

## Commission 4 – Positioning and Applications

<http://www2.ceegs.ohio-state.edu/IAG-Comm4>

*President: Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska (USA)*

*Vice President: Allison Kealy (Australia)*

### Structure

Sub-Commission 4.1: Alternatives and backups to GNSS

Sub-Commission 4.2: Geodesy in geospatial mapping and engineering

Sub-Commission 4.3: Remote sensing and modelling of the atmosphere

Sub-Commission 4.4: Applications of satellite and airborne imaging systems

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Sub-Commission 4.6: GNSS-reflectometry and applications

### Overview

The primary mission objective of Commission 4 is to promote research that leverages current and emerging positioning techniques and technologies to deliver practical and theoretical solutions for engineering, scientific and mapping applications. Commission 4 carries out its work in close cooperation with the IAG Services and other IAG entities, as well as via linkages with relevant entities within scientific and professional sister organizations. In fact, Commission 4 has the representatives of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the Institute of Navigation (ION) on its Steering Committee.

Recognizing the central role of GNSS in providing high accuracy positioning information today and into the future, Commission 4 maintains a focus on developing tools that enhance and assure the positioning performance of GNSS-based positioning solutions for a range of geodetic and other scientific and engineering applications. A significant part of Commission 4 activities is oriented towards the development of theory, strategies and tools for modeling and/or mitigating the effects of interference, signal loss and atmospheric effects, as they apply to precise GNSS positioning technology. In addition, technical and institutional issues necessary for developing backups to GNSS, integrated positioning solutions, automated processing capabilities and quality control measures, are also being addressed. Commission 4 also deals with geodetic remote sensing, using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) and Satellite Altimetry (SA) systems for geodetic applications.

A major goal of Commission 4 over the 2011-2015 period was to promote research collaborations across various science and engineering disciplines, and to organize joint professional workshops and seminars. Examples of successful initiatives included (full listings of activities and publications can be found in the following sections):

- FIG/IAG WG 4.1.1/ISPRS, undertook a significant joint field campaign and follow-up data processing and analysis in the area of collaborative navigation, University of Nottingham,

- UK, May 14-18, 2012. This was a follow up of previous field campaigns held at The Ohio State University, USA and the University of New South Wales, Australia in 2011.
- IAG SC 4.2 and WG 4.2.1 actively participated in the organization of the International Symposium on Unmanned Airborne Vehicles for Geomatics, UAV-g 2011 held in Zurich, September 14-16 2011. The success of this event was repeated with active participation again at UAV-g 2013 held in Rostock, Germany, September 4-6.
  - IAG Commission 4 and WG 4.2.1 sponsored and actively participated in “The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Summer School on Mobile Mapping Technology in 2012 and 2013, 11-15 June 2012 and 29-30 April, 2013 respectively at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Tainan, Taiwan.
  - IAG Commission 4 sponsored and actively participated in “The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Summer School on Mobile Mapping Technology, Xiamen, China, April 27-29, 2015.
  - IAG SC 4.2 and WG 4.2.1 sponsored and actively participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology – MMT2013, 1–2 May, Tainan, 2013. President of IAG Commission 4. IAG SC 4.2 and WG 4.2.1 are currently organising the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology, MMT2015, to be held in Sydney, Australia, 9-11 December 2015, Website: [www.mmt2015.org](http://www.mmt2015.org). A/Prof Jinling Wang, Chair of the IAG SC 4.2, is the Convenor/General Chair for the MMT2015.
  - IAG WG 4.2.5 organised the Workshop on “Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Engineering Geodesy”, 10-12 September 2012, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.
  - The Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring, Hong Kong, China, 2-4 November 2011 was organised by IAG SC4.4 and FIG.
  - The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) School on “New GNSS Algorithms and Techniques for Earth Observations 2012 (nGATEo 2012)” was successfully held, 14-15 May 2012, Polytechnic University (PolyU), Hong Kong. Sponsored by IAG and organized by Dr. George Liu, Secretary of SC4.5.
  - WG4.5.2 contributed to Inside GNSS Webinar on Precise Positioning Techniques.
  - Commission 4 had a significant presence with roles such as program chair, track chair and session chairs, at the ION GNSS 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 conferences.
  - SC4.5 organized the Croucher Summer Course on “New GNSS Algorithms and Techniques for Earth Observations”, 26-31 May 2014, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.

### *Significant Publications*

- A special issue entitled ‘Indoor Navigation and Tracking’ Journal of Physical Communications (Vol. 13, Part A; <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/18744907/13/part/PA>) edited by Yu K., I. Oppermann, E. Dutkiewicz, I. Sharp and G. Retscher was published in 2014.
- A special issue entitled ‘Ubiquitous Positioning and Navigation Systems’ of the Journal of Applied Geodesy (Vol. 7, No. 4; <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jag>) edited by A. Kealy, G. Retscher and V. Schwieger was published in 2013.
- A special issue on the Second Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring (JISDM), University of Nottingham edited by Xiaolin Meng, Yang Gao and Wujiao Dai Survey Review (Volume 46, Issue 339, November 2014).
- A special issue entitled ‘Engineering Geodesy’ of the Journal of Applied Geodesy (Vol. 8, No. 4; <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jag>) edited by G. Retscher was published in 2014.

## Sub-Commission 4.1: Alternatives and Backups to GNSS

*Chair: Günther Retscher (Austria)*

*Co-chair: Vassilis Gikas (Greece)*

As most mobile positioning applications rely heavily on GNSS nowadays alternative approaches for location determination of users in GNSS denied environments, i.e., the so-called GNSS gap (e.g. in urban canyons or indoors), are needed. These alternatives and backups are the main focus of the Sub-Commission. The Working Groups of the Sub-Commission thereby focus on the use of multi-sensor systems and their integration. For ubiquitous positioning several technologies are researched and further developed. In this context Working Group 4.1.1 not only researches in the development of new ubiquitous positioning techniques but also lays its emphasis on collaborative positioning (or also referred to as cooperative positioning) CP and navigation using a variety of sensors on different platforms. These platforms include mobile vehicles, robots as well as pedestrians and most recently Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's). New emerging technologies, such as Wi-Fi, RFID, ZigBee, Bluetooth, cellular networks, UWB, Infrared, Ultrasonic, camera-based positioning, inertial sensors (accelerometers and magnetometer), as alternative to GNSS positioning are investigated by WG 4.1.3. In addition, the investigation of location technologies for smartphone positioning plays an important role in the interdisciplinary research conducted under the umbrella of Sub-Commission 4.1.

Major research fields of the SC included the development and enhancement of indoor positioning technologies. A special issue under the title 'Indoor Navigation and Tracking' of the Journal of Physical Communications (Vol. 13, Part A; <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/18744907/13/part/PA>) edited by Yu K., I. Oppermann, E. Dutkiewicz, I. Sharp and G. Retscher was published in 2014 containing the following papers:

Sharp I., K. Yu, Sensor-based Dead-reckoning for Indoor Positioning, pp. 4-16.

Moghtadaiee V., A. G. Dempster, Design Protocol and Performance Analysis of Indoor Fingerprinting Positioning Systems, pp. 17-30.

Cheng J., L. Yang, Y. Li, W. Zhang, Seamless Outdoor/Indoor Navigation with WIFI/GPS Aided Low Cost Inertial Navigation System, pp. 31-43.

Li Y., Optimal Multisensor Integrated Navigation Through Information Space- approach, pp. 44-53.

Yan J., K. Yu, L. Wu, Single Frequency Network based Mobile Tracking in NLOS Environments, pp. 54-67.

The SC started also for the first time cooperation with social scientists. Major addressed topics are ethical and political responsibilities of localization technologies for LBS and their impact on users of such services. User acceptance and usability including understandability, learnability and operability are a major focus in the investigations. The cooperation led to the preparation of a research proposal, which will be submitted in a second call under the title 'Mobility of the Future' advertised by the Austrian FFG (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft). A kick-off presentation of the cooperation at the LBS 2014 conference in Vienna, Austria, led to the following publication:

Obex F., G. Retscher (2014): Ethical and Political Responsibility in Location Based Services - The Need of Implementing Ethical Thinking in Our Research Field. in: Papers presented at the 11th International Symposium on Location-Based Services LBS 2014, November 26-28, 2014, Vienna, Austria, pp. 315-328.

Key projects undertaken by members of the SC include the following research fields.

- FIG/IAG/ISPRS Collaborative WG 4.1.1, *Ubiquitous Positioning*  
Field campaign and follow-up processing and analysis on Collaborative Navigation, University of Nottingham, UK, May 14-18, 2012
- EMPARCO (Efficient Management of PArking under Constraints)  
<https://emparco.wordpress.com/>  
Aims to develop solutions for the management of large-scale parking facilities and depots (for either passenger vehicles or commercial fleets) under constraints including near-capacity demand, temporally concentrated arrivals/departures, need for emergency evacuation.  
Project of the Laboratory of Geodesy, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) under the lead of V. Gikas. D. Grejner-Brzezinska, OSU and G. Retscher act on the international advisory committee. Sponsor: ARISTEIA-II (Action's Beneficiary: General Secretariat for Research and Technology, GR), co-financed by the European Union (European Social Fund–ESF).
- SaPPART (Satellite Positioning Performance Assessment for Road Transport)  
<http://www.sappart.net/>  
Aims to develop a framework for the definition of service levels for GNSS and GNSS-augmented positioning terminals used in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and personal mobility applications, and the associated examination framework for certification purposes.  
Major involvement of the Laboratory of Geodesy, NTUA under the lead of V. Gikas. Sponsor: COST Action TU1302, EU RTD Framework Programme.
- Rowing Performance Assessment System  
Aims to develop an integrated data acquisition system (including GNSS, MEMS IMU, pressure cells, goniometers, biomechanical sensors, etc.) and advanced mathematical models for the analysis of movements of the rowing system for performance assessment and improvement of training.  
Project of the Laboratory of Geodesy, NTUA under the lead of V. Gikas. Sponsor: Greek Minister of Sports, Int. Rowing Federation.
- InKoPoMoVer (Intelligent Cooperative Positioning at Multimodal Public Transit Junctions)  
Aims at a better understanding of passenger movement at multimodal transit situations for providing improved passenger guidance. By combining Differential WLAN and RFID through Cooperative Positioning CP, algorithms can be generated, which considerably increase the accuracy of person tracking, allowing for the derivation of movement patterns. Addressing ethical and usability aspects will ensure user-friendly results.  
Project proposal of the Vienna University of Technology, Department of Geodesy and Geoinformation under the lead of G. Retscher.

In addition to previous projects, during the activity period, the Laboratory of Geodesy, NTUA has developed scientific software for: (a) vehicle trajectory extraction and comparisons, (b) sea trials analysis according to IMO guidelines based on GNSS and IMU. Also a back-pack personal navigator was built for pedestrian navigation use. Regarding future plans, the group aims at research in the hybrid/indoors environment for vehicles and pedestrians. The focus will be towards positioning and navigation using UWB and RFIDs – based on research funds, in the next months the Laboratory it shall equipped with such sensors.

The Sub-Commission 4.1 maintained a strong and active presence at the following international events through participation in coordinating workshops, scientific and

organizing committees, delivering short courses and tutorial, publishing papers and presentations, session chairing, etc.

- LBS 2011, Vienna, Austria, Nov. 21-23, 2011
- PLANS 2012, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA, Apr. 24-26, 2012
- FIG Working Week: May 6-10, 2012 in Rome, Italy
- ION GNSS, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, Sep. 17-21, 2012
- UPINLBS 2012, Helsinki, Finland, Oct. 3-4, 2012
- LBS 2012, Munich, Germany, Oct. 16-18, 2012
- IPIN 2012, Sydney, Australia, Nov. 13-15, 2012
- ION Pacific PNT 2013, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, Apr. 22-25, 2013
- European Navigation Conference 2013, Vienna, Austria, Apr. 23-25, 2013
- 8th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technologies MMT 2013, Tainan, Taiwan, May 1-3, 2013
- IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, Germany, Sep.2-6, 2013
- ION GNSS, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, Sep. 16-20, 2013
- IPIN 2013, Montbeliard-Belfort, France, Oct. 28-31, 2013
- LBS 2013, Shanghai, China, Nov. 21-22, 2013
- FIG General Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 16-21, 2014
- ION GNSS, Tampa, Florida, USA, Sep. 8-12, 2014
- RFID Conference, Tampere; Finland, Sep. 10-12, 2014
- IPIN 2014, Busan, Korea, Oct. 27-30, 2013
- UPINLBS 2014, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, Oct. 20-21, 2014
- LBS 2014, Vienna, Austria, Nov. 26-28, 2014

*Recent publications dealing with smartphone positioning:*

- Retscher G., E. Mok, T. Hecht (2013): Smartphone Altitude Determination Using Embedded Barometric Pressure Sensors. in: Papers presented at the 10th International Symposium on Location-Based Services LBS 2013, November 21-22, 2013, Shanghai, China, 3 pgs.
- Retscher G., T. Hecht, E. Mok (2013): Location Capabilities and Performance of Smartphones for LBS Navigation Applications. in: Papers presented at the 8th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology, May 1-3, 2013, Tainan, Taiwan.
- Retscher G., T. Hecht (2012): Investigation of Location Capabilities of four Different Smartphones for LBS Navigation Applications. IEEE Xplore, 2012 International Conference on Indoor Positioning and Indoor Navigation (IPIN), ISBN: 978-1-4673-1954-6, 6 pgs.
- Retscher G. (2012): Wi-Fi Positioning with Smartphones. in: Papers presented at the 9th International Symposium on Location-Based Services LBS 2012, October 16-18, 2012, Munich, Germany, 9 pgs.
- Mok E., G. Retscher, C. Wen (2012): Initial Test on the Use of GPS and Sensor Data of Modern Smartphones for Vehicle Tracking in Dense High Rise Environments. IEEE Xplore, 2012 Ubiquitous Positioning Indoor Navigation and Location Based Service (UPINLBS), ISBN: 978-1-4673-1909-6, 7 pgs.
- Mok E., G. Retscher, D. Wang, L. Xia (2011): Use of Smartphones for Tracking and Trip Recording. in: Papers presented at the 8th International Symposium on Location-Based Services LBS 2011, November 21-23, 2011, Vienna, Austria, pp. 137-152.

