

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract

This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the year 2011 and forecasts activities planned for the year 2012.

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 2011

During the period from January through December 2011, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- Directing Board support: Coordinated, with local committees, two IVS Directing Board meetings, in Bonn, Germany (April 2011) and Hohe Wand, Austria (September 2011). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site.
- 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. Maintained Intensive session Web pages.
- Publications: Published the 2010 Annual Report in spring 2011. Published three editions of the IVS Newsletter in April, August, and December 2011. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- Observing Program Committee (OPC): Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- 2011 Master Schedule: Generated and maintained the master observing schedule for 2011. 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 2011 (CONT11).
- 2012 Master Schedule: Generated the proposed master schedule for 2012 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.
- VLBI2010: Supported the activities of the VLBI2010 Committee (V2C) and the VLBI2010 Project Executive Group (V2PEG). Worked with the Local Committee and the Program

Committee to prepare the VLBI2010 Workshop on Technical Specifications to be held in Bad Kötzing, Germany in March 2012.

- Meetings: Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the sixth IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at Haystack Observatory in May 2011. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting.

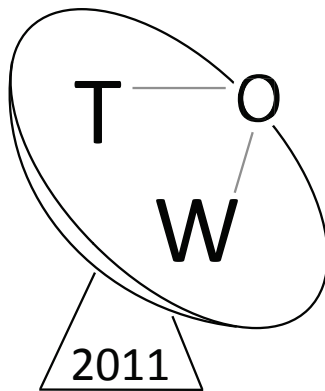


Figure 1. Logo (left) and participants (right) of the sixth IVS Technical Operations Workshop held at MIT Haystack Observatory in May 2011. More information about the workshop can be found on the IVS Web site at <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/tow2011/>.

Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the seventh IVS General Meeting, to be held in Madrid, Spain in March 2012. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting.

3. CONT11 Campaign

The Continuous VLBI Campaign 2011 (CONT11) was successfully observed in late summer to early fall. Thirteen IVS stations (see Figure 2) observed for 15 consecutive days at a rate of 512 Mbps in the time frame of September 15-29, 2011. The observing was done on the basis of UT days with each CONT11 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.

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.

As was done with the CONT08 campaign, all CONT11 data are being correlated at the Washington Correlator. The release of the correlated data is expected for early 2012. Performing the correlation at a single place significantly eased the logistics involved with module handling at the correlators and the stations.

The staggered station check times that were successfully introduced with the CONT08 campaign were also repeated: the daily station checks 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) avoiding observational gaps overall. Such gaps existed

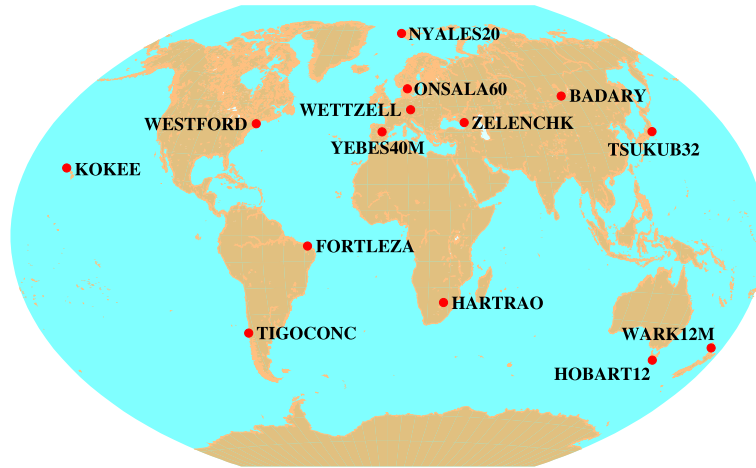


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of the 13 CONT11 stations. From the original 14 stations, Warkworth had to drop out because of technical problems.

in pre-CONT08 continuous campaigns (usually a 30-minute break between individual observing days) and resulted in unrealistic peaks in the sub-daily EOP time series derived from the CONT data.

More information about the CONT11 campaign can be found on the IVS Web site under the URL <http://ivscg.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont11>.

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 schedules (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 2012

The Coordinating Center plans for 2012 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system.
- Publish the 2011 Annual Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the VLBI2010 Workshop on Technical Specifications to be held in Bad Kötzing, Germany in March 2012.
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the seventh IVS General Meeting to be held in Madrid, Spain in March 2012.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2012.
- Coordinate the 2012 master observing schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.
- Support the VLBI2010 activities of the V2C and V2PEG.