

ALMA Archive Italian User's questionnaire

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(with contributions from the Italian ARC node members)

Introduction of the questionnaire rationale

The ALMA Archive usage has increased faster than the inclusion of new data from the telescope. ALMA data quality is revolutionizing many astrophysical fields. The ALMA Archive offers a unique opportunity to access its extraordinary data for statistical analysis, to improve proprietary data results or assess feasibility for new proposal or to avoid submitting new proposals.

The ALMA Re Imagine development study that the Italian node of European ARC is leading aims at complement the archive with new pieces of information only partially available so far. The final purpose is to improve the archive mining experience, expand even more the archival usage possibilities and the scientific exploitation of ALMA data.

With this questionnaire we are interested in understanding the view of the current archive status from our user perspective and collect the feeling on which information might improve their future archive experiences. The results will be used to drive our suggestions for the Archive improvements.

Sample

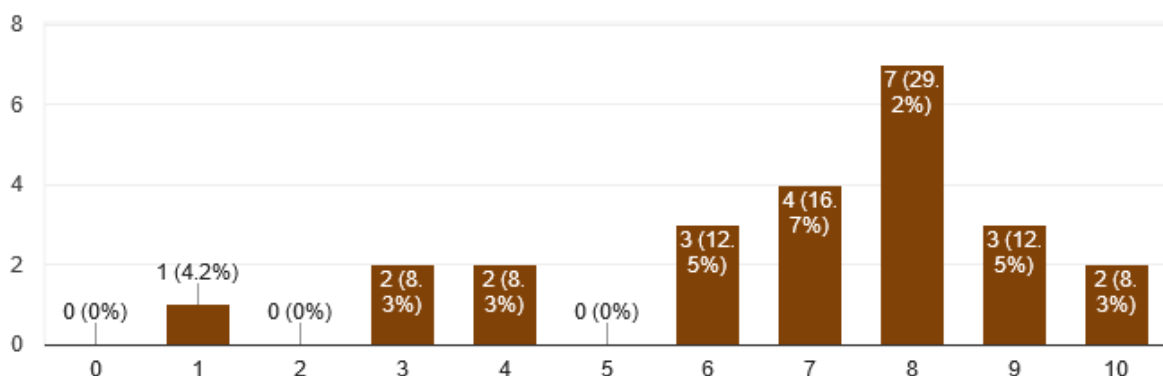
The questionnaire was circulated to the 120 Italian registered participants to the 'Workshop of (Sub)millimeter Astronomy in Italy', held in Bologna on the 7-11 November 2017. They include about half of the Italian researcher involved as co-I in the Cycle 5 ALMA proposals, several students and engineers interested to ALMA instrumental development.

24 of them, corresponding to about 20%, replied.

Summary of the answers to the questionnaire

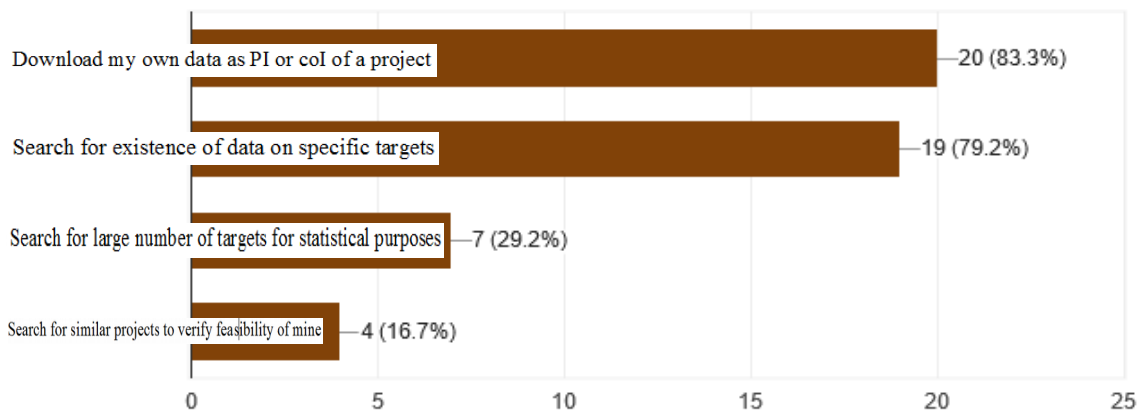
Rate your expertise with Interferometric data

