



IVS Combination Center at BKG: Preparing the IVS contribution to ITRF2013 and current activities

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The task of the International VLBI Service (IVS) Combination Center at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG, Germany) is the generation of combined VLBI Earth Orientation Parameter (EOP) products and the terrestrial reference frame based on VLBI observations. Two product lines are maintained: rapid and long term (quarterly) products.

The IVS Combination Center is also responsible for the IVS contribution to the ITRF2013, an inter-technique combined product. In the course of the preparation for the submission of the combined VLBI data, detailed analysis of the individual input data of the IVS Analysis Centers have to be performed. Every contributing IVS Analysis Center provides data over a time span of almost 25 years. Data format, station positions and EOP have to be investigated for, e.g., format correctness, analysis strategies, systematic behavior and outliers. For the first time within ITRF preparations, the IVS is advised to provide also combined source positions in the SINEX files. The source positions are estimated consistently with EOPs and the terrestrial reference frame (TRF). The generation of combined source position time series and a combined celestial reference frame will be presented as well as the combination approach, the current status of the analysis and the combined results obtained so far in the course of ITRF2013 preparation.