*Papers based on EMPARCO project:*

- Antoniou C., Gikas V., Papathanasopoulou V., Danezis C., Panagopoulos A., Markou I., Efthymiou D., Yannis G., Perakis H. (2015) “Localization and Driving Behavior Classification Using Smartphone Sensors in the Direct Absence of GNSS”, *Transportation Research Record*, (accepted)
- Gikas V., Antoniou C., Danezis C., Mpimis T., Perakis H., Papathanasopoulou V., Markou I. (2015) “Evaluating Smartphone Performance for Driving Event and Maneuver Reconstruction”, 26th IUGG General Assembly, Prague, Jun. 22–Jul. 2
- Antoniou C., Gikas V., Papathanasopoulou V., Danezis C., Panagopoulos A., Markou I., Efthymiou D., Yannis G., Perakis H. (2015) “Localization and Driving Behavior Classification Using Smartphone Sensors in the Direct Absence of GNSS”, 94th TRB Annual Meeting Washington DC, USA, Jan. 11–15
- Antoniou C., Papathanasopoulou V., Gikas V., Mpimis A., Markou I., Perakis H. (2014) “Monitoring Indoor Driver Behaviour Using Opportunistic Smartphone Sensor Data”, *ITS and Smart Cities 2014*, Patra, Greece, Nov. 19–22
- Antoniou, C., Gikas V., Papathanasopoulou V., Mpimis T., Markou I., Perakis H. (2014) “Towards Distribution-Based Calibration for Traffic Simulation”, *The IEEE Conf. on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, Qingdao, China, Oct. 8–11
- Antoniou, C., Papathanasopoulou V., Gikas V., Danezis C., Perakis H. (2014) “Classification of Driving Characteristics Using Smartphone Sensor Data”, 3rd Symp. of the European Association for Research in Transportation, Leeds, UK, Sept. 10–12

*Papers based on SaPPART project:*

- Gikas V., Gilliéron P-Y, Peyret F. (2015) “GNSS Accuracy and Integrity Issues in Transport and Mobility”, 26th IUGG General Assembly, Prague, Jun. 22–Jul. 2
- Clausen P., Skaloud J., Gilliéron P-Y, Perakis H., Gikas V., Spyrouopoulou I. (2015) “Position Accuracy with Redundant MEMS IMU for Road Applications”, *European Navigation Conference*, Bordeaux, France, Apr. 7–10
- Peyret F. Gilliéron P-Y, Gikas V., et al. (2015) “Better use of Global Satellite Systems for Safer and Greener Transport” White Paper, COST Action: TU1302

*Papers based on independent research:*

- Yigit C. O., Gikas V., Alcay S., Ceylan A. (2014) “Performance Evaluation of Short to Long Term GPS, GLONASS and GPS/GLONASS Post-Processed PPP”, *Survey Review*, Vol. 46(336), pp 155–166
- Danezis C., Gikas V. (2013) “An Iterative LiDAR DEM-Aided Algorithm for GNSS Positioning in Obstructed / Rapidly Undulating Environments”, *Advances in Space Research*, Vol. 52(5), pp 865 – 878
- Paradissis D., Gikas V. (2013) “GNSS for Sea Trials: Measuring Ship Controllability”, *GIM International*, Vol. 37(2), pp 31–35
- Gikas V., Mpimis A., Androulaki A. (2013) “Proposal for Geoid Model Evaluation from GNSS/INS-Leveling Data: Case Study along a Railway Line in Greece”, *Journal of Surveying Engineering*, Vol. 139(2), pp 95–104
- Gikas V., Stratakis J. (2012) “A Novel Geodetic Engineering Method for the Extraction of Road/Railway Alignments Based on the Bearing Diagram and Fractal Behavior”, *Transactions of Intelligent Transportation Systems, IEEE*, Vol. 13(1), pp 115–126

Danezis C., Gikas V. (2012) “Performance Evaluation of A Novel Terrain-Aiding Algorithm for GNSS Navigation in Forested Environments”, ION/GNSS, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, Sept. 17–21

*Other Publications:*

Gikas V., Karydakis P., Mpimis A., Piniotis G., H. Perakis (2015) “Structural Integrity Verification of a Cable-stayed Footbridge Based on FEM Analyses and Geodetic Surveying Techniques”, *Survey Review*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/1752270614Y.0000000146>

Gikas V. (2012) “3D Terrestrial Laser Scanning for Geometry Documentation and Construction Management of Highway Tunnels during Excavation”, *SENSORS*, Vol. 12, pp 11249–11270

Gikas V. (2012) “Ambient Vibration Monitoring of Slender Structures by Microwave Interferometer Remote Sensing”, *Journal of Applied Geodesy*, Vol. 6(3-4), pp 167–176

Gikas V., Karydakis P., Piniotis G, Mpimis T., Papadimitriou F, Panagakis A. (2014) “Design and Implementation of a Multi-Sensor Monitoring System for Structural Integrity Assessment: The Case of Attiki Odos, Pallini Cable-Stayed Bridge”, *IBSBI*, Athens, Oct. 16–18

Gikas V., Karydakis P., Mpimis T., Piniotis G., Perakis H. (2014) “Nodestructive Load Testing of a Single-Span, Cable-Stayed Bridge: Testing, Instrumentation and Preliminary Results”, *FIG Congress*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 16–21

Perakis H., Piniotis G, Mpimis A., Gikas V. (2014) “Experimental Investigation of GNSS, GBMI, DIC for Dynamic Structural Monitoring”, *5th Nat. Metrology Conf.*, Athens, May 9–10

Gikas V., Karydakis P., Mpimis A., Piniotis G., Rodopoulos J. (2013) “Structural Integrity Verification of a Cable-stayed Footbridge Based on Conventional and Non-Conventional Geodetic Data”, *2nd Joint Int. Symposium on Deformation Measurements*, Nottingham, UK, Sept. 9–10

Piniotis G., Mpimis A., Gikas V. (2013) “Dynamic Testing and Output-Only Modal Analysis of a Bypass-Stack During Extreme Operating Conditions”, *2nd Joint Int. Symposium on Deformation Measurements*, Nottingham, UK, Sept. 9–10

Gikas V., Daskalakis S., Mpimis A. (2011) “Bridge-Vehicle Interaction Analysis Based on Microwave Radar Interferometry: An Experimental Investigation of Evripos Cable-Stayed Bridge”, *Int. Conf. Innovations on Bridges and Soil-Bridge Interaction*, Athens, Oct. 13-15

Gikas V., Daskalakis S. (2011) “Radar-based Measurements of the Oscillation Parameters of Large Civil Engineering Structures”, *14th FIG Symp. on Deformation Monitoring and Analysis & 5th IAG Symp. on Geodesy for Geotechnical and Structural Engineering*, Hong Kong, China, Nov. 2–4, 2011

Note: Further publications can be found under the respective Working Group.

Website of the Sub-Commission 4.1: [http://info.tuwien.ac.at/ingeo/sc4/iag\\_sc41.htm](http://info.tuwien.ac.at/ingeo/sc4/iag_sc41.htm)

### **WG 4.1.1: Ubiquitous Positioning Systems**

*Chair: Allison Kealy (Australia)*

*Co-Chair: Günther Retscher (Austria)*

In 2012 a major activity undertaken by members of the joint IAG Working Group WG 4.1.1 and FIG WG 5.5 was field experiments at the University of Nottingham from May 14 to 18, 2012. These revolved around the concept of collaborative navigation, and partially indoor navigation. Collaborative positioning is an integrated positioning solution, which employs multiple location sensors with different accuracy on different platforms for sharing of their absolute and relative localizations. Typical application scenarios are dismounted soldiers, swarms of UAV's, team of robots, emergency crews and first responders. The stakeholders of the solution (i.e., mobile sensors, users, fixed stations and external databases) are involved in an iterative algorithm to estimate or improve the accuracy of each node's position based on statistical models. For this purpose different sensor platforms have been fitted with similar type of sensors, such as geodetic and low-cost high-sensitivity GNSS receivers, tactical grade IMU's, MEMS-based IMU's, miscellaneous sensors, including magnetometers, barometric pressure and step sensors, as well as image sensors, such as digital cameras and Flash LiDAR, and ultra-wide band (UWB) receivers. The employed platforms in the tests include a train on the roof of the Nottingham geospatial building, mobile mapping vans, personal navigators from the Ohio State University and University of Nottingham.

In terms of the tests, the data from the different platforms are recorded simultaneously. The two personal navigators moved on the building roof, then through the building down to where they logged data simultaneously with the vans, all of them moving together and relative to each other. The platforms logged data simultaneously covering various accelerations, dynamics, etc. over longer trajectories. First test results of the field experiments showed that a positioning accuracy on the few meter level could be achieved for the navigation of the different platforms.

Further information about the Working Group and the field experiments can be found at <http://ubpos.net/>. Measurement data from the campaign are freely accessible from this website.

The work of the group led to a great number of publications in the reporting period. An excerpt of the major publications is given below. In addition, a special issue under the title 'Ubiquitous Positioning and Navigation Systems' of the Journal of Applied Geodesy (Vol. 7, No. 4; <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jag>) edited by A. Kealy, G. Retscher and V. Schwieger was published in 2013 containing the following papers:

- Sternberg H., F. Keller, T. Willemsen, Precise Indoor Mapping as a Basis for Coarse Indoor Navigation, pp. 231-246.
- Cole A., J. Wang, A. Dempster, C. Rizos, VirtualLites: Aided Single Epoch GPS Integer Ambiguity Resolution for Agricultural Land Vehicle Applications, pp. 247-256.
- Beetz A., V. Schwieger, Automatic Lateral Control of a Model Dozer, pp. 257-270.
- Bonenber L. K., C. Hancock, G. W. Roberts, Locata Performance in a Long Term Monitoring, pp. 271-280.
- Jiang W., Y. Li, C. Rizos, J. Barnes, Flight Evaluation of a Locata-augmented Multisensor Navigation System, pp. 281-290.
- Rabiain A. H., A. Kealy, M. Morelande, Tightly Coupled MEMS Based INS/GNSS Performance Evaluation During Extended GNSS Outages, pp. 291-298.



Li B., T. Gallagher, C. Rizos, A. Dempster, Using Geomagnetic Field for Indoor Positioning, pp. 299-308.

*Major Publications:*

- Kealy A., G. Retscher, C. Toth, D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska (2014): Collaborative Positioning – Concepts and Approaches for More Robust Positioning. in: Papers presented at the XXV International FIG Congress, June 16-21, 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15 pgs.
- Retscher G. (2014): The Fourth Layer in Collaborative Navigation – Going Underground. in: Papers presented at the XXV International FIG Congress, June 16-21, 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15 pgs.
- Toth C., D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska, A. Kealy, G. Retscher (2014): Personal Navigation and Indoor Mapping: Performance Characterization of Kinect Sensor-based Trajectory Recovery. in: Papers presented at the XXV International FIG Congress, June 16-21, 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 pgs.
- Kealy A., A. Hasnur-Rabiain, N. Alam, C. Toth, D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska, V. Gikas, G. Retscher (2013): Cooperative Positioning Algorithms and Techniques for Land Mobile Applications. in: Papers presented at the 8th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology, May 1-3, 2013, Tainan, Taiwan, 6 pgs.
- Kealy A., A. Hasnur-Rabiain, N. Alam, C. Toth, D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska, V. Gikas, C. Danezis, G. Retscher (2013): Cooperative Positioning using GPS, Low-cost INS and Dedicated Short Range Communications. in: Papers presented at ION Pacific PNT 2013, April 22-25, 2013, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
- Kealy A., G. Retscher, A. Hasnur-Rabiain, N. Alam, C. Toth, D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska, T. Moore, C. Hill, V. Gikas, C. Hide, C. Danezis, L. Bonenberg, G. W. Roberts (2013): Collaborative Navigation Field Trials with Different Sensor Platforms. in: Papers presented at the 10th Workshop on Positioning, Navigation and Communication WPNC 2013, March 20-21, 2013, University of Applied Sciences Dresden, Germany, 6 pgs.
- Kealy A., G. Retscher, N. Alam, A. Hasnur-Rabiain, C. Toth, D. A. Grejner-Brzezinska, T. Moore, C. Hill, V. Gikas, C. Hide, C. Danezis, L. Bonenberg, G. W. Roberts (2012): Collaborative Navigation with Ground Vehicles and Personal Navigators. IEEE Xplore, 2012 International Conference on Indoor Positioning and Indoor Navigation (IPIN), ISBN: 978-1-4673-1954-6, 8 pgs.
- Kealy A., G. Retscher, D. Grejner-Brzezinska, V. Gikas, G. Roberts (2011): Evaluating the Performance of MEMS based Inertial Navigation Sensors for Land Mobile Applications. Archives of Photogrammetry, Cartography and Remote Sensing, Vol. 22, ISSN 2083-2214, pp. 237-248.

### **WG 4.1.3: Emerging Technologies**

*Chair: Kefei Zhang (Australia)*

*Co-Chair: Lukasz Bonenberg (UK)*

Working Group 4.1.3 and its associated key players from Australia and Europe have been active in the past 4 years in investigating emerging technologies for innovative positioning and tracking, theoretical frame, field evaluations and practical industrial applications. Nowadays numerous technologies such as Wi-Fi, RFID, ZigBee, Bluetooth, cellular networks, UWB, Infrared, Ultrasonic, camera-based positioning accelerometers and magnetometer positioning are employed for positioning and tracking. Each of these techniques has advantages and drawbacks. For example, Wi-Fi localization has relatively

good accuracy but cannot be used in case of power outage or in the areas with poor Wi-Fi coverage. Magnetometer positioning or cellular network does not have such problems but they are not as accurate as localization with Wi-Fi. On the other hand, indoor tracking and positioning technologies have been one of the hot topics in the world and its rapid development has been predominantly driven by the huge potential commercial applications, especially Wi-Fi and smartphones based technologies. Wi-Fi and smartphones are getting more and more popular for tracking and positioning along with the fast growth of the Internet users and rapid development of e-commerce. Both industrial companies and government organizations have paid more and more attention to Wi-Fi's applications. Many industrial fields (e.g., retail industry, large shopping malls, airport operators, museums, university campus) have started to use Wi-Fi and smartphone as popular value-added tracking and positioning techniques to transform their business style and improve their customer services.

