



Interferometry Forum 2013

Lowell Observatory
March 14-15, 2013

What is a forum?

A forum is a public meeting place open for discussion on various topics.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Extract from Announcement

“.... a regular meeting Forum on interferometry. The objective would be to provide a venue for exchanges on planning, opportunities, collaborations, possible coordination, issues related to the optimization and science operation of current array facilities, and opportunities for the future – in general, it will support and advance the international conversation about our science and technology.”

Participation

David Buscher	Jean-Philippe Berger
David Mozurkewich	Jim Benson
Denis Mourard	Josh Eisner
Don Hutter	Michelle Creech-Eakman
Ed Wishnow	Nicholas Elias
Fabien Baron	Peter Tuthill
Francoise Delplancke	Robert Stencel
Gerard van Belle	Romain Petrov
Gilles Duvert	Stephen Ridgway
Guy Perrin	Theo ten Brummelaar
Henrique Schmitt	Tom Armstrong
Ifan Payne	Tom Herbst

Meeting Structure

- Agenda
- Discussion topics
 - Moderators
 - Archivists
- Archivist reports
- Draft reports
- Published report

Agenda

- Active plans of current facilities
- Significant developments in technology
- Funding and other practical matters
- Long-term perspective, relation to other facilities
- Next generation science
- Interferometer user and operator experience
- Blue sky thinking
- International collaborations
- Community organizations
- An Interferometry Forum

Conclusions - 1

- Interferometry has gone from an exotic technique with promise, to a demonstrated technique with a steadily growing technical capability, a large and active community, and significant impact on stellar physics.
- Opening access to a wider community has demonstrated benefits
- Funding
 - Europe – VLTI currently stable including some development
 - U.S. – impacted negatively by Decadal report, reduced opportunities at NSF; possible future “mid-scale” funding opportunity
 - In the next 10+ years, make the most of existing facilities and their obvious extensions.
 - Beyond obvious upgrades of existing facilities, the future is opaque

Conclusions - 2

- Possible facility options for the future on decade+ time-scale
 - Moderate development from existing facilities to much enhanced imaging capability
 - Moderate development to fainter target capability
- Possible on decade++ time-scale
 - Major development of a super-facility
 - Not in sight at present
- The meeting was a success
- An International Interferometry Forum is needed and has numerous important roles

Recommendations - 1

- The forum will have both on-going and annual activities.
- The Forum will have a charter TBD
- Utilize the IAU banner – forum will be a commission activity
- Engage IAU officers/members in Forum work
- Annual meetings
 - Adjacent to SPIE
 - In alternate years adjacent to CHARA-NPOI meeting (hopefully expanded) or schools
- Published Forum reports – including from this meeting

Recommendations - 2

- Forum should foster long-term development of the interferometry science directions
- Roadmaps needed – and U.S.-Europe coordination of roadmaps – requires U.S. entity to develop roadmap
- Revive USIC to develop national consensus and represent U.S. to Europe.

Recommendations - 3

- Encourage availability of catalogs of observed targets
- Encourage improved archive access
- U.S. - consider “webinars” as low-cost implementation of interferometry schools
- Encourage U.S. PI’s proposing to VLTI
- Study joint facility access: CHARA-VLTI, CHARA-NPOI, NPOI-VLTI

Recommendations - 4

- Encourage development of CHARA-NPOI meeting to expand scope – at least in SPIE off-years
- Rebuild OLBIN in a supportable form, perhaps a WIKI
- Start an interferometry Facebook page