

ENVISAT CYCLIC ALTIMETRIC REPORT



CYCLE 56 from 26-02-2007 to 02-04-2007

Quality Assessment Report

prepared by	Carolina Nogueira Loddo - SERCO
checked by	
approved by	B. Soussi
reference	ENVI-GSOP-EOPG-03-0011
issue	1
date of issue	10 May 2007
status	Reviewed
Document type	Technical Note

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	DISTRIBUTION LIST	1
3	ACRONYMS.....	1
4	REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	2
5	GENERAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT.....	3
5.1	Cycle Overview.....	3
5.2	Payload status.....	4
5.2.1	Altimeter Events	4
5.2.1.1	RA-2 instrument planning.....	5
5.2.2	MWR Events.....	6
5.2.3	DORIS Events.....	6
5.3	Availability.....	6
5.4	Orbit quality	6
5.5	Ground Segment Processing Chain Status.....	7
5.5.1	IPF Processing Chain	7
5.5.1.1	Version.....	7
5.5.1.2	Auxiliary Data File.....	7
5.5.2	F-PAC Processing Chain	8
6	INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE	8
6.1	RA-2 Performance	8
6.1.1	Tracking capability	8
6.1.2	IF Filter MASK.....	10
6.1.3	USO.....	14
6.1.4	Datation.....	17
6.1.5	In-Flight Internal Calibration.....	19
6.1.6	Sigma0 Transponder	23
6.1.7	Mispointing	24
6.1.8	S-Band anomaly.....	28
6.2	MWR Performance	29
6.3	DORIS Performance	29
7	PRODUCT PERFORMANCE.....	29
7.1	Product disclaimer.....	29

7.2	Data handling recommendations.....	30
7.2.1	Sea-Ice flag	30
7.2.2	Ocean S-Band anomalies detection.....	30
7.2.3	Warning on IPF 4.56 Version Identification field	30
7.2.4	S-Band Backscattering Coefficient.....	30
7.2.5	USO Range Correction	31
7.2.6	Ku-Band Backscattering Coefficient calibration	31
7.2.7	Abnormal RA-2 range behavior after anomaly Recovery	32
7.2.8	RA-2 Radio Frequency Module switched BACK to a-side.....	32
7.3	Availability of data.....	33
7.3.1	RA-2.....	33
7.3.2	MWR.....	35
7.4	RA-2 Altimeter Parameters.....	35
7.4.1	Altimeter range	35
7.4.2	Significant Wave Height.....	37
7.4.3	Backscatter coefficient – Wind Speed	39
8	PARTICULAR INVESTIGATIONS	45
	APPENDIX 1: IPF UPGRADES.....	45
	APPENDIX 2: AVAILABILITY:.....	47
	APPENDIX 3: LEVEL 2 STATIC AUXILIARY DATA FILES.....	54
	APPENDIX 4: SIGMA0 ABSOLUTE CALIBRATION.....	55
	APPENDIX 5: S-BAND ANOMALY.....	56
	APPENDIX 6: IE SITES COORDINATES	56

1 INTRODUCTION

This document aims at reporting on the performance of the EnviSat Radar Altimeter, Microwave Radiometer and DORIS sensors, on the data quality of the corresponding Fast Delivery products as well as on the main events which occurred during cycle 56.

This report covers the period from the 26th of February 2007 until the 2nd of April 2007.

2 DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report is available in PDF format at the internet address
http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/reports/pcs_cyclic/

3 ACRONYMS

AGC	Automatic Gain Control
APC	Antenna Pointing Controller
DORIS	Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite
DSR	Data Set Record
EPC	Electronic Power Converter
ERS	European Remote Sensing satellite
ESRIN	European Space Research Institute
ESOC	European Space Operations Centre
FD	Fast Delivery products
GS	Ground Segment
GTS	Global Telecommunication System
HTL	Height Tracking Loop
ICU	Instrument Control Unit
IECF	Instrument Engineering Calibration Facility
IF	Intermediate Frequency
IE	Individual Echoes
IPF	Instrument Processing Facility
LUT	Look Up Table
MCMD	MacroCommand
MPH	Main Product Header
MSS	Mean Sea Surface
MWR	MicroWave Radiometer
MPS	Mission Planning System
NRT	Near Real Time
OBT	On-Board Time
OCM	Orbit Control Mode/Manoeuvres
PCS	ERS Products Control Service
PCF	EnviSat Product Control Facility

PDHS-E	ESRIN Processing and Data Handling Station
PDHS-K	Kiruna Processing and Data Handling Station
PLSOL	Payload Switch-Off Line
PMC	Payload Main Computer
PSO	On-orbit Position
PTR	Point Target Response
RA-2	EnviSat Radar Altimeter bi-frequency
RSL	Resolution Selection Logic
SAD	Static Auxiliary Files
SBT	Satellite Binary Time
SEU	Single Event
SLA	Sea Level Anomalies
SFCM	Stellar Fine Control Mode
SPH	Specific Product header
SPSA	Signal Processing Sub-Assembly
SYSM	Stellar Yaw Steering Mode
S/W	Software
TM	Telemetry
TRP	Transponder
TWT	Traveling Wave Tube
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
USO	Ultra Stable Oscillator
YSM	Yaw Stellar Mode

4 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- [R – 2] ENVISAT Microwave Radiometer Assessment Report Cycle, CLS.DOS/05.147,
<http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/mwr/reports/>
- [R – 3] Envisat RA-2 IF Mask weird behavior: Investigation Report
- [R – 4] Instrument Performance Evaluation and Analysis Summary, PO-TR-ALS-RA-0042
- [R – 5] Instrument Corrections Applied on RA-2 Level 1b products, Paper presented at the ENVISAT Calibration Review in September 2002
- [R – 6] ENVISAT Phase E Cal/Val Acquisition Plan, ENVI-SPPA-EOPG-TN-03-0008
- [R – 7] RA-2 S-Band Anomaly Investigation, PO-TN-ESA-RA-1342,
<http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/articles/>
- [R – 8] RA-2 Performance Results, Paper presented at the ENVISAT Calibration Review in September 2002
- [R – 9a] ECMWF Report on ENVISAT RA- 2 for July 2005, Report on ENVISAT Radar Altimeter - 2 (RA- 2), Wind/ Wave Product with Height Information (RA2_ WWV_ 2P),
- [R – 9b] ECMWF Report on ENVISAT RA- 2 for August 2005, Report on ENVISAT Radar Altimeter - 2 (RA- 2), Wind/ Wave Product with Height Information (RA2_ WWV_ 2P),
<http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/reports/ecmwf/>
- [R – 10] Envisat GDR Quality Assessment Report, SALP-RP-P2-EX-21121-CLS015
- [R – 11] Envisat RA-2 Range Instrumental correction: USO clock period variations and associated auxiliary file, ENVI-GSEG-EOPG-TN-03-0009

- [R – 12] Defining a Rain flag for the Envisat altimeter, G. Quartly, study presented to the final CCVT plenary meeting, <http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/articles/>
- [R – 13] ENVISAT Weekly Mission Operations Reports # 244-248, ENVI-ESOC-OPS-RP-1011-TOS-OF
- [R – 14] Envisat validation and cross calibration activities during the verification phase. Synthesis Report ESTEC contract No. 16243/02/NL/FF WP6, <http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/articles/>
- [R – 15] ENVISAT-1 Products Specifications - Vol. 14: RA-2 Products Specifications, PO-RS-MDA-GS-2009, Iss 3, Rev. N, 24/05/2004
- [R – 16] Algorithm for Flag identification and waveforms reconstruction of RA-2 data affected by “S-Band anomaly”, ENVI-GSEG-TN-04-0004, Issue 1.4
- [R-17] Envisat Cyclic Report Cycle 28, ENVI-GSOP-EOPG-03-0011
- [R-18] ENVISAT RA-2 IF MASK AUX FILE - Updating Strategy: Investigation Report; C. Bignami and C.Loddo and N. Pierdicca.

5 GENERAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

5.1 Cycle Overview

- The Envisat RA-2 has been operating nominally with the RFSS configured to the A side.
- A high number of RA-2 Instrument Unavailabilities occurred. The cause is under investigation. Principal suspect being the SPSA Patch uploaded on 16 January 2007 to prevent the S Band Anomaly. RA-2 Data availability is around 86%.
- The analysis of the RA-2 data confirmed the RA-2 Ultra-Stable Oscillator (USO) anomaly that was affecting the Altimetry data products for a year, disappeared on the 1st of March 2007. Users are still advised to apply the correction auxiliary files even during the non-anomalous period in order to correct for the nominal ageing drift of the USO device.
WARNING: Users are still advised to apply the correction auxiliary files even during the non-anomalous period in order to correct for the nominal ageing drift of the USO device.
- Three USO corrections have been developed for the different Envisat Level 2 altimetry data products for correcting the abnormal RA-2 USO behaviour affecting the Altimetric Range by few meters w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface:
 1. NRT orbit basis USO correction for FDGDR products , available from <http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/auxdata/>;
 2. An Interim daily USO correction for IGDR products, available at the same F-PAC location as for IGDR, in the directory `igdr_ous_corr`
 3. An OFL cycle USO correction for GDR products, available at the same F-PAC location as for GDR, in the directory `gdr_ous_corr`.
- A software routine has been developed to allow users to insert the RA-2 Ultra-Stable Oscillator (USO) corrections into Envisat Level 2 altimetry data products and is available in the same web site as the correction files, see above.
- The NRT USO correction has been made available from July 24, 2006 onwards.

- A new planning for IF calibration was put in place in order to partially free Himalaya. New calibration site is Rocky Mountains. For Continuity and homogenous reasons ascending passes are still used for calibration over Himalaya.
- The number of valid IF masks are only 9 over the two defined zone (10% of acquired and processed masks). The auxiliary file RA2_IFF_AX has not been updated since the number of good masks was not enough.
- No orbit was affected by the S Band Anomaly. The patch to correct SW/HW malfunctioning, the original cause of the S Band Anomaly, was always uploaded during cycle 56.
- Tracking performances in the different resolutions are well in line with the output figures and objectives of the Commissioning Phase.
- During cycle 56, no update of the RA2_USO_AX has been done.
- MWR was never unavailable, data availability was around 98%
- DORIS was never unavailable, data availability was around 96%

5.2 *Payload status*

5.2.1 ALTIMETER EVENTS

The Radar Altimeter 2, during cycle 56, was unavailable as follows.

1. start: 28 Feb 2007 18:14:50.000 Orbit = 26133
stop: 1 Mar 2007 09:19:00.000 Orbit = 26142
RA-2 return to operation from STANDBY/REFUSE due to MEAS/IE commanding conflict.
2. start: 9 Mar 2007 19:32:08.000 Orbit = 26262
stop: 12 Mar 2007 10:13:30.000 Orbit = 26300
RA-2 back to Measurement from HEATER 0 REFUSE MODE
3. start: 16 Mar 2007 12:01:32.000 Orbit = 26358
stop: 16 Mar 2007 14:42:30.000 Orbit = 26360
RA-2 back to MEASUREMENT after HEATER 0 REFUSE MODE
4. start: 20 Mar 2007 02:32:48.000 Orbit = 26410
stop: 20 Mar 2007 09:20:00.000 Orbit = 26414
RA-2 back to MEASUREMENT after HEATER 0 REFUSE MODE
5. start: 29 Mar 2007 00:59:55.000 Orbit = 26538
stop: 29 Mar 2007 09:54:30.000 Orbit = 26543

RA-2 BACK TO MEASUREMENT FROM HTR0/REFUSE FOLLOWING AN HPA PBC A OOL

5.2.1.1 RA-2 instrument planning

Starting on Cycle 56, a new calibration site has been defined for the IF masks mode acquisition. The new site is on the Rocky Mountains. The nominal operational acquisition over Himalaya is still being performed, but only on ascending passes. Below a map is reported indicating the old and the new calibration sites:

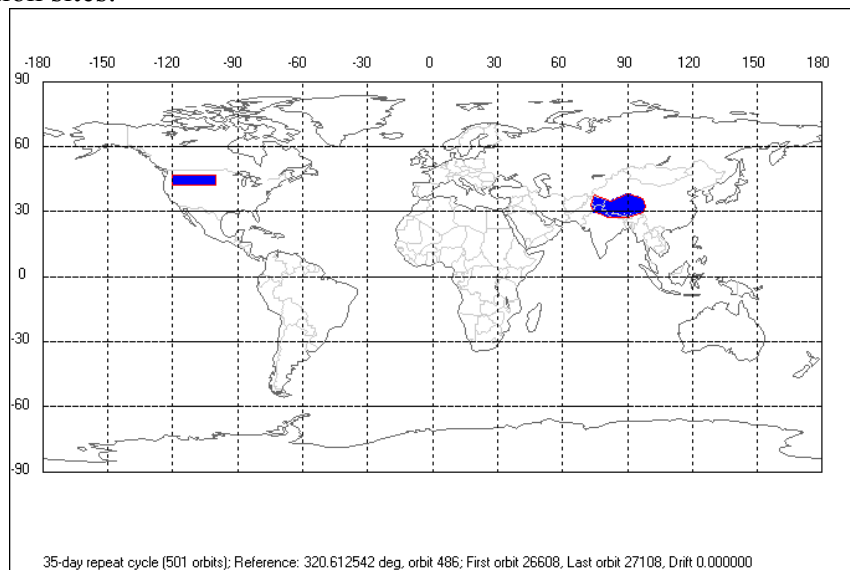


Figure 1: IF Calibration Acquisition sites

The RA-2 instrument planning was performed as follows:

- IF Calibration Mode according to the nominal operational acquisition scheme: 100 seconds of data once per day over Himalayan region (ascending passes).
- IF Calibration Mode according to the new operational acquisition scheme: 50 seconds of data once or twice per day over Rocky Mountains region (ascending and descending passes).
- Individual Echoes background planning: the buffering of 20 Data Blocks of Individual Echoes (1.114 sec.) transmitted every 160 Data Blocks starts after flying over the Himalayan region (both ascending and descending passes) and is operated for half a day.
- Individual Echoes acquisitions during PLO activity over ESA transponder located in Rome (1 second length acquisition, 1 repetition)
- Individual Echoes acquisition (1 second length acquisition, 1 repetition) over the following sites:
 Capraia, Toulon D, Vostok , Dome C. Appendix 6 contains a table with the coordinates.
- Individual Echoes acquisitions over the Uyuni Salar
- Preset Loop Output mode for GAVDOS Range transponders, located in Creta.

- Preset Loop Output mode over the ESA transponder located in Rome (permanent location); high chirp resolution.

Hereafter the map is reported showing the acquisition sites for both the Range and Sigma_0 transponders.

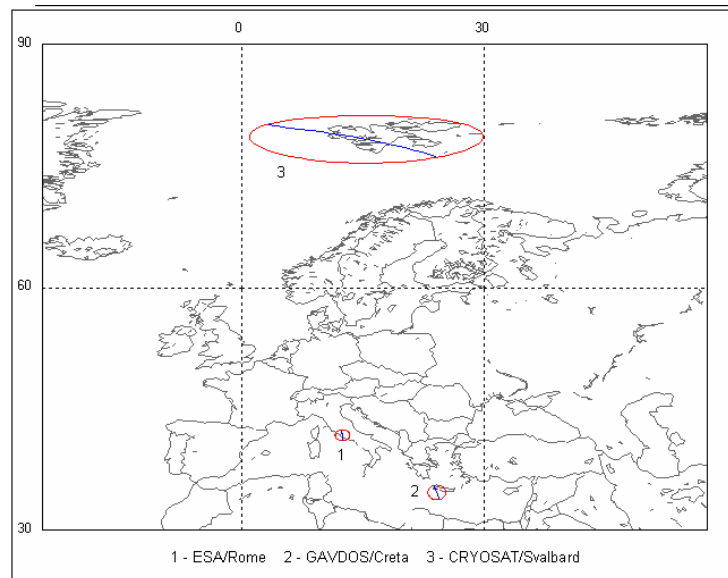


Figure 2A: Transponder Acquisition sites

5.2.2 MWR EVENTS

The MWR, during cycle 56 was never unavailable.

5.2.3 DORIS EVENTS

The DORIS, during cycle 56 was never unavailable.

5.3 Availability

The statistics on the availability of RA-2, Doris, MWR data are not available for cycle 56 due to technical problems.

5.4 Orbit quality

During the period covered by this report the spacecraft ground track remained within the +/- 200 m deadband around the reference ground track at ascending node.

