

GrEAT telecon

Tuesday 12th May 2020, 09:30-10:30 UK, 16:30-17:30 China

Summary:

- Proposed weekly lecture/tutorial series aimed at Masters, PhD and Post docs. Connection to these via zoom and hosted by University of Glasgow.
- Further discussion needed offline to come up with topics as not to overlap too much with LIGO India video efforts, although GrEAT will have emphasis on “hands-on” style tutorials.
- Translation of videos from previous summer school lectures and gw-open science to Chinese.
- Additional Bi-weekly seminars (webinars) on specialist topics to begin in June. This will also act as a test to iron out any technical issues for the tutorials.
- Collaborations to resume motivated by discussions from the webinars.

Siong: welcome back to the great telecon we had a pause due to the coronavirus in China and now the UK is in middle of it and under restrictions.

The first point is to say I hope everyone is well and, in that case, we can start to resume the telecons.

1) Training lectures and tutorials, How do we connect?

Siong: The next few items on the agenda are some ideas on how to restart our engagements between UK and China based on some of my ideas in discussions with others. Feel free to jump in to add points. The ideas are mainly to start a series of training lectures, I call them this for emphasis on tutorials for masters and PhD or post docs. To compliment this a series of seminars, webinars, presentations on latest research from various members and representations on both sides. Collaborative projects and research and how to keep that going - would require more input from other people. Does anyone have any ideas?

Nils: We had the India call about their online lectures, will we combine these in some form?

Siong: That would be fantastic however, there is technical difficulties due to restrictions in china when it comes to YouTube etc. I'm all for staying away from duplicating material so the idea is to form tutorials sessions. For the data side there is nice material out there on how to do basic stuff. Instead of delivering lectures, the idea is to actually ask people to go through material offline first. Students tend to be better at absorbing material offline. The idea would then be to give them translated material and then during broadcast go through examples etc. on the fly. That would be more useful, its not always obvious from lectures that the information is being received, but with tutorials there is more engagement.

Nils: The main difference is that India is already included in LIGO and want to spread the word, here for GrEAT its broader to ground and space.

Martin: Building on what you were saying, I think the beauty of what you describe is that it can be prepared offline and can be used by other students.

Siong: Yes, LIGO India are doing things live.

Martin: Just go clarify we can propose more tutorial style with Indian students using the recordings from this work.

Mariela: I did mention some of the Indian folk about that exactly, having more dialogue rather than teaching, to merge things a little bit.

Siong: Tutorials will be held in English, so no reason why others can't join, glad there's some support on this.

Siong: I'm assuming we'd like to go through with that, we need to address some tech issues. I mentioned that YouTube is not accessible in China. I don't think Skype is good for this either. I found the University of Glasgow has Zoom licenses for 500 attendees. We can use these to deliver lectures which should work in China. Can I ask does Zoom work in China?

Yiming: Zoom is working in China as long as you are attending.

Siong: We can use UOG to host, some thoughts on Zoom security, having passwords and so on. Can we limit some of the funny things going on. Any objections using Zoom for the seminars?

Patrick: Hi Siong, is it possible to record a lecture and broadcast or is it real time streaming?

Martin: I believe you can.

Patrick: That would be good to publish then have tutorials after.

Stuart: You can also record live and use later.

Yi-Ming - Youku is also accessible in China.

Siong – Yes that's true, any objections on using Zoom?

OK that's good.

2) What topics?

Siong : We can have discussion later on this but is there any suggestions?

Siong: Are there requests for topics?

Nils: It might be good to have a range of topics first then go around the groups to see what people can contribute.

Martin: We did record a very broad range of lectures at a summer school, for new generation could give us something to start with and then we can explore subtitles.

Siong : That's a good idea.

Martin: We would need to check with the lecturers but shouldn't be a problem.

Mariela: We could open up some teaching from post docs and not just from the academics.

Yi-Ming: I agree, those of us who aren't so busy could get some responses from the students to gauge how the tutorial went.

Siong: Lets take the discussion offline. In addition to volunteers we should have topics swell.

Siong: When is the optimal time, is mid June a good time? lets ask in a different way, is there a bad time for Chinese students?

Nils: Do you see this as a weekly series or a more summer school?

Siong: I did have a once a week kind of idea, more of an on going collaboration.

Mariela: The once a week set up would be good for students to ask questions.

3) Tutorials and hands on

Siong: Easy for data but for experimental is there any way to delivery these tutorials?

Stuart: On thermal noise we could develop scripts to change parameters and materials etc this could be doing without too much effort.

Haixing: We do have scripts for analysis too.

Siong: OK great.

4) Adapting online material

Siong: Martin had suggested old summer school as material, I also saw open data workshops which could be useful as well. In terms of lectures, the summer lectures will also be a good source. The idea is to have transcripts of videos which can then be translated so Chinese students have access to this. One step further is to change those scripts into subtitles that go into the video. I think language is an issue. Questions at this point?

We will summarise this and use this as a plan to go ahead. I also suggested we have a series of specialist online lectures to share and promote collaboration between members. This would come on top of the previous lectures, are people in support of this?

Yi-Ming: Yes I support it. Who is responsible for translating the scripts?

Siong : At the moment there is no one confirmed but I do have someone in mind. I still need to ask. Yiming do you have people in mind?

Yi-Ming: I'm not volunteering but I can ask for volunteers, that's an option.

Siong: I think they'll be a few lectures to go. There is a significant amount of effort involved.

Mariela: Scripts can be written as the lecture is going on which can then be easily passed on.

Siong: There are also video transcribing tools, some claim to be the best but once you have the transcripts the translation should be easier. The next step would be to submit as subtitles which would require more effort.

Siong: I think everyone is supportive on seminars. I think one week is too often but two weeks we can start with. In terms of specialist lectures, I would target June as a start date, it may be easier to trial the software through seminars before tutorial lectures for debugging etc. Tentatively agree for two weeks.

5) Collaborative research projects

Siong: Some efforts ongoing, I know just before the pause there was a collaboration with on coatings, and machine learning on space based. How should we keep these going or restarting research interactions? So far people have had one-to-one discussions. Should we see what comes out of seminars and discussion of seminars?

Han: Do you remember trying to submit research projects with UK and China governments? Now we have model to calculate the waveform so maybe we can push this project together.

Siong: Could we arrange for you to be the first speaker to describe this model? in a few weeks from now?

Han: No problem.

Haixing: We still have former students who visited Birmingham for example. We can continue the research through remote supervision with the student.

Siong: Yes the great network model is really about exchange of ideas with students and collaborators, maybe the new model would be for remote viewing.

Siong: That is all the items on the agenda, is there any other business?

Siong: Let's call the meeting to an end, we'll try to have another in 4 weeks' time. Stay safe everyone.