

Minutes of WInSAR EC meeting 28 September 2017, 10-11AM Mountain Standard Time
(Denver, GMT-07:00)

On call: Gareth Funning (Chair), Franz Meyer (Vice Chair), Zhong Lu (Ex-officio), Eric Hetland (Secretary), Chris Crosby (UNAVCO), Scott Baker (UNAVCO)

Not on call: Kristy Tiampo, Piyush Agram

1. Updates from WInSAR representation at summer meetings

Several EC members represented WInSAR at SAR related meetings over the summer, including the Fringe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, IGARSS meeting in Texas, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Across the Americas Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The WInSAR poster at Fringe generated a lot of interest. Most of the interest were people eager to use ISCE, and several new WInSAR members were solicited. Participants at the DRR meeting expressed interest in higher level SAR products for disaster response and monitoring, particularly normalizing products across different archives.

Discussions on data acquisition of the upcoming SAOCOM mission are ongoing (although InSAR not first priority for SAOCOM, it will have critical baselines similar to ALOS), and there may be a role for WInSAR in advocacy for data access in the future. Related to this discussion was the question of whether there was a role for WInSAR to keep up-to-date information on future SAR missions. This information is currently on the WInSAR page, but not always actively updated or directly found.

An update on the Geodetic Data Services Advisory Committee was requested, and the WInSAR EC was pointed to:

<http://www.unavco.org/community/governance/committees/geodetic-data-services/geodetic-data-services.html>

2. Community Organization and Standardization of Automated InSAR Processing

There are a lot of groups producing higher-level SAR products through automated processing, and then releasing those products online as downloadable interferograms and/or InSAR time-series. However, there is generally a lack of established consistency across various archives, with regards to standardized processing work-flows, available meta-data, or format of product. It was suggested that there might be a role for WInSAR is taking a lead on initiating community discussion to normalize products across different archives, ensuring that we are all supporting each other's efforts. Some issues that might need coordinated community discussion include what metadata on the processing needs to be captured, consistent format of products, whether different groups would be operational in different focus areas, or even suggested "best practices" processing chains. A central location which points users to individual archives for certain areas of products might be needed to help users to negotiate the various services, as the ultimate goal is to get InSAR products to as many users as possible. It was noted that

SSARA does partly address the issue of linking to various archives. It was agreed that the issue would be brought up at the WInSAR business meeting at the AGU Fall meeting.

3. WInSAR Sponsored Session and Late-Breaking Sessions at AGU Fall Meeting

F. Meyer and G. Funning, with J. Chen (UT Austin) organized an InSAR session at AGU, which received 31 abstracts. The session was given two oral sessions and one poster session. The oral sessions will be held on Wednesday to coordinate with the WInSAR business meeting at the Fall AGU Meeting.

There are several late-breaking sessions at the Fall AGU that have potential SAR connections. Abstract submissions are still open for these sessions. E. Hetland will send out a reminder of these sessions to the WInSAR community.

4. Update of WInSAR Portal

The WInSAR portal is being folded into the larger WInSAR site. The beta site will be available soon, and UNAVCO would like feedback from WinSAR. The beta version will be available in next few weeks, and will be send to the WInSAR EC for evaluation. UNAVCO's deadline for full integration of the WInSAR site is the WInSAR business meeting at the AGU Fall Meeting.

5. Planning for future training courses

The routine and automatic processing of interferograms by several groups is becoming increasingly common, and it is likely that in the near future there will be a wealth of interferograms, and estimated time-series from them, available online through automatic processing. Given this changing landscape in InSAR, the EC discussed whether WInSAR supported training was serving the right community needs. WInSAR training is mainly focussed on processing of InSAR, with increased attention to time-series methods in the last several years. There perhaps is a need to provide training in interpretation and analysis of InSAR products. There is likely to be an explosion of researchers using InSAR products who do not need to understand the details of the processing of those products themselves, and the current mode of WInSAR training focussed on the processing workflow may not best serve these researchers.

The EC felt that in a sense, the tutorials and trainings define what WInSAR is to the broader community, and should plan trainings to meet the community demand. UNAVCO short courses are the "go-to" courses for InSAR training. The short courses at UNAVCO are strong, and the EC felt that this should be continued. Additional InSAR tutorials in interpretation and analysis may grow the InSAR user base, particularly if held in conjunction with meetings such as the GSA. The Computational Infrastructure in Geodynamics (CIG) offers trainings in finite element tools to simulate crustal deformation, roughly every other year, and there may be an opportunity to coordinate with those meetings to add an InSAR related component to those tutorials.

The EC recognized that limitations in planning of tutorials serving a wider group of researchers is lack of detailed understanding of the broader community needs, specific funding for offering those trainings, and identifying personnel to lead the trainings.

There are currently several modules on geodetic methods, including InSAR and LiDAR, available:

<https://www.unavco.org/education/resources/modules-and-activities/modules-and-activities.html>

and

<https://serc.carleton.edu/getsi/index.html>

These modules are designed to be integrated within existing undergraduate and/or graduate level classes, but could potentially serve as a starting point for a professional short-course in interpretation and analysis of InSAR products.

The next UNAVCO science workshop is March 27-29, and WInSAR could add a short course specifically focussed on interpretation and analysis. Longer short courses are typically held on Monday, with shorter tutorials later in the week. It was agreed that now is a good time to start the discussion with UNAVCO about the need time-frame to plan a short course at the UNAVCO meeting. G. Funning will take the lead on that discussion.

The EC felt that we should be more proactive about defining and scheduling a WInSAR sponsored short course for Summer 2018. It was noted that holding workshops outside of the Boulder, CO area are generally more expensive due to being able to use the UNAVCO facility in Boulder. May-Aug time-frame is perhaps best for a training as it fits with the academic calendar. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited in the next EC telecon, with a target of nailing down dates.

6. The AGU WInSAR Business Meeting

The annual WInSAR business meeting is scheduled:

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Hilton New Orleans Riverside

2 Poydra Street

Quarterdeck Ballroom

Discussion on who we should invite to give updates at the WInSAR business meeting was initiated. Updates from ISCE, GMTSAR, ASF, Supersites, UNAVCO, and sponsoring agencies are all relevant. As most people have impacted schedules at AGU, keeping the business meeting on a strict time-frame is key, particularly for updates from representatives of funding agencies. G. Funning will work up a list of people to request updates from. The 2016 WInSAR

business meeting presentation, along with meeting minutes, are posted on the WInSAR website:

<https://winsar.unavco.org/documents.html>

Since the business meeting's time schedule is fairly tight, there is limited chance to receive feedback from users. It was decided that this year the EC would hand-out a feedback form to attendees. The feedback form could poll users about what training would people like to see from WInSAR and what format for those trainings.

7. New Business

No additional issues for the WInSAR EC were suggested.

8. Next WInSAR EC Telecon

Next EC telecon will be targeted for early November. We need to continue discussion on 2018 trainings, and settle on target dates for those trainings, as well as finalize plans for the AGU business meeting.