5.5 *Ground Segment Processing Chain Status*

5.5.1 IPF PROCESSING CHAIN

5.5.1.1 *Version*

Cycle 56 data has been processed with the IPF processing chain V5.03, installed in both PDHS-E and PDHS-K on 19th September 2006. It contains the following evolutions:

1. S-band anomaly flag valid for all surfaces well implemented. Users are advised to take advantage of this flag to detect the data affected by the S-band anomaly.
This flag is available in:
Level 1B : in bit 1 of MCD (field 14)
Level 2 : in bit 7 of MCD (field 8).
2. Correction of the Level 0 Rx_dist_fine. The error in the window delay (for the 80 and 20 MHz bandwidths) that depends on the L0 parameter Rx_dist_fine is now corrected and well implemented.
3. Orbit Flag on L1b and L2 Data Products is properly set in the L1B and L2 data products and can be found at the following locations :
Level 1B RA2 MDSR : bit 0 of MCD (field 14)
L1B/L2-MWR MDSR : bit1 of MCD (field 8)
L2-RA2 MDSR : bit27 of MCD (field 8)
4. MWR MDSR differences: differences between the IPF and the reference processor, up to few tenths of degree Kelvin have been found in the Channel 2 brightness temperature. This is now corrected and well implemented.
5. Peakiness in FDMAR products are no more set to default value: field 89 for Ku band and field 90 for S band.

A complete table of IPF Level1b and Level2 upgrades is reported in Appendix 1.

5.5.1.2 *Auxiliary Data File*

The Auxiliary files actually used by the IPF ground processing are reported in Appendix 3. The RA2_POL_AX, RA2_SOL_AX and RA2_PLA_AX have been regularly updated without problems. The RA2_IFF_AX has been updated during the reporting period. The RA2_USO_AX has never been updated during the reporting period given the anomaly in the USO clock period, see Chapter 6.1.3. Data are corrected with the RA2_USO_AX estimated before the USO Clock anomaly (USO_Clock_Period = 12499999726, USO_Range_Correction= 17.3 mm).

The RA-2 Auxiliary Data Files (ADF) are accessible from the Envisat Web pages under http://www.envisat.esa.int/services/auxiliary_data/ra2mwr/.

5.5.2 F-PAC PROCESSING CHAIN

The current version of CMA is V8 operational since 30th November 2006.

F-PAC CMA anomalies are detailed in the F-PAC Monthly Report.

The F-PAC CMA processing chain includes all the IPF evolutions plus some others like:

- Inclusion of GPS Ionospheric correction
- Inclusion of MOG2D Inverse Barometer Geophysical Correction in Level 2 products
- FES2004
- Addition of a field for Level 1B SW ID in Level 2 products
- Inclusion of nadir location not corrected for slope model

6 INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE

6.1 RA-2 Performance

6.1.1 TRACKING CAPABILITY

The percentages of acquisition in the different resolutions subdivided by surface type are given in the Table below:

Surface type	320 MHz	Commissioning Phase objectives 320 MHz	80 MHz	20MHz
Open Ocean	99,99	>99%	0,01	0,00
Costal Water (ocean depth < 200 m)	98,53	No specific requirement	1,31	0,16
Sea Ice	99,15	>95%	0,74	0,11
Ice Sheet	96,00	>95%	3,29	0,72
Land	80,98	No specific requirement	14,36	4,66
All world	95,12		3,73	1,15

Table 1: RA-2 Tracking capability: Chirp ID percentages discriminated by surface type

The figures given for the RA-2 tracking performances during this cycle are in line with the ones recorded at the end of the Commissioning Phase reported in the last column and presented in [R – 8].

In Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 the cyclic tracking percentages for the three RA-2 bandwidths are reported.

The worsening in performance noticeable for cycle 20 was due to the up-load of wrong on-board software parameters which lasted for about three days whilst for cycle 47 a special operation has been performed to limit RA-2 Chirp Bandwidth to fixed values.

In general, even if a tiny evolution can be observed, the tracking performances are well in line with the output figures and objectives of the Commissioning Phase as given in Table 1.

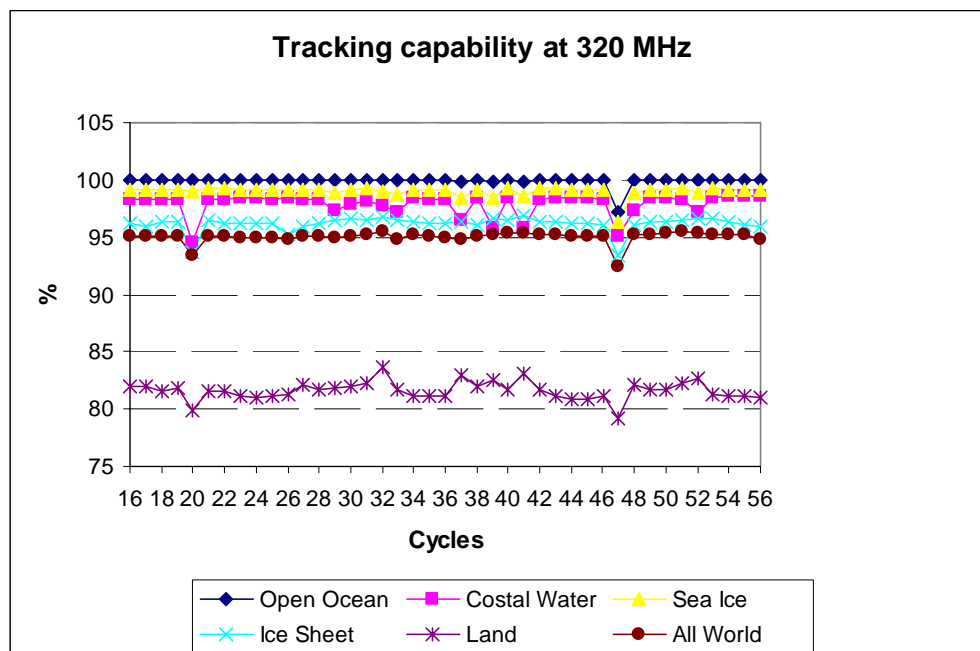


Figure 2: RA-2 Tracking percentage at 320MHz for different surfaces

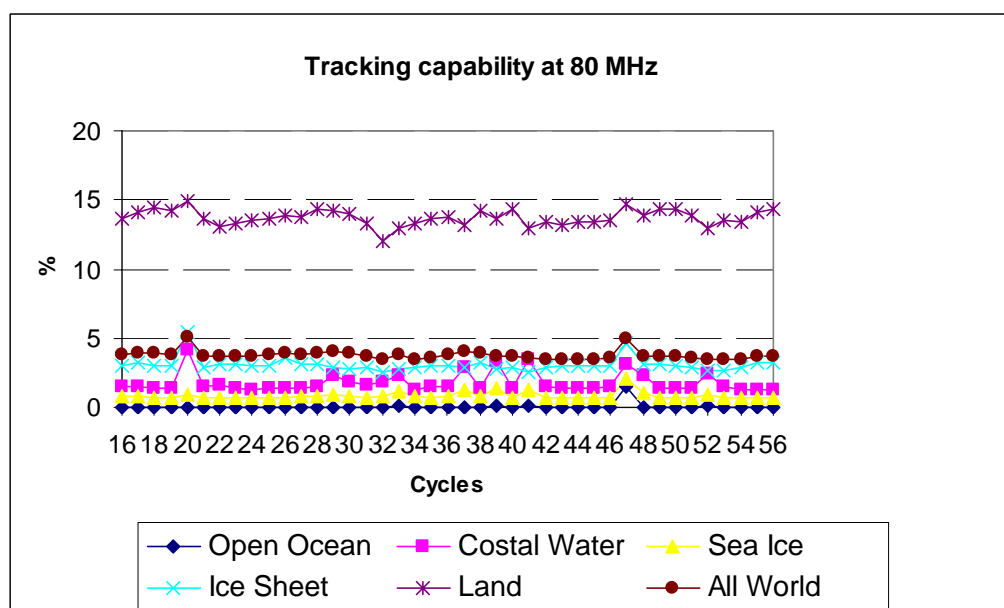


Figure 3: RA-2 Tracking percentage at 80MHz for different surfaces

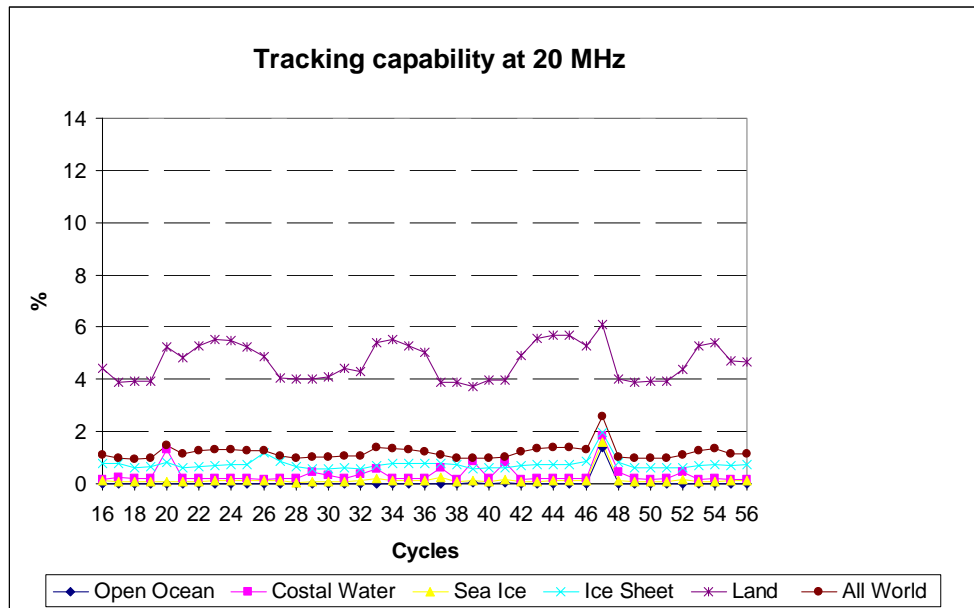


Figure 4: RA-2 Tracking percentage at 20MHz for different surfaces

6.1.2 IF FILTER MASK

In Figure 5 all valid IF masks retrieved during cycle 56 are plotted in the left panel. The on-ground measured IF mask (ref [R – 4]) is also plotted in that panel with a solid line. In the right panel, the difference of each of the calculated IF masks with respect to the on-ground measured one is reported. The average difference with respect to the on-ground is used as the criteria for defining valid masks: if it is lower than 0.01 db, the mask is considered valid.

During cycle 56, a new planning has been defined for the IF Calibration mode acquisition, see chapter 5.2.1.1. According to the new planning, every repeat cycle there is a daily pass over Himalayas (35 ascending passes) and only 61 passes over Rocky Mountains (both ascending and descending tracks; less than two per day).

- The number of IF Masks acquired on the new site was 56 and only 5 masks were valid.
- The number of IF Masks acquired on the old site was 31 and only 4 masks were valid.

The overall number of valid IF masks has been 9, representing 10 % of the acquired IF masks.

Only valid IF masks are used to generate the final IF mask used in the Level 1B ground processing; the method used for generating it consists in a monthly average according to the strategy defined in [R-18] with an editing criteria based on the comparison between each of the single IF masks and the reference one (on-ground). But the low number of valid IF Masks acquired on cycle 56 was not enough for the generation of the final IF Mask.

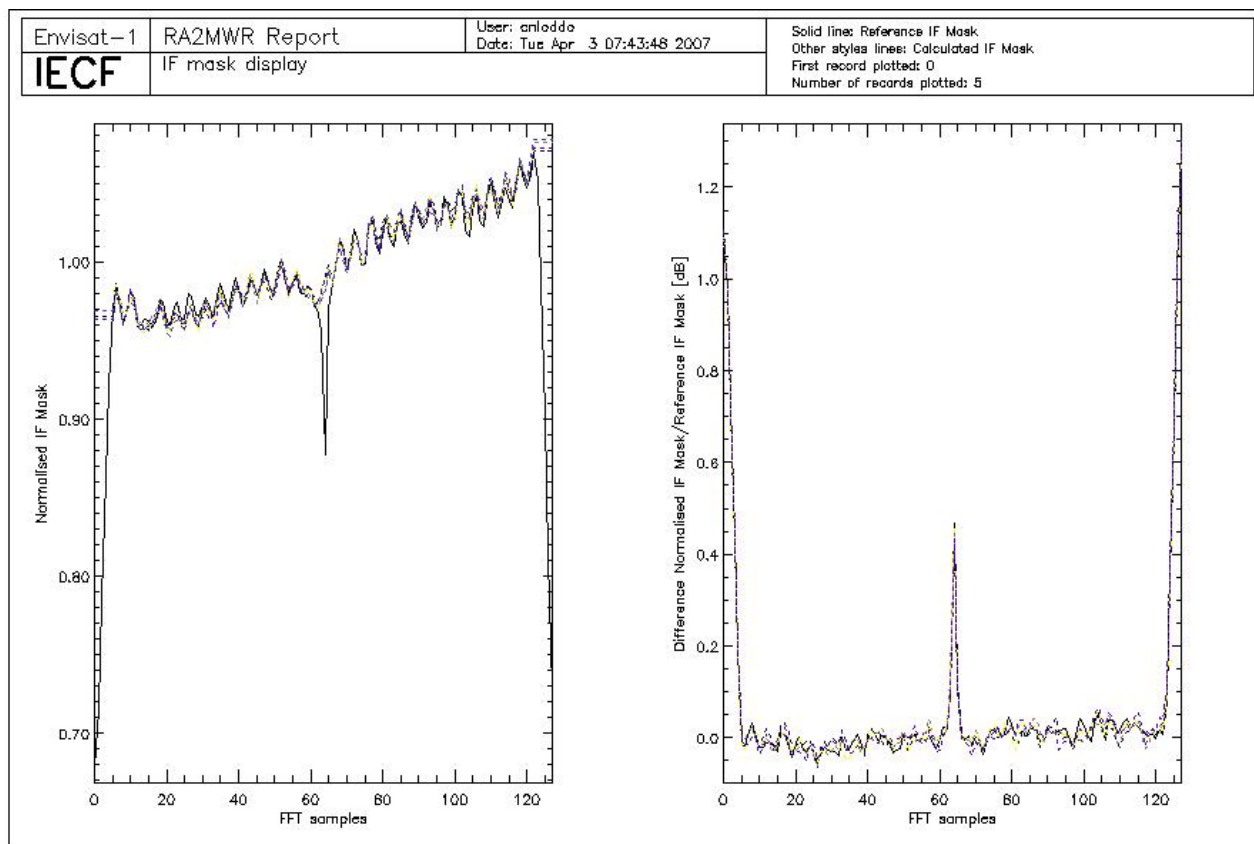


Figure 5: Valid IF masks retrieved daily during cycle 56 plotted together with the on-ground reference.

In Figure 6 the IF Mask, updated on the 24 of January 2007, and the previous IF Mask used for processing are plotted.

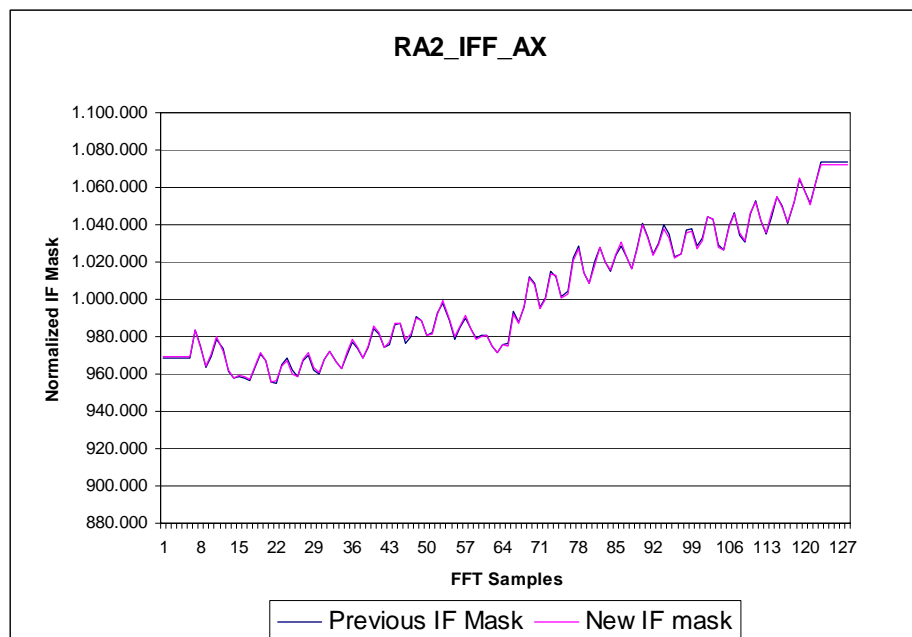


Figure 6: Previous and IF Mask updated on 24 of January

In Figure 7 the evolution of the IF mask quality parameters evaluated as in [R – 4] is reported only for valid data. It can be observed that the difference with respect to the on-ground reference stays quite constant around 0.07 dBs.