One of the emerging indoor positioning technologies is light-based positioning, in particular LED-based positioning technology. This presents a new trend of tracking and positioning. ByteLight announced that they had developed a GPS-like indoor positioning system that uses LED lighting to transmit location data to smartphones. ByteLight's positioning system works by controlling the pulses of LEDs so they work in a certain pattern. This pattern is not detectable to the human eye but can be picked up by the camera in a smartphone or tablet. Using the data gleaned from the LED modulation, the device works with Apps and performs client-side calculations to figure out where it is within the structure. Light-based positioning systems make it easy for shoppers to navigate retail stores and find products, managers and optimizes enterprise employee operations, turns mobile devices into tour guides within a museum or public building, and helps people find colleagues and booths while attending trade shows or other events – the applications for this technology are truly endless, said ByteLight CEO and cofounder Aaron Ganick.

Along with the development of the technologies, quite a few innovative algorithms have been proposed for the enhancement of the positioning solutions. This includes, for example, the crowdsourcing Radio Map method, dynamic fingerprinting method, cooperative localization technique, regular Infrastructure Topology proposed and the use of Signals of Opportunity etc. The current trend in this research arena is towards smart solutions pertaining to designated applications under specific environments.

#### *Major Activities:*

Participation in the initial working group proposing OFFCOM into ECC Report 128 Compatibility Studies Between Pseudolites And Services In The Frequency Bands 1164-1215, 1215-1300 And 1559-1610 MHz, September 2012

May 2012 Collaborative Navigation with Ground Vehicles and Personal Navigators, experiment in Nottingham, UK.

A series of UWB trials were conducted in the University of Nottingham in Dec. 2012 and RMIT University in April 2013 and July 2014.

Three major Australian universities (RMIT, University of Melbourne and UNSW) have worked together and established a dedicated Australian indoor positioning laboratory through major funding attracted from Australian Research Council and capital budget from both RMIT and University of Melbourne. The key researchers involved include K. Zhang (RMIT University), A. Kealy (University of Melbourne) and T. Gallagher and B. Li (UNSW). This

laboratory is hosted in RMIT Design Hub Building in Melbourne and a large number of sensors systems have been procured. Several initial tests that involve smartphones and laptops as a mobile platform and UWB, USRP, RFID, Wi-Fi, magnetometers and INS as sensors were carried out.

An Australian Research Council project entitled with "TRIIBE - TRacking Indoor Information BEhaviour" was awarded to a team in RMIT University that involves researchers from geospatial, computer science and communication backgrounds. This project will research the passive tracking of user's mobile devices in indoor spaces correlating their spatial behaviour with their information needs to deliver personalised information. The project aims to create a system that enables owners of large buildings (for example, shopping malls, airports, universities) to better manage their spaces and services and provide value-added information to their customers.

The University of Nottingham team is working on the indoor positioning project using UWB, with external partner, which have feed into JISDM conference in Nottingham. If this initial study is successful I expect to establish a larger collaboration. Nottingham Geospatial Institute has a successful indoor positioning group and RMIT hosted Australian laboratory hopes to get further involved with them as well. Trials were conducted at the laboratory in July 2013 and 2014 with participation of G. Retscher.

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- Fink A., H. Beikirch (2014): Refinement of Weighted Centroid Localization Using a Regular Infrastructure Topology, Proceedings of the International Conference on Indoor Positioning and Indoor Navigation (IPIN), 27th-30th October 2014, Busan, Korea.
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#### **WG 4.1.4: Imaging Techniques**

*Chair: Mohamed Elhabiby (Egypt and Canada)*

*Co-Chair: Jens-André Paffenholz (Germany)*

##### *Purpose*

The major research aim is to fulfill the need for developing imaging techniques for different navigation problems. Vision Based Navigation (VBN) systems research work will cover two different research streams: the non-inertial vision navigation and the inertial-aided vision navigation approaches. Real time efficient implementation with fast computations extended the working group research activities to geo-computations, digital signal processing, non-linear optimization and image matching. The working group research work was connected to the navigation and geo-computational industry in general and UAV industry in specific.

##### *Objectives and actions of the Working Group*

- Integration between inertial systems and imaging technique using advanced search algorithms was investigated.
- Evaluation of estimating aircraft position and velocity from sequential aerial images.
- Real-time implementation of a vision based navigation algorithm which comprises both accuracy and effectiveness (meaning the cheapness of the sensors used, computational load and complexity).
- Assessment on the relative position estimation based on stereo modeling of two sequential images.
- Evaluation of the absolute position estimation techniques through matching schemes using reference images
- Implementation of non-linear estimation for solving Collinearity equation for UAV Visual Based Navigation systems
- Implementation of the advanced imaging filtering techniques for edge detection and feature extraction
- Development of INS navigation system with map aiding for land based navigation
- Development of low cost INS system for helping with automatic LIDAR registration
- Development an indoor mapping system using integrated INS and 2D range finder for navigation and RGB-D for mapping
- Building an effective academic and industrial network worldwide that can help and promote the research activities of the working group.

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- Badawy, H., Alsubaie N., Elhabiby M. and El-Sheimy N. (2014): Registration of Time of Flight Terrestrial Laser Scanner Data for Stop-and-Go Mode, Conference: ISPRS Technical Commission I Symposium, At Denver, Colorado, USA, Volume: Volume XL-1.
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- Mostofi N., Elhabiby M. and El-Sheimy N. (2014): Indoor Localization and Mapping Using Camera and Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU). DOI: 10.1109/PLANS.2014.6851507 Conference: IEEE/ION PLANS 2014, At Monterey, CA
- Mostofi N., Moussa A., Elhabiby M. and El-Sheimy N. (2014): RGB-D Indoor Plane-based 3D-Modeling using Autonomous Robot. DOI: 10.5194/isprsarchives-XL-1-301-2014 Conference: ISPRS Technical Commission I Symposium, At Denver, Colorado, USA, Volume: XL-1. DOI: 10.1109/PLANS.2014.6851507 Conference: IEEE/ION PLANS 2014, At Monterey, CA
- Shawky Elsharkawy A., M. Elhabiby, and N. El-Sheimy (2012): Curvelet Transform for Water Bodies Extraction from High Resolution Satellite Images. 8th international conference on electrical engineering, ICEENG-8, Cairo 29th -31st May 2012.
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- Sheta B., Elhabiby M. M., and El-Sheimy N., (2012): Assessment of Nonlinear Optimization and Speeded Up Robust Features (SURF) Algorithm for Estimating Object Space Transformation Parameters for Pose Estimation. GEOMATICA, 2012, Vol.66, No.4, p: 307-321
- Sheta B., Elhabiby M. M., and El-Sheimy N., (2012): Low Cost Vision Based Navigation (VBN) System for UAV Navigation in GPS-denied Environments. International Journal of Computer science and Engineering Survey.
- Sheta B., Elhabiby M. M., and El-Sheimy N., (2012): Assessments of Nonlinear Least Squares Methods for UAV Vision Based Navigation (VBN). ASPRS Annual Meeting 2012, Sacramento, California, USA, March 19-23, 2012.
- Sheta B., Elhabiby M. M., and El-Sheimy N., (2012): Comparison and Analysis of Nonlinear Least Squares Methods for Vision Based Navigation (VBN) algorithms. ISPRS Congress 2012, Melbourne, Australia, August 25-September 1, 2012.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The three Working Groups of SC 4.1 were very active in the last period as can be seen from the reports. Therefore we would like to continue our successful work in the next period.

## **Sub-Commission 4.2: Geodesy in Geospatial Mapping and Engineering**

*Chair: Jinling Wang (Univ. of New South Wales, Australia)*

*Co-Chair: Gethin Roberts (Univ. of Nottingham, UK)*

Geodesy provides foundations for geospatial mapping and engineering. Modern geospatial mapping as a massive point positioning process has been evolving towards automatic operations, and at the same time, various engineering areas are increasingly relying on highly developed geospatial technologies to deliver improved productivities and safety with minimised negative environment impact. The Sub-Commission (SC) 4.2 have therefore coordinated research and other activities that address the broad areas of the theory and applications of geodesy tools in geospatial mapping and engineering, ranging from construction work, geotechnical and structural monitoring, precision farming, mining, to natural phenomena such as landslides and ground subsidence. Over the past four years, the SC4.2 has carried out its work in close cooperation with other IAG Entities, as well as via linkages with relevant scientific and professional organizations such as ISPRS, FIG, IEEE, ION, ISM. The objectives of this Sub Commission are:

- To develop and promote the use of new geospatial mobile mapping technologies for various applications.
- To develop and report the modelling and quality control framework for geo-referencing procedures
- To monitor research and development into new technologies that are applicable to the general field of engineering geodesy, including hardware, software and analysis techniques.
- To study advances in geodetic methods for precision farming, mining operations, and large construction sites.
- To study advances in monitoring and alert systems for local geodynamic processes, such as landslides, ground subsidence, etc.
- To study advances in the application of artificial intelligence techniques in engineering geodesy.
- To document the body of knowledge in the field of geospatial mapping and engineering geodesy, and to present such knowledge in a consistent frame work at symposia and workshops.

These objectives have been largely achieved and the website for the sub-commission was set up and maintained at <http://www.sage.unsw.edu.au/iag-sc4.2>. Over the past four years, the working groups have developed memberships as well as coordinated and participated in the professional activities towards the objectives of the sub-commission. This final report presents these activities.

### **WG 4.2.1 Mobile Mapping Technologies and Applications**

*Chair: J. Skaloud (Switzerland)*

*Co-Chair: K.-W. Chiang (Taiwan)*

Mobile mapping technologies have been widely used to collect geospatial data for a variety of applications, for example, navigation and online geospatial information services. As mobile mapping sensors are becoming cheaper and easier to access, modeling and quality control procedures for major steps of mobile mapping should be further developed to ensure the reliability of geospatial data from mobile mapping systems. This working group conducted its

work through coordinated activities among the members of the group as well as in collaborations with other professional organizations, such as ISPRS/FIG.

The IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.1 actively participated in organization of the International Symposium on Unmanned Airborne Vehicles for Geomatics, **UAV-g 2011** held in Zurich, September 14-16 2011.

IAG Commission 4 and Working Group 4.2.1 sponsored and actively participated “The International Summer School on Mobile Mapping Technology in 2012 and 2013, 11-15 June 2012; 29-30 April, 2013, National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Tainan, Taiwan.

Program Details: <http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/mmt2013/course01.htm>



The 2013 Summer School on Mobile Mapping Technology (MMT 2013) was held just before the MMT symposium. The courses of this summer school were focused on the themes of inertial navigation and multi sensor integration, mobile mapping systems, photogrammetric and LiDAR Technologies, and various applications. President of IAG Commission 4, Prof. Dorota A. Grejner-Brzezinska, and Co-Chair of IAG Working Group 4.2.1, Associate Professor Kai-Wei Chiang, were among the invited lecturers for the Summer School on MMT in Tainan, 2012/2013.

The IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.1 have sponsored and actively participated The 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology – **MMT2013**, 1 – 2 May, Tainan, 2013 (see the photo below).





The IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.1 actively participated in the International Symposium on Unmanned Airborne Vehicles for Geomatics, UAV-g 2013 held in Rostock, Germany, September 4-6.

The chair of IAG Working Group 4.2.1 co-organized the European Calibration and Orientation Workshop, EuroCOW 2014 held in Calstelldefels, Spain, 12-14 February where he was responsible for the session on Integrated Systems for Sensor Geo-referencing and Navigation.

The IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.1 has been organising The 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology, MMT2015, to be held in Sydney, Australia, 9-11 December 2015, Website: [www.mmt2015.org](http://www.mmt2015.org). A/Prof Jinling Wang, Chair of the IAG Sub Commission 4.2, is the Convenor/General Chair for the MMT2015.



*Selected Publications:*

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- Chu, H.J\*,Tsai, G.J., Chiang ,K.W., Duong ,T.T.,(2013), GPS/ MEMS INS data fusion and map matching in urban areas, *Sensors* **2013**, 13(9), 11280-11288;
- Lin C-A.,\_Chiang,K-W. Chu,C-H. (2013), *The Performance Evaluation of Pure Inertial Navigation System Aiding from DTM for Land Vehicular Applications: ION GNSS 2013 Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, USA*
- Chu,C-H, Chiang,K-W., Lin C-A. (2013), *The Performance Analysis of a Portable Mobile Mapping System with Different GNSS Processing Strategies: ION GNSS 2013 Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, USA*
- Chu, C.H., and Chiang, K.W, (2013),*The Performance Analysis of a Portable Mobile Mapping System, 2013 International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technologies, Tainan, Taiwan*
- Guerrier, S., Waegli, A., Skaloud J., and Victoria-Feser M.-P. (2012) *Fault Detection and Isolation in Multiple MEMS-IMUs Configurations*, in IEEE Transactions On Aerospace And Electronic Systems, vol. 48, p. 2015-2031, 2012.
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- Wu, Y., & Wang J. (2013) Stochastic modeling of inertial errors for mobile mapping applications. *8<sup>th</sup> Int. Symp. on Mobile Mapping Technology*, Tainan, Taiwan, 1-3 May. Paper 48
- P. Molina, I. Colomina, T. Victoria, J. Skaloud, W. Kornus, R. Prades and C. Aguilera Searching lost people with UAVS: The system and results of the CLOSE-SEARCH project. XXII Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Melbourne, Australia, August 25 - September 1, 2012.
- Y. Stebler, S. Guerrier, J. Skaloud and M.-P. Victoria-Feser. A Framework for Inertial Sensor Calibration Using Complex Stochastic Error Models. ION/IEEE PLANS, Session A5, Myrtle Beach, SC, USA, April 2012.IEEE-ION Position Location and Navigation Symposium.
- P. Molina, I. Colomina, P. Victoria, J. Skaloud, W. Kornus, R. Prades and C. Aguilera. Drones to the Rescue! Inside GNSS, vol. July/August, 2012.

