

Envisat GDR Quality Assessment Report

Cycle 008

22-07-2002 / 26-08-2002

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1. Introduction. Document overview

The purpose of this document is to report the major features of the data quality from the ocean Envisat mission. The document is associated with data dissemination on a cycle by cycle basis.

The objectives of this document are:

To provide a data quality assessment

To provide users with necessary information for data processing

To report any change likely to impact data quality at any level, from instrument status to software configuration

To present the major useful results for the current cycle

It is divided into the following topics:

General quality assessment and cycle overview CALVAL main results
Long term performance monitoring
Particular investigations

2. Cycle overview

2.1. Data and software version

This cycle has been produced with the V2.1 reprocessing configuration : IPF processing chain V6.04 and the CMA Reference Software V9.3_05

The content of this science software version is described in a document available on the ESA PCS web site ([2]). The main impacts of these evolutions on the SSH are described in section Impact of product version V2.1 for the SSH calculation.

2.2. Parameters

The parameters used to compute the sea surface height (SSH) for Envisat are :

- Ku range (ocean retracking)
- POE orbit
- Bifrequency ionospheric correction before 65, GIM ionospheric correction afterwards (S-Band Loss)
- MWR derived wet troposphere correction
- ECMWF dry tropospheric correction
- Non parametric sea state bias
- MOG2D
- Total geocentric GOT4.7 ocean tide height
- Geocentric pole tide height
- Solid earth tide height

2.3. Warnings and recommendations

Users are warned that:

- WARNING: Unrelevant S Band anomaly flag (abnormaly set to 1) even since the S Band anomaly is now solved. Users are advised not to take into account this flag anymore.
- WARNING: Unrelevant USO Anomaly flag: it is regularly set to 1 for non anomaly periods (already mentioned in [SALP-FT-8115]). Users are advised not to use this flag.
- WARNING: For 90 passes, unrelevant values of USO correction applied to the range are observed (jumps of several meters visible on the SLA). Already mentioned in [IDEAS-PR-11-05520] (see Editing comments).

2.4. Platform and instrument events

2002/08/06, from 03:38:08 to 06:28:33: orbit maintenance maneuver (see Editing comments).

2.5. Cycle quality and performances

Good general results are obtained for this cycle of data.

The crossover standard deviation is 5.73 cm rms when using a selection to remove shallow waters (1000 m), areas of high ocean variability and high latitudes (>|50| deg) with an additional selection of 10 days on the crossovers datation. The standard deviation of Sea Level Anomalies (SLA) relative to the CLS01V1 Mean Sea Surface is 10.3 cm. When using a selection to remove shallow waters (1000 m), areas of high ocean variability and high latitudes (>|50| deg) it lowers to 9.0 cm.

Detailed CALVAL results are presented in section Calval Main Results.

2.6. Impact of product version "b" (CMA version 7.1) for the SSH calculation

The evolutions having a direct and strong impact on the SSH estimation are described hereafter:

2.6.1. Usage of actual USO clock period

Within the IPF version 5.02, the actual value of Ultra Stable Oscillator clock period is used within the L1b processing instead of the nominal one as it was used in previous IPF versions. This evolution implies a +2.5 cm jump on the Envisat SSH between cycle 40 and 41. To avoid this jump, and correct for the USO drift, users are advised to apply the correction provided by ESA on cycles 9 to 40 ([3]).

2.6.2. Improvement of the SSB correction

The Sea-State bias table has been recomputed (Labroue, 2005 [4])) accounting for the impact of the new orbit and the new geophysical corrections (MOG2D, GOT00 ocean tide correction with the S2 component corrected once only, new wind speed algorithm from Abdalla, 2006). The new SSB correction is shifted in average by +2.0 cm in comparison with the previous one.

2.6.3. New POE orbit solution

New standards are used for the computation of the Envisat Precise Orbit Estimation. One of the main evolutions is the use of the GRACE gravity model EIGEN_CG03C. This new model implies a strong reduction of the geographically correlated radial orbit errors: the systematic differences between ascending and descending passes which were locally higher than 4 cm in South West Pacific and South Atlantic are almost fully removed.

2.6.4. MOG2D correction

In order to take into account the dynamical effects and wind forcing, a new correction is computed from the MOG2D (Carrere and Lyard, 2003) barotropic model forced by pressure (without S1 and S2 constituents) and wind. The use of such a correction in the SSH strongly improves the performances.

2.7. Impact of CMA version 9.2_01 for the SSH calculation

2.7.1. New POE orbit solution

From the cycle 68 onward, new standards are used for the computation of the Envisat Precise Orbit Estimation (POD GDR-C configuration).

2.7.2. MOG2D correction

From the cycle 68 onward, data are produced with the new Dynamic Atmospheric Correction (DAC/MOG2D High Resolution).

