Non-astronomical use of LOFAR in single station mode

Helena Ciechowska\textsuperscript{*}(1), Mariusz Pożoga\textsuperscript{(1)}, Barbara Matyjasiak\textsuperscript{(1)}, Hanna Rothkaehl\textsuperscript{(1)}, Marcin Grzesiak\textsuperscript{(1)}, Roman Wronowski\textsuperscript{(1)}, Łukasz Tomasik\textsuperscript{(1)} and Katarzna Beser\textsuperscript{(1)}

\textsuperscript{(1)} Space Research Centre Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa, Poland

1 Extended Abstract

LOFAR is an astronomical radio-interferometer working in the frequency range between 10 - 240 MHz. It allows the performance of radio-astronomical observation in the lowest frequencies available on Earth’s surface. It consists of 52 separate stations. Each of them can operate as a separate radio telescope with limited parameters \cite{1}. Due to the broad frequency range, as well as wide range of possible configurations and measurements, it is possible to use it for non-astronomical observation. In this work, we present the examples of LOFAR use for observation of anthropogenic and natural signals in the near-Earth environment. Figure 1 shows the amplitude recorded in direction of Cygnus A, as well as, human made signal below 20 MHz - in radio astronomy - interpreted as RFI (Radio Frequency Interference).

![Figure 1](image.png)

Figure 1. The observation carried out in direction of Cygnus A radio source on 2018-05-13 between 20:00-21:00 UTC. The modulation of amplitude caused by ionospheric irregularities, as well as human made signal below 20 MHz of broadcast HF stations origin, are clearly visible.

- **Ionospheric amplitude scintillation** - High sensitivity and the frequency range between 10 - 90 MHz allow the measurements of signal scintillation originating from natural radio sources. Its analysis enables to characterize the scintillation in mid-latitude geomagnetic region.

- **Angle of incidence scintillation of signals reflected from the ionosphere** - A single LOFAR station allows observation of the signals emitted by broadcast stations, along with the direction they come from. The signals manifest with long-term variability related to their global propagation, as well as short-term changes dependent on plasma parameters in the place of signal reflection from the ionosphere. We show both of described effects.

- **Scintillation of arrival angle of satellite VHF signals** - With the use of Low Earth Orbit satellite sourced signal, the observation of the scintillation of the signal’s arrival direction can be carried out. The scintillation is caused by small-scale structures of the ionosphere. The high velocity of pierce point motion, along with the range of its movements, allows a fast scan of the ionospheric parameters over a large area.

References