- R. Filliger, Y. Stebler, J. Skaloud and K. Hug. Autarktic and Inertial Measurement based Low-cost Reconstruction of Motorcycle forward Speed. Proceedings of the ENC GNSS 2013, Vienna, Austria, 2013.
- M. Rehak, J. Skaloud, R. Mabillard, A Micro-UAV with the Capability of Direct Georeferencing. UAV-g 2013, Rostock, Sep. 4-6.
- S. Guerrier, R. Molinari, J. Skaloud and M.-P. Victoria-Feser. An algorithm for automatic inertial sensor calibration. ION GNSS+, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, September 16-20, 2013.

#### **WG 4.2.2: Applications of Geodesy in Mining Engineering**

*Chair: A. Jarosz (Australia)*

*Co-Chair: J. Gao (China)*

Geodesy has been playing an important role in mining operations from geospatial mapping, modern navigation and guidance technologies used in automation at various mine sites to special orientation and location procedures used in underground operations. This working group conducted its activities in close collaborations with other relevant international professional organizations, such as the International Society of Mining Surveying (ISM) and FIG.

Chair of IAG Working Group 4.2.2, Dr. Andrew Jarosz organised “2012 International Symposium on Mine Surveying and Mapping for Sustainable Mining”, 9 August 2012, The Sebel Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

Program details can be found at:

<http://www.ism.rwth-aachen.de/images/upload/CommissionMeetings/Commission6/2012Commission6Announcement-Australia.pdf>

Dr. A. Jarosz was the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Associate Professor Jinling Wang, Chair of IAG Sub-Commission 4.2 was a member of the Scientific Committee for the Symposium.

The IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.2 actively participated in the work conference “Joint workshop on ubiquitous positioning and future development” of Sino-British Joint Research Centre of Spatial Information, held in Nottingham, British, 2013, September 12-15. The conference was dedicated in the concept of ubiquitous, the collection and management of data, the system integration and the marketization, and the committee talked about the planning of the future work. At the end of the meeting, the participants visited the pseudo-satellite positioning experimental platform of Nottingham University.



The seminar combining sensors of environment and disaster of the mining area was held at China University of Mining and Technology, 7, September, 2013. Beside the China University of Mining and Technology, Northeast University, Xian University of Science and Technology and Jiangxi University of Science and Technology participated this seminar. The seminar was dedicated to the affection of environment and human health because of the production of coal and electricity. The participants discussed technical issues related to monitoring of the environment and disasters, and visited the mining experiment area, mining area I, mining area II.



*Selected Publications:*

Li Zengke; Gao Jingxiang; Wang Jian; and Zhou Feng. Application of Geostatistics Model in Analysis of GPS Deformation Sequence. *Geostatistics*. 2012, [Vol. 32](#), [Issue \(4\)](#): 99-10  
WANG Bin; GAO Jing-xiang; HU Hong; ZHOU Feng. Quality Control Method of High-precision GPS Mesh Adjustment for Mine Area. 2012, 2012(03) 21-24.



ZHANG An-bing; GAO Jing-xiang; ZHANG Zhao-jiang. Deformation analysis and prediction of building above old mine goaf based on multiscale method. *Rock and Soil Mechanics*, 2012, 2012(03) 21-24.

### **WG 4.2.3: Geodetic technologies in Precision Farming**

*Chair: R. Bill (Germany)*

Modern precision farming operations are highly dependent on high precision positioning, orientation and geospatial mapping, which are based on modern geodetic theory, techniques and services. This working group coordinated professional activities to look into major geodetic aspects in precision farming areas in various parts of world.

#### ***UAV-g 2013 conference***

In the last years we saw ncreasing use of so-called unmanned aerial vehicles, UAV (aka UAS, RPAS), in photogrammetric and geoinformatics research and development. The bi-annual conference series “UAV-g - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Geomatics” addresses this extended field of research and the first conference, which took place in Zurich, Switzerland, in 2011 was a great success. In 2013 the conference was held in Rostock, Germany, from September 4 to 6.

In total, 230 participants from 35 countries followed the invitation of the chair for Geodesy and Geoinformatics at the Rostock University. There were 69 oral and 15 poster presentations, and as a special event on the Thursday, September 5, an airshow was organized on the airfield Barth. Here, 15 manufacturers, service providers and software companies demonstrated their systems.





IAG Sub Commission 4.2 members actively participated in this conference and were members of the Scientific Committee.

All conference papers appeared in the ISPRS archives, see <http://www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net/XL-1-W2/>. Selected publications have been prepared for special issues of dedicated scientific journals (Photogrammetrie, Fernerkundung und Geoinformation (PFG) Volume 4-2014 and gis.SCIENCE Volume 1-2014).

IAG Sub Commission 4.2 members are involved in the preparation of the next UAV-g 2015 event in Toronto, August 30 - September 2, 2015. In parallel Dr. Grenzdörffler is the chairman of the ICWG I/Vb: Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS): Sensors and Applications of the ISPRS. In this position he was participating at the Commission I mid-symposium, Ohio, USA 2014 of the ISPRS. Program details under: [www.uav-g-2015.ca](http://www.uav-g-2015.ca)

### ***Research projects***

The chairman (and some members of the WG 4.2.3) have been involved in larger European research activities on web-based data infrastructures and services used in agricultural environment.

- Future Farm (2008-2010, <http://www.futurefarm.eu>): Meeting the challenges of the farm of tomorrow by integrating Farm Management Information Systems to support real-time management decisions and compliance to standards
- AgriXchange (2010-2012, <http://agrixchange.eu/>): Setup a network for developing a system for common data exchange in the agricultural sector.
- GeoWebAgri (2011-2012, <http://geowebagri.eu/>): Geospatial ICT infrastructure for agricultural machines and FMIS in planning and operation of precision farming
- FarmFUSE (2013-2016, <http://www.farmfuse.eu/>): Fusion of multi-source and multi-sensor information on soil and crop for optimised crop.

Individual research aspects of the group were related to precise positioning with low-cost GNSS (September, 2011, 2013), precise navigation and guidance, precise mapping as well interpretation of space-time heterogeneities in the field.

Prof. Bill and members of his team have been invited to write the chapter on “GIS in Agriculture” for the Springer Handbook of Geographic Information.

*Selected publications:*

Bill, R., Nash, E., Grenzdörffer, G. (2012): GIS in Agriculture. In: Kresse, W., Danko, D.M.: Handbook of Geographic Information. Springer. Page 795 - 819.

Behnke, R., Born, A., Salzmann, J., Timmermann, D., Bill, R. (2011): Combining Scalability and Resource Awareness in Wireless Sensor Network Localization. In: IEEE Conference on Computer Communications Workshops: IEEE INFOCOM 2011. Proceedings of the Third International Workshop on Wireless Sensor, Actuator and Robot Networks (WiSARN 2011). Page 531 - 536.

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More details about this working group can be found at:

<http://www.iag-wg423-pf.auf.uni-rostock.de/>

#### **WG 4.2.4: Monitoring of Landslides & System Analysis**

*Chair: G. Mentes (Hungary)*

*Co-Chair: J. Guo (China)*

Surface mass movements can cause a lot of damages. Forecasting landslides is of crucial importance due to the potentially serious consequences to the society. It is a difficult and complex task which needs understanding of the relationships between landslide generating processes (geological, geophysical, hydrological, meteorological, etc.) and movements of the sliding block and its surroundings. In addition to the continuous recording geophysical, hydrological, meteorological, etc. parameters, there is an urgent need for continuous 3D geodetic measurements to determine the complex movements of the landslide prone area to understand the kinematic and dynamic behaviour of landslides. There is only a chance to develop an early warning system in exact knowledge of the moving process of the landslide area and all of other physical parameters. According to these requirements the working group laid a special emphasis on the following research areas:

- detection of potential landslides on large scale
- an efficient and continuous observation of critical areas
- a knowledge-based derivation of real time information about actual risks in order to support an alert system

**According to the research aims the group worked intensively on the next research areas:**

1. Different terrestrial and space measurement techniques were combined for continuous observation of surface movements. As terrestrial geodetic measurement techniques new instruments and methods were developed and tested. Instead of geodetic measurements carried out in periodical campaigns a great stress was laid on the continuous geodetic measurements techniques to get data series directly comparable with continuously collected hydrological (water table, stream stage, pore pressure, etc.), meteorological (e.g. precipitation, temperature), etc. data series for the study of dynamic processes of landslides and to get more reliable and comprehensive information for development of early warning systems.
2. Use of terrestrial radar systems for slope monitoring, meanwhile we have an IBIS-L system.



3. Investigation on different satellite radar bands for the estimation of the "normal behaviour" of the region of interest.
4. A special stress was laid on the combination of monitoring data with a numerical model which represents the structure and the kinematic and dynamic behaviour of the slope. Landslide modelling with support vector machines
5. The effect of the vegetation on the slope stability was also intensively investigated.
6. Application combined PinSAR and GNSS technology for monitoring Landslide movements

### **Organization of workshops and conferences:**

Organization of the section "Monitoring of Landslides & System Analysis" on "The World Multidisciplinary Earth Sciences Symposium– MESS 2015" in Prague (Czech Republic) during 7-11 September 2015.

IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.4 actively participated in "The Second Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring" (JISDM), 9-11 September 2013, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK.

IAG Sub Commission 4.2 and Working Group 4.2.4 will actively participate in the organization of the 3rd Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring, March 30 to April 1, 2016, Vienna, Austria.

### **Some of the research projects which were /are carried out:**

P20137 KASIP - Knowledge-Based Alarm System with Identified Deformation Predictor Research project alpEWAS (Sudelfeld, Bayern): combined sensor network on landslide Anggenalm/Sulderfeld. Observation by PS Radarinterferometrie by DLR and Infoterra (EADS Astrium), GNSS+TPS.

Landslide Hornbergle (Reutte Tirol): test measurements by gbSAR, combined campaign measurements by GNSS+TPS.

EU FP7 Forschungsprojekt De-Montes (Deformation Monitoring by High Resolution Terrestrial Long Range Sensing) for further research of adoption of IATS and a combined photogrammetric/tahymetric/TLS measurement conception.

OTKA K78332 Kinematic and dynamic models of landslides by means of geodetic observations along the high bank of the Danube at Dunaszekcső, Hungary

OTKA K 81295 Development of measuring methods for detection of very small surface mass movements

### **Some selected references which represent the activity and the main research topics of the working group:**

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#### **WG 4.2.5: Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Geospatial Mapping and Engineering Geodesy**

*Chair: H. Neuner (Austria)*

*Co-Chairs: A. Reiterer (Germany) and U. Egly (Austria)*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an essential technique for solving complex problems in many applications. In the areas of geospatial mapping and engineering geodesy, knowledge-based systems are emerging. To develop reliable intelligent systems, this working group has focused on some critical issues ranging from the understanding of the nature of intelligence to the understanding of knowledge representation and deduction processes, eventually resulting in the construction of computer programs, which act intelligently.

IAG Working Group 4.2.5 organised the Workshop on “Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Engineering Geodesy”, 10-12 September 2012, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.

Program details can be found at:

[http://www.geo.bv.tum.de/images/stories/AI\\_IATS\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.geo.bv.tum.de/images/stories/AI_IATS_Flyer.pdf)

## Sub-Commission 4.3: Remote Sensing and Modelling of the Atmosphere

*Chair: Marcelo Santos (Canada)*

*Vice-Chair: Jens Wickert (Germany)*

SC 4.3 is composed of one Study Group and three Working Groups. Besides, Several of SC 4.3 members participate in the COST Action 1206 “Advanced Global Navigation Satellite Systems tropospheric products for monitoring severe weather events and climate (GNSS4SWEC)”, which will be referred to below.

### SG 4.3.1 Ionosphere Modelling and Analysis

*Chair: Michael Schmidt (Germany),*

*Co-Chair: Mahmut O. Kararlioglu (Turkey),*

*Members:*

Lung-Chih Tsai (Taiwan), Dieter Bilitza (USA), Denise Dettmering (Germany), Mahdi Alizadeh (Germany), C.K. Shum (USA), Kuo-Hsin Tseng (Taiwan), Norbert Jakowski (Germany), Robert Heinkelmann (Germany), Andrzej Krankowski (Poland), Pawel Wielgosz (Poland), Lee-Anne McKinnell (South Africa), Marco Limberger (Germany), Wenjing Liang (Germany), Shin-Chan Han (USA), Manuel Hernandez-Pajares (Spain), Claudio Brunini (Argentina), Benedikt Soja (Germany), Tatjana Gerzen (Germany), David Minkwitz (Germany), Eren Erdogan (Germany)

The general objective of this study group is the development of ionosphere models based on physics, mathematics and statistics. Within the next four years we will (1) focus on the development of appropriate parameter estimation and assimilation techniques based on the combination of different observation techniques. With respect to physical modeling we (2) will perform first steps by introducing physics-motivated functions such as the Chapman function into the parameter estimation process. Furthermore, we (3) will establish ionosphere models including near real-time applications by introducing Kalman filtering procedures. Other topics (4) are the development of densification strategies of global models using regional approaches as well as applications, e.g. the study of the L3 GNSS frequency

*Research Activities related to topic (1):*

- The main activity at GESA (LaPlata, Argentina) is focused on developing a suitable model and a numerical strategy for combining ionospheric information derived from different beacon satellites measurements to generate a global representation of the electron density. Ground-based GNSS measurements, VTEC estimations derived from satellite altimetry missions and electron density estimations derived from space-based GPS receivers, are consistently combined on the observation level to determine the parameters of the empirical functions that describe the 4-D (latitude, longitude, height and time) electron density distribution of the different ionospheric layers. Several years were analysed in order to assess the performance of the combination technique under low solar activity conditions.
- The focus of a study at DGFI-TUM (Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut der Technischen Universität München, Germany) is the evaluation of DORIS data for ionosphere modeling. Recently launched satellite missions such as JASON-2, Cryosat, HY-2A and Saral have DGXX instruments on board which allow for tracking continuous

dual-frequency phase observations and, hence, the extraction of STEC. A single layer model approach has been used to derive VTEC where the spatio-temporal TEC distribution is described by mathematical B-spline functions. The validation of the derived VTEC was carried out by comparisons with other models, for instance, the IGS GIMs and dual-frequency altimeter measurements from Jason-2 where significant improvements due to the combination of GPS and DORIS can be observed. At Wuhan University, with collaborations from OSU (Ohio State University) and DGFI-TUM, a new method for retrieval of the absolute VTEC is proposed to combine the GPS GIM and DORIS tracking data. Two steps are used. The first step is the parameters pre-estimation using the GIM data, followed by the parameter-update with the DORIS tracking data. In this study, the altimeter data from HY2A was used to validate the effectiveness of DORIS-GIM ionosphere model for nadir ionosphere corrections.