2.8. Impact of product version V2.1 (IPF v6.04 and CMA v9.3_05) for the SSH cal-

2.8.1. Instrumental corrections impacting the range

Two major changes were performed in the new IPF chain:

- The introduction of USO correction directly in the range at the L1b level. Users are advised NOT to correct any more the range with the auxiliary data provided in the past.
- The improvement of the PTR resolution. This has 2 impacts on the data :
 - A direct impact on the Calibration factors included in the Level2 Instrumental Corrections :
 - o On the range through the Time Delay Calibration Factor.
 - o On the sigma0 through the Sigma0 Calibration Factor.
 - An undirect impact on the data provided that the retracking is performed on a slighlty modified waveform :
 - o On all retracked parameters (Range through Epoch, SWH through SigmaC2, Wind through SigmaO, Mispointing, Peakiness)

2.8.2. Changes impacting SWH and SSB correction

2 changes were performed impacting the SSB correction:

- The Sea-State bias table has been recomputed (Labroue, 2007) accounting for the impact of the new orbit and the new geophysical corrections (MOG2D, GOT00 ocean tide correction with the S2 component corrected once only, new wind speed algorithm from Abdalla, 2006). The new SSB correction is shifted in average by +2.0 mm in comparison with the previous one.
- Furthermore, the improvement of the PTR SigmaC estimation has an impact on the SWH value (SWH² = SigmaP² + SigmaC²). It has a mean impact of -13cm with a slight dependence in SWH.

2.8.3. New MWR

Changes were performed on the MWR characterisation files with an impact on the brightness temperatures. These changes have a small impact for users on the wet tropospheric correction.

2.8.4. New/Updates quality flags

- Updated Rain flag: In the algorithm the coefficients and look-up tables have been updated, in order to set the value of the flag. It is a 6 states flag using MWR, and Ku and S band inputs. It is thus not possible to validate this flag for cycle 85 (No S band data). Note that the method was presented in a paper ("Validation of Envisat Rain Detection and Rain Rate Estimates by Comparing With TRMM Data" N. Tran et al. IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters, oct 2008).
- New Sea-Ice algorithm includes a 2-state sea ice flag (ice-free ocean and sea-ice) and 4 values indicating the membership of the pixel to each class (ice-free ocean, first-year ice, multi-year ice and wet ice). They are provided as percentages between 0 and 100 in the product.

2.8.5. Ocean Tide and Tidal Loading

Evolution on FES2004: new loading tide + K2 and S1 coefficients. This has no impact on our analysis as we used the GOT tidal model.

2.8.6. Slope model used over ice sheets

New slope models have been implemented. This has no impact on our analysis as this is only applicable over ice sheets.

2.8.7. Total bias evaluated on the SLA monitoring

The global impact noticed on the SLA monitoring due to the new IPF+CMA versions consists of the sum of:

- Around -6.4mm due to the increase of the PTR resolution (included in the range instrumental correction)
- Around -4.3mm due to the new SSB solution (algorithm part : +2mm and 4 to 5% of 13cm SWH bias part)
- ==> Resulting in a -10.7 mm jump with geographical patterns (see map of figure ??).

Note that those statistics result from the comparison of the previous SLA corrected from USO with auxiliary files with a SLA using a range now directly corrected from USO.

Impact is also noticed on SWH monitoring:

- Around **-13cm** biais on the SWH due to the PTR width modification

Due to this global reduction of SWH, the population of null SWH increases. The managing of those null values has slighly changed between the previous and new SSB model. Users must be advised that this might cause a slight over editing due to the SSB if thresholds are not updated accordingly.

Thus, we suggest to relax the thresholds on this parameter (ex, for DUACS processing, this threshold was relaxed from [-50cm,0] to [-50cm,1cm]).

Other parameters are not or slighly impacted (weak impact on the range of the MWR new caracterisation files).

Sigma0: +0.016dB through Atmospheric attenuation + resolution noise from the sigma0 calibration factor.

Atmospheric attenuation: +0.016dB

Wind: -0.05m/s

Brightness Temperature 23.8 GHz: +0.9K (0.5K expected on all surfaces) Brightness Temperature 36.5 GHz: +2.7K (1K expected on all surfaces)

Radiometer wet correction: +0.3mm

All these aspects including Geographic and temporal differences of New and Old versions, are detailed and can be consulted in the dedicated note comparing data with both successive IPF/CMA versions on the same cycle (85):

CalVal status on the Envisat V2.1 reprocessing impact on main altimetric parameters - A. Ollivier, J.F. Legeais, N. Granier, Y. Faugere, F-PAC Calval Team

It is available with the release notes and all GDR and SGDR on the following adress:

ftp://diss-nas-fp.eo.esa.int

under the directory: altimetry_dataset_v2.1.

with the name: V2.1_reprocessing_impact_on_altimetric_parameters.pdf

Compared with the previous version of April (IPF V6.02L04 and CMA 9.3_02 / Cycles 86 to 92), the only change concerns the USO algorithm. The anomalous behaviour previously noticed (jumps and default values) is now solved.

