Observers: Simon, Frantz

Configuration: E2/V1/POP2 W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

Initial setup

Software problem with VegaConfServer that refuses to start up, despite repeated attempts at killing the problematic processes. Ended up rebooting the computer which may have fixed the problem.

UTC03:38: On the first calibrator of the night, checking the alignment of VEGA. Pupil and image alignment looks reasonable. The seeing looks reasonably good: r0 ~ 10−15 cm.

UTC03:48: Nic isn't happy with the alignment of NIRO. He's moving to a brighter check star (HD 186791). This is too bright for us to be able to do the final slit alignment.

UTC03:52: Moving back to the first calibrator of the night: HD 181440

UTC04:00: Still acquiring the fringes on CLIMB.

UTC04:15: Fringes aqcuired on CLIMB!
Offsets: 1690/−5146
Cophasing is required for VEGA. Did a 50 micron move and lost the fringe tracking on CLIMB. Recovered, but difficult.
Apparently, the seeing is very fast.

UTC04:40: Cophasing is finally over. Had to restart the control GUI that crashed during the cophasing.
Offsets: 2350/−5320
B1: 0.38, B2: 0.03

Program: V43 HD 181420 (O. Creevey)
Shooting for a total of three points on the target

UTC04:42: HD181420CAL1.2014.08.28.04.40 (HD 181440, cal. for HD 181420)
20 blocks. Average flux ~450 photons (ALGOL R)
Fringe signal coming clear on VEGA.
Average r0 ~ 10 cm, with peaks at 20 cm.

UTC04:59: HD181420.2014.08.28.04.53 (HD 181420, science target)
20 blocks. Average flux ~250 photons (ALGOL R)

UTC05:10: HD181420CAL1.2014.08.28.05.09 (HD 181440, cal. for HD 181420)
20 blocks. Average flux ~400 photons (ALGOL R)
Apparently, with this configuration of POPs, we won't be able to observe this much longer.
Lost the VEGA control GUI... again.
Seeing seems to degrade. The fringes on CLIMB are unstable.
Lost the fringe tracking on CLIMB during block 20.
Trying one more time the target

We're changing gear and going to a different configuration

UTC05:36: We had a bit of confusion with Nic who understood we wanted to keep observing the target in 2T mode. Lost a good 10 min on this.
The VEGA control GUI is acting weird. Need to restart it to do the spectral calibration... OK, turns out that the confServer was dead. Restarted it, and now the Vega control GUI looks happy again.

UTC05:40: D_R2720.2014.08.28.05.39 (spectral calibration)

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                 Program: V64 HD 177724 (A. Meilland)
         No calibrator: high spectral resolution observations
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Configuration: W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

UTC05:42: W1/W2 fringes at −5868 with CLIMB
          VEGA FT display is SUPER slow.
          The signal of this target is weak... the cophasing takes a
          while (started several 100 microns off).


UTC06:10: HD177724.2014.08.28.05.44 (HD 177724, science target)
          B2: −0.42 offsets: W1: −5385
          90 blocks. Average flux ~200 photons (ALGOL R)

UTC06:50: Integration over. About to run a spectral calibration.

UTC06:53: D_R1656.2014.08.06.50 (spectral calibration)

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                 Program: V62 HD 209409 (A. Meilland)
         No calibrator: high spectral resolution observations
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Configuration: W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

UTC06:55: Seeing keeps fluctuating a lot, r0 is between 7 and 20 cm
          fringes (on HD 209409) at −4814
          Between pointings, the cophasing keeps changing wildly.
          Verified that the LDC is in place, but may need to rehome.
          To keep the fringes on CLIMB, we do offsets by 20 um
          increments. After cophasing, CLIMB B2: −0.26.