24 responses



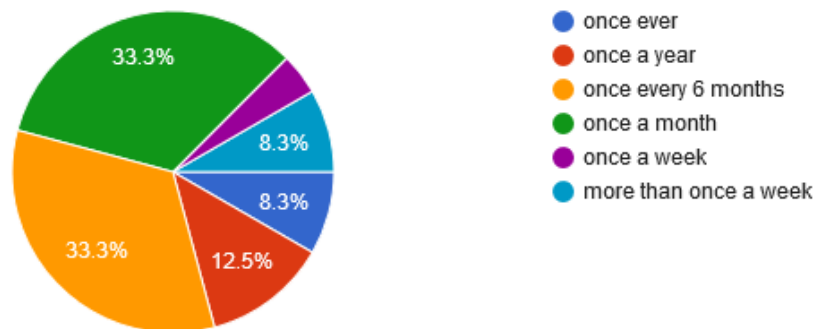
Check the reasons for which you have accessed so far the ALMA archive

24 responses



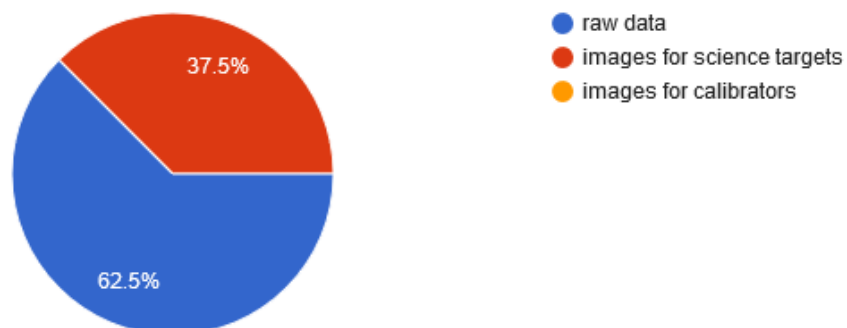
How often have you accessed the archive in the last 3 years?

