

Resolving The Sky - Radio Interferometry: Past, Present & Future (RTS 2012)

M.A. Garrett¹

*ASTRON, Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy
Postbus 2, 7990 AA, Dwingeloo, The Netherlands
E-mail: garrett@astron.nl*

J.C. Greenwood²

*SKA Organisation
Address, Jodrell Bank Observatory, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL, UK
E-mail: greenwood@skatelescope.org*

We summarise the meeting Resolving The Sky - Radio Interferometry: Past, Present & Future (RTS 2012). This meeting coincided with the retirement of Prof. Richard T. Schilizzi as Director of the SKA Program Development Office (SPDO), which coordinated global research and design activities for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. The event celebrated the major contribution Richard has made to the field with a scientific programme that addressed a variety of topics including: key historical developments in interferometry and the SKA, the study of micro-quasars and AGN, the development of advanced interferometry techniques and new calibration algorithms, future interferometers, precision spacecraft navigation, geodetic VLBI and Space VLBI. More than 100 participants attended the conference and the outputs of the meeting are complete and available at:

<http://www2.skatelescope.org/indico/conferenceOtherViews.py?view=standard&confId=178>

In addition, the papers presented as part of the scientific programme will be published in PoS (Proceedings of Science):

<http://pos.sissa.it/cgi-bin/reader/conf.cgi?confid=163>

*Resolving the Sky - Radio Interferometry: Past, Present and Future
Manchester, UK
April 17-20, 2012*

¹ RTS 2012 Science Organising Committee, chair

² RTS 2012 Local Organising Committee, chair

1. Introduction

For more than half a century, radio interferometry has revolutionised our view of the Universe. New phenomena, such as relativistic motion in AGN have been discovered, black holes have been weighed, and a wealth of detail has been revealed about a wide variety of astronomical sources, from nearby stars to the most distant galaxies. These discoveries have been enabled by radio interferometry's routine capability to deliver images with sub-milliarcsecond resolution and micro-arcsecond precision astrometry.



Figure 1: Well over a hundred participants attended RTS 2012 at the Lowry hotel, Manchester.

2. Resolving The Sky - Radio Interferometry: Past, Present & Future (RTS 2012)

The RTS 2012 meeting coincided with the retirement of Prof. Richard T. Schilizzi as Director of the SKA Program Development Office (SPDO). The event celebrated the major contribution Richard has made to the field with a scientific programme that addressed a variety of topics including: key historical developments in interferometry and the SKA, the study of micro-quasars and AGN, the development of advanced interferometry techniques and new calibration algorithms, future interferometers, precision spacecraft navigation, geodetic VLBI and Space VLBI. The conference offered a broad perspective of the past, present and future of radio interferometry, especially in relation to the next big step forward – the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

The meeting was held from the 17-20 April 2012 at the Lowry Hotel in Manchester, UK. More than 100 participants attended the meeting, including 37 from outside of Europe. Nineteen of the participants were female. Many of the participants were accompanied by their partners, and excursions to the Museum of Science & Industry and Jodrell Bank Observatory were also organised. Early radar equipment (H2S) developed by Sir Bernard Lovell (founder of JBO) were on show at the museum where the conference dinner was also held. During the visit to JBO, Richard Schilizzi led a “ground-breaking” ceremony for the new building that will soon accommodate the Office of the SKA Organisation.

The meeting was considered by all to have been a major success with support from various sponsors secured, including: ASTRON, CASS, ESKAC, JIVE, RadioNet-3, RadioNet FP7, STFC, SKA Africa, SKA Founding Board, U of Manchester, US SKA Consortium. The Scientific Organising Committee included: M.A. Garrett (chair), A. van Ardenne, R. Booth, P. Diamond, C. Fanti, L. Gurvits, H. Hirabayashi, K. Kellermann, J. Lazio, R. Nan, I. Snellen, R. Spencer and H.J. van Langevelde. The Local Organising Committee included: C. Greenwood (chair), J. Bowler, G. Collins, M.A. Garrett, and T. O'Brien.

3. Outputs from the meeting

A complete record of the meeting is available online, and this includes: (i) the scientific programme, (ii) the associated PDF presentations, and (iii) many images and video of the meeting, speeches and social events. For more information consult:

<http://www2.skatelescope.org/indico/conferenceOtherViews.py?view=standard&confId=178>

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