- The Satellite Geodesy Group at the Department of Geodesy and Geoinformation Science of TUB (Technische Universität Berlin) is effectively contributing to the aims IAG Study Group 4.3.1 in a variety of fields. In the field of combination, TUB is developing combined global maps of VTEC using various space geodetic techniques, e.g. GNSS, satellite altimetry, Formosat-3/Cosmic, etc.

*Research Activities related to topic (2):*

- At TUM, DGFI-TUM and DLR (German Aerospace Center) the electron density distribution within the ionosphere is described vertically by an adapted Chapman function which consists of an F2 Chapman profile and a plasmasphere layer. To account for the horizontal and the temporal behavior, the fundamental key parameters of this physics-motivated approach, such as the maximum electron density NmF2, the corresponding height hmF2 and the F2 scale height HF2, are each modeled by series expansions in terms of tensor products of localizing B-spline functions depending on longitude, latitude and time. For testing the procedure the model is applied to an appropriate region in South America, which covers relevant ionospheric processes and phenomena such as the Equatorial Anomaly. Due to their individual sensitivities with respect to the key parameters, different observation techniques are used and combined. Relevant validations have been carried out for STEC data from ground-based GPS and electron density profiles derived from GPS radio occultation on COSMIC, GRACE and CHAMP. Using the developed techniques ionospheric scenarios for a quiet and a perturbed ionospheric conditions were generated. The scenarios have been validated using independent space-based and ground-based measurements as well as independent ionosphere models in terms of TEC and electron density profiles. On the one hand, the reconstructed TEC are validated using independent TEC measurements from Topex/Poseidon mission. On the other hand, the electron density including the peak parameters NmF2 and hmF2 are validated by independent ionosonde observations and CHAMP reconstruction. In addition, global empirical TEC models such as NeQuick, NTCM and electron density parameter models NPDM and NPHM are used for comparisons.
- In the field of physics-motivated modeling of the ionospheric parameters, TUB has achieved global modeling of F2-peak electron density (NmF2) and F2-peak height (hmF2) by applying a combined electron density representation to the GNSS ionospheric observables. The electron density representation at TUB is comprised from combination of multi-layer Chapman function for the bottom-side and topside ionosphere, and Topside Ionosphere/Plasmasphere (TIP) model for the plasmaspheric contribution.

- Several aspects of ionospheric modelling have been refined and exploited during the period 2011-2015 from the UPC-IonSAT research group (see the corresponding papers at reference list mentioned below): (1) Electron density retrieval from GPS radio occultation measurements (Aragon-Angel et al. 2011), (2) Improvement of precise GNSS positioning by means of real-time ionospheric models (Juan et al. 2012), (3) Prediction of Global Ionospheric Maps (García-Rigo et al. 2012), (4) GNSS modelling of Medium Scale Travelling Disturbances, MSTIDs (Hernandez-Pajares et al. 2012a), (5) Indirect measurement of solar EUV flux rate by means of RT global GNSS data (Hernandez-Pajares et al. 2012b) and (6) Higher order ionospheric modelling (Hernandez-Pajares et al. 2014). Moreover the production of real-time GIMs in the context of the RT-IGS project (Caissy et al. 2012) is also taking part of the efforts of UPC-IonSAT members. In this regard we can advance a significant improvement in our tomographic-kriging strategy, based on a Kalman filter implementation, thanks to the availability of +150 RT GNSS receivers worldwide distributed. In this context we are attaining global RT accuracies (when compared with independent JASON2 data for instance) similar to the precision of rapid GIMs (24 hours of latency) of most of the contributing ionospheric analysis centers to IGS.
- At Wuhan University, the 4D ionosphere tomography model is developed based on a pixel model. Firstly we impose a priori IRI model based on constraints by increasing the virtual observations between two pixel grids. Then, we establish a more robust connection between the grids using “loose” constraints, which improve the rank of inversion of the normal equation. The resulting 4D ionosphere model is shown to have more solution stability and more accurate estimated ionosphere parameters. The above 4D ionosphere modeling allows one to simultaneously retrieve gridded near-real time velocities of the ionosphere electron density, and the electronic density parameters.
- The International Reference Ionosphere (IRI) describes the monthly average behavior of the Earth’s ionosphere based on most of the accessible and reliable ground- and space-based observations of ionospheric parameters. With the ever-increasing dependence on space technology the IRI development is going beyond the monthly averages in order to provide a quantitative description of ionospheric day-to-day variability depending on altitude, time of day, time of year, latitude as well as solar and magnetic activity. The IRI team is also pursuing the development of the IRI Real-Time (IRI-RT) that uses assimilative algorithms or updating procedures to combine IRI with real-time data for a more accurate picture of current ionospheric conditions.

*Research Activities related to topic (3):*

- At METU (Middle East Technical University) studies have been performed on the non-parametric forward-backward stagewise algorithms MARS and BMARS for VTEC estimation; related results are published. Currently, iterative algorithms for tomographic reconstruction of the ionosphere using heterogenous data collected from ground and satellite based observations are investigated. The main purpose of the current research is to find flexible, efficient, accurate and stable reconstruction of the spatio-temporal ionospheric electron density in 4 dimensions based on multivariate adaptive regression B-Splines. Moreover, estimation of the instrumental biases of the satellites and receivers inside the algorithm or by a combination of parametric and non-parametric approaches will be investigated. Additionally, we are working on station based modeling of the ionospheric VTEC estimation using particle filters for near real time applications particularly during geomagnetic storms, since particle filters are effective algorithms for the estimation of nonlinear and non-Gaussian high dynamic systems. In parallel to the studies above, there is an ongoing research activity which consists of accurate and precise

calibration of ionospheric delay measurements derived from GPS and GLONASS using different local ionosphere models for estimating Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) threat model parameters. In order to assess real-time integrity algorithms for CAT III GBAS precision landing, a software tool is being developed for simulating the multi-GNSS code and phase measurements inside the receivers of virtual ground stations and aircrafts within different GBAS architectures and atmospheric conditions. The software and simulated scenarios will not only be used to research and develop architectures and real-time integrity monitoring algorithms for GBAS but also be used to develop and assess the measurement pre-processing algorithms in addition to local, regional and global ionosphere modeling algorithms. The International Reference Ionosphere (IRI) describes the monthly average behavior of the Earth's ionosphere based on most of the accessible and reliable ground- and space-based observations of ionospheric parameters. With the ever-increasing dependence on space technology the IRI development is going beyond the monthly averages in order to provide a quantitative description of ionospheric day-to-day variability depending on altitude, time of day, time of year, latitude as well as solar and magnetic activity. The IRI team is also pursuing the development of the IRI Real-Time (IRI-RT) that uses assimilative algorithms or updating procedures to combine IRI with real-time data for a more accurate picture of current ionospheric conditions.

- The International GNSS Service (IGS) provides a variety of data products such as GNSS observations and satellite orbits with different latencies. These products can, for instance, be exploited for the production of high quality, near-real time ionosphere maps as needed in the scientific, educational and commercial sector. In addition to GPS and GLONASS data which can be accessed through the IGS, complementary techniques such as radar altimetry, DORIS or radio occultations can be included to improve the data coverage. Therefore, sequential methods for data pre-processing and filtering (e.g. Kalman filter) that are capable of running in near-real time may be applied to assimilate this data under consideration of the different characteristics concerning data precision, number and type. At DGFI-TUM, effort has been maintained to generate VTEC products with low latency through a continuously operating processing framework.

*Research Activities related to topic (4):*

- For investigations about the solar corona's electron density using VLBI data (Soja et al., 2014a), the effect of the ionosphere needs to be corrected. Two approaches were followed, on the one hand estimating the ionospheric vertical electron content from VLBI data and on the other hand interpolating it from IGS global ionospheric models. The resulting electron density models of the solar corona from both approaches agreed well within their formal errors and also when compared to previous models derived from spacecraft tracking. Regional variations in the electron density and coronal mass ejections visible in coronagraph data could be linked to the VLBI data as well (Soja et al., 2014c).
- Development of the local ionosphere model over Central Europe based exclusively on precise carrier phase observations and its validation in precise positioning (Krypiak-Gregorzcyk et al, 2013, 2014).
- Quality analysis of VRS (Virtual reference station) ionospheric corrections provided by the Polish part of the EUPOS (European Positioning System) (Krukowska et al. 2014). The ionospheric part of the VRS corrections was compared to the actual ionospheric delays derived from processing real GNSS observations at the test stations. Degradation of the corrections during ionospheric disturbances was demonstrated.

For the exchange of the scientific outcome within the Study Group we organized splinter meetings at the EGU General Assemblies in the years 2012 and 2015 in Vienna. As a further outcome Lung-Chi Tsai (NCU) organized in the framework of the IAG SG 4.3.1 the Session GFH-2 entitled as “Developments and/or applications of a multi-dimensional ionospheric electron density model” at the Asia-Pacific Radio Science Conference AP-RASC'13, September 3-7, 2013 in Taipei, Taiwan. Furthermore, in each of the last years an ionosphere session was placed in the Geodesy programme of the EGU, related to the ToR of the IAG SG 4.3.1. The sessions have been arranged and chaired by members of the SG. In the beginning of July 2015 the SGI Workshop will take place at the Technische Universität Berlin. This workshop will also be supported by members of the SG. In addition, many other conferences, symposia and workshops have been attended by members of the IAG SG 4.3.1 within the last four years.

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### **WG4.3.1 Standards for space weather products for geodetic and ionospheric studies**

*Chair: Andrzej Krankowski (Poland)*

*Members:*

Dieter Bilitza (USA), Manuel Hernandez-Pajares (Spain), Atilla Komjathy (USA), Michael Schmidt (Germany), Hanna Rothkaehl (Poland), Iurii Cherniak (Russia), Irina Zakharenkova (Russia)

Activities primarily associated with the IGS IONO WG. Starting a new official/operational product – TEC fluctuation changes over North Pole to study the dynamics of oval irregularities (carried out by UWM to be started as official/routine product after performance evaluation period).

### *Reports on activities*

The objective of this WG is to suggest common international standards for the dissemination of space weather products used in geodesy and ionospheric studies. This WG works in close scientific collaboration with IGS, URSI and COSPAR IRI group.

Special session G5.5 and G5.1 “Monitoring and modelling of the ionosphere from space-geodetic techniques” was organized during General Assembly EGU 2012 and EGU 2013, respectively.

During the last IGS Workshop 2012 held at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland from 23 – 27 July 2012 was also organized by members the special session “Atmospheric Delay Modeling and Applications” and the Ionosphere Working Group Splinter Session. After this IGS Workshop the following recommendations from IGS WG were prepared:

- a) starting a new official/operational product – TEC fluctuation changes over North Pole to study the dynamic of oval irregularities (carried out by UWM to be started as official/routine product after performance evaluation period,
- b) higher temporal and spatial resolution of IGS combined GIMs - the IAACs (UPC and JPL) agreed on providing their maps in IONEX format, with a resolution of 15 min, 1 degrees and 1 degrees in time, longitude and latitude respectively,
- c) the new the IAAC from GNSS Research Center (GRC), Wuhan University, China
- d) very close cooperation with IRI COSPAR group.

Recently the International Standardization Organization, ISO, recommends the International Reference Ionosphere (IRI) for the specification of ionosphere plasma densities and temperatures and indicates necessity for extending IRI to the plasmasphere’s altitudes. At the IRI Workshop 2013 “IRI and GNSS”, organized in Olsztyn, Poland, the IRI Working Group recommends to adjust IRI-Plas model to IRI 2012 version and adjust GPS TEC into IRI Real Time (IRTAM).

### **WG4.3.2 Inter-comparison and cross-validation of tomography models**

*Chair: Alain Geiger (Switzerland)*

*Co-Chair: Witold Rohm (Australia)*

#### *Members*

George Liu(China), Michael Bender (Germany), Hugues Brenot (Belgium), Michal Kačmařík (Czech Rep.), Toby Manning (Australia)

### *Reports on activities*

The IAG working group was established in spring 2012 and its aim is to address main deficiencies in the tomography model construction. In order to successfully achieve this objective, the members decided to split up the work into several logical steps, outlined below. Firstly identification of critical steps in GNSS tomography processing the discussion held mainly by e-mail resulted in following list (not exclusive): slant delay calculation based on DD or PPP solution, the model structure definition (voxel model, node model, outer model, nested models), inversion technique and linked with this topic constraints

applications and finally the benefits and flaws of Least Squares approach or Kalman Filter approach. Therefore in multi-model solution these points will be reviewed carefully. Members decided that tomography solution should cover wet refractivity and integrated water vapour content; therefore both Slant Wet Delay (SWD) as well as Slant Integrated Water Vapour (SIWV) are to be utilised. This decision generated fair amount of coding works since not all models have the dual capability. The observations conversion (ZTD to SWD/SIWV) between models varies significantly and testing revealed bugs in some model codes. Secondly, the reference database covering meteorological parameters as well as ground based observations was established. It has been decided to use Numerical Weather Prediction data for state of Victoria in Australia and GNSS observations from the state's CORS network over a period of Mesoscale Convection System occurrence. Common Slant Delay data source have been established covering two types of data simulated (based on NWP data) and real world (based on ZTD estimation). Thirdly, common model setup (size, number and domain of the model) has been chosen as a proper way to establish reference for inter-comparison studies. Again, this decision involved large amount of work, not all models have the same flexibility in setting up the model structure, and some new functionalities had to be introduced. In meanwhile new members joined the group adding new interesting 2D tomography capability to the inter-comparison studies. Currently, all modifications to the model codes are finished and the WG is in the process of running simulations observations with different strategies, it will be followed by real a world experiment. The WG submitted an abstract of a paper based on the outcomes of this inter comparison study at the IAG General Assembly in Potsdam 2013 and will be published as a Journal Paper soon.

