligned with the needs of CASU and WFAU to thoroughly shakedown the end-to-end system before routine WFCAM observing begins in earnest.

- It has proven surprisingly hard to get science array test data to progress several of the delayed characterisation work packages - though finally we may get some of this test data delivered shortly. We have implemented our alternative backup non-linearity correction scheme, originally for testing the DAS linearity correcting system, but it now looks ever more likely that this will be used in anger as the correction method.