Five peaks are visible on the plot that correspond to the data acquired on September the 27th 2003 at 15:48, on October the 29th 2003 at 15:42, on May the 10th 2004 at 15:45, on April 9th 2006 and on December 16th 2006. The reason of this could be found in the instrument warming up considering that the IF Cal acquisition has been made, in the three first cases, only a couple of hours after an anomaly recovery. In the two last cases the unavailability was very long, more than two days, and the warming up effect lasted longer. The residual noise and the accuracy show a very constant behavior over the whole period.

During cycle 56 the IF Calibration Mode still shows the weird behavior described in [R – 3]. This problem, present since the beginning of the mission, is under investigation. The anomaly directly affects the number of valid RA-2 IF masks obtained per cycle, but does not prevent the generation of the IF mask correction file, used in input to the Level 1B ground processing as far as at least 10 of them are valid Mask, this was not the case for cycle 56.

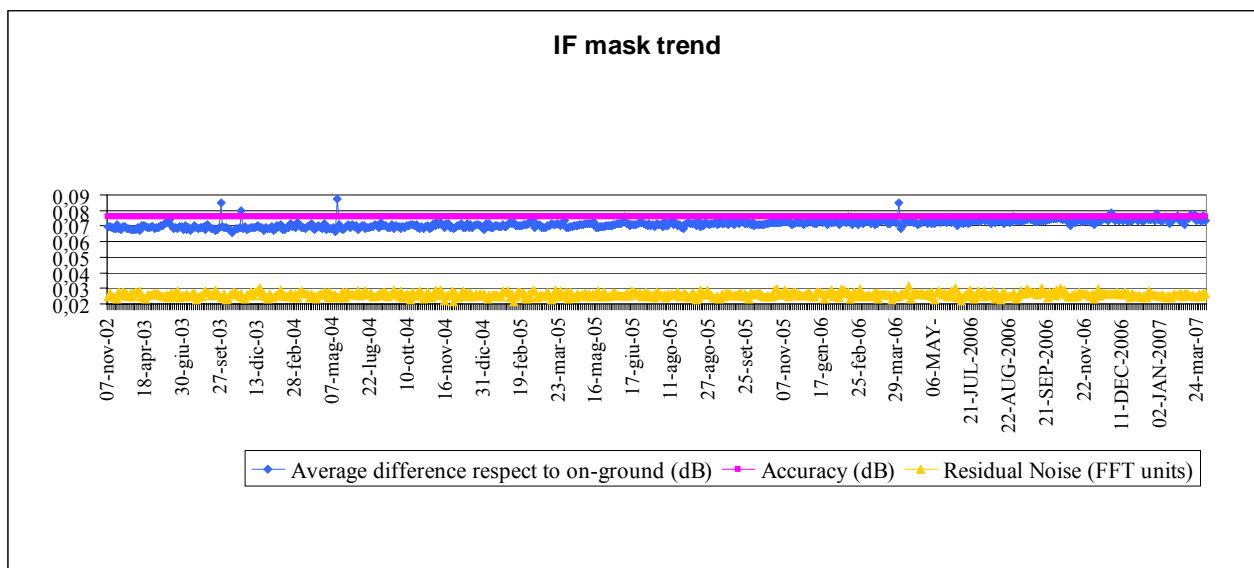


Figure 7: Evolution of the IF mask related parameters for valid IF masks retrieved up to cycle 56

In Figure 8 the percentages of valid IF masks from cycle 20 onwards is reported. This percentage is computed with reference to the acquired masks per cycle. The higher number of valid IF Masks in cycle 48 is a consequence of the special IF Calibration operations which took place on 8 and 9 June 2006. The very low number of valid IF masks acquired on cycle 56 is under investigation.

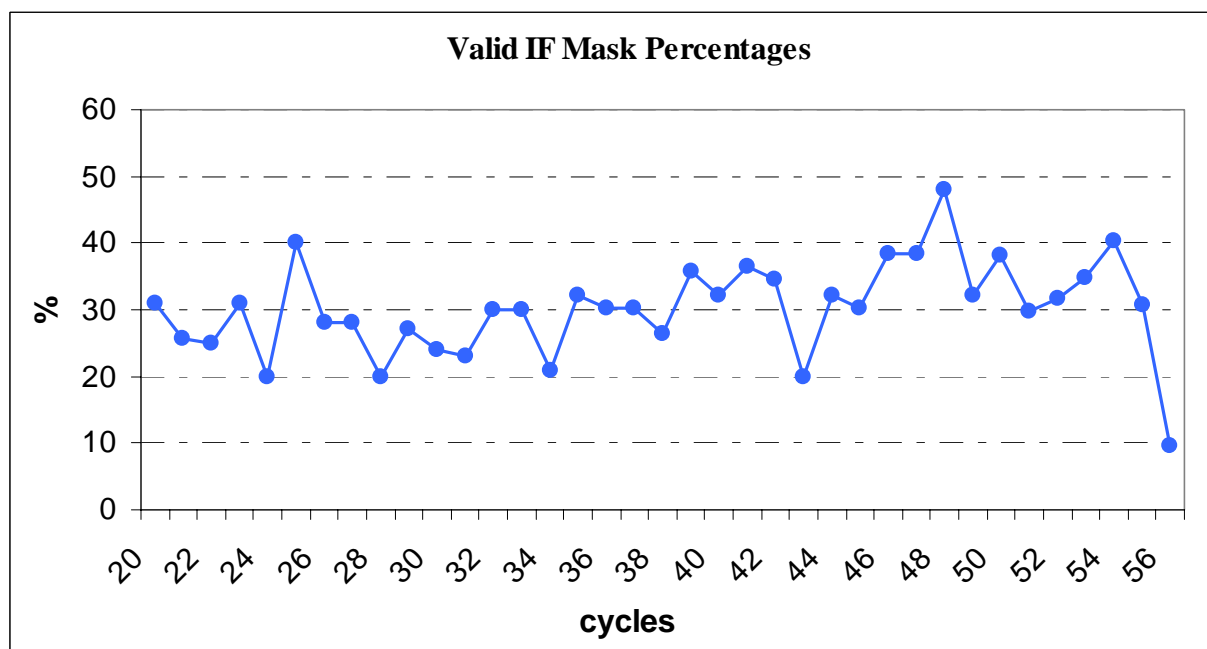


Figure 8: Percentages of valid IF Mask up to cycle 56

6.1.3 USO

The USO Clock Period anomaly **IS NO MORE PRESENT** in cycle 56. It disappeared on date 1st March 2007, after the recovery of a RA-2 on-board anomaly. This anomaly lasted for about 11 cycles (from cycle 44 to beginning of cycle 56)

WARNING:

- **Users are advised not to use the range parameter in Ku and S Band during cycle 56 without applying the USO correction. The auxiliary files should be applied even in the non anomalous period in order to correct for the drift of the USO device.**

Since the 24th of October 2005, with IPF V5.02, the actual value of the USO clock period has been used within the L1b processing; this means that the data are corrected for the bias and the drift correlated to the actual USO clock period.

The evaluation of the actual USO clock period is performed off-line respect to the IPF processing and it is updated once per week in the auxiliary file RA2_USO_AX.

Note: Since the 9th of March this file hasn't been updated given the anomaly of the USO clock period described below.

In Figure 9 the USO clock period trend is reported. In order to make the variability visible, the difference of the actual USO clock period with respect to the nominal one has been plotted in the upper panel. In the lower panel the Range error due to the USO clock variability has been reported taking a satellite altitude of 800 Km as a nominal value. The gaps in the plot are related to the RA-2 instrument unavailability on dates 1st, 16th and 17th Feb 2007, see Chapter 5.2.1.

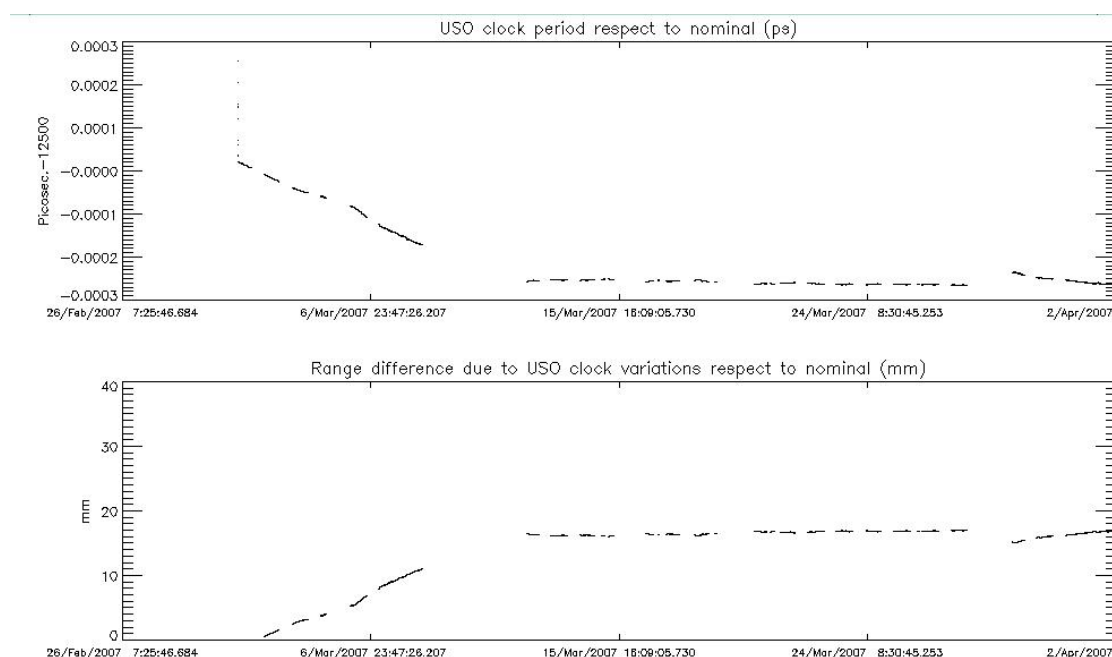


Figure 9: USO clock period for cycle 56

The USO Clock Period was almost permanently present in the last year. It started in cycle 44, on date 1 Feb 2006 12:04:30, Orbit = 205181. It directly happened after the recovery of a RA-2 on-board anomaly occurred on the 2006/02/01 at 05:17:56. The range correction jumped by several meters and presented some oscillations at the orbital period that make the range unusable for both Ku and S Band, see Chapter 7.4.1. The anomaly persisted intermittently until the 15th of May 2006 14:21:50, Orbit = 21994, when the instrument was configured to its RFSS B-side. It appeared again when the instrument was reconfigured to its nominal RFSS A-side on date 21 June 2006 13:20:15, Orbit = 22523.

Three USO corrections have been developed for the different Envisat Level 2 altimetry data products for correcting the abnormal RA-2 USO behaviour affecting the Altimetric Range by few meters w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface, see Chapter 7.2.5.

The NRT USO correction has been made available from July 28 2006, 2006 onwards.

In Figure 10, the USO clock period trend retrieved from the beginning of the mission until the last week of cycle 49 is reported. In Figure 10A, the USO clock period trend retrieved from cycle 50 onwards is reported.

Three different periods can be distinguished:

1. From the beginning of the mission until the 24th of October 2006 the Nominal USO clock period has been used in the processing. The data was not corrected for the bias and the drift correlated to the actual USO clock period;
2. From the 24th of October 2006 until the 1st of February 2006, and from the 11th of February 2006 until the 13th of March 2006, the actual USO clock period has been used within the processing. The data was corrected for the bias and the drift correlated to the actual USO clock period. Those values, translated into altimetric range figures, are respectively of 28.5 mm and – 4.58 mm/year as calculated with data covering the period 13 June 2003 to 01 February 2006 (the data covering the anomalous period between 2004/09/27 at ~16:00 and 2004/09/29 at ~12:00 AM have not been used to evaluate these figures);
3. From the 1st of February until the 11th of February 2006 and from the 13th of March 2006 onwards, data has not been corrected with the proper value of the USO Clock period.

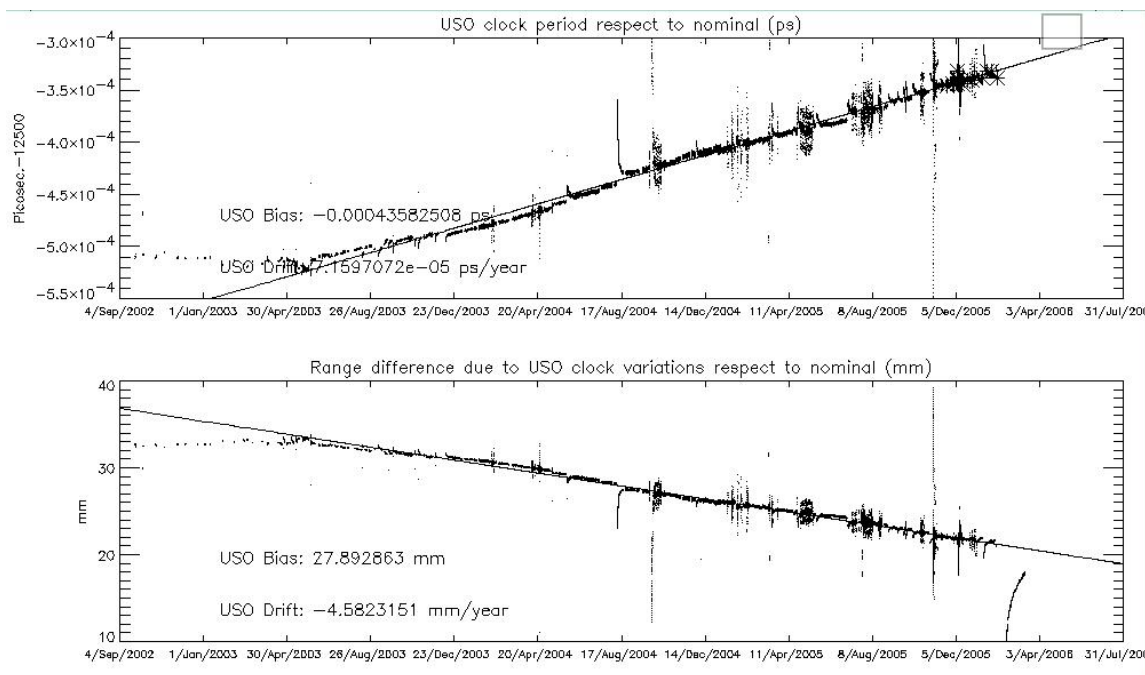


Figure 10: USO clock period until cycle 49

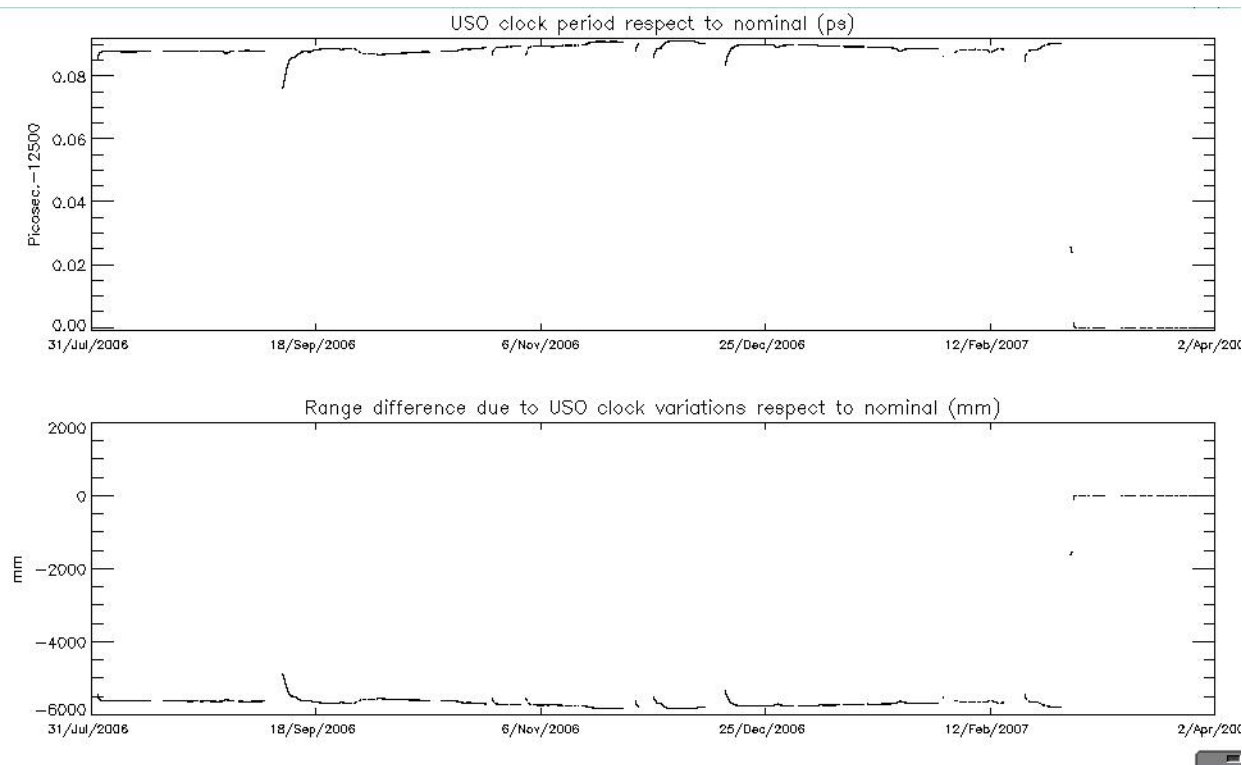


Figure 10A: USO clock period from cycle 50 onwards

6.1.4 DATATION

A significant part of an eventual error in the RA-2 products datation could result from imperfect synchronisation between the Satellite Binary Time and the UTC Time due to a drift of the ICU clock period. A correlation between those two times is performed at every Kiruna orbit dump and then extrapolated for the four non-Kiruna orbits. In the upper panel of Figure 11, the differences between the extrapolated UTC values and the corresponding real UTC values measured at the next Kiruna dump, are reported. In the lower panel, the ICU clock step for the same period is shown.