#### *Results of inter-comparison campaign*

Since 2013 the members of WG4.3.3 from have joined research group within the framework of COST Action ES1206 “Advanced Global Navigation Satellite Systems tropospheric products for monitoring severe weather events and climate” (GNSS4SWEC: <http://gnss4swec.knmi.nl/>). The group activities overlap with the tasks performed of working group WG2 “GNSS for Severe Weather Monitoring” of this project.

WG4.3.2 has recently had a workshop on the use of tomography in severe weather. A comparison campaign was set up and is underway. Severe weather case studies identification in 2014 in collaboration with meteorologists from University of Wroclaw, Workshop on application of GNSS tomography in severe weather studies (20 participants from 6 Universities), website: <http://www.igig.up.wroc.pl/tomolab/>.

#### **WG4.3.3 Integration of GNSS atmosphere models with NWP models**

*Chair: Jaroslaw Bosy (Poland)*

*Co-Chair: Henrik Vedel (Denmark)*

#### *Members:*

Jonathan Jones (UK), Jan Dousa (Czech Republic), Rosa Pacione (Italy), Guergana Guerova (Bulgaria), Norman Teferle (Luxembourg), Shuli Song (China), Szabolcs Rozsa (Hungary), Yuei-An Liou (Taiwan), Ryuichi Ichikawa (Japan), Joseph Awange (Australia), Jean-Pierre Barriot (French Polynesia), Shuanggen Jin (China), Ambrus Kenyeres (Hungary), Ahmed Furqan (Luxembourg), Jan Kaplon (Poland), Gemma Bennitt (UK)

#### *Report on activities*



Activities through 2011 and 2012 involved in the problems: a) assimilation of GNSS data processing products in NWP models and validation and comparison of different of GNSS atmosphere models using NWP outputs. Determine the nature and extent meteorological data, that could be used by GNSS community to improve the atmosphere used in GNSS data processing in postprocessing and real time mode, b) use of GNSS atmosphere and NWP models in real-time positioning methods: RTK and PPP, and comparison of GNSS and meteorological and MWP products, c) development of GNSS data processing strategies for new tropospheric products to move for Near Real Time to Real Time availability.

Since 2012, started collaboration with members of E-GVAP The EUMETNET EIG GNSS water vapour programme (<http://egvap.dmi.dk/>) (represented by Henrik Vedel) in area of GNSS models assimilation in NWP models.

Since 2013 the most of members of WG4.3.3 have joined research group within the framework of COST Action ES1206 “Advanced Global Navigation Satellite Systems tropospheric products for monitoring severe weather events and climate” (GNSS4SWEC: <http://gnss4swec.knmi.nl/>). The group activities overlap with the tasks performed of working group WG1 “Advanced GNSS data processing techniques” and WG2 “GNSS for Severe Weather Monitoring” of this project.

In 2014 Jaroslaw Bosy (Chair of WG 4.3.3), Witold Rohm (Co-Chair of WG 4.3.2) and Pawel Wielgosz (Commission 4 Steering Committee member) initiated a project of European Joint Doctorate (EJD) programme an submitted on the January 2015 the proposal titled Multi-GNSS applications for Earth System monitoring (mGNSS-4ES) in the frame of Horizon 2020, call: MSCA-ITN-2015-ETN: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN-ETN). This activity has been supported by prof. Dorota D. Grejner-Brzezinska, President of IAG Commission 4 “Positioning and Applications” and Marcelo Santos and Jens Wickert, Chairs of Sub-Commission 4.3 “Remote Sensing and Modelling of the Atmosphere”. Implementation of this project will allow in the future continuing research in the field of GNSS remote sensing of atmosphere (ionosphere, troposphere), geodesy and geodynamics (Multi-GNSS), ocean studies (GNSS RO and GNSS-R) and other activity areas of IAG Commission 4 with in connection with the activities carried out under GGOS.

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#### **Selected conference presentations:**

- Ahmed F., Teferle F.N. and Bingley R.M.: First Zenith Total Delay and Integrated Water Vapour Estimates from the Near Real-Time GNSS Data Processing Systems at the University of Luxembourg. *European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012*, Vienna, Austria, 22-27 April 2012;

- Ahmed F., Teferle N., Bingley R. and Laurichesse D.: An Evaluation of the Accuracy of Real-Time Zenith Total Delay Estimates. European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013, Vienna, Austria, 07-12 April 2013;
- Bennitt G.V. and Schueler T.: An assessment of zenith total delay corrections from numerical weather prediction models. European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012, Vienna, Austria, 22-27 April 2012;
- Bosy J., Kapłon J., Sierny J., Rohm W., Ryczywolski M., Hadaś T., Oruba A., Wilgan K.: The high resolution Water Vapour model on the area of Poland. European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012, Vienna, Austria, 22-27 April 2012;
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- Guerova G. Jones J. , Dousa J. , Dick G. , de Haan S. Pottiaux E., Bock O., Pacione R., Elgered G., Vedel H. (2014) Advanced Global Navigation Satellite Systems tropospheric products for monitoring severe weather events and climate (GNSS4SWEC). IGS Workshop 2014, 23-27/06/2014 Pasadena, CA, USA.
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- Pace B., Pacione R. and Sciarretta C.: On the computation of Zenith Total Delay Residual Fields by using Ground-Based GNSS estimates, European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012, Vienna, Austria, 22-27 April 2012;
- Pacione R., Pace B. and Bianco G.: ASI/CGS products and services in support of GNSS-meteorology. European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013, Vienna, Austria, 07-12 April 2013;
- Pacione R. and Dousa J.: GNSS analysis for weather applications based on IGS products IGS, invited talk at 2012 Workshop 23.27 July 2012 Poland;
- Rohm W., Geiger A., Bender M., Shangguan M., Brenot H., Manning T. IAG WG4.3.2 Inter-comparison and cross-validation of tomography models - aims, scope and methods 2012 International GNSS Workshop, UWM, Olsztyn, Poland, 23-27 July 2012 URL: <http://www.igs.org/assets/pdf/Poland%202012%20-%20P06%20Rohm%20PO64.pdf>
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- Vedel H. and Amstrup B.: Impact of gb GNSS data in NWP, as case study. European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012, Vienna, Austria, 22-27 April 2012;

As mentioned before, several SC4.3 members take part of the COST Action 1206 “Advanced Global Navigation Satellite Systems tropospheric products for monitoring severe weather events and climate (GNSS4SWEC)” (managed by Jonathan Jones, from UK Met).

The WG structure of the COST Action is:

- WG 1 Advanced GNSS data processing techniques
- WG 2 GNSS for Severe Weather Monitoring
- WG 3 GNSS for Climate Monitoring

Several meetings took place and there was also the 1st Summer school, September 9-13, in Golden Sands Ressor, Varna, Bulgaria.

### ***Other Activities***

Participation also in another initiative GRUAN GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) Reference Upper Air Network. There is a GNSS component for atmosphere sounding as key component. Several SC4.3 members (Gunnar Elgered, Galina Dick, Jens Wickert) in the expert team GRUAN GNSS Precipitable Water Task Team. In the phase of installing data analysis center including data flows, etc. The GRUAN GNSS precipitable water (GNSS-PW) Task Team (TT) was established in summer 2010 as one of six GRUAN TTs. TTs are charged with addressing critical GRUAN requirements. Ground-based GNSS PW was identified as a Priority 1 measurement for GRUAN, and the GNSS-PW TT's goal is to develop explicit guidance on hardware, software and data management practices to obtain GNSS PW measurements of consistent quality at all GRUAN sites.

## **Sub-Commission 4.4: Applications of Satellite and Airborne Imaging Systems**

*Chair: Zhenhong Li (UK)*

In the past decades, satellite and airborne imaging systems, e.g. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) and Satellite Altimetry (SA), have been increasingly employed to gain insights into geophysical and engineering processes such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, and structural deformation of infrastructure. The main objectives of this SC are to promote collaborative research in the development of imaging systems for geodetic applications, and to facilitate communications and exchange of data, information and research results through coordinated efforts. There are five working groups in SC4.4. Since their establishments in 2011, all the working groups have been actively recruiting new members and coordinating/participating in research and professional activities. This report attempts to summarize the major activities conducted during the period from July 2011 to May 2015.

### **WG 4.4.1: Quality Control Framework for InSAR Measurements.**

*Chair: Z. Li (UK)*

*Co-Chair: S. Samsonov (Canada)*

*Main Research Activities:* A variety of advanced InSAR techniques have been developed to separate deformation signals from error sources such as atmospheric effects, orbital ramps and DEM errors:

- (1) MERIS atmospheric correction model for reducing tropospheric water vapour effects on Wide Swath InSAR measurements (Li et al., 2012);
- (2) Multidimensional Small Baseline Subset (MSBAS) InSAR for estimating 2D or 3D time-series of deformation (Samsonov and d'Oreye, 2012);
- (3)  [\$\pi\$ -RATE](#) (Poly-Interferogram Rate And Time-series Estimator) for estimating displacement rate, time series and their associated uncertainties (Wang et al., 2012);
- (4) [PyAPS](#) (Python-based Atmospheric Phase Screen) allows one to automatically download atmospheric reanalysis products (ECMWF's ERA-Interim, NCEP's NARR, and NASA's MERRA) and to produce maps of stratified tropospheric delays for InSAR correction (Jolivet et al., 2014; Lin et al., 2015);
- (5) [TRAIN](#) (Toolbox for Reducing Atmospheric InSAR Noise) allows using various independent datasets, e.g. spaceborne spectrometer data (MERIS and MODIS) and weather models (ECMWF ERA-I and WRF) to reduce atmospheric effects on InSAR measurements (Bekaert et al., 2015a);
- (6) An extended network orbit correction model utilises the fact that the error signals behave as a linear combination of the individual components of each of the two acquisitions that form one interferogram, and incorporates phase loops of interferogram triplets (Feng, 2014; Stockamp et al., 2015).

### **WG 4.4.2: InSAR Observation and Modelling of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tectonics**

*Chair: T. Wright (UK)*

*Co-Chair: A. Hooper (UK)*



*Main Research Activities:* This WG has successfully responded to several recent earthquakes and volcanoes, e.g. the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake (Fielding et al., 2013), the 2010 Yushu earthquake (Li et al., 2011), the 2010 Sierra El Mayor (Mexico) earthquake (Barlow et al., 2015), the 2010-2011 Canterbury Earthquakes (Elliott et al., 2012), the 2011 Tohoku-Oki (Japan) earthquake (Wright et al., 2012), the 2011 Burma earthquake (Feng et al., 2013), the 2011 Van (Turkey) earthquake (Feng et al., 2014), the 2014 Napa (California) earthquake (Elliott et al., 2015), the Tungurahua volcano (Ecuador) (Champenois et al., 2014), the Santorini volcano (Greece) (Parks et al., 2015), and the Bárðarbunga volcano (Iceland) (Sigmundsson et al., 2015). A new algorithm has been developed to combine geodetic data with satellite gravity measurements to model the source parameters of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki (Japan) earthquake (Feng et al., 2014). The postseismic motion following the large Kokoxili event has been mapped using InSAR (Wen et al., 2012). Strain accumulation on a series of active faults has been investigated, including the Ashkabad fault (Walters et al., 2013), the central Tibetan Plateau (Garthwaite et al., 2013), the North Anatolian Fault Zone (Turkey) (Yamasaki et al., 2014), the North and East Anatolian Faults (Eastern Turkey) (Walters et al., 2014), the Dabbahu segment of the Nubia-Arabia Plate boundary (Afar, Ethiopia) (Hamling et al., 2014), and the Afar rift of Ethiopia (Pagli et al., 2014; Hammond et al., 2014).

#### **WG 4.4.3: Landslide Monitoring and Modelling with InSAR observations**

*Chair:* R. Tomás-Jover (Spain)

*Co-Chair:* R. Furuta (Japan)

*Main Research Activities:* The WG organized a monographic session focused on Natural Hazards in the International Workshop in Environmental Security, Geological Hazards and Management held in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain on 10-12 April 2013, and co-organised a session in the Wegener 2014: Measuring and Modelling our Dynamic Planet, 17th General Assembly of WEGENER on earth deformation and the study of earthquakes using geodesy and geodynamics, celebrated in Leeds, UK, on 1-4 September 2014. Members of the WG have participated as speakers and/or reviewers in a series of conferences: (i) the International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly 2013 held in Potsdam, Germany, 01 to 06 September 2013; (ii) the ISRM European Rock Mechanics Symposium (EUROCK 2014). Vigo, Spain, 27-29th May 2014; (iii) XII congress of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG2014). Torino, Italy, September, 15-19 2014; (iv) 15th Annual Conference of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG): Frontiers of Mathematical Geosciences: new approaches to understand the natural world, 2-6 September 2013, Madrid, Spain; (v) the International Symposium & 9th Asian Regional Conference of International Association of Engineering Geology (AREG2013), Beijing, China on 24th - 25th September, 2013. The chair of the WG has become an editorial member of the journal “Landslides” published by Springer. This WG have published more than twenty papers on SCI indexed journals, most of which focus on the application of DInSAR for landslide monitoring and modelling. Here is the incomplete list of landslides that have been investigated in the past four years: (i) landslides in the Betic Cordillera (S Spain) (Delgado et al., 2011), (ii) Slopes in Alicante (SE Spain) (Cano and Tomás, 2012, 2013, 2014); (iii) the Huangtupo landslide in the Three Gorges region (China) (Tomás et al., 2014); and (iv) the Shuping landslide in the Three Gorges region (China) (Singleton et al., 2014).

#### **WG 4.4.4: Vertical crustal motion from Satellite Altimetry**

*Chair: H. Lee (USA)*

*Co-Chair: H. Wang (China)*

*Main Research Activities:* This WG has focused on improving retracking and surface gradient correction algorithms for satellite radar altimeter measurements over non-ocean surfaces towards estimating: (1) Topographic vertical motion over the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau; (2) Ice mass balance over West Antarctica; (3) Glacier elevation changes over Bering Glacier, Alaska; (4) Coastal sea surface heights; (5) Water elevation changes over inland water bodies (river, lake, and wetlands) under different climate regimes (Congo, Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins, and Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau). This WG has also worked on these various types of topographic surfaces, and tested the new Ka-band measurements from recently launched SARAL/AltiKa satellite radar altimeter.