From cycle 93 onwards (and for the future reprocessed data), no more USO auxiliary file is needed.

This version is the one used for the global reprocessing initiated in January 2011.

3. CALVAL main results

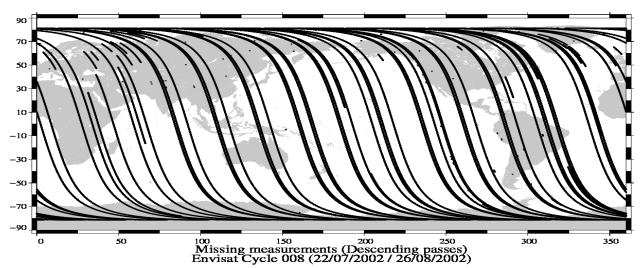
This section presents results that illustrate data quality during this cycle. These verification products are produced operationally so that they allow systematic monitoring of the main relevant parameters.

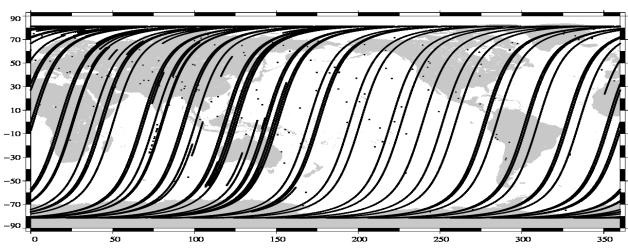
After that it follows a drifting orbit with a pseudo period of 30 days and each cycle contains 862 tracks instead of the 1002 previous splitting.

3.1. Missing measurements

1613828 are present, and 274795 (14.6%) are missing. The maps below illustrate missing 1Hz measurements in the GDRs, with respect to a 1 Hz sampling of a nominal repeat track.

Missing measurements (Ascending passes) Envisat Cycle 008 (22/07/2002 / 26/08/2002)





920 passes produced over 1002. 82 passes are totally missing due to level 0 and level 1 B data unavailability:

-Pass 263 : [2002/08/01 00 :47 :14 => 02 :06 :23] - Gap RA2-0 + MWR-0

-Pass 271 : [2002/08/01 07 :06 :26 => 08 :46 :50] - Gap RA2-0 + MWR-0

-Passes 371-395 : [2002/08/04 18 :56 :04 => 2002/08/05 16 :44 :37] - Gap RA2-0 [RA2-INS]

-Passes 462-510 : [2002/08/08 00 :00 :26 => 2002/08/09 17 :48 :42] - Gap RA2-0

- -Passes 574-577 : [2002/08/11 21 :44 :47 => 2002/08/12 01 :57 :31] Gap RA2-0 + MWR-0
- -Pass 697 : [2002/08/16 04 :13 :54 => 05 :59 :11] Lvl-1 IPF Error : RA2-0 measure dates incorrect (01-JAN-2000)
- -Pass 712 : [2002/08/16 17 :26 :16 => 19 :04 :30] Gap RA2-0 + MWR-0

3.2. Orbit quality

Passes 410 and 411 (2002/08/06, from 04:26:48 to 06:07:23) are unvalidated due to the orbit maintenance maneuver planned on 2002/08/06, from 03:38:08 to 06:28:33, slightly impacting the orbit quality.

3.3.1. Statistics

Data editing is necessary to remove altimeter measurements having lower accuracy.

First, there is an editing using flags. Compared to the GDR product, two additional flags are computed:

An ice flag to detect sea ice measurements. A measurement is set to ice if, at high latitudes (> |50| deg), one of the following criteria is valid:

- Number of 20Hz measurement < 17
- |MWR ECMWF| wet tropospheric correction > 10cm
- Peakiness > 2

Parameter	Nb rejected	% rejected
Radiometer land flag	47020	3.50
Ice flag	292075	21.73
	5849	0.44

Then, measurements are edited using thresholds on several parameters. These thresholds are expected to remain constant throughout the Envisat mission, so that monitoring the number of edited measurements allows a survey of data quality.

