

IERS Working Group 3 „Combination“

Minutes of the Meeting at Technical University Vienna, April 27, 2005

Participants: see email list

1. Status of routine solutions for IERS CPP

Intra-technique solutions:

- Combinations for all techniques available
- Latency: for GPS and SLR no problem; for VLBI depending on the continuation of the funding by the German Geotechnologien project; for DORIS it is not possible earlier than 38 days (37 days to get the data + 1 day processing)

Weekly inter-technique combination:

- not yet available

Validation of combined solutions / combination strategies:

- 'internal' tests by all combination centers (ASI, IGN, DGFI, NCL)
- 'external' tests by Tom Johnson, Richard Gross, ?

2. Status reports on ITRF2004 combination and strategies

Zuheir Altamimi:

- For details refer to presentation during session G1 at EGU General Assembly
- Strategy: first step = multi-year solution per technique (coord., vel., EOP); second step = combine techniques and add local ties

Barbara Meisel:

- DGFI contribution to ITRF2004
- Strategies for selecting local ties

Karin Le Bail:

- Datum definition within and across techniques station weight factors reflecting their long-term stability

3. Discussion

- Zuheir Altamimi: generation of EOP series should be continued after finalizing ITRF2004(+EOPs) to be prepared for any future realization ITRFx
- Question of combination strategy for LOD from satellite techniques and UT from VLBI: Markus Rothacher demonstrated with results from CONT02 combination studies that the combination works well due to increasing formal errors of integrated UT values from satellite techniques (the same holds for nutation and nutation rates)
- Jim Ray: A documentation of models used in the analysis is needed for technique solutions and for combined solutions; therefore: the technique services (IGS, ILRS, IVS, IDS) should give a written report about their solutions
- Ron Noomen: technique services were asked to provide an official combined solution, but obviously ITRF2004 is computed including an individual SLR solution which did not pass the benchmarking procedure of the ILRS

4. Workshop on Combination

- Date: End of October 2005, in connection with other meetings (to be clarified with ILRS)
- Duration: 2 full days necessary
- Location: GFZ Potsdam