



Supersites: An Initiative towards open access for InSAR data

Falk Amelung (1), W Lengert (2), and G Puglisi (3)

(1) Marine Geology and Geophysics, University of Miami, Miami, FL, United States (mfamelung@rsas.miami.edu), (2) ESRIN, European Space Agency, Frascati, Italy, (3) Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Catania, Italy

Over the last decade Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) has evolved to an important geophysical measurement technique for the study of tectonic and volcanic processes and can be considered to be on equal footing with seismology and GPS. However, the access to SAR data is much more difficult than the access to seismic data (such as from IRIS) and to GPS data. SAR data are acquired by satellites operated by national and international Space Agencies (such as the European Space Agency, ESA, and the Japanese Space Agency, Jaxa) with each agency having different data policies and access procedures. Unlike in seismology, data access is a major limitation for scientific progress in InSAR science.

Over the last decade Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) has evolved to an important geophysical measurement technique for the study of tectonic and volcanic processes and can be considered to be on equal footing with seismology and GPS. However, the access to SAR data is much more difficult than the access to seismic data (such as from IRIS) and to GPS data. SAR data are acquired by satellites operated by national and international Space Agencies (such as the European Space Agency, ESA, and the Japanese Space Agency, Jaxa) with each agency having different data policies and access procedures. Unlike in seismology, data access is a major limitation for scientific progress in InSAR science.

The Supersite initiative, led by the intergovernmental Group of Earth Observation (GEO) and the European Space Agency is designed to change this. SAR data along with ground-based data will be made available for selected sites with volcanic or earthquake hazard to stimulate fundamental research. Current Supersites include the volcanoes Mt. Etna, Vesuvius/Campi Phlegrei and Hawaii and the earthquake-prone cities Istanbul, Tokyo, Vancouver/Seattle and Los Angeles. Supersites will provide complete multi-satellite SAR data sets as well as ground-based data (seismic and GPS) acquired by local geological surveys. For details see <http://supersites.unavco.org>.

In this presentation we will introduce the Supersite concept and discuss opportunities for the EPOS community.