

Current of interferometry facilities

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1. Which interferometric facilities will still be in operations in 2016

CHARA

NPOI

KECK

VLT

LBT

MROI

COAST is closed

GI2T is closed

IOTA is closed

PTI will shut down within 10 years

ISI will shut down in 2 years

SUSI, probably closed

MIRI, probably closed

2. If you were given \$25M (over 10 years) were would you spend it on:

CHARA: **double staff**, mirror coatings, fixed delay lines, automation, detectors, data analysis software, adding telescopes, (possibly turnkey AO system)

NPOI: **more staff**, mechanical engineering, real time systems. Upgrades in beam combiner (next generation). Need more and larger apertures.

KECK: sufficiently staffed, buying **observing time** form the observatory.

Recommendations

#1: create a mechanism which allows “open time proposals” on the optical interferometric facilities.
(example milestone schedule: 10% in 2010, 25 % in 2015, etc.)

#2: create incentives for non-interferometric astronomers to work with optical interferometric data.

(example: fellowships to collaborate, buy observing time, ...)

#3: make current facilities part of the technology roadmap for a new facility.

(example: demonstrate fringe tracking at H=15 by 2010)

#4: continue on conference series with targeted topics to provided exposure of optical interferometry results to main stream astronomy.

(example: MSC conference series with European partners)