UTC07:20: HD209409.2014.08.28.06.55 (HD 209409, science target)
          40 blocks. Average flux ~800 photons (ALGOL R)

UTC07:40: D_R2656.2014.08.28.07.38 (spectral calibration)

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                    Program: V60 (N. Nardetto)
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Configuration: W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

UTC07:50: HD11037CAL1.2014.08.28.07.45 (HD 224926, cal. for HD 11037)
          Fringes W1/W2 at −4621
          20 blocks. Average flux ~500 photons (ALGOL R)

UTC08:01: HD11037.2014.08.28.08.01 (HD 11037, science target)
          20 blocks.
          Fringes at −4175

UTC08:25: HD11037CAL1.2014.08.28.08.20 (HD 224926, cal. for HD 11037)
          20 blocks.
          Fringes at −4730

UTC08:40: HD11037.2014.08.28.08.36 (HD 11037, science target)
          20 blocks.
          Fringes at −4440
          Note: made a mistake in the logobs, and labeled this as a
          dataset on the calibrator. Will have to edit the logobs file
          after this is over.

UTC08:25: HD11037CAL1.2014.08.28.08.51 (HD 224926, cal. for HD 11037)
          20 blocks.
          Fringes  2514/−4802.

UTC09:06: D_R2700.2014.08.28.09.05 (spectral calibration)
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Corrected the faulty logobs line.

_____________________________________________________________________________
                 Program: V62 HD 209409 (A. Meilland)
         No calibrator: high spectral resolution observations
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Configuration: W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

Doing another point on HD 209409, for a better uv−coverage

UTC09:11: HD209409.2014.08.28.09.12 (HD 209409, science target)
          40 blocks.
          Fringes at −4812
          The fringes on CLIMB are not very stable.

We are a bit early for the next interferometer configuration change
planned for this observing night... and don't have enough time to do
an additional interferometric configuration in between. We'll do
another series on the same object.

        Note that when saving the logobs file, the logobs program
        crashed and did not write anything. Luckily, since we repeat
        the same observation this time, and keep this log pretty well
        up to date, we'll be able to manually edit the file.

UTC09:40: HD209409.2014.08.28.09.37 (HD 209409, science target)
          40 blocks.

          According to Nic, the addition of E1 is going to require 20
          minutes of alignment in the lab.

          The logobs program crashed again when saving the log
          file. Only this time, it wrote the file.

UTC10:00: D_R2656.2014.08.28.10.00 (spectral calibration)

UTC10:10: Did some manual edits of the logobs file. The one to look at
          now is V62b.logobs

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                 Program: V16 HD 24712 (K. Perraut)
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Configuration: E1/V1/POP1 + W2/V2/POP5 + W1/V3/POP1 + CLIMB

Hard to find the fringes on the additional baseline with CLIMB. Seeing
seems to have degraded. The seeing plot shows r0 ~ 7 cm again.

UTC10:47: cophasing of the E1 − W2 baseline
          offsets E1: −2204, W1: −4630

UTC10:59: HD24712CAL3W2E1W1.2014.08.28.10.22 (HD 18633 cal. for HD 24712)
          30 blocks

UTC11:21: Fringes at −1763, −3977

UTC11:25: HD24712E1E2W2.2014.08.28.11.13 (HD 24712, science target)
          40 blocks

UTC11:45: !!! Mistake on the the directory name. The last dataset was
          instead well taken in the W2E1W1 interferometer configuration.

UTC11:50: HD24712CAL3W2E1W1.2014.08.28.11.43 (HD 18633 cal. for HD 24712)
          30 blocks

UTC12:08: HD24712W2E1W1.2014.08.28.12.02 (HD 24712, science target)
          30 blocks (instead of the original 40)

UTC12:33: HD24712CAL2W2E1W1.2014.08.28.12.28 (HD 32996 cal. for HD 24712)
          30 blocks
          34 deg elevation. The seeing conditions are not good.
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          This dataset certainly won't be fantastic.
          The W1−W2 signal is visible in the VEGA FT display, but not
          the other baseline.

UTC12:49: D_R2720.2014.08.28.12.48 (spectral calibration)

UTC12:54: end of this log.
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