3.7.3 Working Group on SINEX Format

General activities

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

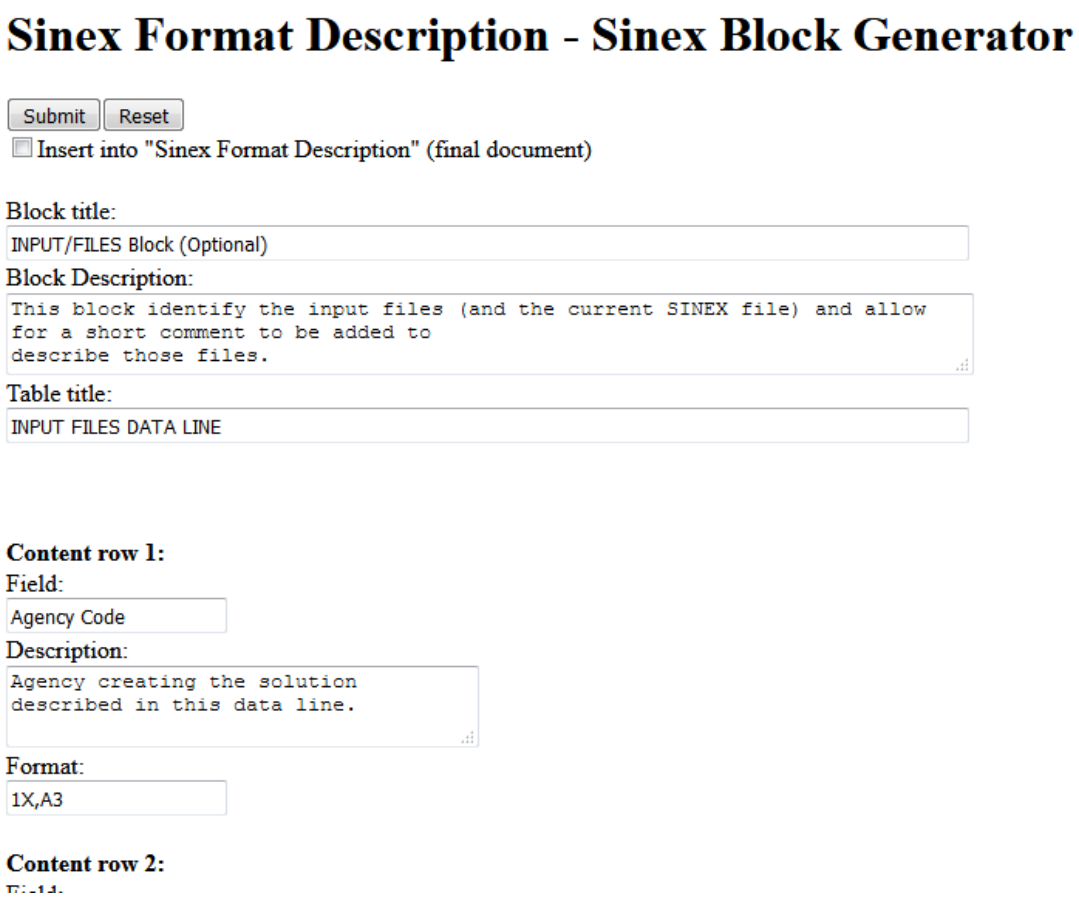

Fig. 1: *Web interface developed for automatized generation of SINEX block description.*

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 Centers,

the IERS Working Group on Co-location and Site Survey, and the IERS Convention Center 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.

During the year 2016 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.

As the maintenance of the format description becomes difficult due to the pure ascii format with tables symbolized by special characters only, a web-based tool has been developed where the content descriptions of the individual SINEX blocks can be added and changed more conveniently. The text filled in via the web-interface is then transformed internally to a LaTeX document which allows a subsequent generation of a pdf. An example of this web-interface is shown in Figure 1. At the moment, this tool is only available at the IERS Central Bureau internally, but might be provided to outside users in the future.

This tool for a generalized creation of the SINEX format description is the basis for the foreseen changes and additions to the SINEX format, especially due to the new type of representation of non-linear station motions as part of the ITRF2014, and other extensions coming up in the framework of the next Unified Analysis Workshop (UAW) to be held in 2017.

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