

On the call:

Zhong Lu (President)  
Franz Meyer (Vice President)  
Gareth Funning (Secretary)  
Christelle Wauthier  
Ingrid Johanson  
Eric Fielding  
Chris Crosby  
Scott Baker  
David Sandwell

Notes taken by Gareth Funning

Called to order at 2.00 pm

Main topics

#### 1) AGU WInSAR business meeting, 2016

People mentioned to Zhong how much they liked the broad spectrum of material presented at the business meeting last year. This year is an EC election year, so some of the time at this year's business meeting will need to be devoted to the EC election results.

After the last business meeting, people suggested that we could have a poster session to accompany it? We could have it on Wednesday morning, before the business meeting. The session proposal deadline is on April 20th. Zhong will put that together, and circulate for comments. He will ask Sue Owen (incoming AGU section president) if we can have our requested particular scheduling time.

#### 2) WInSAR training in 2016: GMTSAR

We are planning to have two training short courses, as we did last year. As we head towards the NISAR mission, fostering InSAR training in the US is an important role for WInSAR to play.

David Sandwell is planning a GMTSAR course similar to last year's. It is important to pick times that don't conflict. He finds that hosting at Scripps works well – dorms are cheap, and it is very accessible to students and researchers on the west coast, who turn out in numbers. August 10-12 are good dates for most of the instructors (Paul Wessel, etc.) They propose to do the same as last year, where students do some Unix and GMT homework and install the software before they arrive.

Some attendees come in with some knowledge and want to do time series analysis, some come in knowing little, wanting to learn the basics – all can be accommodated.

It was asked if there is an implementation of time series in GMTSAR? Yes, there is an implementation of SBAS, written by Xiaopeng Tong. Sentinel-1 lends itself very well to SBAS. It has been there for at least a year.

Last year we talked about recording the sessions for offline use? It was helpful for the 2014 ISCE and GIANT course, where the screen and the voice were recorded. There is no problem in principle with this (and it would be good to have, says Dave) but they would need help to implement it – there aren't enough instructors available for one of them to be wrestling with the technology at the moment. It's not clear if they could use the Unavco Webex account to record it remotely at Scripps – Chris will enquire. Scott has been responding to WebEx users online – he could possibly do that at Scripps. He should be available.

Dave had a video on how to install GMTSAR that was popular, it's now outdated, but something similar could be done again. Any videos that were made would need to be broken down into short (45 minutes or less) pieces. Maybe they would just need to be edited post-event, and planned for in advance to make it easy to break down that way?

Donna Charlevoix has indicated that she will support this short course, but would appreciate some additional information on the students – who they work for, where they are from. Dave will work with her on that.

### 3) WInSAR training in 2016: InSAR training workshop at Unavco

Last year was challenging because Piyush Agram and Andy Hooper were only available for 3.5 days. Zhong would like 4.5 days. Last year the course jumped right into advanced concepts. Maybe attendees need a little more of the basics, focused on ISCE. Then we could move on to time series, GIANT, StaMPS? Last year, a lot of students didn't have access to MATLAB – a problem for StaMPS.

Perhaps we need a platform that attendees can access from their own computers remotely? Currently, every participant needs to install the necessary material themselves, run some basic tests beforehand. Alternatively, if we give them homework problems in advance (like the GMTSAR course does) that require access to the necessary codes, perhaps that would lead to better preparation?

The Earthkit system used before (in 2014) allowed people to get into processing the data quickly. But the ISCE developers then got a lot of questions about installation. How much of that was due to the difficulty of installing the software anyway?

What prevents us from using Earthkit again? Nothing, but some recent developments (e.g. Jupyter) might be more suitable. Jupyter has 'notebooks' (a set of commands, annotated with explanations, like Python notebooks) that could be uploaded to GitHub and available for participants to run again afterwards. Jupyter is easy to set up and run on your own machine. Maybe these virtual/cloud machines could be folded into the cost of the workshop?

Franz thinks it is a very good idea. Could we make such a thing permanent? What would be the cost? Installation and software access is one of the main hurdles to InSAR education. A virtual SAR lab for teaching purposes, with some teaching datasets associated, solutions, mature workflows available, etc. would be a great asset for teaching. Maybe we could set such a thing up for training this year, and learn some more about how it plays out, and then have a wider conversation about how to get this supported long-term. We can also discuss this at the upcoming Unavco Science Workshop.

This could be a way of keeping WInSAR relevant in the long term, training has to be one of the focuses of the future.

It was suggested that a more low-tech solution would be to supply one curated example dataset from each satellite, as a tarball, for test purposes, and as a way to test the success of your install? Supersites may be a place to do that. ISCE has a set of data that you can download like that, once you have access. Maybe it needs to be revisited and updated. They might not be up-to-date.

One question to answer is, should we run basic vs advanced training? Could we have two groups? Three courses (overall) might be a stretch for our budget. Last year ASF had a training course that focused on the basics, getting already processed data, simple change detection, integration with GIS. Maybe they could run that again (doesn't have to be in Alaska). And then the Unavco course could cover more advanced topics.

It might be interesting to give people a choice, but not sure how it would work logistically? We would maybe need to know beforehand how much interest there is in each? Unavco has a survey monkey account, and we could put out a survey to assess interest in various topics/what students want? Also, Donna Charlevoix has a survey from last year that shows what people thought about last year's courses.

David Sandwell says it helpful to use the last half day having students or pairs of students presenting what they have done (whether or not it was successful) – this shows everyone what needs to be done, what issues there are, what we need to focus on in future training courses.

As for a date for the workshop, a lot depends on the availability of JPL people – Paul Rosen, Piyush Agram, Eric Fielding... David Baekart (now at JPL, previously at Leeds) could do some of the training, he knows about StaMPS, is working on it interfacing with ISCE. NISAR Preliminary Design Review is scheduled June 22nd – we won't be able to get any of the NISAR team (including several of our intended instructors) before that!

Zhong will draw up a draft agenda for the workshop, but maybe we need some survey input before we finalise it. We will send out a save the date announcement and survey first. Zhong will discuss with Chris how to do this.

#### 4) Additional business

Shimon Wdowski has requested additional TSX programming over an area. He requested 100 last year, he says he needs 150 more. Zhong will look at our quota, and communicate with the rest of the EC over e-mail.

What about the WInSAR abstract for the Living Planet Symposium? Christelle is going for sure, and is willing to present if Zhong cannot – he is still not sure if he can go, but will inform the rest of the EC ahead of time if .

A post-2018 facility proposal needs to be formulated, and so community feedback would be useful for that, in the context of what WInSAR is already doing.

Call adjourned at 3.10 PST