# Altimetry data: what do **you** want?

Since the launch of the first altimeters, altimetry data accuracy has continuously increased, thanks to the improvement of both instruments and ground processing. CNES, one of the main contributors in altimetry success, is funding a new project, Sloop ("a Step forward for aLtimetry Open Ocean Products") to prepare the new generation of open ocean altimetry products. First phase is the analysis of the users' needs and the subsequent redefinition of the product content. Then all the potential improvements in altimetry processing will be analyzed.

We are conducting a survey to define the need of users (**your** needs). We are proposing you to help us defining what data you want to work with. Define the format, organization, resolution, available fields, mean(s) of retrieval at all levels.

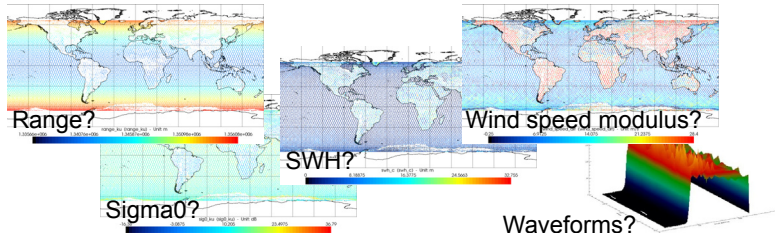## Which altimetry data are you using?

Along-track or gridded? global or regional? SLAs, ADTs, GDRs? Auxiliary products? Indicators?
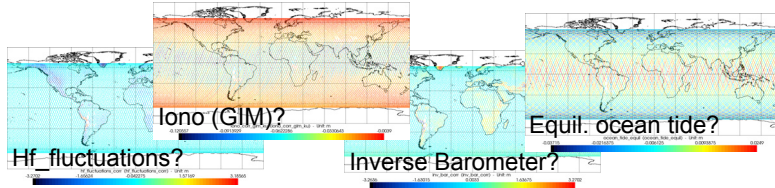
What is your field of work?
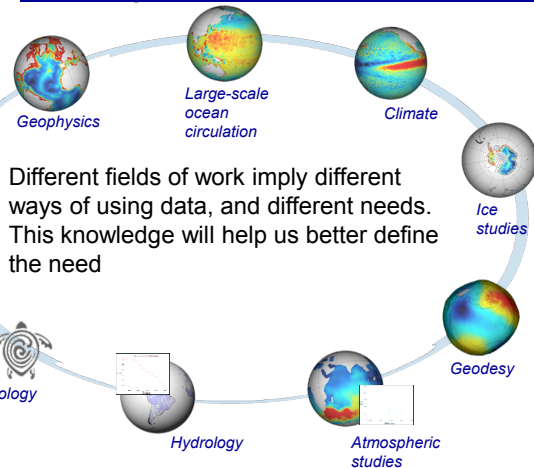
Different fields of work imply different ways of using data, and different needs. This knowledge will help us better define the need
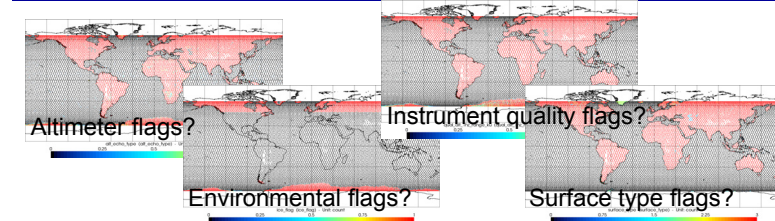
Geophysics
Large-scale ocean circulation
Climate
Ice studies
Mesoscale ocean circulation
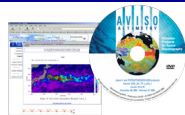Biolology
Hydrology
Atmospheric studies
Geodesy

What other data are you using?

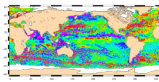SST? Ocean color? Winds? Ice concentration? Water level? From *In situ*? Models? Other sensors onboard satellites?

How would you prefer to retrieve the data?

FTP (push or pull?)? Opendap? DVDs? Other?

In which format?

NetCDF, other binary, Ascii, GIS-compatible, graphic?

What data latency do you need?

Do your need your data as fast as possible (2h)? In two days? Or do you need the best orbit possible (so, about 1 month latency)?

What resolution & precision do you need?

Spatial? Temporal? Resolution. Is the current precision good enough for you?

What delivery frequency do you need?

How often do you need to retrieve your altimetry data? Daily? Weekly? Monthly? Every three months? Six months?

Which altimetry measurements are you interested in?

Range?
SWH?
Sigma0?
Wind speed modulus?
Waveforms?

Which corrections are you interested in?

Iono (GIM)?
Hf fluctuations?
Inverse Barometer?
Equil. ocean tide?

Which flags are you interested in?

Altimeter flags?
Instrument quality flags?
Environmental flags?
Surface type flags?

Would you benefit from "à la carte" data retrieval?

Would you like to be able to retrieve only a selected numbers of data fields within level 2 data, on a specific region and/or a given track, cycle or time period? And keep this selection for future use?

Would you benefit from application-oriented flags?
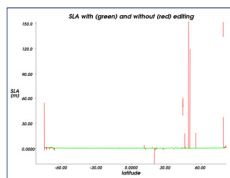
If application oriented flags were defined, would it be useful for you?
E.g. a "MSL" flag, that would be 0 if data were deemed of insufficient quality for MSL computing, 1 if good quality.
Or an ocean-editing flag?

What would be your dreamed altimetry data?

Application-dedicated products?
or One-product-fit -all?
Complete detailed data ?
or easy-to-use simplified data?
Updated products with state-of-the-art corrections and algorithms?
Or homogeneous data along time?
Inclusion of data from other sensors and models?
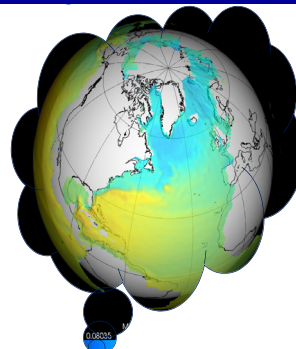
Please, answer our questionnaire!