

## Availability of Reduction Software for HARPS Data at ESO Headquarters in Garching

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From the start of the year 2011 the HARPS data reduction software will be also available at ESO Headquarters in Garching. This new initiative will enable users to apply for access to the system locally in Garching.

The experience of the past few years of operations of HARPS has shown that sometimes the data reduced online at the La Silla Observatory might require further reprocessing and analysis. This is usually because the wrong set of initial parameters have been specified in the observing template (such as stellar spectral type or

initial guess for the radial velocity). In these cases the spectral extraction is not affected, but the precision and the accuracy of the radial velocity measurement are generally not optimal. Although these cases are not frequent, they do happen from time to time and require re-computation of the radial velocities. We aim to address such needs by allowing individual users to visit ESO Headquarters in Garching and give them access to the same data reduction software that is available at the La Silla Observatory site, both in its on- and off-line flavours.

Users wishing to take advantage of this service are encouraged to check the details at the web page<sup>1</sup>. The user should then contact ESO giving a brief scientific and technical rationale as to why reprocessing is required, together with the amount of data that needs to be reduced and the intended dates of travel to Garching. ESO, after checking availability, will make available desk space and will grant access from the user's laptop to the data reduction computer. Limited on-site user support will also be provided

(e.g., introduction to the data reduction system, etc.). Regrettably ESO will not be able to cover any expenses (travel, accommodation, etc.) for these "data reduction missions". The visitor will use her/his own laptop to run the data reduction software remotely via the standard GUIs. The raw data will then be transferred to the reduction machine, either from a laptop (i.e. via ftp) or from the archive ftp site after an archive request has been processed. Saving the reduced data is the responsibility of the user. Visitors are expected to spend at most five days on each data reduction mission, and the service will be available during normal office hours from Monday to Friday at ESO Headquarters in Garching.

Users wishing to employ this HARPS reduction service in Garching should send an email to [re-harps@eso.org](mailto:re-harps@eso.org).

### Links

<sup>1</sup> Details of the service at: [www.eso.org/sci/facilities/lasilla/instruments/harps/tools/reprocess.html](http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/lasilla/instruments/harps/tools/reprocess.html)

## ESO Participation at the Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal

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The Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting (JENAM) that took place in Lisbon, Portugal, during the week of 6–10 September 2010, was the 18th Annual Meeting of the European Astronomical Society (EAS) and the 20th Annual Portuguese Meeting of Astronomy and Astrophysics. JENAM brings European astronomers together to discuss frontline topics in astronomy, space science and instrumentation technology.

ESO was extensively involved in the meeting, highlighting its role as a driving force in ground-based astronomy at the European level, as well as globally. Several key ESO people participated in the meeting and there were also an ESO plenary and special session, an ESO exhibition with free educational and informational material and a book launch.

During the first day of the meeting, ESO participated in the special session on Astronomy Challenges for Engineers and Computer Scientists with talks by Bruno Leibundgut, Director for Science, on science projects at ESO and Andreas Kaufer, Director of La Silla Paranal Observatory, on ESO's infrastructures. Roberto

Tamai, Head of ESO's Technology Division, showcased the technology of the VLT/VLTI, while Roberto Gilmozzi, Head of ESO's Telescope Division, presented the principal technological features of the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT); a project that incorporates many innovative developments. A presentation on control software and data reduction and analysis was delivered by Michèle Péron, Director of Engineering and Software Development.

On Tuesday, 7 September, there was a dedicated ESO plenary session. Bruno Leibundgut gave a comprehensive talk about recent developments at the La Silla Paranal Observatory, including plans for