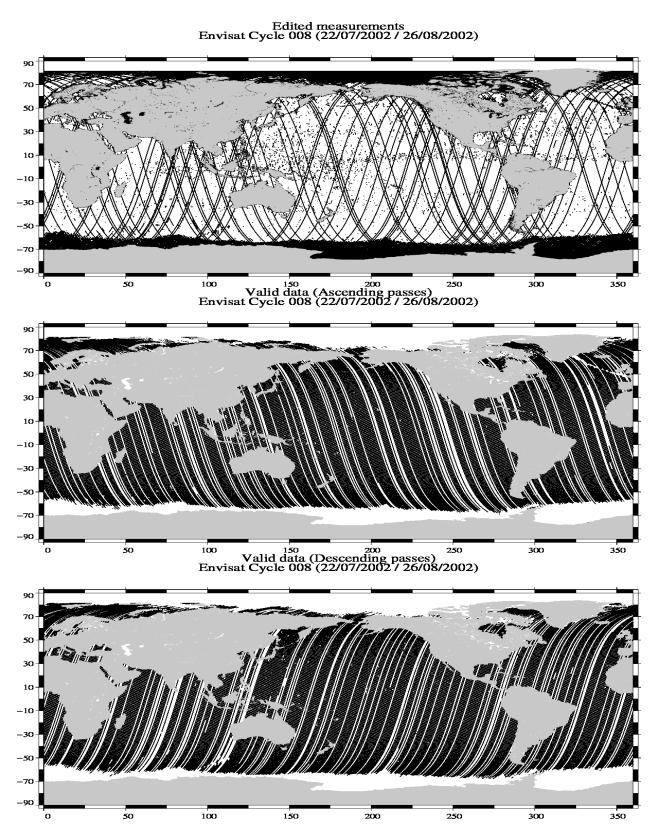
The next table gives for each tested parameter, minimum and maximum thresholds, the number and the percentage of points removed.

Parameters	Min	Max	Nb rejected	% rejected
	Thres.	Thres.		
Sea surface height (m)	-130.000	100.000	5403	0.47
Variability relative to MSS (m)	-2.000	2.000	124950	10.76
Number of 18Hz valid points	10.000	-	543	0.05
Std. deviation of 18Hz range (m)	0.000	0.250	13757	1.19
Off nadir angle from waveform (deg2)	-0.200	0.160	4675	0.40
Dry tropospheric correction (m)	-2.500	-1.900	0	0.00
MOG2D correction (m)	-2.000	2.000	0	0.00
MWR wet tropospheric correction (m)	-0.500	-0.001	2198	0.19
Bifrequency iono before cycle 65, GIM Io-	-0.400	0.040	1555	0.13
nospheric correction afterwards (S-Band loss)				
(m)				
Significant wave height (m)	0.000	11.000	1258	0.11
Sea state Bias (m)	-0.500	0.010	450	0.04
Backscatter coefficient (dB)	7.000	30.000	2845	0.25
GOT4.7 ocean tide height (m)	-5.000	5.000	2388	0.21
Long period tide height (m)	-0.500	0.500	0	0.00
Earth tide (m)	-1.000	1.000	0	0.00
Pole tide (m)	-15.000	15.000	0	0.00
RA2 wind speed (m/s)	0.000	30.000	448	0.04

A final editing is then performed on corrected sea surface height, using a spline fitting procedure, leading to remove $547 \ (0.05 \ \%)$ measurements.

3.3.2. Figures

The following maps are complementary: they show respectively the removed and selected measurements in the editing procedure.



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Wet areas appear in the plot of removed data. Similar features are observed with other altimeters (T/P, Jas mainly due to rain comtamination.	on)

3.3.3. Comments

3.3.3.1. Missing MWR

1 pass (35) is entirely edited on the radiometer land flag (no MWR correction).

3.3.3.2. Other editing

92 passes are entirely edited by SSH or SLA stats per track out of threshold (see below).