24 responses

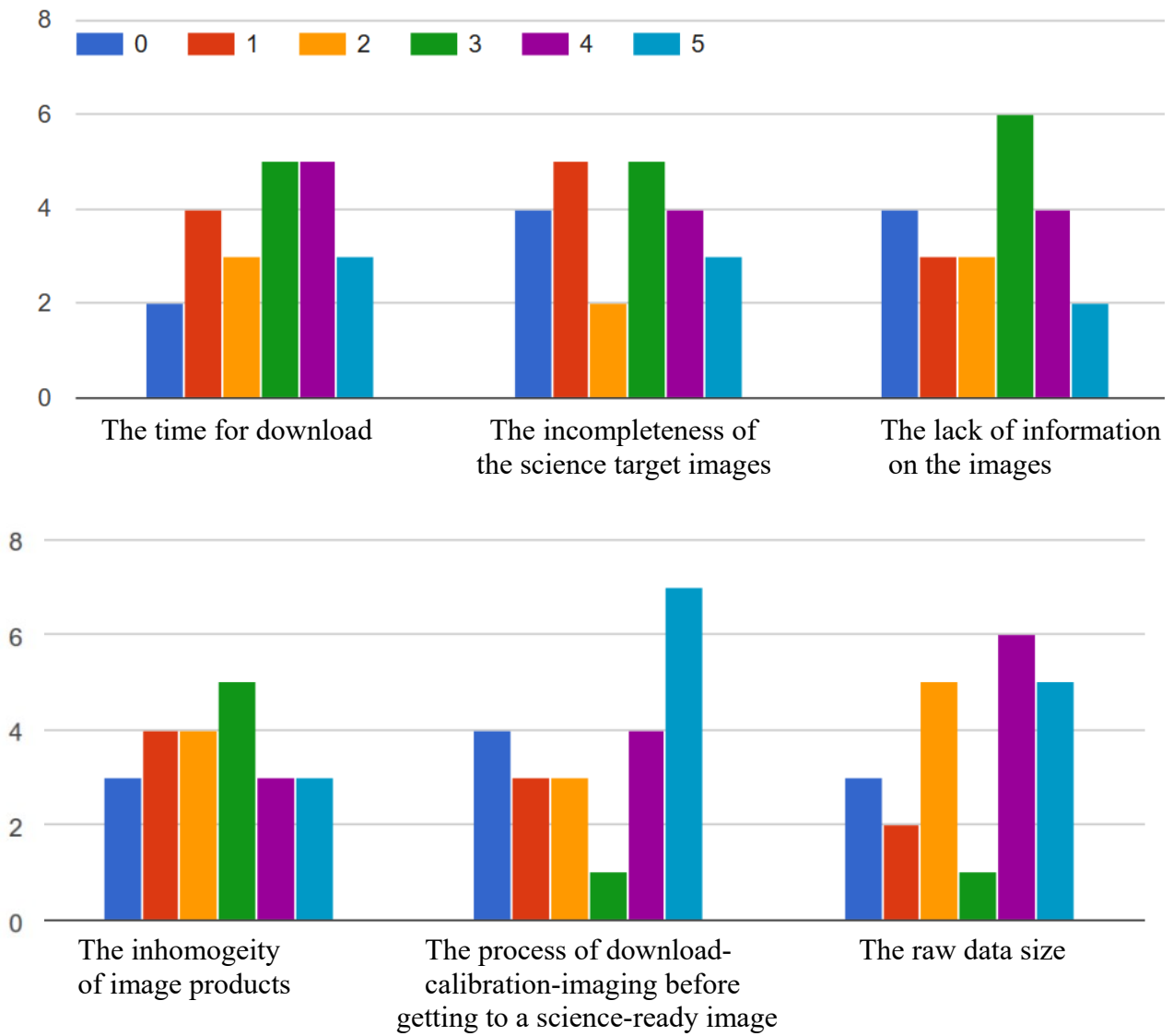


Which kind of data product do you more often search for?

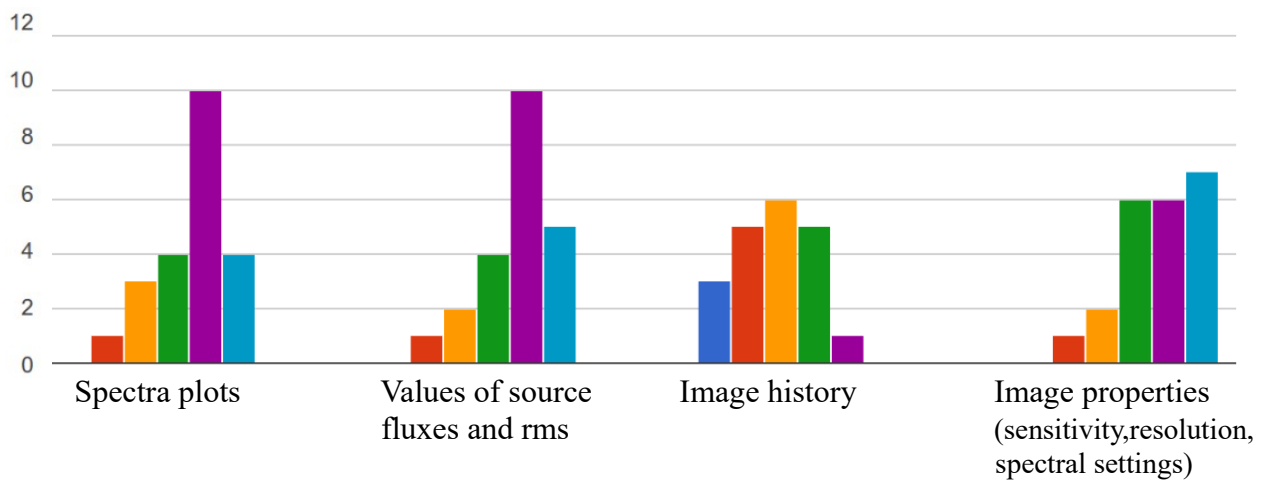
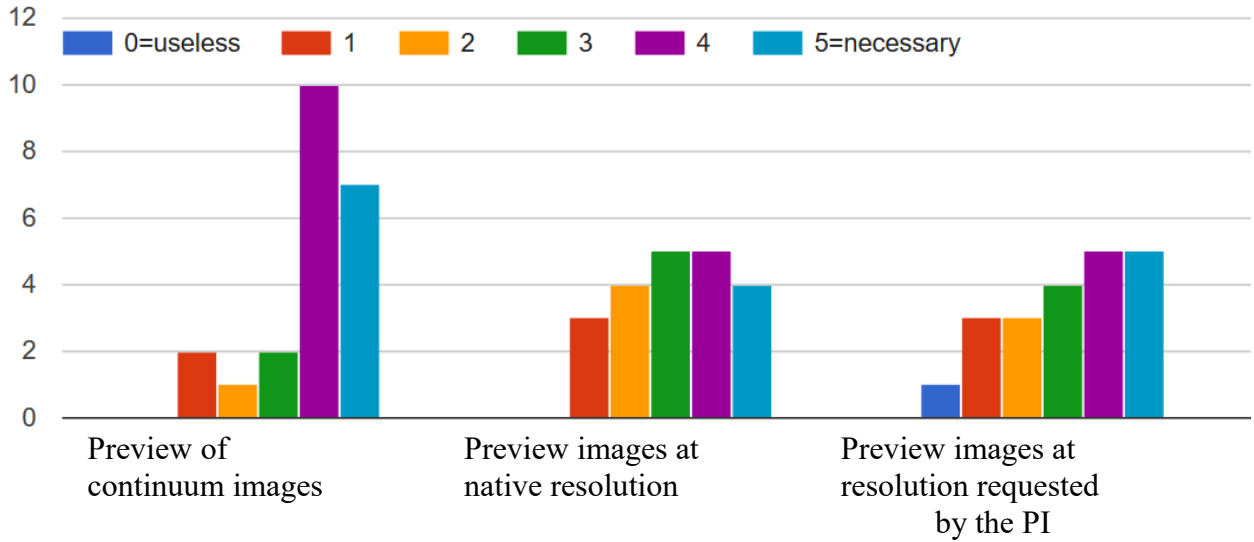
24 responses



