Starting the schedule

Obtaining the observation schedule

Once the observation trigger has been given each station should download the corresponding schedule file (vex format). The schedules can be downloaded here (**to be updated)**.

The vex file should be downloaded to the Mark6 recorder as user `oper` into the directory `/home/oper`.

Translating the vex file

The downloaded vex file must be converted to a mark6 schedule file. As user oper execute:

```
/home/oper/bin/vex2xml.py -f {vexfile} -s {code}

{vexfile}: file name of the vexfile
{code}: two letter station code of your local station.
```

IMPORTANT: The station code must match the 2-letter code assigned to your station in the vex-file exactly (case sensitive).

This will produce a file named after the `vexfile` but having the .xml extension in the current directory.

Loading the schedule

There are two ways to execute the schedule

standard execution

as user oper execute:

```
M6_CC -f {xmlfile}

{xmlfile}: the xml file produced in the previous step
```

Note: you can load the schedule at any time prior to the observation slot.

scripted execution

the script `start_eht.py` will execute the schedule and in addition will automatically perform other tasks (e.g. 2-bit requantization) in the scan gaps.

download the script on your mark6 and put it to /home/oper/bin

as user oper:

```
start_eht.py {schedule.xml}
```

```
start_eht.py --help will display additional options
```