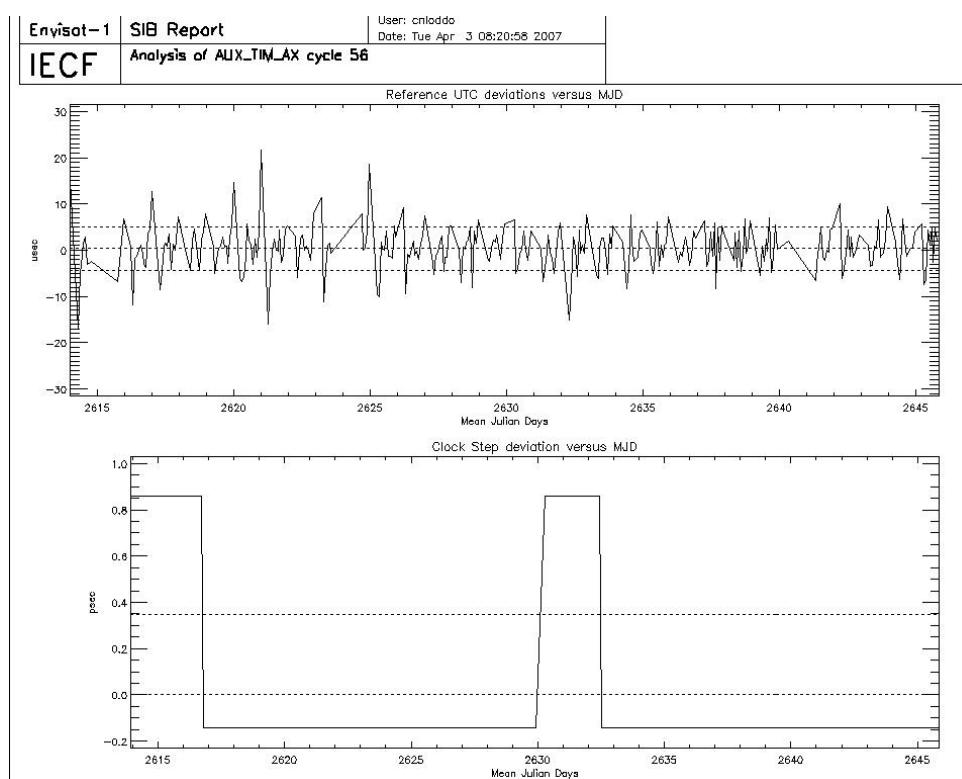


Figure 11: UTC deviations and ICU clock period for cycle 56

In Figure 12 (upper panel) the differences between the extrapolated UTC values and the corresponding real UTC values measured at the next Kiruna dump, are reported for data up to cycle 32. The UTC deviations for cycle 33 onwards are reported in Figure 13.

Only a few anomalous events can be observed at the beginning of the period (cycles 16/17) for which the difference rises above the 20 microseconds warning threshold. However, starting from cycles 22/23, the number of small differences (10 microseconds plus or minus) has increased a lot. Furthermore, during the last ten days of the cycle 32 and for all cycle 33 and 34, the variability of the deviations has increased reporting many peaks just over the 20 microseconds threshold (first part of Figure 12); this phenomenon is now fixed. In the lower panel of both figures the ICU clock step for the same period is shown where big variations are reported. The jump observed around

MJD 2288 (07-APR-2006) on Figure 13 is related to the reconfiguration of the Precise Time Correlation process, which became blocked with invalid data after the Service Module anomaly and reconfiguration occurred on 6 April 2006. This is however not a problem because the ICU clock period variations are included in the algorithm for the SBT/UTC correlation evaluation.

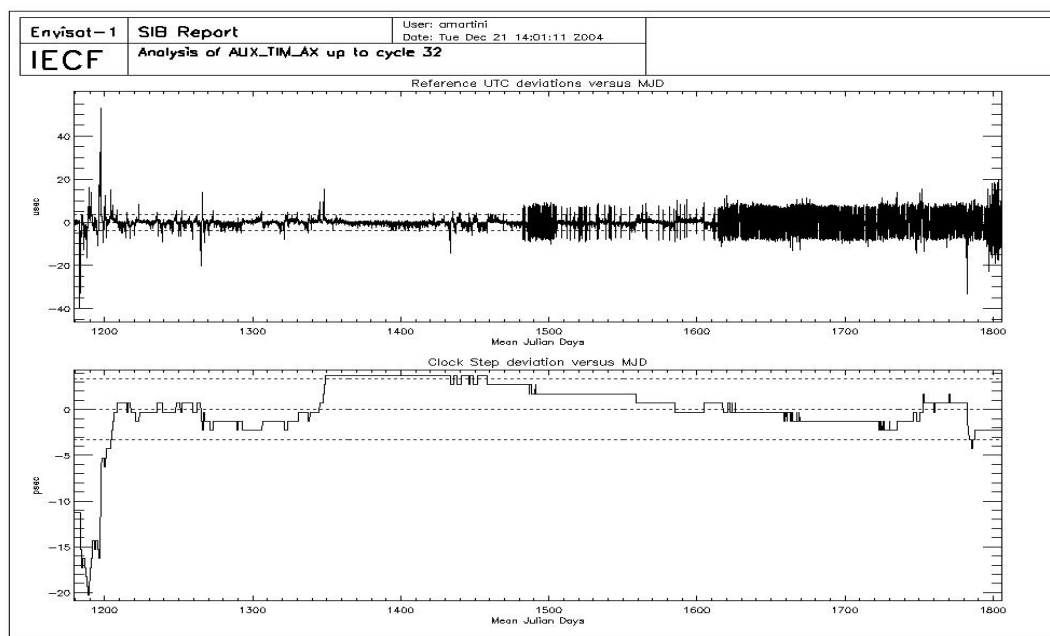


Figure 12: UTC deviations and ICU clock period up to cycle 32

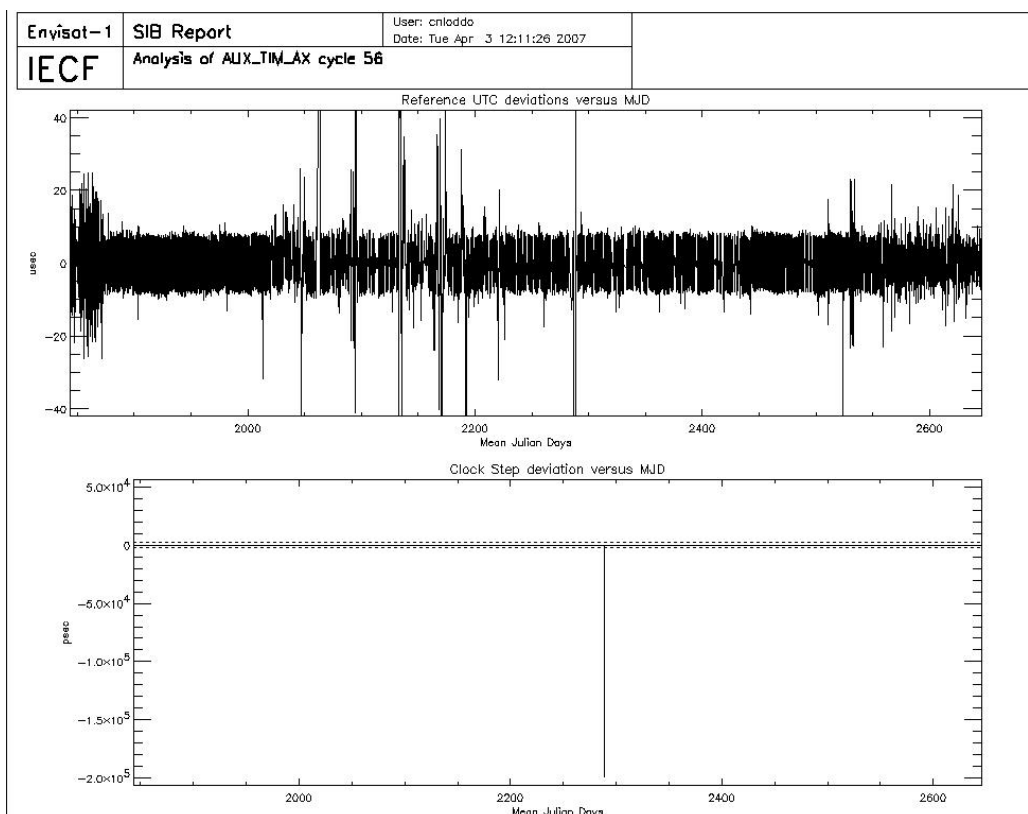


Figure 13: UTC deviations and ICU clock period from cycle 33 onwards

6.1.5 IN-FLIGHT INTERNAL CALIBRATION

The RA-2 Range and Sigma0 measurements are corrected to take into account the internal path delay and attenuation, respectively. This is done by measuring those two variables in relation to the internal Point Target Response. The two correction factors are calculated during the L1b processing and directly applied. They are also continuously monitored and the results for cycle 54 (averaged per day) are reported in the next figures.

The Time delay in-flight calibration factor, reported in Figures 14, shows a regular behaviour as observed on previous cycles. The Sigma0 calibration factor, reported in Figures 15, shows some jumps when the instrument recovered from unavailabilities, see chapter 5.2.1.

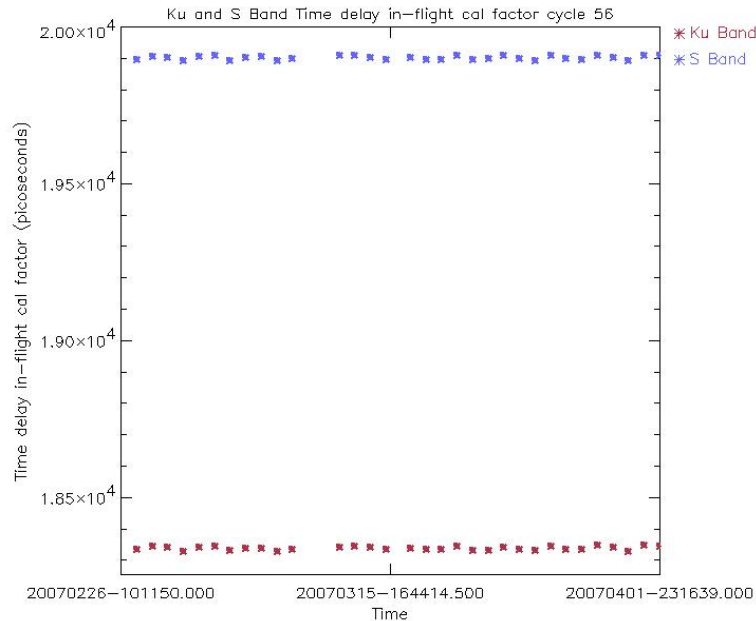


Figure 14: Ku and S Band in-flight time delay calibration factor for cycle 56 (averaged per day)

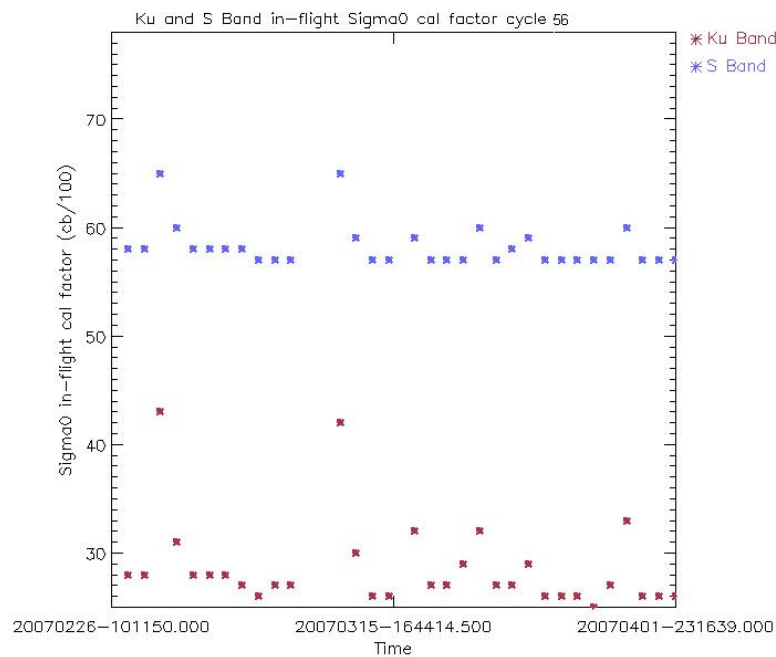


Figure 15: Ku and S Band in-flight Sigma0 calibration factor for cycle 56 (averaged per day)

Figure 16 and Figure 17 report Ku and S Band in-flight calibration factors for Time Delay and Sigma0 respectively, daily averaged, up to the current cycle. The Time Delay factor is shown to be very stable for both the working frequencies. The Ku band Sigma0 factor reveals a decrease of about 0.2 dBs over the period starting from cycle 16. As this instability is quite small, it is not being considered a problem for the moment, since the calibration factor is indeed introduced especially to correct for eventual instrumental changes. However, special attention is kept on the

monitoring of this parameter. The jump observed on the last part of the plot is related to the period on which the instrument sub-system Radio Frequency Module (RFM) was switched to its B-side, occurred between 15 May and 21 June 2006.

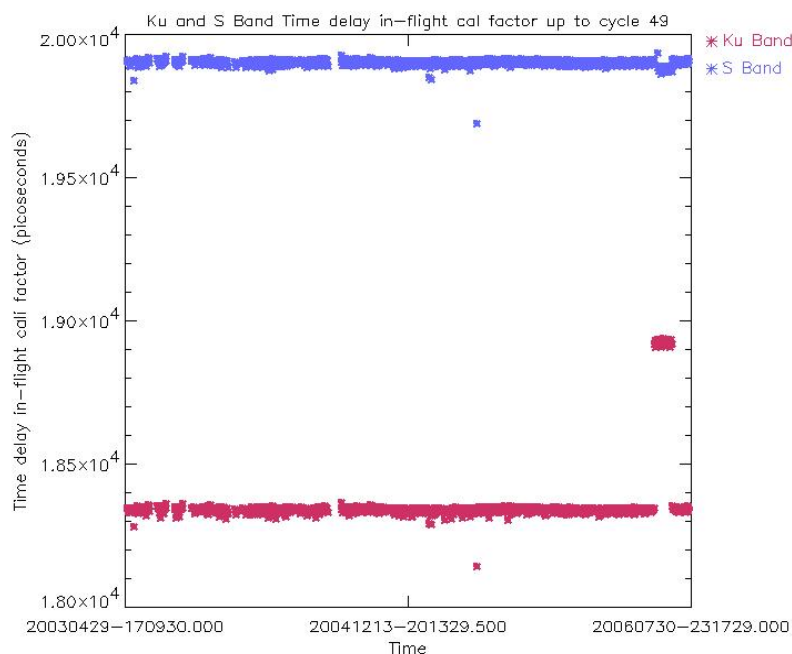


Figure 16: Ku and S Band in-flight time delay calibration factor up to cycle 49 (averaged per day)

