

We have planned two hackathon sessions (1hr Tuesday & 2hrs Wednesday) for this CORTEX meeting to give you the opportunity to enhance existing collaborations and to reach out to make new collaborations across the different CORTEX work packages. To optimize these sessions, it is good to start thinking about them in advance.

For those of you who have not heard of Hackathons before, here's a definition:

A hackathon is an event, typically lasting several days, where people come together to collaborate in order to solve a problem or identify new opportunities. The word hackathon is a combination of "hack" and "marathon," i.e., a marathon for hackers. The goal of a hackathon is often to build a working prototype, or proof-of-concept, of a product or feature in a short amount of time, and to have fun, improve skill sets, and network while doing it.

While at this meeting the hackathons are much shorter duration, the goal is to start working together on new ideas or provide an opportunity to push forward an existing project. This then plants the seed for further collaboration in the coming months. Some ideas of the top of my head:

- We want to optimise the processing of our data stream to do <YOUR WORK> and implement machine learning in the pipeline... could someone help?
- I want to find rare radio transients in big data streams, can we discuss what machine learning could do to optimize this?
- My radio imaging is too slow, can we come up with ideas to speed it up?
- I have too many false positives in my radio data, can we come up with ways to filter them out?
- What is the optimal survey strategy to search for the prompt radio counterparts of gravitational wave events in widefield radio data?

At the start of each hackathon session, people will pitch their ideas to the wider group and anyone interested can join the idea group. Each pitch will be max 1 minute (no slides!) and ideally much shorter. For discussions and idea generation, the 1hr session on Tuesday may be ideal. Whereas longer hacking sessions trying out things may work better in the 2hr session on Wednesday.

If you already have an idea for the Hackathon session, do please send it to me (b.a.rowlinson@uva.nl) so I can help plan them in and advertise them in advance. Otherwise, as the work package morning talks may inspire you, ideas on the day are also completely welcome!