

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract

This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the year 2008 and forecasts activities planned for the year 2009.

1. Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at the Goddard Space Flight Center and is operated by NEOS (National Earth Orientation Service), a joint effort for VLBI by the U.S. Naval Observatory and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The mission of the Coordinating Center is to provide communications and information for the IVS community and the greater scientific community and to coordinate the day-to-day and long-term activities of IVS.

The Web server for the Coordinating Center is provided by Goddard. The address is

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov>

2. Activities during 2008

During the period from January through December 2008, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- Directing Board support: Coordinated, with local committees, two IVS Directing Board meetings, in St. Petersburg, Russia (March 2008) and Penticton, BC, Canada (September 2008). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site. Coordinated with the Election Committee the representative elections and published the results.
- Components: Supported the Call for Proposals for Combination Centers and Operational Analysis Centers.
- Communications support: Maintained the Web pages, e-mail lists, and Web-based mail archive files. Generated analysis reports and included them into the 24-hour session Web pages. Added Intensive session Web pages.
- Publications: Published the 2007 Annual Report in spring 2008. Published three editions of the IVS Newsletter in April, August, and December, 2008. In collaboration with the Institute of Applied Astronomy, published the Proceedings of the fifth IVS General Meeting in summer 2008. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- 2008 Master Schedule: Generated and maintained the master observing schedule for 2008. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules. Coordinated the continuous VLBI campaign 2008 (CONT08).
- 2009 Master Schedule: Generated the proposed master schedule for 2009 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.

- Meetings: Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the fifth IVS General Meeting, held in St. Petersburg, Russia in March 2008. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting.
- Observing Program Committee (OPC): Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.

3. CONT08 Campaign

The Continuous VLBI Campaign 2008 (CONT08) was successfully observed during summer. Eleven IVS stations (see Figure 1) observed for 15 consecutive days at a rate of 512 Mbps in the time frame of August 12-26, 2008. The observing was done on the basis of UT days with each CONT08 day running from 0 UT to 24 UT. UT day observing is needed to make the most accurate combination and comparison of results from other techniques.



Figure 1. Geographical distribution of the 11 CONT08 stations.

The Coordinating Center, in collaboration with the OPC, was responsible for:

- the overall planning and coordination of the campaign,
- the media usage and shipment schedule, and
- the preparation of the detailed observing schedules and notes.

Unlike the CONT05 campaign, all CONT08 data are being correlated at one correlator: the Washington Correlator is processing the entire CONT08 campaign. This helped ease the logistical aspects regarding module handling for the correlators, stations, and shipping. Correlation is expected to be finalized in early 2009.

Another innovation with respect to the previous CONTs was the introduction of staggered station check times. The daily station checks (e.g., pointing) were decoupled from the change of schedules and were instead introduced at convenient and well-coordinated times for the stations (i.e., different daily check times for each station). In this way, it was possible to avoid complete ob-

servational gaps. Previously, daily check gaps (of e.g. 30-minute length) had resulted in unrealistic peaks in the sub-daily EOP time series derived from the CONT data.

More information about the CONT08 campaign can be found on the IVS Web site under the URL <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont08>.

4. Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site and e-mail system maintenance, Directing Board support, meetings, publications, session Web page monitoring
Cynthia Thomas	Operation Manager	Master schedule (current year), resource management and monitoring, meeting and travel support, special sessions
Frank Gomez	Web Manager	Web server administration, mail system maintenance, data center support, session processing scripts, mirror site liaison
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, session Web page support and scripts

5. Plans for 2009

The Coordinating Center plans for 2009 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system; implement new station pages.
- Publish the 2008 Annual Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the fifth IVS Technical Operations Workshop to be held at Haystack Observatory, USA in April 2009.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2009.
- Coordinate the 2009 master observing schedule and IVS resources.