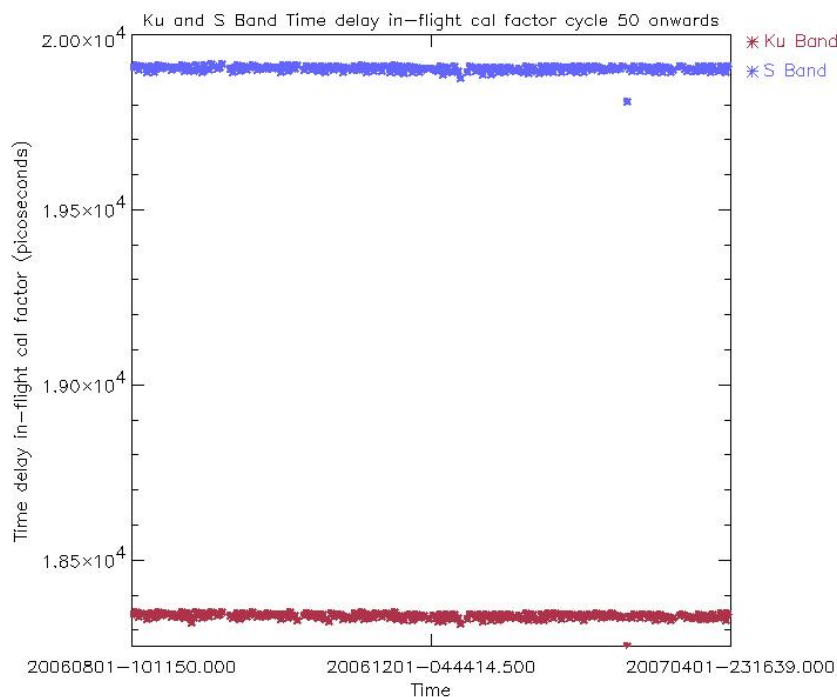


Figure 16A: Ku and S Band in-flight time delay calibration factor from cycle 50 onwards (averaged per day)

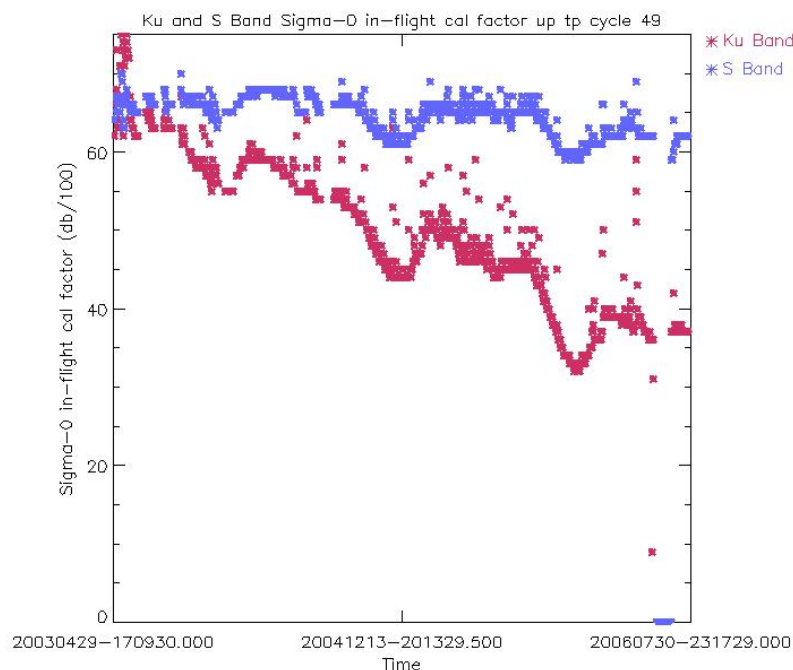


Figure 17: Ku and S Band in-flight Sigma0 calibration factor up to cycle 49 (averaged per day)

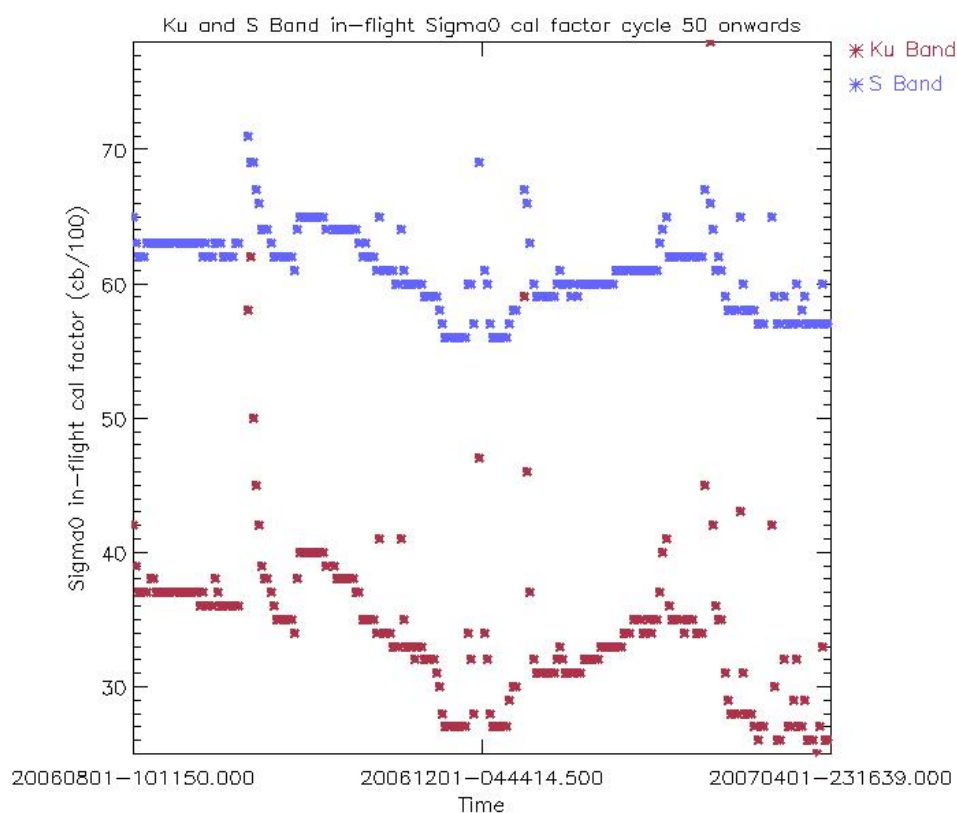


Figure 17A: Ku and S Band in-flight Sigma0 calibration factor from cycle 50 onwards (averaged per day)

6.1.6 SIGMA0 TRANSPONDER

The σ^0 absolute calibration of the RA-2 is performed using a reference target given by a transponder that has been developed at ESTEC. This has been exploited during the 6 month Commissioning phase to generate early calibration results. In order to consolidate the calibration results and to monitor the RA-2 calibration of σ^0 during the Envisat lifetime, continual monitoring is accomplished by operating the transponder for as many Envisat overpasses as possible.

Since the 11th of October the transponder has been moved to a permanent site located in Rome. The acquisition planned for the 20 of March has not been performed due to the weather conditions.

Absolute Orbit nb	Date of Measurement	Location / Rel. track	RA-2 resolution	Transponder Bias [dB]	ECMWF Wet Tropo. Corr. [dB]
26421	20/03/2007	Rome	n/a	n/a	n/a

Appendix 4 reports the transponder measurements from cycle 24 onwards.

The mean value of the estimated bias at High Resolution is 0.96 dB with a standard deviation of 0.2 dB. It is possible to notice that the Low Resolution measurements are coherent among themselves but there is a bias with respect to the High Resolution ones. This is due to a processing problem with the internal calibration factor not taken into account in Low Resolution Mode.

In Figure 18, the time behavior of the bias is plotted for both Low and High Resolution. The green line represents the corrected bias for the internal calibration factor (only for the Low Resolution data) and the tropospheric attenuation. The latter is estimated by using the ECMWF meteorological data. The low value of the corrected bias for the orbit 14397 is due to the dew air condition and a probable underestimation of the tropo-attenuation.

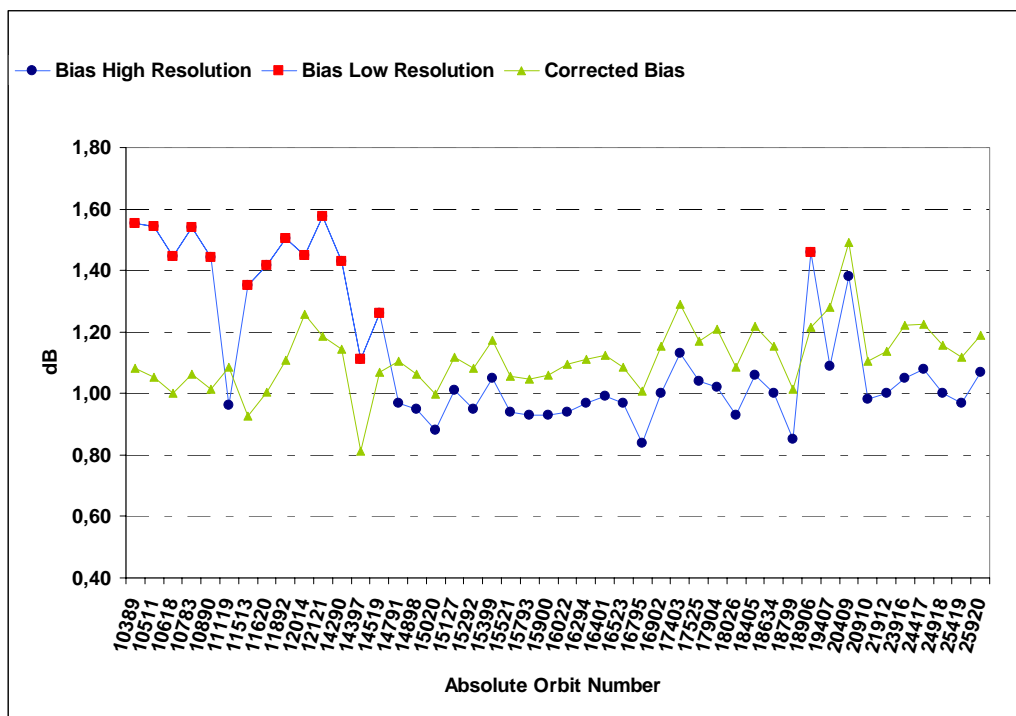


Figure 18: Time behavior of the transponder bias

6.1.7 MISPOINTING

In Figure 19, the trend of the mispointing squared (averaged every orbit) is reported in $\text{deg}^2 \cdot 10^{-4}$. The gap in the plot is due to the instrument unavailability occurred on 28 February, 9 until 12 March, 16 March, 20 March and 29 March, see Chapter 5.2.1.

The average squared mispointing value, as extracted from the RA2_FGD_2P data products, has decreased from about 0.028 deg^2 , to 0.0075 deg^2 . This is due to the new algorithm currently used to retrieve the mispointing value from the RA-2 waveform data, see section 5.1.1.1.

Since IPF version 5.02, the mispointing is estimated through the waveform trailing edge slope using an optimum and fixed gate and no longer an adaptive window as defined previously. This allows avoidance of the filter bump effect that leads to high values of the mispointing.

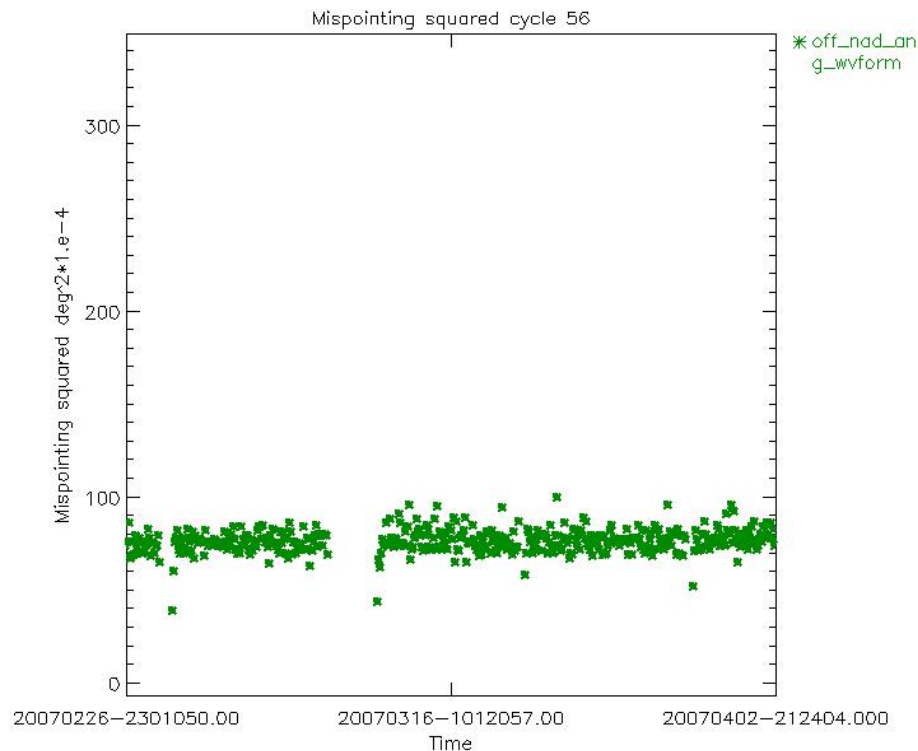


Figure 19: Smoothed mispointing squared trend for cycle 56 ($\text{deg}^2 \cdot 10^{-4}$)

In Figures 20 and 20A, the overall mispointing squared trend (averaged over each orbit) is plotted for cycles 16 onwards.

The low values at the end of the plot are related to the acquisition in RFFS B-Side, occurred between 15 May and 21 June 2006.

The jump which occurred on date October 24th is related to the upload of IPF version 5.02. The abrupt decreasing of the mispointing squared value is related to the new algorithm, as described in the previous paragraph.

The jump which occurred on November the 26th 2003 is correlated to the upload of IPF version 4.56; the abrupt decrease of the mispointing squared value is due to the usage of a new RA2_IFF_AX IF mask auxiliary file. After the drop a very tiny increase of the mispointing squared could eventually be detectable. The most probable cause of this phenomenon could be a change in the Intermediate Frequency Filter slope due to ageing effects. For this reason, the RA2_IFF_AX will be updated regularly, once per month.

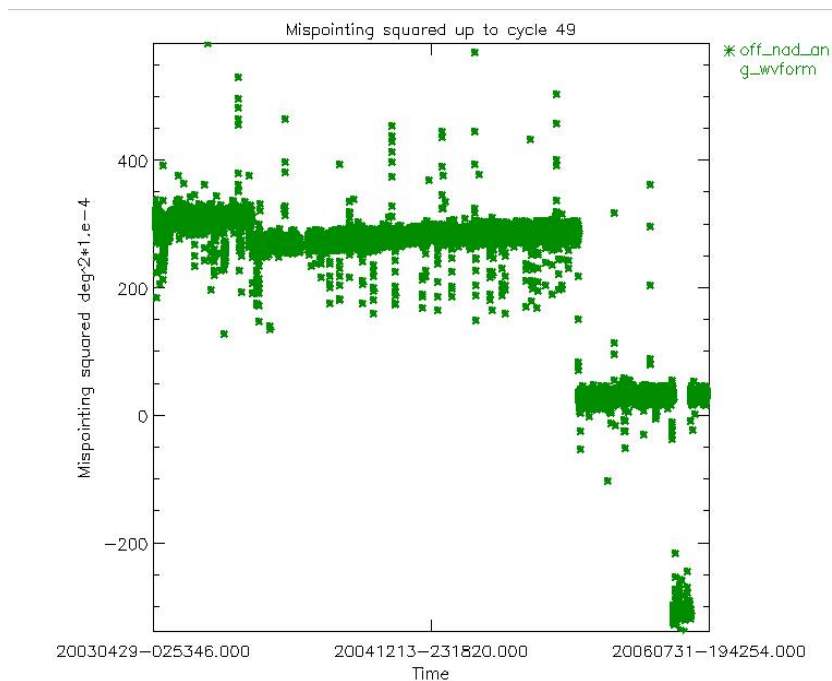


Figure 20: Smoothed mispointing squared trend until end of cycle 49 ($\text{deg}^2 \cdot 10^{-4}$)

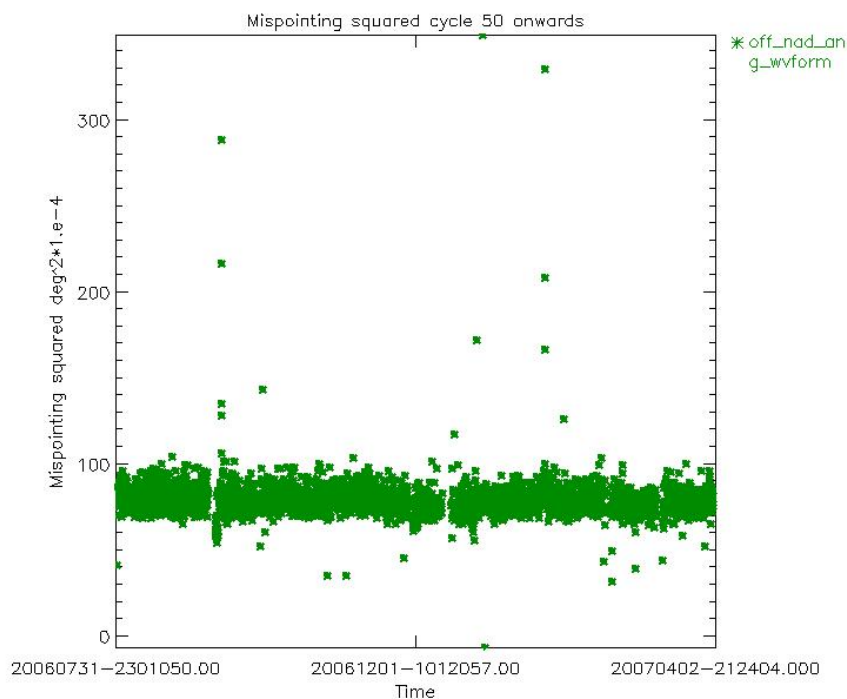


Figure 20A: Smoothed mispointing squared trend until from cycle 50 onwards ($\text{deg}^2 \cdot 10^{-4}$)

It can be noticed that the mispointing squared assumes lower values just after an instrument anomaly, showing an increasing trend until it reaches a standard mispointing value.