Which of these did you consider an issue and rate how much did it prevent you from using the archive even more (0=not an issue, 5=stop me from exploiting the archive)

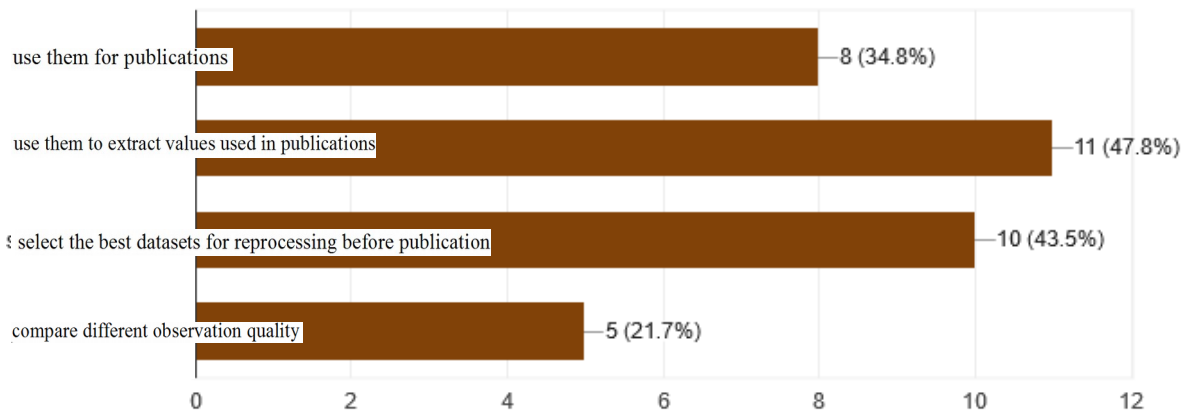


Rate which piece of information could improve your archive mining expertise



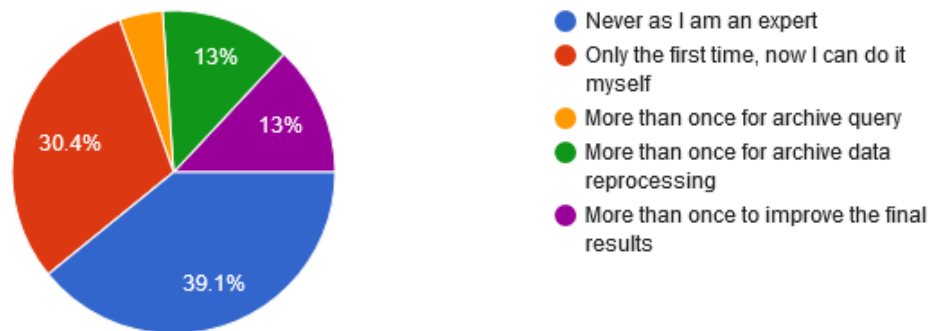
What do you usually do with archived image products?

23 responses



Did you ask for ARC node support for exploiting archival data?

23 responses



Add comments/anecdotes on your past experiences with the archive and what would you like it to be in the future

5 responses

It would be nice to have the possibility to upload a list of targets

Would be really useful that the calibrated.ms is directly provided, would save huge amounts of time to re-run calibration

By priority: 1) Always include angular resolution in the query output! 2) Avoid interactive form with appearing/disappearing menus. 3) Make QA2 notes available at the level of archive query output to quickly understand the quality of the data.

The size of the raw data is so enormous that calibration and reduction is extremely slow and difficult even with powerful workstations.

Not self-explanatory, even for people with experience in both data mining and interferometric data reduction