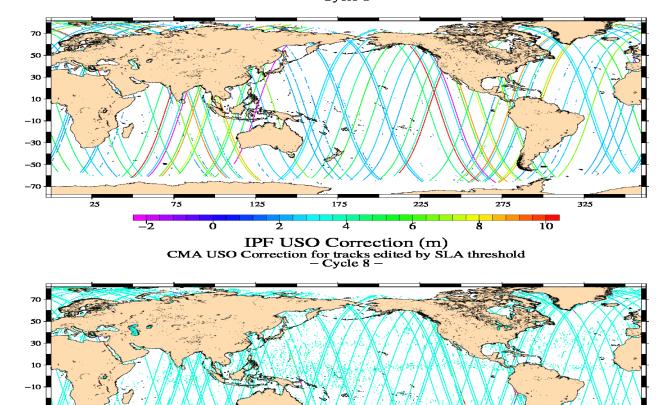
1-USO Jumps

```
90 passes are impacted by unrelevant values of USO correction applied to the range:
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```
- Pass 34: 24-07-2002, from 01:14:17 to 02:04:34;
- Passes 722/723 : 17-08-2002, from 02 :00 :15 to 03 :40 :50;
- Passes 726/727 : 17-08-2002, from 05 :21 :26 to 07 :02 :02 ;
- Passes 730/731: 17-08-2002, from 08:42:39 to 10:23:13;
- Passes 733/734: 17-08-2002, from 11:13:32 to 12:54:07;
- Passes 736/739: 17-08-2002, from 13:44:26 to 17:05:37;
- Passes 742/745 : 17-08-2002, from 18 :46 :14 to 22 :07 :25;
- Passes 752/755 : 18-08-2002, from 03 :09 :13 to 06 :30 :24;
- Passes 764/765 : 18-08-2002, from 13 :12 :49 to 14 :53 :24;
- Passes 770/772: 18-08-2002, from 18:14:37 to 20:45:30;
- Passes 774/775 : 18-08-2002, from 21 :35 :49 to 23 :16 :23 ;
- Passes 782/783 : 19-08-2002, from 04 :18 :12 to 05 :58 :47;
- Passes 792/795: 19-08-2002, from 12:41:12 to 16:02:23;
- Pass 800: 19-08-2002, from 19:23:35 to 20:13:52;
- Passes 802/805: from 19-08-2002, 21:04:12 to 20-08-2002 00:25:22;
- Passes 808/811 : 20-08-2002, from 02 :05 :59 to 05 :27 :10;
- Pass 815: 20-08-2002, from 07:58:05 to 08:48:22;
- Pass 817: 20-08-2002, from 09:38:41 to 10:28:57;
- Passes 822/824 : 20-08-2002, from 13 :50 :14 to 16 :21 :03 ;
- Passes 826/829 : 20-08-2002, from 17 :11 :22 to 20 :32 :34;
- Passes 832/833 : 20-08-2002, from 22 :13 :10 to 23 :53 :45;
- Passes 836/843 : 21-08-2002, from 01 :34 :22 to 08 :16 :44;
- Passes 846/847 : 21-08-2002, from 09 :57 :22 to 11 :37 :57;
- Passes 848/849: 21-08-2002, from 11:37:58 to 13:18:32;
- Passes 852/857: 21-08-2002, from 14:59:09 to 20:00:56;
- Passes 868/869 : 22-08-2002, from 04 :23 :56 to 06 :04 :31;
- Passes 878/880 : 22-08-2002, from 12 :46 :56 to 15 :17 :48;
- Passes 890/891: from 22-08-2002, 22:50:32 to 23-08-2002, 00:31:07;
- Passes 896/899 : 23-08-2002, from 03 :52 :19 to 07 :13 :30;
- Passes 902/903 : 23-08-2002, from 08 :54 :07 to 10 :34 :42;
- Pass 990: 26-08-2002, from 10:40:26 to 11:30:43;
- Passes 992/993 : 26-08-2002, from 12 :21 :02 to 14 :01 :36;
- Passes 996/997 : 26-08-2002, from 15 :42 :14 to 17 :22 :49;
```

The comparison to a CMA reference correction field (F-PAC internal expertise correction) seems to evidence short periods of wrong USO corrections applied to the range (jumps of several meters visible on the SLA). This does not correspond to USO anomaly periods:

IPF USO Correction for tracks edited by SLA threshold - Cycle 8 -



2-Orbit maneuver

- Passes 410/411 : 06-08-2002, from 04 :26 :48 to 06 :07 :23.

-0.018

-0.02

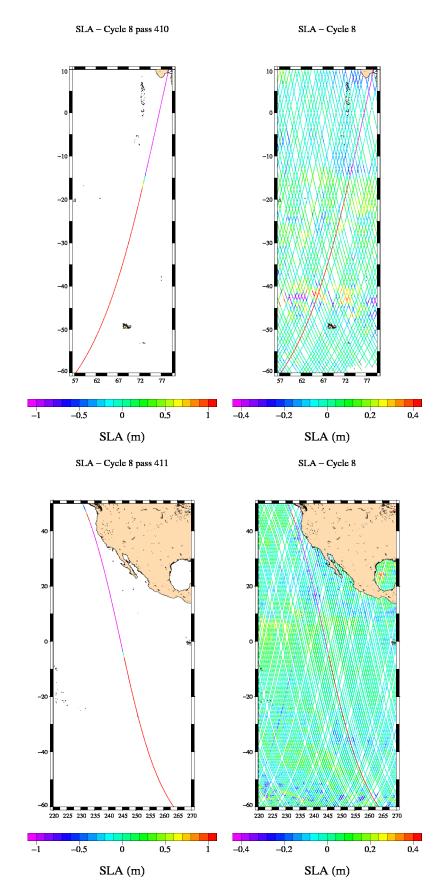
These two passes are unvalidated due to the orbit maintenance maneuver planned on 2002/08/06, from 03:38:08 to 06:28:33, slightly impacting the orbit quality.

CMA USO Correction (m)