This problem has been reduced with the introduction of the updated mispointing retrieval algorithm as described in the previous paragraph.

This particular behavior has always been explained by the different shape that the over-ocean average waveform has before and after an anomalous event as visible in Figure 21, i.e the disappearance of the small dip in the waveforms acquired after the anomaly. Since the new strategy of updating once per month the RA2_ IFF_ AX file, the small bump is not present anymore in the waveforms, see Figure 21_A, so a new explanation is currently under investigation.

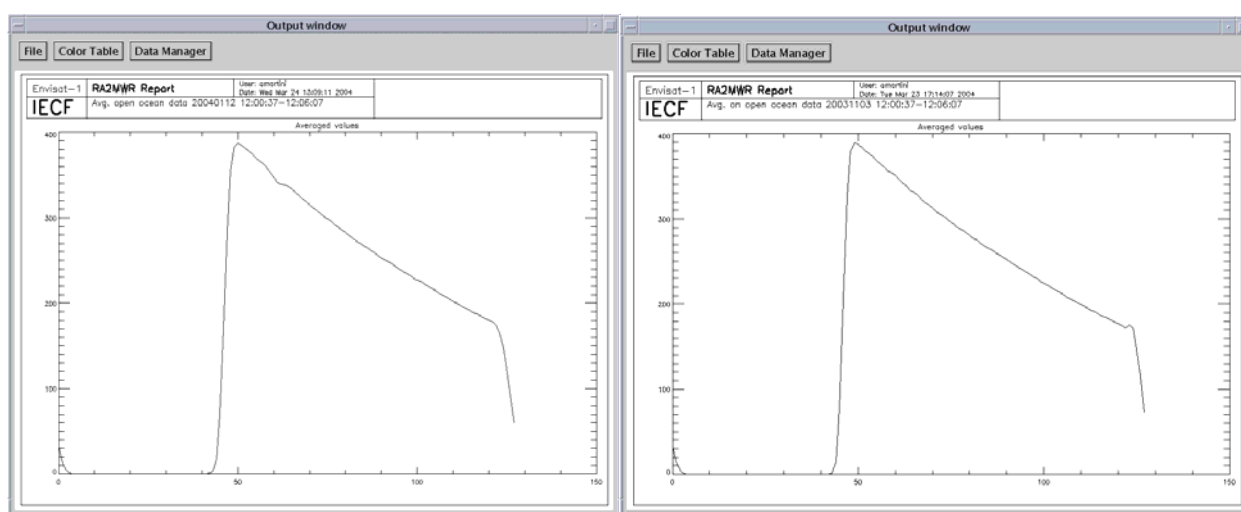


Figure 21: Open Ocean average waveforms before (left) and after an anomaly (right)

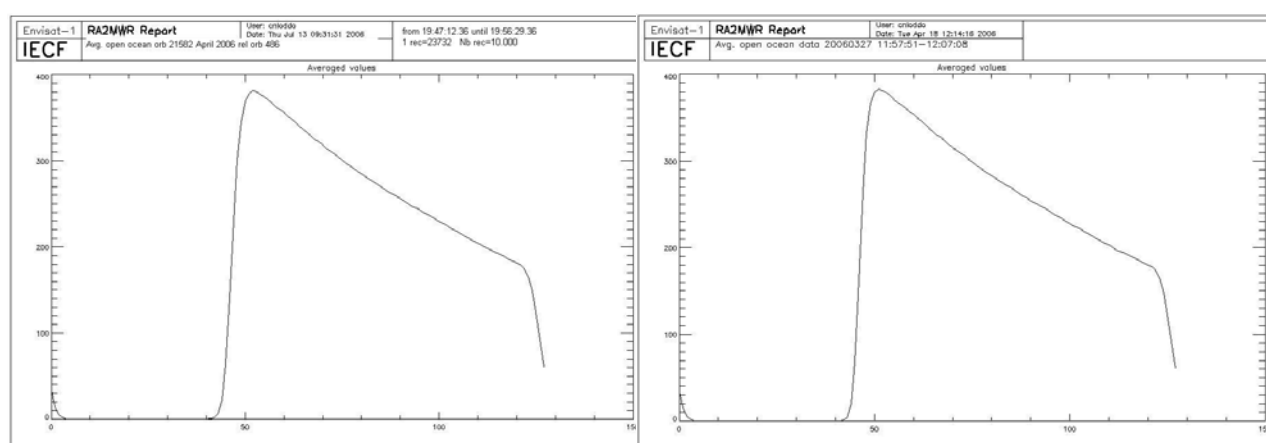


Figure 21_A: Open Ocean average waveforms before (left) and after an anomaly (right)

6.1.8 S-BAND ANOMALY

In order to prevent the occurrence of the so-called “S-Band anomaly”, a patch that corrects the SW/HW malfunctioning was uploaded on 16th of January 2007. The S-Band anomaly that affects the RA-2 data products quality was not present during cycle 56. The S-Band anomaly flag inside the L1B and L2 products will be continuously monitored.

The method used for the identification of the “S-Band anomaly” is statistical and requires a minimum of 1000 seconds of data over ocean. This choice is supported by the fact that the “S-Band anomaly” is associated with a particular instrumental behavior that cannot appear and disappear within a short time frame. (ref. [R – 7])

A valuable algorithm to detect the RA-2 DSRs affected by the S-Band anomaly within the L2 products can be found in [R- 12]. Note that the algorithm is only valid for data acquired over open-ocean.

The IPF version 5.03 includes an algorithm that can detect the presence of the so-called “S-Band anomaly” over any surface. In case of S-Band anomaly detection, bit 1 of the L1b products MCD is set to one; the anomaly is properly detected in 99.9% of the cases.

In Figure 22, the percentage of data per cycle that are affected by the so-called “S-Band” anomaly is reported. The figures are variable between 0% and 8.1%.

The number of occurrences of the S Band anomaly decreased from a mean value of 4% to 2% from cycle 31 onwards due to the implementation of the IF CAL procedure (including Heater 2 for S Band anomaly suppression) twice per day over the Himalayan region.

The relatively high value recorded for cycle 27 is due to the fact that on the day 1st of June 2004, the S-band anomaly started at around 14:30 while the instrument didn’t switch to mode Heater 2 when foreseen (at about 15:50). For this reason the S-Band anomaly continued for the next 24 hours until the next Heater 2 mode on June the 2nd.

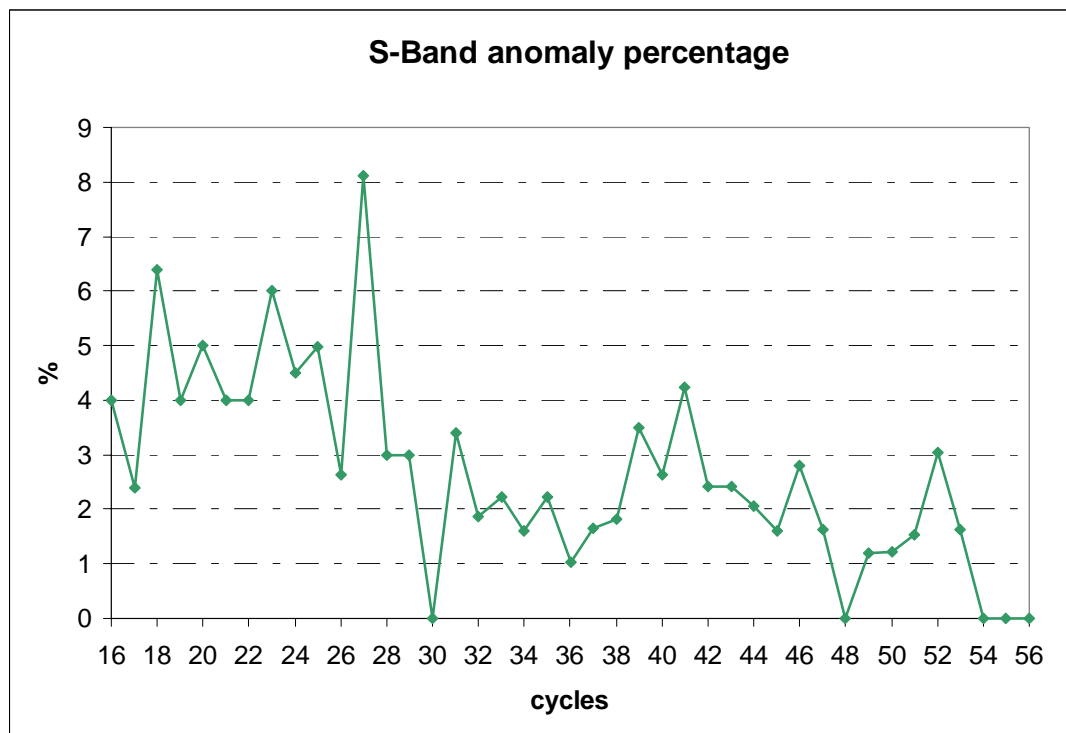


Figure 22: Percentage of data affected by the “S-Band Anomaly” for cycles 16 onwards

6.2 MWR Performance

For MWR performance please refer to the Reference CLS Cyclic Report of the type of [R – 2].

6.3 DORIS Performance

For DORIS performance please refer to the Reference F-PAC Monthly Report of the type of [R – 1a] and [R-1b].

7 PRODUCT PERFORMANCE

7.1 Product disclaimer

A summary of the products released to users and disclaimers on product quality have been established for some products and are available in the following web link:
<http://envisat.esa.int/dataproducts/availability/>

7.2 *Data handling recommendations*

7.2.1 SEA-ICE FLAG

The following algorithm is proposed for the determination of a sea-ice flag, presently missing in the Level 2 Ra-2 and MWR data products. (See [R – 14]):

|Latitude (*lat: field#4 of L2 data*)| > 50 deg
 AND
 The number of 20Hz valid data (*num_18hz_ku_ocean: field#23 of L2 data*) < 17
 OR
 |MWR Wet Tropospheric Correction (*mwr_wet_tropo_corr: field#42 of L2 data*) – ECMWF
 Wet Tropospheric Correction (*mod_wet_tropo_corr: field#42 of L2 data*)| > 10 cm
 OR
 Peakiness (*Ku_peak: field#139 of L2 data*) > 2

7.2.2 OCEAN S-BAND ANOMALIES DETECTION

A valuable algorithm to detect the Level 2 DSR affected by the RA-2 S-Band anomaly is proposed in [R- 12]. Note that its validity is limited to the data acquired over open-ocean.

7.2.3 WARNING ON IPF 4.56 VERSION IDENTIFICATION FIELD

All RA-2 and MWR level 1B and NRT Level 2 products generated after November 26, 2003 report a software version as being 4.54 (available in MPH field 8).

Nevertheless those products have been generated with the IPF V4.56 operational since November 26, 2003. The first nominal generated product, using the new SW version, will be the one relevant to the absolute orbit number 9094.

The software version ID is correct since December 4, 2003.

7.2.4 S-BAND BACKSCATTERING COEFFICIENT

For the data processed with IPF version 4.56 on, the S-Band Backscattering coefficient has been demonstrated to be on average about 0.65 dBs higher than for the previous versions of the processor. This is due to the algorithm used for the retrieval of the AGC in S-Band, corrected in IPF version 4.56 to be closer to the real functioning of the instrument.

An average value of 0.65 dBs is suggested to be added to the old software versions S-Band Sigma0 in order to be in line with the new IPF V4.56 version.

7.2.5 USO RANGE CORRECTION

As reported in chapter 6.1.3, since the 24th of October 2005, with the new IPF V5.02, the actual value of the USO clock period has been used within the L1b processing. Given though the abnormal RA-2 USO behaviour affecting the Altimetric Range by few meters w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface from the 1st February 2006 until the 1st March 2007, a NRT orbit basis USO correction has been developed for the FDGDR products. The actual data of cycle 56 is not affected by the anomaly but still should be corrected to compensate for the Ultra Stable Oscillator drift. The new correction files are available since the 24 July 2006 on the web site <http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/auxdata/NewCorrection>

Warning for data acquired after 1st February 2006: This correction has to be **ADDED** to the Ku and S Band altimetric range.

A software routine has been developed to allow users to insert the RA-2 Ultra-Stable Oscillator (USO) corrections into Envisat Level 2 altimetry data products and is available in the same web site of the new correction files.

Data acquired from 24th October 2005 until 1st February 2006 should not be corrected given that the proper value of the USO clock period has been used within the L1b processing.

All data acquired before 24th October 2005, beginning of cycle 42, still have to be corrected using the old correction files available on the web site:

<http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/auxdata/OldCorrection>.

The measured Range shall be corrected considering a drift of -4.58 mm per year and a bias of 29.6 mm.

Warning for data acquired before cycle 42: bias and drift have to be **SUBTRACTED** from the original altimetric range, according to the following equation:

$R_{true} = R_{original} - dR$

where $R_{original}$ is the range in the GDR products and R_{true} is the true (corrected) range.

7.2.6 KU-BAND BACKSCATTERING COEFFICIENT CALIBRATION

The results of the Ku-Band Sigma0 absolute calibration performed with a transponder have been presented in par. 6.1.4. Those results are going to be consolidated and are summarized in appendix 4, table 12. In order to absolutely calibrate the backscattering coefficient given in the RA2 L2 products, the following shall be used by the end user to get to the real Sigma0 measurement:

$$\text{Sigma_0_true} = \text{Sigma_0_prod} + G_{tx_rx_prod} - G_{tx_rx_real} - \text{Bias [dB]}$$

Where:

Bias: Bias retrieved from the Sigma0 Absolute Calibration (see 9.1.4)

$G_{tx_rx_prod}$: Current effective Tx-Rx Gain value used in the operational ground processing chain (ADF file RA2_CHD_AX). The value nominally used since IPF V4.54 is (for configuration RFSS=A and HPA=A) is 170.70 dB

G_tx_rx_real: Pre-launch characterization value (configuration value RFSS=A and HPA=A is 167.46 dB)

7.2.7 ABNORMAL RA-2 RANGE BEHAVIOR AFTER ANOMALY RECOVERY

WARNING: Since 1st of March 2007, Envisat Side A RA-2 is no more affected by the on-board anomaly which was affecting the RA-2 Altimetric Range by few meters. The analysis of the Sea Level Anomaly (SLA) is currently nominal.

The un-expected behavior of the Envisat RA-2 sensor was first observed from 1 Feb 2006 12:04:30, Orbit = 205181 until 11 Feb 2006. This directly happened after the recovery of a RA-2 on-board anomaly occurred on the 2006/02/01 at 05:17:56. The altimetric range jumped by several meters w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface. The anomaly was almost permanently present over the last year. It disappeared after the Instrument unavailability recovery on date 1 march 2007.

Another un-expected behavior of the Envisat RA-2 sensor was observed in the period from 2004/09/27 at ~16:00 and ending on 2004/09/29 at ~12:00 AM. This directly happened after the recovery of a RA-2 on-board anomaly occurred on the 2004/09/26 at ~13:40. The altimetric range jumped by several meters w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface; on the other hand everything came back to normal as from the 29th of September around noon. RA-2 data from the above period have to be considered with caution.

7.2.8 RA-2 RADIO FREQUENCY MODULE SWITCHED BACK TO A-SIDE

The Envisat RA-2 sensor has been successfully reconfigured on its nominal side (RFSS A-side) and was commanded back into Measurement Mode on June 21, 2006 at 13.20.15.000 UTC time, Orbit = 22523 after a switch to RFSS B-Side on 15 May at 14:21:50 UTC Orbit=21994

The analysis of the RA-2 data shows an expected behaviour of the RA-2 parameters but also confirmed the persistence of the abnormal RA-2 Ultra-Stable Oscillator (USO) behaviour affecting the Altimetric Range by few meters.

Data from 22 May until 21 June was acquired with RFSS B-side and on-ground data processing has been performed with ADFs configured for A-side. For this reason data should be used with maximum care.

7.3 *Availability of data*

7.3.1 RA-2

In Figure 23 and Table 9 (Appendix 2) the summary of unavailable RA-2 L0 products is given. A high number of gaps can be observed due to high number of Instrument unavailabilities on the current cycle, see Chapter 5.2.1.