#### **WG 4.4.5: LiDAR, Laser Scanning and Surface Generation**

*Chair: B. Yang (China)*

*Co-Chair: N. Tate (UK)*

*Main Research Activities:* The main research activities of this WG include: (1) Integration of Laser Scanning Point Clouds and panoramic imagery for 3D reconstruction, texture mapping and classification; (2) UAV Mapping for Transportation, LBS, and GIS applications; A spatial pattern based method has been developed to match and fuse imagery, point clouds, and GIS database for 3D mapping and database updating.

*Conferences:*

1. Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring, Hong Kong, China, 2-4 November 2011 (Jointly organised by IAG SC4.4 and FIG: <http://dma.lsgj.polyu.edu.hk>)
2. The International Earth Science Colloquium on the Aegean Region, Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey, 1-5 October 2012 (one InSAR special session organised by IAG WG 4.4.1: <http://web.deu.edu.tr/iesca/ocs/index.php/iesca/2012/>)
3. The 3rd International Workshop on Gravity, GPS and Satellite Altimetry Observations of Tibet, Xinjiang and Siberia (TibXS), Chengdu, Sichuan, China, 26-30 August 2012 (Co-organized by: IAG WG 4.4.4: [http://www.sgg.whu.edu.cn/tibxs/tibxs2012/pdf/Proceedings\\_of\\_the\\_3rd\\_TibXS\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.sgg.whu.edu.cn/tibxs/tibxs2012/pdf/Proceedings_of_the_3rd_TibXS_workshop.pdf))
4. International Workshop in Environmental Security, Geological Hazards and Management, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, 10-12 April 2013 (one landslide special session organized by IAG WG 4.4.3: <http://eventos.ull.es/entornamentalsecurity2013/>)
5. The EGU General Assembly 2014, Vienna, Austria, 27 Apr – 2 May 2014 (GM1.8: Land-Level Lowering of Flat Areas: Monitoring and Modelling of Natural and Human-Induced Processes and Assessment of their Impact)
6. ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY SPECIALIST DISCUSSION MEETING: Seismology from Space: Geodetic observations and early warning of earthquakes, Royal Astronomical Society Lecture Theatre Burlington House, Piccadilly, 9 May 2014.



7. The 17th General Assembly of WEGENER on earth deformation and the study of earthquakes using geodesy and geodynamics, Leeds, UK, 1-4 Sep 2014 (<http://see.leeds.ac.uk/wegener/>)

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## Sub-Commission 4.5: High-Precision GNSS Algorithms and Applications

[www.ucalgary.ca/~point/iag.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~point/iag.html)

*Chair: Yang Gao (Canada)*

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*Secretary: G. Liu (Hong Kong)*

*Member at Large: M. Ge (Germany)*

*Member at Large: P. Henkel (Germany)*

### **WG4.5.1 Quality Measures for Network Based GNSS Positioning**

*Chair: Xiaolin Meng (UK)*

*Co-Chair: Hans-Juergen Euler (Switzerland)*

### **WG4.5.2 Precise Point Positioning and Network-RTK**

*Chair: Sunil Bisnath (Canada)*

*Co-Chair: Sue Lynn Choy (Australia)*

### **WG4.5.3 Integer Ambiguity Resolution for PPP and PPP-RTK**

*Chair: Xiaohong Zhang (China)*

*Co-Chair: Patrick Henkel (Germany)*

### **WG4.5.4 Multi-frequency, Multi-constellation Sub-cm RTK**

*Chair: Bofeng Li (Australia)*

*Co-Chair: Yanming Feng (Australia)*

### **Academic Activities, Conference, Workshop, Technical Session**

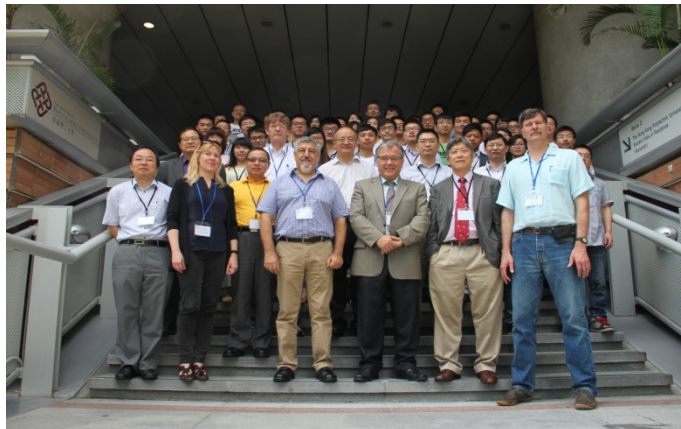
- WC4.5.4 organized third "BeiDou/GNSS Summer School on GNSS Frontier Technology" at Tongji University, Shanghai China, 28 July-1 August 2014.



- WC4.5.1 organized a Sino-UK Workshop on Long Bridge Monitoring with Space Technologies, Tongji University, Shanghai, China, June 23, 2014.



- WC4.5.1 published special issues in Survey Review (Volume 46, Issue 339, November 2014) and Journal of Applied Geodesy in 2014.
- WG4.5.2 contributed to Inside GNSS Webinar on Precise Positioning Techniques (panellist) and ION GNSS+ 2014 (session chairs)
- SC4.5 organized Croucher Summer Course on “New GNSS Algorithms and Techniques for Earth Observations”, 26-31 May 2014, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.



- SC4.5 contributed to the organization of 6th CPGPS Forum, Xuzhou, China, Jan. 6-8, 2014
- SC4.5 co-organized Session G1.3 on High-Precision GNSS Algorithms and Applications in Geosciences at EGU General Assembly 2014, Vienna, Austria, 27 April – 02 May 2014.
- SC4.5 has a strong presence and contribution to the organization of the following conferences:
  - International IEEE Workshop on Asia-Pacific Satellite Navigation and Positioning, Brisbane, Australia, February 27 - March 1, 2014.
  - CSNC 2014, Nanjing, China, 21-23 May 2014.
  - 1st Congress of China Geodesy and Geophysics, Beijing, China, October 25-26, 2014.
- SC4.5 members have contributed to the organization of the following events to be held in 2015 as scientific committee members, session chairs and lecturers:
  - GNSS Summer School, Xuzhou, China, August, 2015
  - CPGPS Forum on Integrated Navigation Systems, Xuzhou, China, August, 2015
  - TransNav 2015, Gdynia, Poland, June 2015
  - CSNC 2015, Xi’An, China, May 2015.

- WG4.5.4 has contributed to the organization of the 10th international symposium on Location Based Services (LBS) November 21-22, 2013, Tongji University, Shanghai, China.



- WG4.5.1 organized a The 2nd Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring (JISDM 2013), University of Nottingham, 9 - 10 September 2013. 200 people from 26 countries attended the conference.



- The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) School on “New GNSS Algorithms and Techniques for Earth Observations 2012 (nGATEo 2012)” was successfully held in 14-15 May 2012, Polytechnic University (PolyU), Hong Kong. Sponsored by IAG and organized by Dr. George Liu, Secretary of SC4.5, it has more than 50 international participants from academia, industry and government agencies in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, and Korea attended this GNSS School, including many in-school MSc/PhD students from mainland China. Five internationally distinguished scholars from Australia, China, Germany and USA were invited to give lectures during the two-day events.





- Beidou/GNSS Summer School on GNSS Frontier Technologies was successfully held at Beihang University, Beijing China during 25-31 August 2012. The summer school has been sponsored by IAG, CPGPS and Beihang University. The summer school has attracted 65 participants from 24 organisations in mainland China, Taiwan, Hongkong, and Pakistan. Eight internationally distinguished scholars from Australia, China, Canada, Finland, Germany and USA were invited to give lectures.



- SC4.5 contributed to the organization of the 2012 International Forum on Advanced Theory and Technologies in Geomatics (2012 IFATTG), May 19–21, 2012, Liaoning Technical University, Fuxin, China.



- SC4.5 contributed to the organization of GNSS Precise Point Positioning Workshop: Reaching Full Potential, 12-14 June 2013, Ottawa, Canada, sponsored by York University, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), the IAG, the IGS, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The purpose of the workshop was to bring together leading academic, government and industry researchers from across the globe to present the latest research findings and developments in GNSS PPP; to discuss issues related to advancing PPP technology; and, to contemplate the potential of PPP as the future positioning technique for high-accuracy satellite positioning, navigation and timing. The workshop attracted approximately 100 participants from 20 countries, representing over 50 different academic, government and industrial organizations. Attendees included data product producers, solution providers, technology users, and interested parties. The structure of the workshop consisted of oral sessions as well as moderated discussion sessions. Further information, including the complete post-workshop report (to be completed), the submitted presentations and posters, list of registrants, and photographs from the event can be found on the workshop website: [www.yorku.ca/pppworkshop2013](http://www.yorku.ca/pppworkshop2013).



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**GNSS PRECISE POINT POSITIONING WORKSHOP:**  
REACHING FULL POTENTIAL  
12-14 June 2013  
Ottawa, Canada



- SC4.5 proposed and organized a session G1.3 "High-Precision GNSS Algorithms and Applications in Geosciences", European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013, Vienna, Austria, 7-12 April 2013. The session has attracted 29 abstract submission with 12 oral presentations: 12 and 14 poster presentations, nearly half of them are from young scientists.
- WG4.5.1 "Quality Measures for Network Based GNSS Positioning" will organize the second Joint FIG/IAG International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring (JISDM), 9-11 September 2013, Nottingham, UK.
- WG4.5.2 "Precise Point Positioning and Network-RTK" will contribute to the organization of the 2013 International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes (EOGC'2013) and the 2013 Canadian Institute of Geomatics Annual Conference, 5-7 June 2013, Toronto, Canada
- WG4.5.2 "Precise Point Positioning and Network-RTK" will organize the PPP Workshop, 12-14 June 2013, Ottawa, Canada
- WG4.5.3 "Integer Ambiguity Resolution for PPP and PPP-RTK" will organize a Special Session on PPP at the 55-th International Symposium ELMAR-2013, 25-27 September 2013, Zadar, Croatia

- WG4.5.4 “Multi-frequency, Multi-constellation Sub-cm RTK” will contribute to the organization of the second GNSS Summer School, August, 2013, Beijing, China

## **Publications**

### **Journal papers**

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## Sub-Commission 4.6: GNSS-Reflectometry and Applications

*Chair: Shuanggen Jin (China)*

### Terms of Reference:

The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is a highly precise, continuous, all-weather and near-real-time microwave (L-band) technique, which implies more and wider applications and potentials. Recently, the versatile reflected and scattered signals of GNSS have been successfully demonstrated to sound the land surfaces (including soil moisture), ocean, and the cryosphere as a new remote sensing tool. The GNSS reflected signals from the ocean and land surface could determine the ocean height, wind speed and wind direction of ocean surface, soil moisture, ice and snow thickness, which could supplement the traditional remote sensing techniques, e.g., radar altimetry. The focus of this Sub-Commission (SC4.6) is to facilitate collaboration and communication, and to support joint researches with promising GNSS-Reflectometry (GNSS-R) technique. Specific objectives will be achieved through closely collaborating with working groups and other IAG Commissions/Sub-Commissions. Meanwhile, close collaboration with the International GNSS Service (IGS), Institute of Navigation (ION) and IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IGRASS) will be promoted, such as joint sponsorship of international professional workshops and conferences.

### Objectives:

- To promote and extend GNSS Reflectometry/Scatterometry developments and tests as well as environment remote sensing applications;
- To improve the existing estimation algorithms, inversion theory and temporal-spatial resolution in GNSS reflectometry from the ocean and land surface and supplement the traditional remote sensors, e.g., Satellite Altimetry;
- To coordinate data from GNSS-R campaign experiments and provide environment remote sensing products through fusing with other terrestrial and satellite observations;
- To address coastal ocean topography, ocean surface roughness characteristics (wind speed/direction and wave height), ice motion, wetland monitoring and surface soil moisture and snow/ice thickness as well as the condition of sea ice, glacial melting and the freezing/thaw state of frozen ground;
- To facilitate collaboration and communication with mutual Remote Sensing related communities (Oceanography, Hydrology, Cryosphere, Geodesy...)

### Program of Activities:

The Sub-commission will establish Work Groups (WGs) on relevant topics, and promote GNSS Reflectometry/Scatterometry developments and remote sensing applications. Chair/Co-Chair will work closely with members and other IAG Commissions/Sub-Commissions to obtain mutual goals. Also we will organize international workshops and symposiums to provide a platform for GNSS-R communication and collaboration and jointly sponsor special sessions at IAG Symposia and other workshop/conferences with IGRASS and ION.

### Website:

[http://202.127.29.4/geodesy/IAG\\_SC4.6/](http://202.127.29.4/geodesy/IAG_SC4.6/)

## Activities

### 2015

- **13-15 May 2015**, Shuanggen Jin chaired one session and gave one invited talk at Chinese Satellite Navigation Conference, Xi'an, China.
- **11-13 May 2015**, Shuanggen Jin attended Workshop on Reflectometry using GNSS and other signals (GNSS+R 2015) as member of Scientific Organizing Committee, Potsdam, Germany.

### 2014

- **1-11 August 2014**, Shuanggen Jin attended the 40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly as Session Chair with one invited talk, Moscow, Russia.
- **29 July-1 August 2014**, Shuanggen Jin gave a half-day lecture on GNSS Remote Sensing: Methods and Results at CPGPS Summer School on GNSS, Shanghai, China.
- **25-27 April 2014**, Shuanggen Jin attended the Editorial Board Member meeting of Acta Geodaetica et Cartography Sinica, Ningbo, Zhejiang, China.
- **17 March 2014**, The first meeting of Satellite Navigation and Remote Sensing (SNARS) was held at SHAO, Shanghai, China.



- **7-8 March 2014**, Arthur Neill (MIT, USA) and Alexander Gusev (KSU, Russia) visited and discussed with members of Satellite Navigation and Remote Sensing Group, Shanghai, China.
- **18-21 February 2014**, Shuanggen Jin was invited to give one-day lecture on GNSS at Short Training Course on Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, Islamabad, Pakistan.



- **20 January 2014**, Shuanggen Jin organized Workshop on Water Cycle Observation from Space at Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China.

