Dear IRWG and NORS Colleagues,   3 October 2012

Recently we reviewed the submission rate and quality of the GEOMS HDF files to the NDACC archive. A summary was presented and discussed at the last IRWG. Following that a status document of the retrieval parameters was distributed and we requested from each group to let us know their ability and/or limitation to making their data current at the IRWG standard in the archive. Various groups are at different stages of development and delivery but nearly all are facing some difficulties. Responses pointed to effort / time and computational codes to perform (mainly) the error analysis. A parallel need exists within the NORS project amongst many of the same researchers.

We believe that if we as a group use largely the same codes, development / maintenance effort is reduced. Also if we pool development resources from many groups core expertise will consequently be distributed widely amongst the IRWG, ultimately yielding more homogeneous data.

We've discussed this with several others in the group and we propose a workshop to focus on and finalize the tools to thoroughly perform the task of moving from retrievals through the error analysis to the GEOMS hdf files. Specifically we would:

a. invite 6-10 IRWG members, quite flexible here, but targeting an attendee from each group or region so that it is small enough to function as a hands on workshop, invitees would be contributing to the final products,

b. build a core critical group who are very familiar with the standard processing methods and tools thus helping to create the homogeneous product we've promised to deliver,

c. complete and then implement the tools back at their home institute for testing, verification and operational use.

d. the codes and documentation would be available to all IRWG/NORS members at the IRWG web site.

I envision that before the workshop we would distribute the existing tools, solicit details on existing methods used by each group, determine commonalities and define the processing workflow.   As best we could predefine tasks for each attendee so that some work is in-process when the workshop begins. The obviously ambitious goal is for a short intensive period effort that will allow operational usage prior to next IRWG in June 2013.

To prepare for strong progress by the next IRWG we propose to have the workshop in late Jan. or early Feb. 2013 for approximately a week (currently targeting week of 4 Feb). At this time there is a possibility of support from Martine and I for travel, we are trying to make these arrangements. I have offered to host it at NCAR but it could also be in Brussels depending on attendees and reduced costs.

Current attendees are N. Jones, M. Palm, B. Langerock or C. Vigouroux, M. DeMaziere and J. Hannigan.

Thanks for your support of this process.
Kind Regards,

-Jim & Martine