It is easy to notice that close to the Himalayan and Rocky Mountain region two small gaps, about 77 seconds, in the data are present. This is due to the daily instrument switch-offs (Heater 2 mode) performed to prevent the S-Band anomaly lasting more than half a day if it occurs.

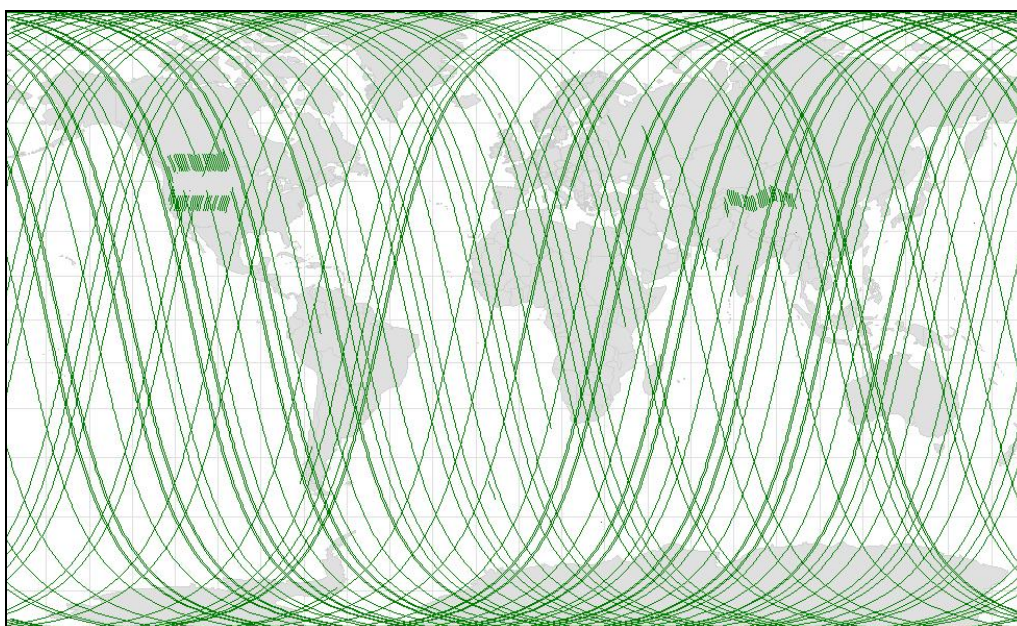


Figure 23: RA-2 L0 unavailable products for cycle 56

In Figure 24 and Table 11 (Appendix 2) the summary of unavailable RA-2 L1b products is given.

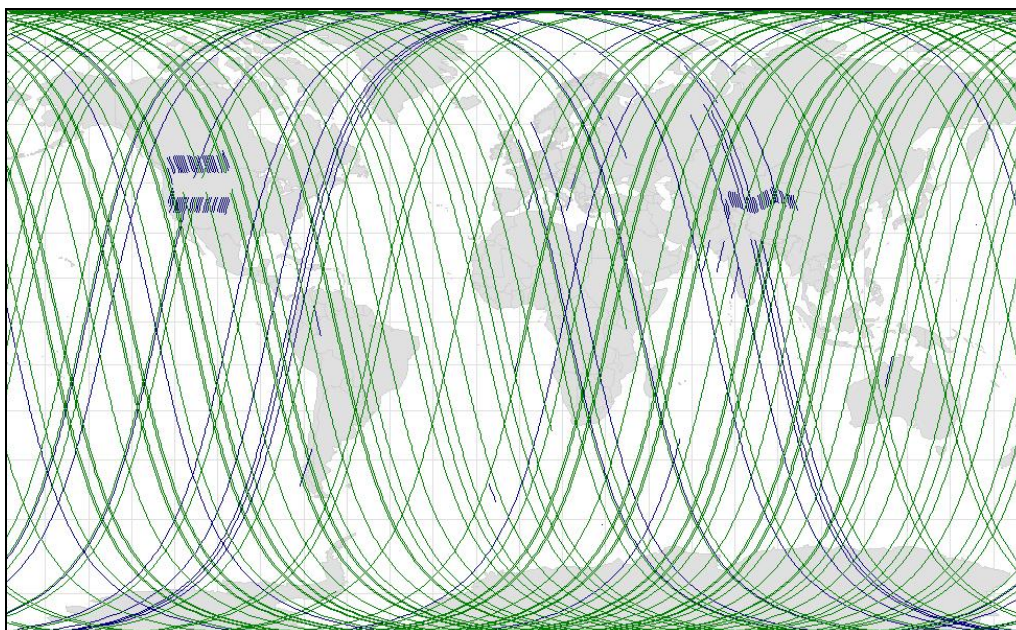


Figure 24: RA-2 L1b unavailable products for cycle 56

Hereafter the percentage of the different levels of products availability is reported. Due to some operational constraints, the plot could not be updated with data from cycle 55.

Considering as reference the instrument unavailability, it is possible to notice that since cycle 32 the situation is slightly improved for all levels of products. The low percentage of data on cycle 56 is due to the high number of RA-2 Instrument Unavailabilities occurred.

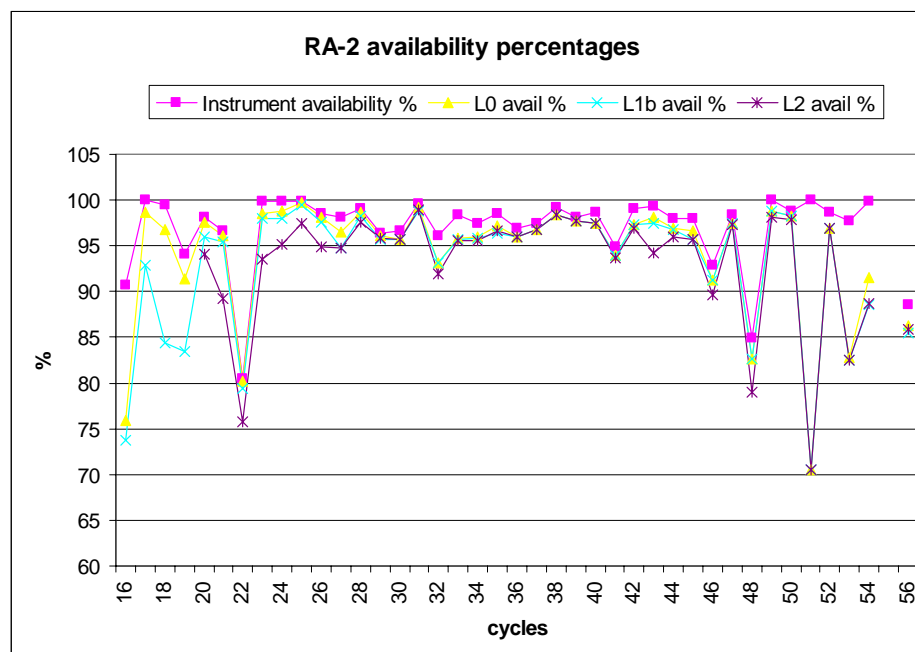


Figure 25: Percentage of Products unavailability

7.3.2 MWR

In Figure 26 and Table 10 (Appendix 2) the summary of unavailable MWR L0 products is given.

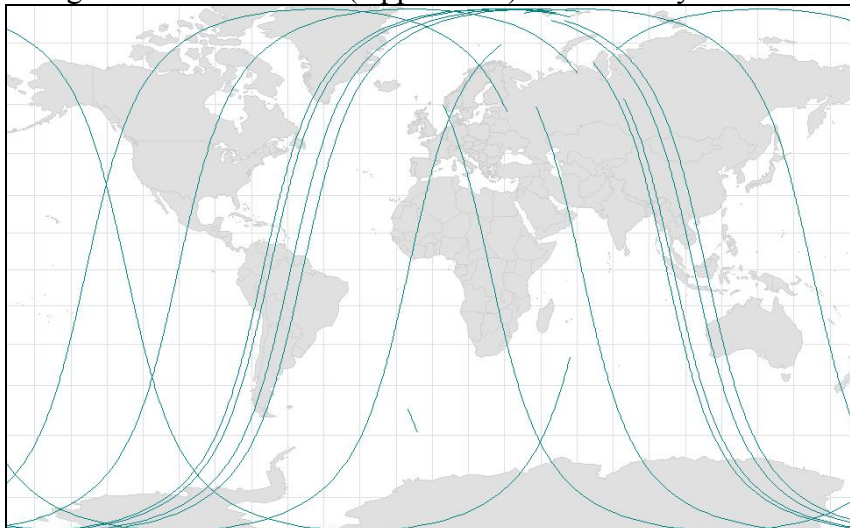


Figure 26: MWR L0 unavailable products for cycle 56

7.4 *RA-2 Altimeter Parameters*

Hereafter a summary of the main Altimetric parameters performances is reported; these results have been obtained using only ocean surface type and all world zone criteria for RA2_FGD products.

7.4.1 ALTIMETER RANGE

Since the 24th of October, operations date of IPF version 5.02, the DORIS Navigator data were expected to be used to evaluate the location, the altitude and the altitude rate corresponding to any Data Set Record of the products. Due to some operational problems under investigation in the PDS, at least 30 % of NRT data has been processed without DORIS on cycle 56. Figure 27 shows all passes processed with DORIS on the current cycle.

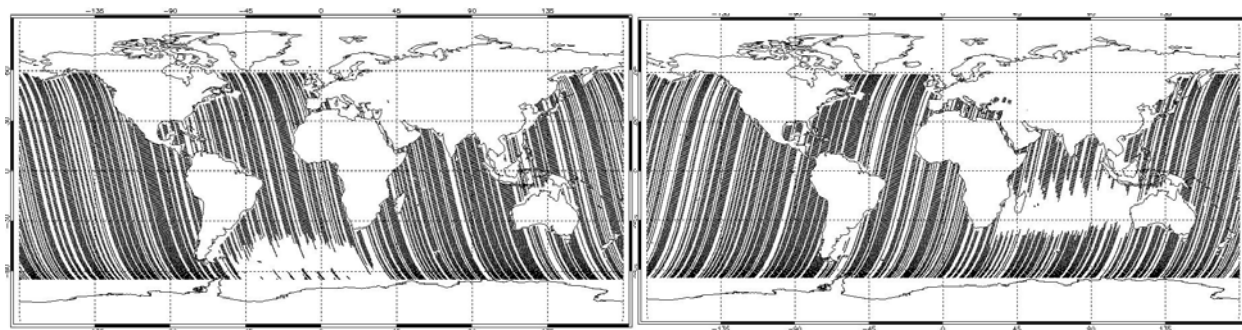


Figure 27: Ascending and Descending passes processed with DORIS on cycle 56

The un-expected behavior of the Envisat RA-2 sensor observed since cycle 44 has disappeared on date 1st March 2007.

In Figure 27A it can be observed that the altimetric range went back to its nominal value on date 1st March 2007. A gap is present in correspondence of the long instrument unavailability occurred on 9 March 2007, which lasted until 12 March 2007, see Chapter 5.2.1.

During the anomalous period, the altimetric range jumped by several meters (about 5.6m) w.r.t. the Mean Sea Surface due to an anomaly in the USO clock period (see Chapter 6.1.3). Moreover, oscillations at the orbital period with an amplitude of 20-30 cm affect the Sea Level Anomalies during the anomaly.

A software correcting the data has been developed and the USO range correction which are to be applied on the data can be found at the following location, (see paragraph 7.2.5) <http://earth.esa.int/pcs/envisat/ra2/auxdata/NewCorrection>

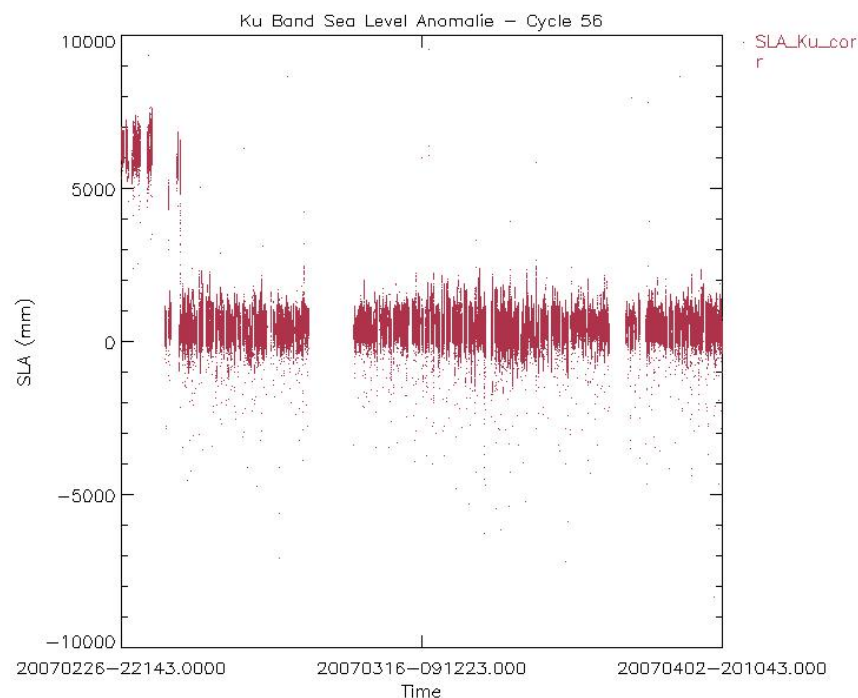


Figure 27A: Sea Level Anomalies Cycle 56, only MDSRs with valid DORIS Flag

SLA has been computed for the Ku Band, with the following corrections:
 RA2_Ku_IONO, MWR_WET_TROPO, DRY_TROPO, INV_BMETER_HEIGHT,
 SEA_KU_BIAS

Fast Delivery data was corrected with the wrong USO clock period correction, RA2_USO_AX, since cycle 44.

WARNING: Users are still advised to apply the correction auxiliary files even during the non-anomalous period in order to correct for the nominal ageing drift of the USO device.

7.4.2 SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

The histogram of the SWH reported in Figure 28 shows a nominal behavior for the current cycle. The trend goes on following the behavior as detected for the previous cycle. The largest peak (about 60000 data for SWH = 0m) was removed from the plot in order to have the complete picture of the SWH histogram.

Figure 29 shows the SWH daily mean. A gap can be observed in correspondence of the long instrument unavailability occurred on 9 March 2007, which lasted until 12 March 2007, see Chapter 5.2.1.

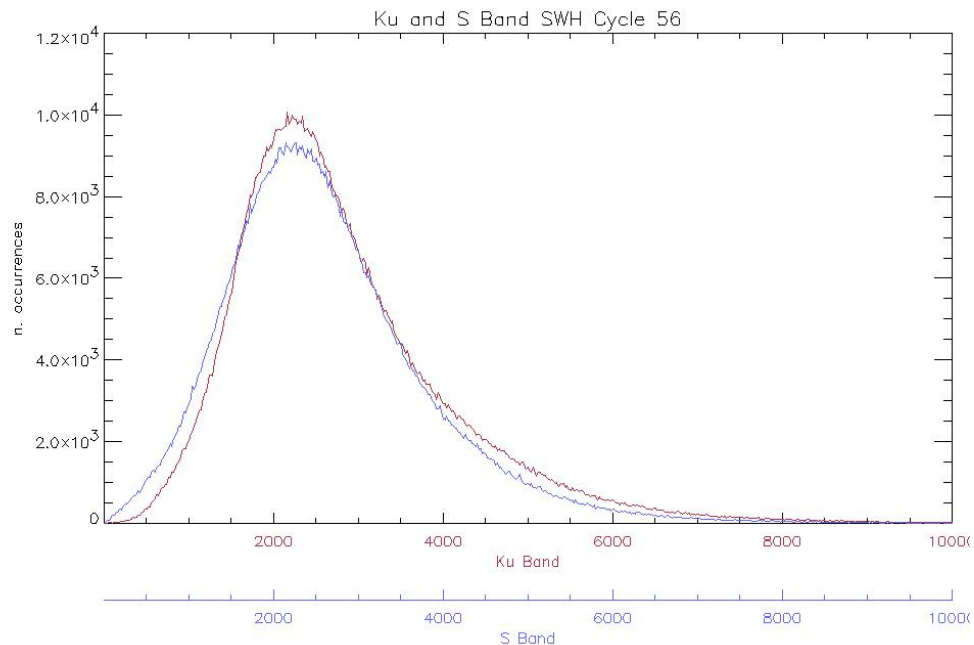


Figure 28: Histogram of Ku and S Band SWH for cycle 56

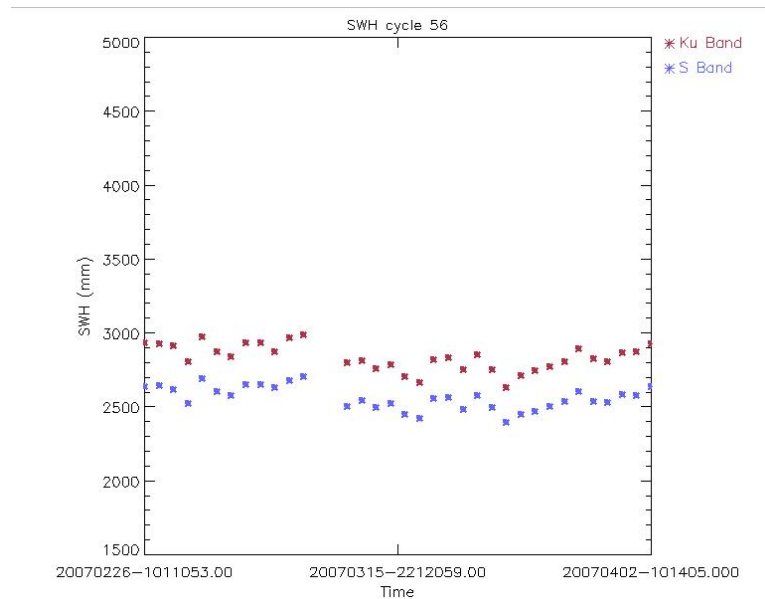


Figure 29: Ku and S SWH daily average for Cycle 56 (mm)

The SWH long term plot is reported in two plots, cycle 16 until cycle 49 on Figure 30 and cycle 50 onwards on Figure 30A. It can be noticed that the SWH in both bands shows a trend which follows the seasonal variability. The high daily averages reported (sometimes plotted outside the figure's range) are due to the so-called S-Band anomaly (ref. par.6.1.8).

