3.7.3 Working Group on SINEX Format

The IERS Working Group (WG) on SINEX Format was established in early 2011. The Charter of the Working Group is available on the website dedicated to the working group and maintained at the IERS Central Bureau: <http://www.iers.org/WGSINEX>

Information related to the working group's activities are available there as well, such as agenda and minutes of the meetings held so far.

During the year 2015 there was no special meeting of the working group. All discussions on possible format revisions and additions have been done via email or personal communication.

The latest version of the SINEX format is v 2.02. A full format description is available at <http://www.iers.org/IERS/EN/Organization/AnalysisCoordinator/SinexFormat/sinex.html>.

The SINEX format is used by all four space-geodetic techniques to provide their products. In addition, the combined terrestrial reference frame (ITRF) is also provided in SINEX format. To ensure that all technique-specific needs are covered by the SINEX format, representatives from each Technique Service are members of the SINEX Working Group. Additionally, representatives of the IERS ITRF Combination Centres, the IERS Working Group on Co-location and Site Survey, and the IERS Convention Centre are involved in the working group. The IERS Analysis Coordinator is an ex-officio member of the working group in order to cover the needs of the combined IERS products.

In the framework of generating the next release of an ITRF, i.e. ITRF2014, a new representation of non-linear station motions due to post-seismic movements was implemented in the adjustment process by the ITRS Combination Centre at IGN (Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière). Exponential and logarithmic terms will now represent the station motions together with linear velocities. The ITRS Combination Centre defined how these new parameters will be represented in SINEX. This definition still needs to be included in an updated version of the official SINEX format.

The IVS community brought up the need to provide more information on radio source positions within the SINEX file. The parameters describing the radio source positions are already defined, however, a detailed information on, e.g., the number of observations per source is not yet available. As this kind of information turned out to be useful for further using the radio sources from SINEX files, there will be a new block defined. The final format description extension is not yet ready.

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