

Matera CGS VLBI Analysis Center

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Abstract

This paper reports the VLBI data analysis activities at the Space Geodesy Center (CGS), Matera, from January 2009 through December 2009 and the contributions that the CGS intends to provide for the future as an IVS Analysis Center.

1. General Information

The Matera VLBI station became operational at the Space Geodesy Center (CGS) of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) in May 1990. Since then, it has been active in the framework of the most important international programs. VLBI data analysis activities are performed at CGS for a better understanding of tectonic motions with specific regard for the European area. The CGS, operated by e-geos (formerly Telespazio) on behalf of ASI, provides full scientific and operational support using the main space geodetic techniques: VLBI, SLR, and GPS.

2. Staff at CGS contributing to the IVS Analysis Center

- Dr. Giuseppe Bianco, responsible for CGS/ASI (primary scientific/technical contact).
- Dr. Cinzia Luceri, responsible for scientific activities, e-geos.
- Dr. Roberto Lanotte, geodynamics data analyst, e-geos.

3. Current Status and Activities

3.1. Global VLBI Solution cgs2008a

The main VLBI data analysis activities at the CGS in the year 2009 were directed towards the realization of a global VLBI solution, named cgs2008a, using the CALC/SOLVE software (developed at GSFC). The solution activities, started in 2008, ended in May 2009, when the solution sections (crf, trf, and eop) were published in the IVS archives. The main, final, characteristics of this solution are:

- Data span:
1979.08.03 - 2008.12.30 (3601 sessions)
- Estimated Parameters:
 - Celestial Frame:
right ascension and declination as global parameters for 721 sources
 - Terrestrial Frame:
Coordinates and velocities for 90 stations as global parameters
 - Earth Orientation:
Unconstrained X pole, Y pole, UT1, Xp rate, Yp rate, UT1 rate, dps and deps.

3.2. IVS Tropospheric Products

Regular submission of tropospheric parameters (wet and total zenith path delays, and east and north horizontal gradients) for all VLBI stations observing in the IVS R1 and R4 sessions continued during 2009. At present 707 sessions have been analyzed and submitted, covering the period from 2002 to 2009. The results are available at the IVS products ftp sites.

3.3. IVS Product “Time Series of Baseline Lengths”

Regular submission of station coordinate estimates, in SINEX files, continued during 2009 for the IVS product “Time Series of Baseline Lengths”. This is composed of 3475 sessions, from 1979 to 2009.

3.4. CGS Contribution to IERS EOP Operational Series

Since 2008, CGS has been delivering IERS R1 and R4 session EOP estimates as a regular contribution to the IERS EOP operational series. The whole cgs2007a solution, available when the contribution started, has been delivered to IERS as a reference series updated by the periodic EOP solution submission.

4. Future Plans

- Continue and improve the realization of our global VLBI solution, providing its regular update on time.
- Continue to participate in IVS analysis projects, providing the datum-free normal equations.