

## WinSAR EC telecon, January 22nd, 2015

Participants: Zhong Lu (Chair), Gareth Funning, Christelle Wauthier, Chris Crosby, Scott Baker, Matt Pritchard, Dave Sandwell

Notes taken by Gareth Funning

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am PST

The meeting included discussions on the following topics:

- 1) The new chair thanked Matt Pritchard, Franz Meyer, David Sandwell for their past service.
- 2) Zhong Lu charged the committee with coming up with the outstanding issues that should be our focus for 2015.
- 3) The committee discussed issues surrounding TerraSAR-X:

(i) Data tasking through WinSAR. With existing funds we have the capability of tasking 500–1000 scenes – maybe it is time to look over those tasking requests to see whether they are all necessary. Maybe priorities have changed, some PIs are now tasking their own acquisitions, and there are some areas where we have been unsuccessful in getting data tasked due to conflicts with other users/customers.

(ii) Issues surrounding data sharing/archiving. DLR have made it known that they do not want a publicly-accessible archive of their data at WInSAR, but are there ways in which we can fulfil some kind of data-sharing function for registered PIs/co-PIs within their restrictions?

- One issue is paying for storage of data in the cloud. NSF would likely refuse to pay for duplicate cloud storage for the same data with different PIs, given that NSF contributes to the operation of WInSAR already.
- Unavco can fulfill the role of ‘cloud service provider’, with no change to the functionality at all, just a minor name/role change (i.e. no longer call it an ‘archive’), mostly a symbolic change, given that the unregistered PIs do not currently have access to those data anyway.
- Unavco would no longer be an approved ‘user’ of the data, and Chris Crosby would no longer be a PI on each TSX data proposal. Scott says they (he and Susanna Gross) will still be able to download TSX data at Unavco to incorporate into the data-sharing infrastructure as registered ‘persons of access’, who can be added after proposal approval.
- It is useful to know what TSX data are available, that have already been purchased using NSF funds. We currently keep track of and share the

metadata from such acquisitions, so that people can look at that (maybe DLR don't like that? but what is the harm?)

- Data need to be purged after the project period outlined in a proposal is over. As our storage is set up, DLR can come in and check that they are gone. They haven't actually purged any data yet, since there have been no requests to do so.

As a next step, we should restate our understanding of the current position, in a document to send to DLR? We should not use the name 'archive' anywhere, and refer to it instead as a 'data-sharing infrastructure', which is a more accurate description of what WInSAR does. Zhong will work on this with Chris and Scott.

- One thing to investigate would be whether non-US investigators would be allowed to make use of this proposed data-sharing infrastructure?
- The status of our metadata storage should also be cleared up.
- It is possible that some of these issues could be addressed in person with DLR representatives at the FRINGE meeting, by Zhong and Scott.

#### 4) The committee discussed issues concerning Sentinel-1 data.

(i) Data archiving at the Alaska Satellite Facility, including access through the ASF DAAC:

- ASF is setting up the protocols for searching the archive and how to get hold of the data granules. All of the data will be there, not just the last two months. Zhong is involved in that effort.
- It was asked whether it would be possible to have 'subscriptions' to data from areas of interest. In other words, build functionality that data can trigger notifications to interested parties on its arrival at the ASF archive.
- Craig Dobson is trying to set up agreements with ESA to allow the sharing of Sentinel-1A data from the ASF DAAC. We need to wait for those agreements.
- Are they collecting the data globally? Yes.
- Scott is also collecting it at present for the WInSAR footprint.

(ii) Sentinel-1 RAW data – what are we going to do with/about them?

- At present it is not clear how much SLC processing will be done automatically. Maybe in future we will be able to request SLC processing of certain data only available in RAW. The next generation data request tool (EOLI-SA replacement) may allow those requests to be made.
- Do we want to write our own TOPS processor? Apparently there is not an open version of the code that exists to process it. MDA wrote the TOPS SLC processor that currently exists. ISCE works, currently, with TOPS SLCs. Is anyone actually processing SLCs themselves? (no.)

- Scott has a link for the results of TOPS InSAR processing comparisons that he will send out.

5) The committee discussed how WInSAR should get involved with the 'Future Seismic and Geodetic Facility Needs in the Geosciences' workshop being held in May by Unavco.

(i) Short white papers are being solicited in advance of the meeting. The committee discussed submitting one describing the needs of the WInSAR community.

- A previous EC wrote one for EarthCube that could be used as the basis for a future effort.
- Should we write it jointly with ASF?
- We should make sure the community's voice is heard in those discussions with NSF. SAR data users are a distinct group within the geodetic community who should be heard, and heard separately.
- Similarly, we should consider ourselves separate from other groups within Unavco (e.g. Corné Kreemer's group focused on cyberinfrastructure and cloud computing), although there are some overlapping interests between groups.
- Unavco themselves are not participating – they are not allowed to be authors – but they can encourage authorship on papers.
- Deadline for white papers: April 15th. There is a template on the workshop webpage.

(ii) Will there still be a role for WInSAR post-2018? The committee thought so, and in areas where we are already operating, i.e.

- Proposal management/assistance
- Information transfer, training and short courses
- Maintaining relationships with foreign space agencies

These are all complementary to the other efforts within Unavco and will still be valuable going forward.

(iii) The workshop purpose is to define what the scope of any future facilities would be – there would be an opportunity to suggest an expanded role if there were any need for one.

6) The committee discussed ALOS-2 data access and distribution. Franz Meyer and David Sandwell have been looking into this.

- Data can be shared via Unavco, more PIs can be added to existing projects (by WInSAR?) Details are provided in the last WInSAR newsletter.
- Shimada-san is retiring soon, so the details may change.
- We should set up an archive at Unavco to automate the downloads and coordinate those requests.
- ALOS-2 was named in the most recent request for funding to NASA.

- It was suggested that most WInSAR members do not know the protocol for getting hold of the data, the cost, etc. [It was noted that the data can be bought commercially at a high cost (\$1200-4200 per scene).]
- There is still a burst alignment problem with ScanSAR data.
- NASA efforts to secure a US-based archive of ALOS-2 data via a formal agreement with JAXA have not been met with much enthusiasm, despite an offer of more downlink capacity.
- It was agreed that those of us with supported PI proposals should coordinate our requests/downloads of our 100 ScanSAR scenes through Unavco. This should be a priority for us to work on.

7) What should be our goals for 2015?

- Coordination of ALOS-2 requests should be a major priority
- Pursuing an agreement with ASI for COSMO-SkyMed data – Fringe might be a place to do this. [JPL have a large volume of raw data that they can't share, but maybe they could share processed/derived products? (Their agreement ended Nov 1st.)]
- Coordinate efforts to process Sentinel/other data – could be combined with WInSAR's traditional training short courses. Zhong wants to make this a priority
- Come to an understanding with DLR about TSX data-sharing issues.
- ASF have two archiving systems – one on behalf of NASA, and one of their own. Does this mean that ASF can act independently to archive a lot of data? Zhong will chase them up on that.

8) The committee agreed that we should hold telecons every 4-6 weeks in future.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.