2013

- **9-11 December 2013**, Shuanggen Jin visited Xichang Satellite Launch Center and gave a talk on Satellite Observations and Applications, Xichang, China.
- **16-18 October 2013**, Shuanggen Jin was invited to visit the School of Environment and Spatial Informatics, China University of Mining and Technology and appointed Director of Center for Space Geodesy as well as adjunct Professor, Xuzhou, China.
- **13-16 October 2013**, Shuanggen Jin and Guiping Feng attended the 29th Annual Meeting of Chinese Geophysical Society (CGS) with receiving Liu Guangding Geophysical Youth Science and Technology Award, Kunming, China.
- **1-11 September 2013**, Shuanggen Jin attended International Association of Geodesy (IAG) Scientific Assembly (IAG2013) with two oral talks and five session chairs in Potsdam, Germany and visited University of Beira Interior (UBI) and University of Lisbon with one talk, Lisbon, Portugal.
- **5-7 July 2013**, Shuanggen Jin organized [International Summer School on Planetary Geodesy and Remote Sensing](#) and gave a half-day lecture on Planetary Geodesy and Science, Shanghai, China.



- **22 June 2013**, Shuanggen Jin attended the Award Ceremony of Scientific Chinese Person of the year (2012) and received Outstanding Young Scientist Award of Scientific Chinese Person of the Year (2012), Beijing, China.
- 22-26 April 2013, Shuanggen Jin attended the ION Pacific PNT 2013 and chaired one session "Ionosphere Monitoring with GNSS" Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

2012

- **16-20 October 2012**, Shuanggen Jin attended the 28th Meeting of Chinese Geophysical Society (CGS) with receiving Fu Chengyi Award in Beijing and 56th Anniversary of SGG, Wuhan University and 80th Birthday of Academician Prof. Jinsheng Ning in Wuhan, China.
- **18-21 August 2012**, Shuanggen Jin organized International Symposium on Space Geodesy and Earth System (SGES2012) as Chair of Symposium, Shanghai, China.
- **21-25 August 2012**, Shuanggen Jin organized International Summer School on Space Geodesy and Earth System and gave a half-day lecture on GNSS and Gravity Geodesy, Shanghai, China.
- **13-17 August 2012**, Shuanggen Jin attended the AOGS-AGU (WPGM) Joint Assembly with convening two sessions and giving one talk, Singapore
- **21-29 July 2012**, Shuanggen Jin attended the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS2012) with chairing one session in Munich, Germany and was invited to visit Czech Geodetic Observatory Pecny (GOP) and Deutsches Geodatisches Forschungsinstitut (DGFI) with one talk, respectively.



- **6-14 June 2012**, Shuanggen Jin attended the 34th Canadian Remote Sensing Symposium, Ottawa and visited University of Calgary and Geodetic Survey Division, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, Natural Resources Canadian with two talks, Canada.
- **25-31 March 2012**, Shuanggen Jin was invited to give a talk at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Johor, Malaysia and chaired one Session with one talk at Progress In Electromagnetics Research Symposium (PIERS), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2011

- **12 December 2011**, Prof. Shuanggen Jin and Prof. Ching-Yuang Huang co-convended Cross-Strait Forum on GNSS Remote Sensing with full day talks and discussion, Shanghai, China.
- **10-18 November 2011**, Shuanggen Jin was invited to visit and gave several talks at Taiwan National Chiao Tung University, National Cheng Kung University, National Central University and Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.
- **29 September 2011**, Seventeen members from ETH Zurich, Switzerland visited the SHAO and participated in a ETHZ-SHAO Forum on Space Geodesy, Shanghai, China
- **15 September 2011**, Prof. Shuanggen Jin and Prof. Valery Mironov Co-Chaired Shanghai-Siberia Workshop on Remote Sensing and discussed future cooperation in Radiowave Remote Sensing, Shanghai, China
- **20 August 2011**, Satellite Navigation and Remote Sensing Group with 14 members has travelled the ancient Fengjing Town and Jinshan Beach, Shanghai, China
- **07-09 August 2011**, Shuanggen Jin organized the [International Workshop on GNSS Remote Sensing for Future Missions and Sciences](#) as Chair of Workshop, Shanghai, China



- **08-16 August 2011**, Shuanggen Jin convened one Session at Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS 2011) with one talk, Taiwan.
- **24-29 July 2011**, Shuanggen Jin received IEEE GRSS Travel Grant Award to attend IEEE Int. Geosci. & Remote Sens. Symp (IGARSS 2011) and chaired one Session with two talks, Vancouver, Canada.

## Publications

### Books & Monographs

- Jin, S.G.** (Ed.) (2015), *Satellite Positioning: Methods, Models and Applications*, InTech-Publisher, Rijeka, Croatia, 400pp.
- Jin, S.G.** (Ed.) (2014), *Planetary Geodesy and Remote Sensing*, Taylor & Francis Group/CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA, ISBN: 978-1-48-221488-8, 396pp.
- Jin, S.G.**, E. Cardellach, and F. Xie (2014), *GNSS Remote Sensing: Theory, Methods and Applications*, Springer, Netherlands, ISBN: 978-94-007-7481-0, 276pp.

**Jin, S.G.** (Ed.) (2012), *Global Navigation Satellite Systems: Signal, Theory and Applications*, InTech-Publisher, Rijeka, Croatia, ISBN: 978-953-307-843-4, 426pp.

#### Peer-reviewed Journal Papers

2015

**Jin, S.G.**, G. Occhipinti, and R. Jin (2015), GNSS ionospheric seismology: Recent observation evidences and characteristics, *Earth-Sci. Rev.*, doi: 10.1016/j.earscirev.2015.05.003.

Najibi, N., **S.G. Jin**, and X.R. Wu (2015), Validating the variability of snow accumulating and melting from GPS reflected signals: Forward modeling, *IEEE Trans. Antennas Propag.*, 63(6), doi: 10.1109/TAP.2015.2414950.

Tan, X.L., J. Wang, **S.G. Jin**, and X.L. Meng (2015), GA-SVR and pseudo-position-aided GPS/INS integration during GPS outage, *J. Navig.*, doi: 10.1017/S037346331500003X.

Wei, E., **S.G. Jin**, L. Wan, W. Liu, Y. Yang, and Z. Hu (2015), High frequency variations of Earth Rotation Parameters from GPS and GLONASS Observations, *Sensors*, 15(2), 2944-2963, doi: 10.3390/s150202944.

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Dang, Y.M., C. Shi, **S.G. Jin**, H. Jin, and H. Wang (2014), Research advances in BDS/GNSS Navigation Applications, *J. Satellite Navig.*, 2(6), 1-6.

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**Jin, S.G.** (2014), Recent progresses on Beidou/COMPASS and other Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) - II, *Adv. Space Res.*, 54(5), 809-810, doi: 10.1016/j.asr.2014.05.024.

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Shi, C., **S.G. Jin**, Y.M. Dang, Y.M. Feng, H. Jin, and Q.X. Wang (2013), Research advances in BDS/GNSS Navigation Applications, *J. Satellite Navig.*, 1(3), 1-6.

**Jin, S.G.**, T. van Dam, and S. Wdowinski (2013), Observing and understanding the Earth system variations from space geodesy, *J. Geodyn.*, 72, 1-10, doi: 10.1016/j.jog.2013.08.001.

Najibi, N., and **S.G. Jin** (2013), Physical reflectivity and polarization characteristics for snow and ice-covered surfaces interacting with GPS signals, *Remote Sens.*, 5(8), 4006-4030, doi:10.3390/rs5084006.

Demyanov, V., Y. Yasyukevich, and **S.G. Jin** (2013), Controlling current conditions of navigation satellites' signal propagation, *Russian J. Sol.-Terr. Phys.*, 22, 35-40.

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Demyanov, V., E. Afraimovich, and S.G. Jin (2012), An evaluation of potential solar radio emission power threat on GPS and GLONASS performance, *GPS Solut.*, 16(4), 411-424, doi: 10.1007/s10291-011-0241-9.

Jin, S.G. (2012), Preface: Recent results on lunar exploration and science, *Adv. Space Res.*, 50(12), 1581-1582, doi: 10.1016/j.asr.2012.09.010.

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Jin, S.G., C. Rizos, and A. Rius (2011), Sensing the Earth using global navigation satellite system signals, *Eos Trans. AGU*, 92(48), 444, doi:10.1029/2011EO480006.

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### **WG 4.6.1 GNSS-R System and Development**

**Chair:** Manuel Martin-Neira (ESA/ESTEC, The Netherlands)

**Co-Chair:** Fran Fabra (Institut de Ciències de l'Espai, Spain)

Within these 3 years (2011-2013) the *interferometric* technique of the Passive Reflectometry and Interferometry concept (PARIS), under study within the European Space Agency, has been well consolidated. This technique consists of the straight correlation between direct and reflected signals, without the use of any clean code replica on-board. Satellite discrimination is performed through the antenna beam, delay and Doppler diversity, particular to each satellite of each GNSS constellation. Spatial selectivity is achieved through the use of parallel high gain antenna beams, i.e. beamforming antennas in both, up- and down-looking receiving antennas. Because of the use of the maximum bandwidth of the GNSS signals, this technique is thought to provide the best altimetric performance for GNSS reflectometry.

Following a successful bridge experiment 7-8 July 2010, in 11 November 2011 the first airborne experiment of the PARIS interferometric technique was carried out. The data were processed by IEEC and the 2 cm/km slope of the geoid in the Baltic Sea area of the experiment was clearly measured, with a standard deviation of about 13 cm after 20 s. The waveforms retrieved matched well the expected ones for low wind speed, in line with the actual weather conditions during the test. The test set-up had to be restricted to one single high gain antenna beam looking up, and the same looking down. Therefore, this airborne experiment could show precise altimetry only within 15 degrees away from the aircraft track. A future experiment is being planned that will demonstrate altimetry over a wider swath of up to 35 degrees. The way this will be achieved is through making the beamformer on ground in postprocessing (on-board raw data are simply grabbed and recorded for later post-processing). The 11 November 2011 experiment is thought to be the most accurate altimetry test carried out so far in GNSS reflectometry by the European Space Agency.

Within the reporting period, ESA carried out two Phase A studies of a PARIS In-orbit Demonstration mission which showed the feasibility of a small demonstration mission dedicated to mesoscale ocean altimetry. Two additional Phase A studies will be started later in 2013 to consider a GNSS reflectometry experiment aboard the International Space Station (the GEROS experiment). The GEROS experiment is an opportunity to test the GNSS-R technology developed for the PARIS-IoD mission.

Also within 2011-2015 ESA has performed also other various studies on different applications of GNSS-R such as biomass, snow sounding, sea ice thickness and soil moisture with promising results all of them.

### **WG 4.6.3 GNSS Ocean Altimetry**

**Chair:** Salvatore D'Addio (ESA/ESTEC, The Netherlands)

**Co-Chair:** Estel Cardellach (Institut de Ciències de l'Espai, Spain)

#### **Activities**

- On one hand, the *interferometric* technique of the Passive Reflectometry and Interferometry concept (PARIS), under study within the European Space Agency, explained in Report Subcommission WG 4.6.1, was tested for the first time under dynamic conditions. A dedicated GNSS-R interferometric receiver was developed and installed in the Finnish Skyvan aircraft, to perform, in 11 November 2011, the first airborne experiment of the PARIS interferometric technique. The data were processed

by IEEC and the 2 cm/km slope of the geoid in the Baltic Sea area of the experiment was clearly measured, with a standard deviation of about 13 cm after 20 s. The waveforms retrieved matched well the expected ones for low wind speed, in line with the actual weather conditions during the test. The test set-up had to be restricted to one single high gain antenna beam looking up, and the same looking down. Therefore, this airborne experiment could show precise altimetry only within 15 degrees away from the aircraft track. A future experiment is being planned that will demonstrate altimetry over a wider swath of up to 35 degrees. The 11 November 2011 experiment is thought to be the most accurate altimetry test carried out so far in GNSS reflectometry by the European Space Agency. See references [2, 3, 8]. Conventional processing of GPS CA code signals was also carried out in the same experiment, showing an altimetry performance degradation of about a factor 2, mainly due to the reduced bandwidth of the open access CA code signal. However, the observed waveform matched very well the models also in this case.

- In 2012, two Phase A studies have been conducted by ESA, about the feasibility of a PARIS interferometric small mission for Ocean altimetric applications. See mission overview at [1].
- The proposal “GNSS REflectometry, Radio Occultation and Scatterometry onboard ISS” (GEROS-ISS), submitted to the 2011 European Space Agency Research Announcement for ISS Experiments relevant to study of Global Climate Change, was selected in September 2012, among more than 20 competing proposals. The Scientific Advisory Group is being formed (Spring 2013), to contribute defining the terms and requirements of two Phase A (feasibility) studies for such experiment.
- During 2013, a collaboration between the National Remote Sensing Center of China (NRSCC); Chinese Universities; IEEC/ICE-CSIC (Spain); and ESA has been established to conduct an experiment in the Chinese coast during the Typhoon season (July-September 2013), with the goal of capturing both scatterometric and altimetric features of the Typhoon in GNSS-R data. See [10].
- During this period, new processing techniques for Ocean altimetry have also been envisaged: in references [4, 6, 7] Ocean tide signatures were captured from 700 meter cliff using carrier-phase delays at low elevation angles of observation, with a few cm precision (data available at [5]); [9] tested a carrier-Doppler approach for altimetric applications that might work over rougher waters (less restrictive than phase-delay observations).
- The GNSS+R 2012 workshop was conducted at Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN, USA), in October 2012. Eight papers were presented related to Ocean altimetry: Yu et al.; Larson; Rius et al.; Beckheinrich et al.; Carreno-Luengo et al.; D'Addio et al.; Stienne et al.; and Semmling, Beyerle and Wickert (not listed below, please visit <http://www.gnssr2012.org>)

### **Publications**

Manuel Martín-Neira, Salvatore D'Addio, Christopher Buck, Nicolas Floury, Roberto Prieto-Cerdeira: The PARIS Ocean Altimeter In-Orbit Demonstrator. *IEEE T. Geoscience and Remote Sensing* 49(6-2): 2209-2237 (2011)

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