

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Tues. July 16, 2019

Present at ORNL:

Suzanne, Crystal, Eugene, Adam, Ken, Hans

Online:

Martin, William, Ally

Document approval:

- Minutes from May 2019 conference call: approve
- Agenda for July 2019 conference call: approve

1. Discussion about DOE review on data reduction, handling, and analysis:

On July 17, the software review will be taking place and SHUG-EC will participate via a half-hour conference call. All members of this committee already have the document with the new data reduction, handling, and analysis plan.

The scope of the review will cover data reduction, data handling, and data analysis.

Data handling will have a forward-looking approach anticipating people's need to access and mine stored data. We would like to benchmark with other user facilities as SHUG-EC suggests.

For the TAX instruments, one member of the SHUG-EC suggested that we should try to accommodate new users with simple data reduction and analysis tools. Although the TAX instrument staff feels that the data reduction and analysis tools work well for most user needs, they do agree that several improvements can be made. For example, built-in functions can be added to the software to help users with monitor corrections sometimes required for fixed final energy inelastic scans, to help users with the resolution volume correction required for fixed incident energy inelastic scans, and to help users perform instrument resolution calculations before their experiments for planning purposes. These three needs have been called out in the new document for data reduction, handling, and analysis.

NScD cannot make a case to hire more people during the upcoming DOE review. New software roles will likely need to be taken on by current staff. One of the main goals NScD currently has is to provide appropriate data reduction and analysis tools to enable users to operate more independently.

NScD has started some discussions about how they can best support and maintain important codes developed by the user community (i.e. Fullprof, GSAS, SpinW), but fixing current data reduction issues (especially with SANS) are the top priority.

The long-term goal of NScD is to develop uniform user interfaces across instrument suites used by the same people.

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2. STS feedback from user community:

The SHUG-EC is planning to help organize a workshop on this topic that will take place on Dec. 9 and 10. Ken is planning to come up with the official charge for the workshop. SHUG-EC should identify a few prominent members in each of the major neutron scattering science areas (i.e. the NScD science initiatives) who are interested in speaking and/or participating in the workshop. We should also try to bring in some external scientists who are not neutron scattering experts to help this group to think outside the box. The STS early experiments document should be made publicly available before this workshop. A SHUG-EC sub-committee has been established to help organize this workshop (Martin, Olivier, Ally, Dvora), but it is currently lacking an engineering materials scientist. We should solicit suggestions from Ke An on who can best fill this role.

3. Preparation of elections

We definitely have three people rotating off the SHUG-EC; one of these positions is the graduate student/postdoc representative. We should also ask Marc Janoschek if he would like to rotate off the committee due to his move to Europe; this would open-up a fourth spot. There is still an open question if one of these spots should be designated for an industry representative.

4. General news

Preparations to restart HFIR are going well and we are still on track for a November restart. SNS is running smoothly.

The next proposal call will close on Sept. 18. We should know in about one week if HFIR instruments will be included in this call. We are still thinking about what to do with carryover experiments.

Suzanne Parete-Koon has taken a new position at ORNL and therefore her old role in Neutron Sciences now needs to be filled. The SHUG-EC appreciates everything that Suzanne has done for the Neutron Sciences User Program and wishes her all the best in her new position. Crystal Schrof has taken on Suzanne's old duties on an interim basis while a replacement is found.

5. Next meeting

- Aug. 20, 2019: 3 – 4 PM conference call