-0.014

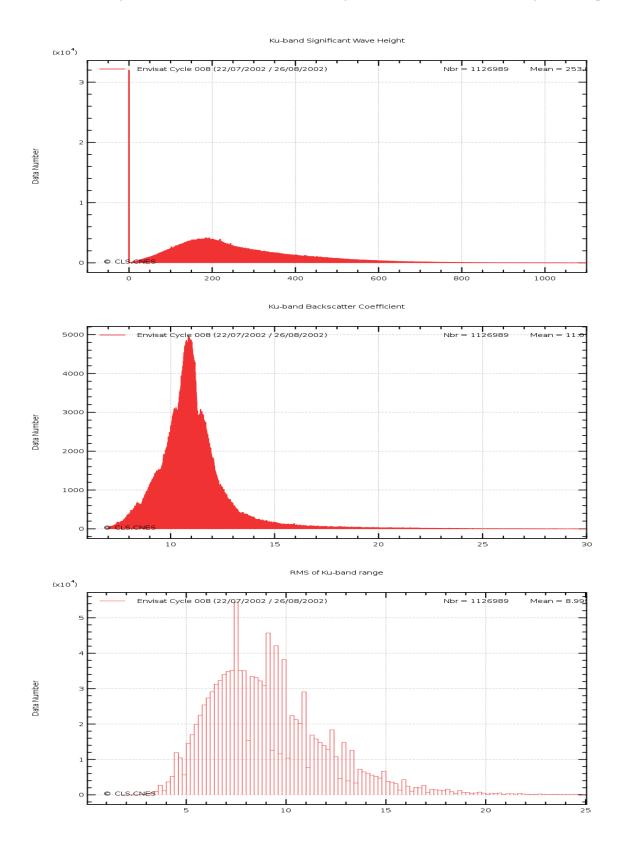
-0.01

-0.016



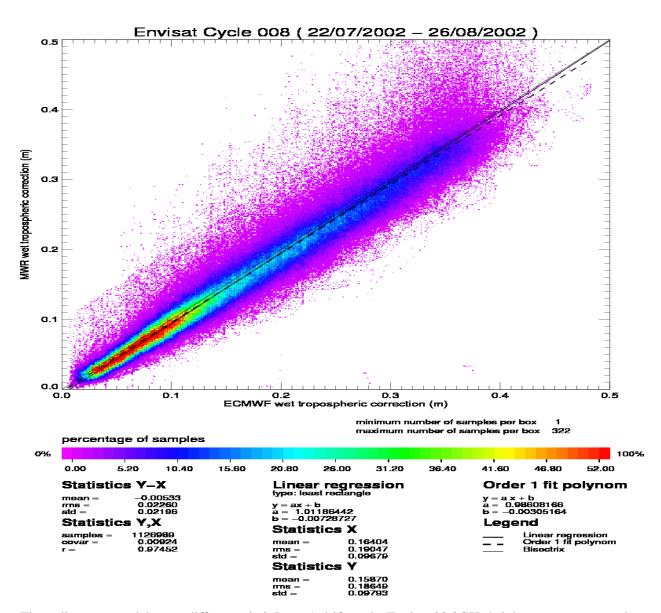
Note: DORIS ionospheric correction is entirely missing for this cycle (missing TEC grids).

In order to assess and to monitor altimeter parameter measurements, histograms of Envisat Ku-band Significant Wave Height (SWH), Backscatter coefficient (Sigma0) and RMS of altimeter range are computed.



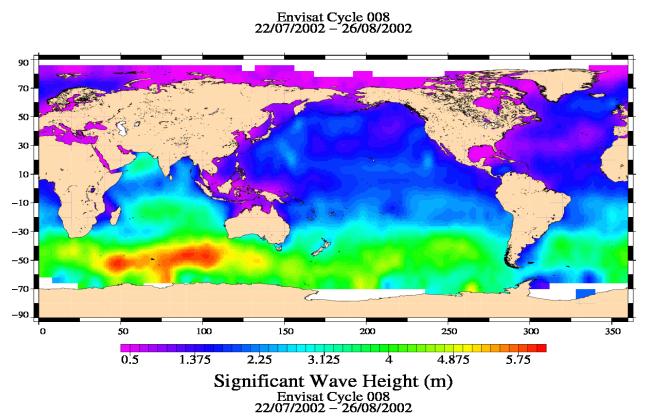
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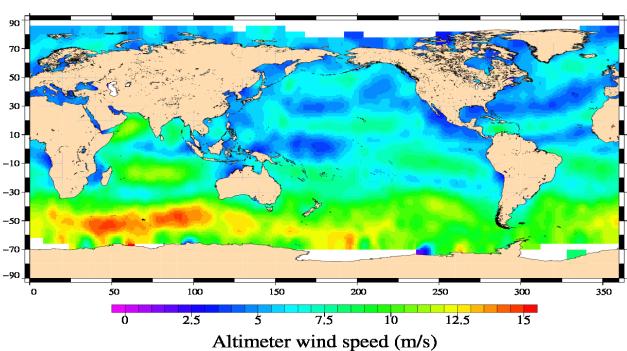
In order to assess and to monitor radiometer measurements, a scatter plot between the radiometer wet troposphere correction and the ECMWF model is computed for the valid data set previously defined.



The radiometer-model mean difference is 0.5 cm. A drift on the Envisat 23.8GHz brightness temperature has been detected and has to be monitored on the long term. Note that the neural algorithm is now implemented on Envisat.

These two figures show wind and wave estimations derived from 35 days of altimeter measurements.





