

Minutes of WInSAR EC meeting 01 March 2018, 11:00-12:00 Mountain Standard Time (Denver, GMT-07:00)

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

Piyush Agram joined 11:27 AM MST

1) Introduction and welcome

2) WInSAR website changes

Scott Baker has been hard at work updating the WInSAR website, which was released late last January: <https://winsar.unavco.org/>

Essentially the old WInSAR content was collapsed into the same platform as the WInSAR Portal (Django). This will make it a bit easier to maintain, allows us to add some new capabilities around user management, and gave us an opportunity to clean up some older content. Scott will also be adding a more direct link to data archive.

The largest change is that the steps involved in approving new WInSAR Institutional Member applications is streamline and partially automated. The Executive Committee will now receive automatic notification when a new application is ready for evaluation, and Scott has built a voting interface inside the portal. EC members will simply log into the WInSAR site, review the application, and cast their vote.

Scott sent an email to the WInSAR representatives about the website changes, in order to also inform them of the updates and to make them aware of a few new capabilities/features (item d in the below list of new/updated features). Feedback is welcome!

New or Updated Features:

- a. Updated to next LTS of django (1.11) and Python3
- b. User registration and profile settings
 - Added fields for Nationality, ORCID, Job Type
 - Institution listed in settings <https://winsar.unavco.org/account/settings/>
- c. Streamlined Application for Institutional Membership process
 - Users must create an account first and only the faculty and staff job type is permitted to submit an application.
 - Automated institution creation and email notifications
 - Voting interface for EC (<https://winsar.unavco.org/membership/applications>)
 - Email sent to EC when a submitted application status is updated to

“PENDING”

- d. Institutional profile and page for reps:

- Added address fields for institutions (including country)
 - Approve ISCE access for users
 - List of registered users at your institution with option to remove users
- e. New PI proposal management interface
- All proposals together in one interface
 - Added ASI options
 - Proposal view now lists users with access

3) Old business

None.

4) March InSAR short course

A WInSAR sponsored workshop will be held at the UNAVCO science meeting - 27–29 March in Boulder, CO. The short course will be 8am-5pm on Monday 26 March:

<https://www.unavco.org/community/meetings-events/2018/sciworkshop18/insar/insar.html>

The focus of the workshop will be on working with already processed interferograms, which are available currently through repositories. There are about 20 people registered now.

Gareth F. and Scott B. will attend. Kristy T. has indicated in prior email that she will attend and will contribute - Gareth will touch bases with Kristy to coordinate what she may be able to lead. Scott B. will be able to lead the section on data repositories. Piyush A. is still waiting to see if he will be able to attend and lead the section focussed on GIANt. If Piyush A. is unable to attend, he will provide materials using Sentinel data and Mexico City, as lecture based the material will fit into the 90 minutes preliminarily scheduled. It was suggested that it would be ideal if example tutorials could be given in Jupyter notebooks, utilizing a central UNAVCO Jupyter server for participants to use. Using the Jupyter notebooks would avoid requiring participants to install their own GIANt etc on their laptops, a potentially time-intensive step that could disrupt the schedule. Piyush will port the workflow he used in past tutorials on GIANt into a Jupyter notebook. Piyush and Scott will coordinate on a solution for a Jupyter server. Ideally could have a notebook to access data, using a test data stack in the UNAVCO archive, illustrating SSARA command-line interface. Then have a second notebook focussed on the GIANt processing.

Gareth F. will create a google folder to archive materials from past training sessions that EC members might have.

5) Summer WInSAR/ISCE training

WInSAR is planning a short-course to occur 14-17 August 2018 at UNAVCO:

<http://www.unavco.org/community/meetings-events/2018/2018.html>

We should be proactive about planning well ahead of time, in particular focussing on topics not addressed in past workshops/short courses. In general, we should consider developing a broader instructor base, in order to reduce the demands on the JPL scientists, and to diversify intellectual backgrounds. The EC will work on brainstorming and contacting potential instructors. Zhong L collected feedback from past summer course, and that should be consulted when designing the schedule for the upcoming course.

A possible topic would be on how to contribute scripts and tools to ISCE and GDAL. GDAL applies generally to geospatial data, and not specific to InSAR. There is currently no training, that we are aware of, focussed on GDAL. Issues such as map projections (e.g., ellipsoid vs geoid), might be useful to include. Dividing attendees into groups, and having each group design their own idea for a script. Groups could then move through the entire process of writing the script within the ISCE framework, and eventually contributing it. We might also want to break participants into two, or more, groups, based on levels of InSAR knowledge and/or computational platform preference (e.x., Matlab vs. Python). There is a clear benefit to have participants also work on their own InSAR project during the latter part of the course, either in pairs or small groups.

For reference, the course materials from the 2016 version of the trainings are here:

<http://www.unavco.org/education/professional-development/short-courses/course-materials/insar/2016-insar-isce-giant-course-materials/2016-insar-isce-giant-course-materials.html>

6) New business

JAXA system went offline, and is now only allowing people to order 20 scenes at a time off of an allocation. At the AGU WInSAR business meeting, the ALOS-2 mission manager solicited interest from participants for a North America test site, but the data access policy is not clear. The EC might want to inquire as to whether the ScanSAR data for the US already archived in WInSAR can be made generally available to WInSAR members.

Next EC telecon will be in a couple of months.

Meeting convened 12:02 PM MST. Minutes by E. Hetland (WInSAR Secretary).