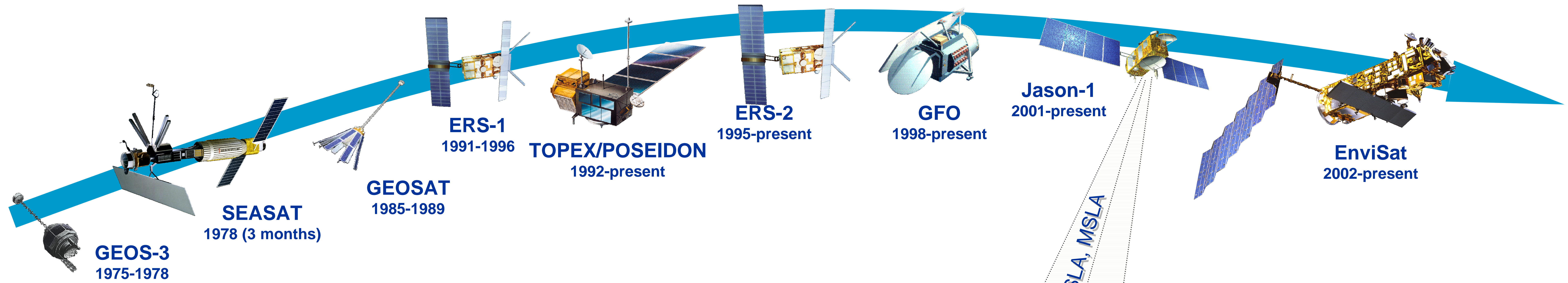


Altimetry products for oceanography



Since the launch of Topex/Poseidon (T/P), nearly 10 years ago, satellite altimetry has evolved in parallel with the user community and oceanography. As a result of this evolution, we now have:

- A bigger choice of products, that are easier to use, spanning complete GDRs to pre-computed sea level anomalies, and gridded datasets;
- A mature approach, combining altimetric data from various satellites, and merging data acquired using different observation techniques, including altimetry and sea surface temperature (SST), to give us a global view of the ocean as promoted in the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE);
- Data that are available in real or near-real time for operational use.

Aviso and PO-DAAC have been distributing Topex/Poseidon and ERS altimetric data worldwide since 1992. They are now preparing to integrate data from the new Jason-1 and EnviSat missions, which will be one of the keys to global modeling of the ocean for assimilation into GODAE.

Expert user products
Ocean End-user products

- Sea Level Anomalies

(along-track SLA, gridded MSLA)

Contents: sea level height with respect to a several-year mean
Use: study of ocean variability (mesoscale circulation, seasonal variation, El Niño...)

- CorSSH (along-track)

Contents: sea surface heights corrected for all geophysical effects
Use: stationary or long-term geophysical and ocean phenomenon studies

- Wind/Wave (along-track)

Contents: significant wave height and wind speed modules
Use: marine meteorology, ocean-atmosphere gas transfer studies

- Geophysical data (along-track)

Contents: altimetric measurements averaged over 1 second, corrections to apply
Use: geophysical studies, operational oceanography

- Sensor geophysical data (along-track)

Contents: 20 per second waveform information (available on request via catalogue)
Use: expert use