3.7.1. General comment

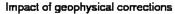
SSH crossover statistics are computed from the valid data set. They are used to estimate the data quality and to monitor the system performances. After data editing and using the standard Envisat algorithms, the crossover standard deviation is about 6.78 cm rms, when using a selection to remove shallow waters (1000 m). When using an additional selection to remove areas of high ocean variability and high latitudes (> |50| deg) it lowers to 5.73 cm rms. This statistic is a stable estimation of the system performance as it is not influenced by sea ice coverage.

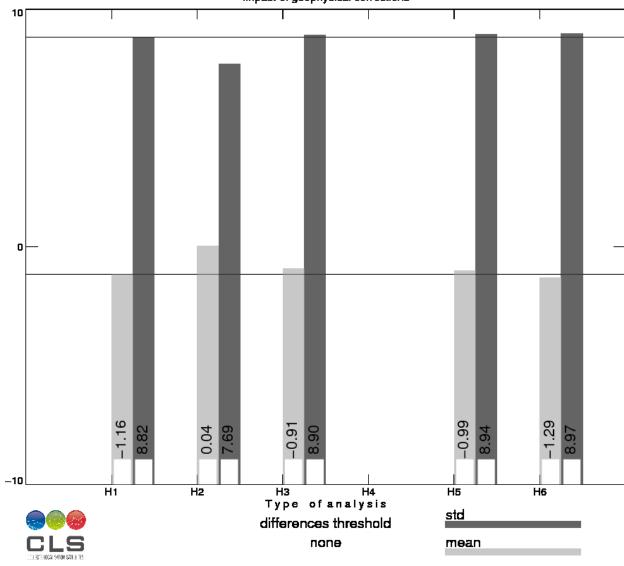
3.7.2. Impact of geophysical corrections

This figure shows the impact of geophysical corrections on crossover mean and rms. A selection is used to remove shallow waters (1000 m).

For this analysis two corrections have been computed: a long wave length and a model ionospheric correction. The long wave length estimation is performed by a global minimization of crossover differences using a (1 and 2 cycles/revolution) sinusoidal model. The model ionospheric correction is computed using the JPL's version of the GPS Ionosphere Maps (JPL GIM) thanks to the procedures provided by Remko Scharro (internet communication to the CCVT community, December 12, 2002).

ENEN - CROSSOVER STATISTICS

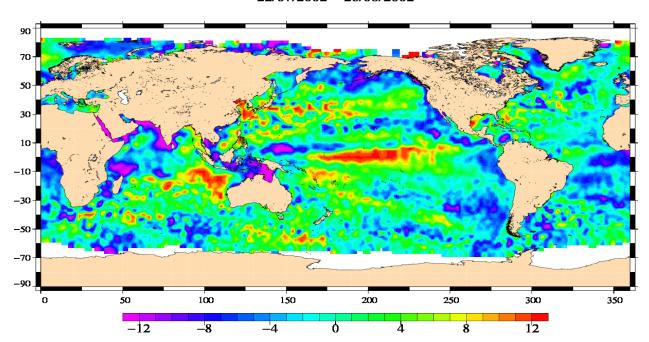




CLEGE LOCA (400 STRLES	
H1 = SSH	H4 = SSH with DORIS ionospheric correction (in product)
H2 = SSH applying a long wave length error (computed)	H5 = SSH with FES tide model (in product)
H3 = SSH with GIM ionospheric correction (computed)	H6 = SSH with ECMWF wet tropospheric correction (in produc

3.8.1. Sea Level Anomaly

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Sea Level Anomaly relative to a 7 year mean (cm)

3.8.2. Comparison to a precise Mean Sea Surface

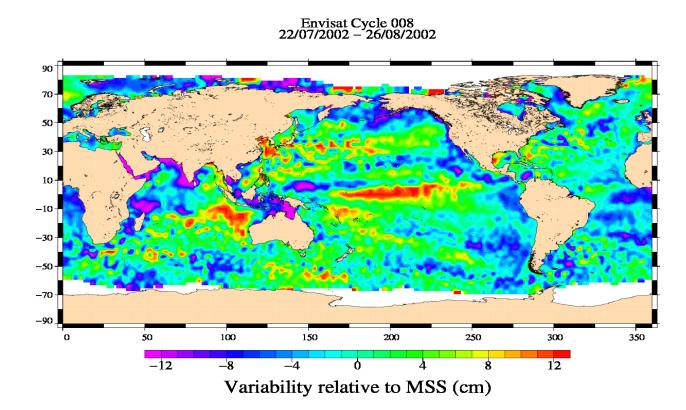
The MSS from the product is used as a reference to compute SLA. Global statistics of Envisat SSH-MSS are (cm):

