Data Management

Your data is stored on the STRW data storage media which can be either the local disk of your workstation, the local-to-the-server direct attached disks of a server or on the bulk storage devices. As part of the data management cycle you need to keep track of your data and make sure that at the end of your employment at the Observatory you either copy your data to your new institute or provide the computergroup with a list of pointers to allow them to store your data onto a save archive.

Sources of data

There are three main sources of data in the astronomical community at the Observatory, they are

- Data from the big international observatories
- Data generated in the Sackler and Optical labs
- Data produced by theoretical work and simulations

For the three categories, three different scenarios are in place with regards to data management.

Data from the big international observatories

At the big international observatories data acquisition takes place in a controlled fashion. Data processing is done in the head quarters computing centers and is stored and archived at the storage facilities of sites. Is some cases the that are proprietory for at maximum one year, after which they become public.

Each international observatory has a portal that can be accessed to download observational data. So the processed 'raw' data are available always and to any user. Once data has been downloaded and will be used in further processing, it is the responsibility of the user to keep track of the data and to retain its integrity. Mots of this functionality is already available in the standard data reduction packages provided by the big observatories. But data can be processed by personal code for which the user needs to keep track of the data products and the data integrity him/herself. The Linux operating system can help out though its file and directory ownerships and access rights.

Data generated in the Sackler and Optical labs

Data produced by theoretical work and simulations