T/P products

- MSLA*
- SLA
- CorSSH
- Wind/Wave data
- GDR-M
- IGDR

ERS products

- SLA
- CorSSH

Jason products

- MSLA*
- GDR+CorSSH
- +SLA
- OSDR
- IGDR
- SGDR

EnviSat products

- MSLA*
- SLA
- CorSSH

Merged products

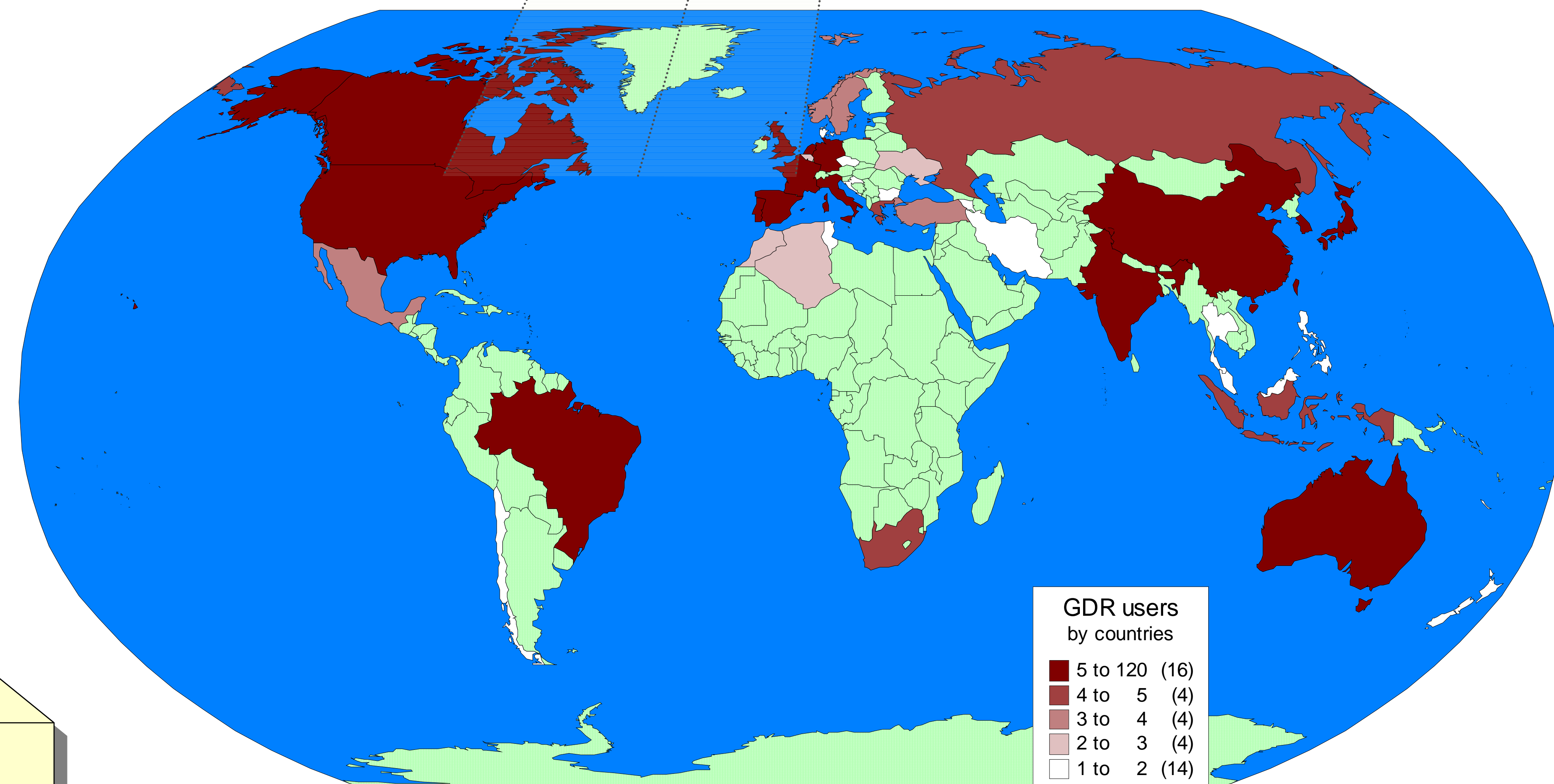
Altimetry systems

- T/P + Jason IGDR
- T/P-ERS-GFO MSLA (DUACS)

With other sensors

- MSLA and AVHRR SST (WOCE)

* Netcdf format, convention COARDS



Real-time: OSDR
Near real-time: IGDR, SLA, MSLA
Delayed: all products