Number	Mean	Std. dev.
1259686	47.65	10.34

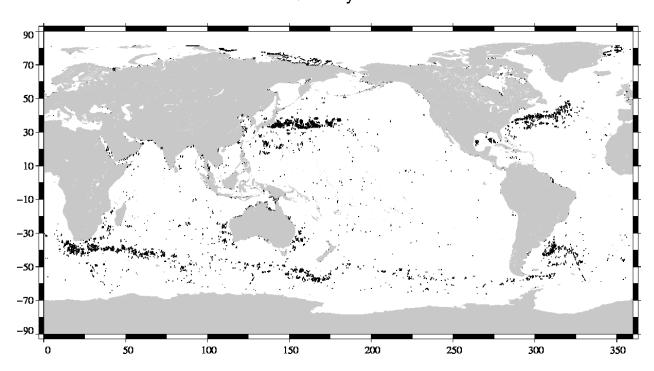
When using a selection to remove shallow waters (1000 m), areas of high ocean variability and high latitudes (> |50| deg) statistics are :

Number	Mean	Std. dev.
783594.00000000	48.14	9.02

The two following maps respectively show the map of Envisat SLA relative to the MSS and differences higher than a 30 cm threshold. In order to see fine features SLA are centered about the mean value. The latter figure shows that apart from isolated measurements, higher differences are located in high ocean variability areas, as expected.



(SSH – MSS) centered, differences greater than 30 cm Envisat / Cycle 008



4. Envisat long term performance monitoring

Statistics of SSH variability are computed after crossover and repeat-track analyses. This allows to estimate how Envisat data fulfill the mission objectives in terms of performances.

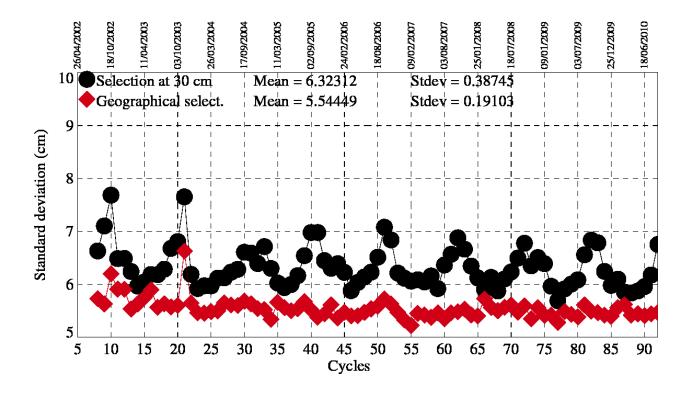
4.1. Standard deviation of the differences at crossovers

This parameter is plotted as a function of time in a one cycle per cycle basis in the figure below. It is computed after data editing and using 2 aditing selection criteria:

- Selecting crossover differences lower than 30 cm to avoid contamination by remaining spurious data.
- Removing shallow waters (1000 m), areas of high ocean variability and high latitudes (> |50| deg.) to avoid ice coverage effects.

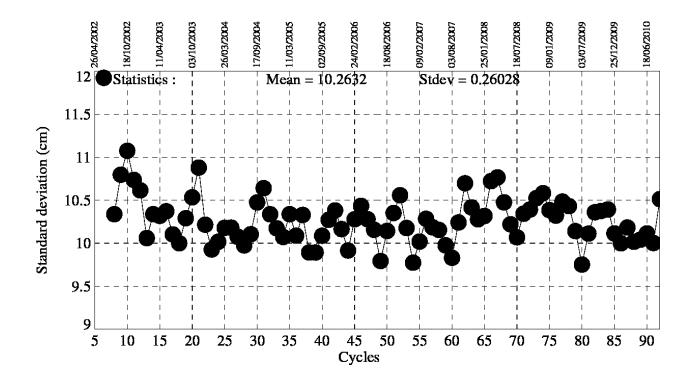
Note, from cycle 86 onwards and for all reprocessed cycles, a selection at 10 days is applied to generate the crossover differences. This selection explains the jump on the monitoring of standard deviation of the differences at crossovers (not visible on the reprocessed time series).

Crossover standard deviation



Sea Level Anomalies relative to a mean profile are computed using repeat-track analysis for each Envisat cycle. To monitor Envisat performances and ocean signals, the cycle per cycle standard deviation of the SLA is plotted as a function of time.

Standard deviation of Sea Level Anomalies



4.3. Mean Sea Level

The global mean level of the oceans is one of the most important indicators of climate change. It incorporates the reactions from several different components of the climate system. Precise monitoring of changes in the mean level of the oceans, particularly through the use of altimetry satellites, is vitally important, for understanding not just the climate but also the socioeconomic consequences of any rise in sea level. This subject is developed in http://www.aviso.oceanobs.com/en/news/ocean-indicators/mean-sea-level.

More reprocessed data is needed to provide any meaningful Mean Sea Level monitoring.

5. Conclusion

Cycle fully	certified	for	distribution	to	users	from	CALVAL	point	of	view	BUT	to	be	handled	with
care :															

 WARNING: For 90 passes, unrelevant values of USO correction applied to the range are observed (jumps of several meters visible on the SLA). Already mentioned in [IDEAS-PR-11-05520]. RÉFÉRENCES RÉFÉRENCES

Références

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