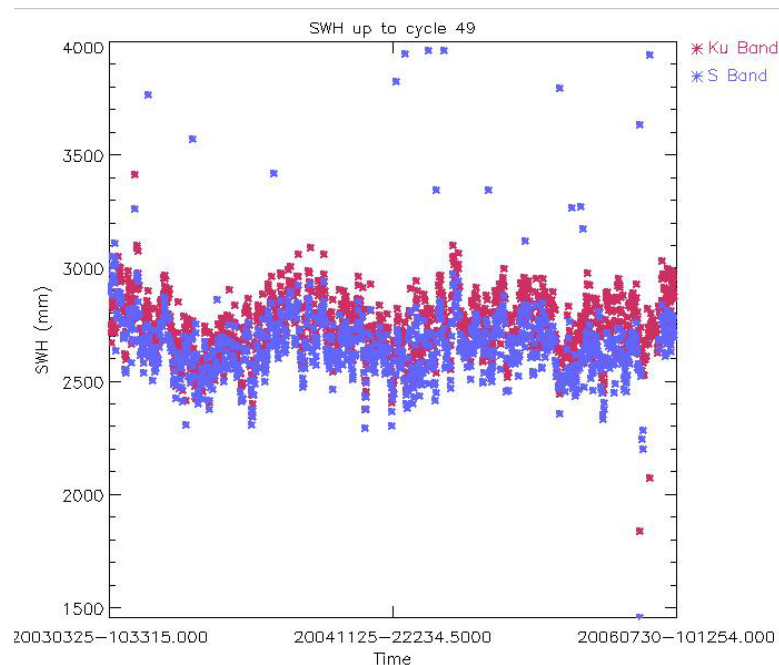


Figure 30: Ku and S SWH daily average up to cycle 49 (mm)

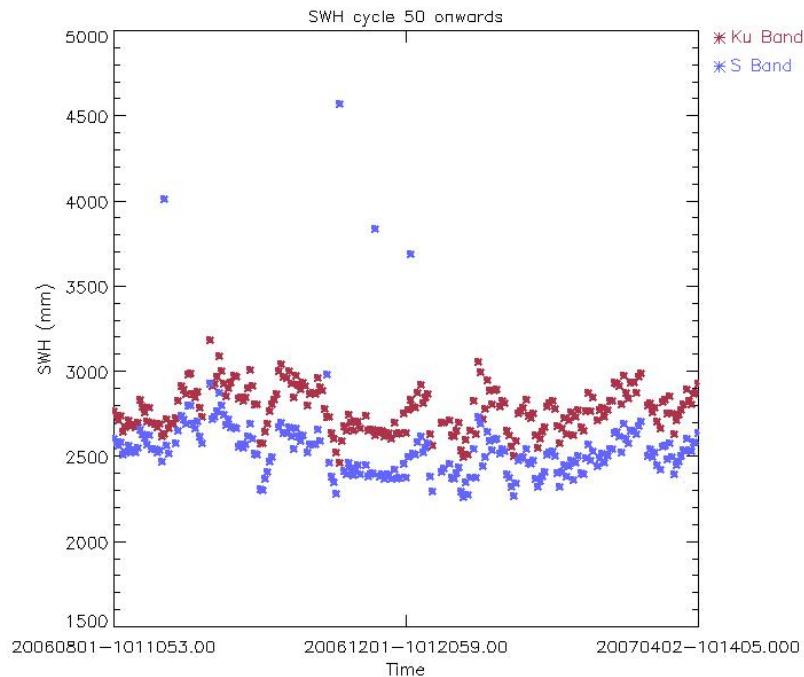


Figure 30A: Ku and S SWH daily average from cycle 50 onwards (mm)

7.4.3 BACKSCATTER COEFFICIENT – WIND SPEED

The Sigma_0 histogram both in Ku and S Band, shows secondary peaks, see Figure 31. A small investigation on this problem, performed on the data of cycle 29, demonstrated that the backscattering distribution assumes a different behavior for different sea conditions [R-17]. Indeed, for both bands, the majority of the data is concentrated on lower values for rough sea state (southern hemisphere, winter conditions) and on higher values for calm sea state (northern hemisphere, summer conditions).

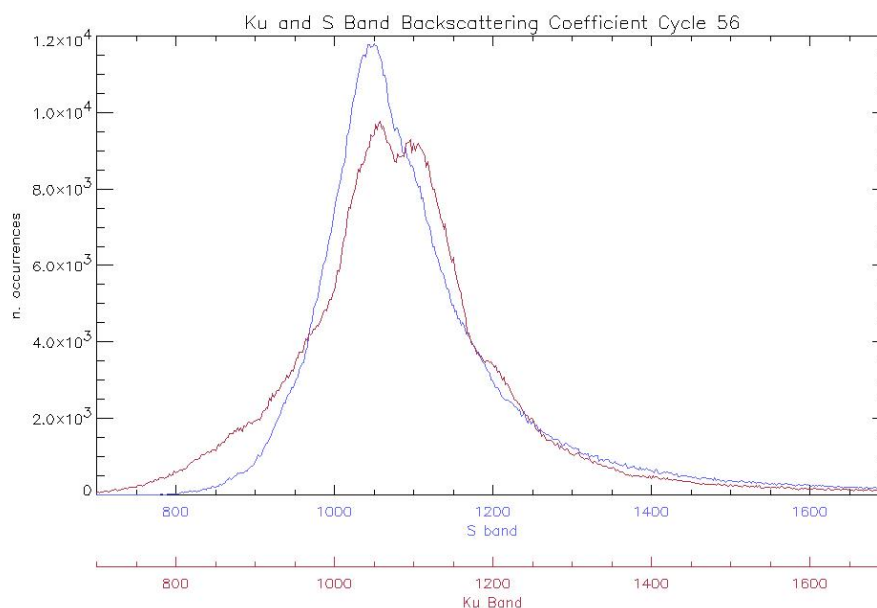


Figure 31: Histogram of Ku and S Band Backscattering Coefficient for cycle 56

In Figure 32, the backscattering coefficient daily average, computed for only ocean data, trend is reported. A gap can be observed in correspondence of the long instrument unavailability occurred on 9 March 2007, which lasted until 12 March 2007, see Chapter 5.2.1. The trend shows a nominal behavior for both bands.

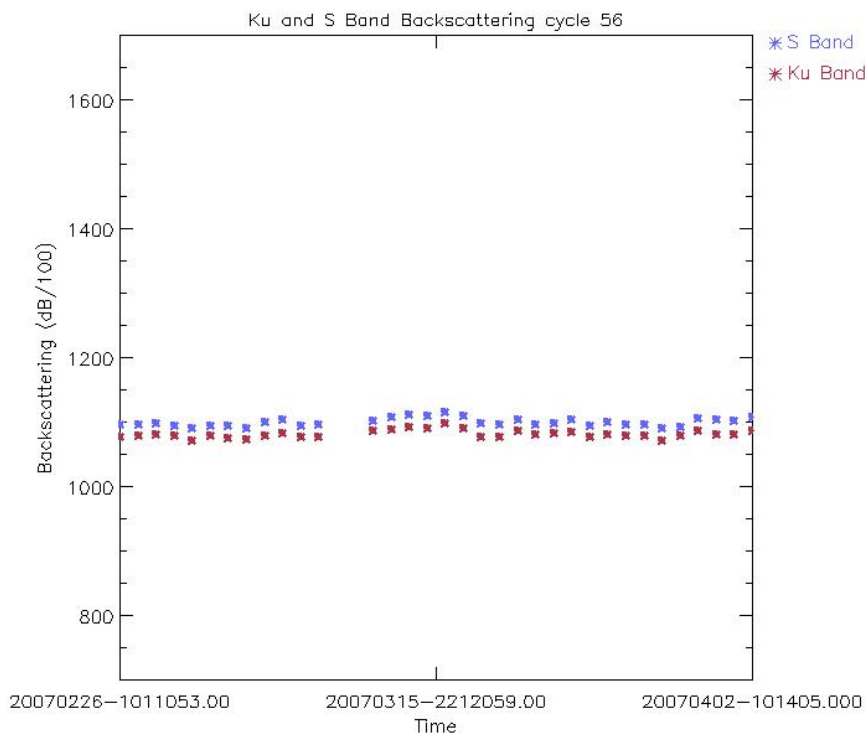


Figure 32: Ku and S Sigma₀ daily average for cycle 56 (dB/100)

The histograms of Wind Speed computed for the Ku-band and the time behavior during cycle 56 are reported in Figure 33 and 34, respectively. Given that the wind table has been updated since IPF version 5.02, S.Abdallah Table is now used, the wind takes values between 1.18m/ and 21.30m/s.

The largest peak present in the histogram (about 50000 data for Wind < 1.2m/s) was removed from the plot in order to have the complete picture of the wind histogram.

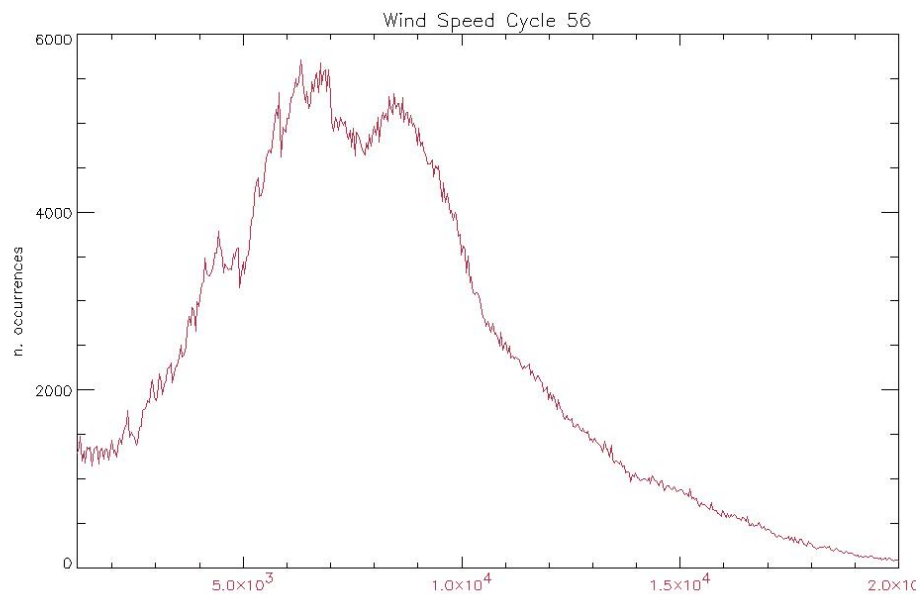


Figure 33: Histogram of Ku Wind Speed for cycle 56 (mm/sec)

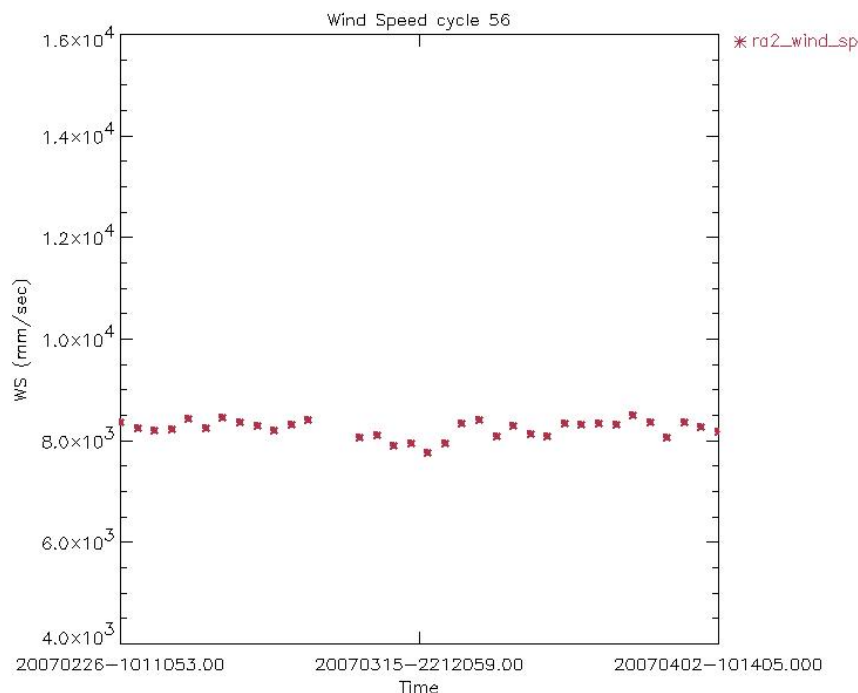


Figure 34: Ku Band Wind Speed daily average for cycle 56 (mm/s)

The Ku-Band Sigma₀ trend, reported hereafter (Figure 35 and 35A), is characterized by a jump of on average 3.24 dBs concomitant with the operational up-load of IPF version 4.54 which occurred on the 9th of April 2003. This change is due to the upload of a new RA2_CHD_AX ADF file that artificially shifted the RA-2 real Sigma₀ in order to align it with ERS-2 Sigma₀ and make it coherent with the Witter and Chelton empirical wind model. A similar change in trend, but in the opposite direction, is also visible in the Wind Speed trend reported in Figure 36.

Beyond the huge jump that occurred in April 2003, the S-Band Sigma₀ reports a smaller jump occurring on November the 26th 2003. Following the installation of the IPF processing chain V4.56, the average values of the RA-2 S-Band backscattering parameter, shows an increase of ~0.65 dBs, the new S-band sigma₀ being higher with respect to the previous versions. The very low values of the S Band Backscattering around 30 July 2006 are related to the S Band Power Drop Anomaly occurred when the instrument was operating on RFFS B-side from 15 May until 21 June 2006. The S-Band Sigma₀ daily means that are plotted outside the figure range can be traced back to the so-called S-Band anomaly (ref. par. 6.1.8).

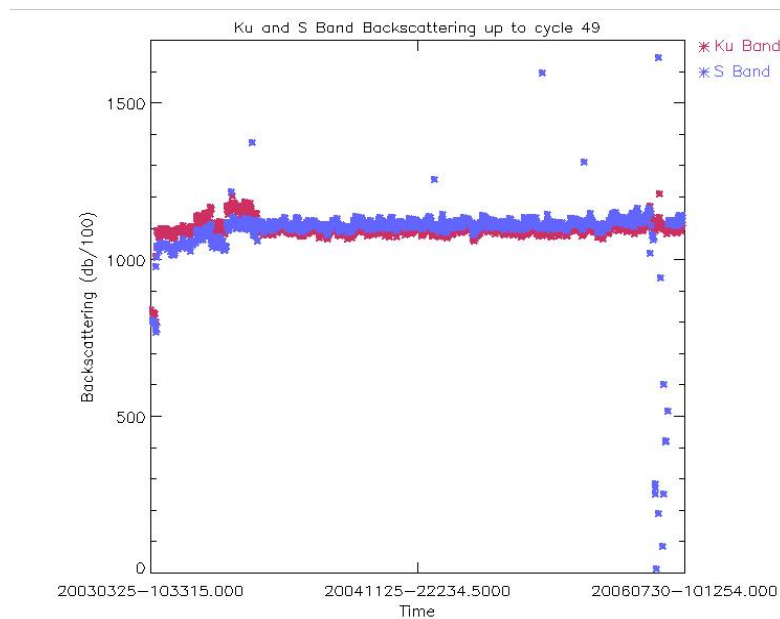


Figure 35: Ku and S band Backscattering daily averages up to cycle 49 (dB/100)

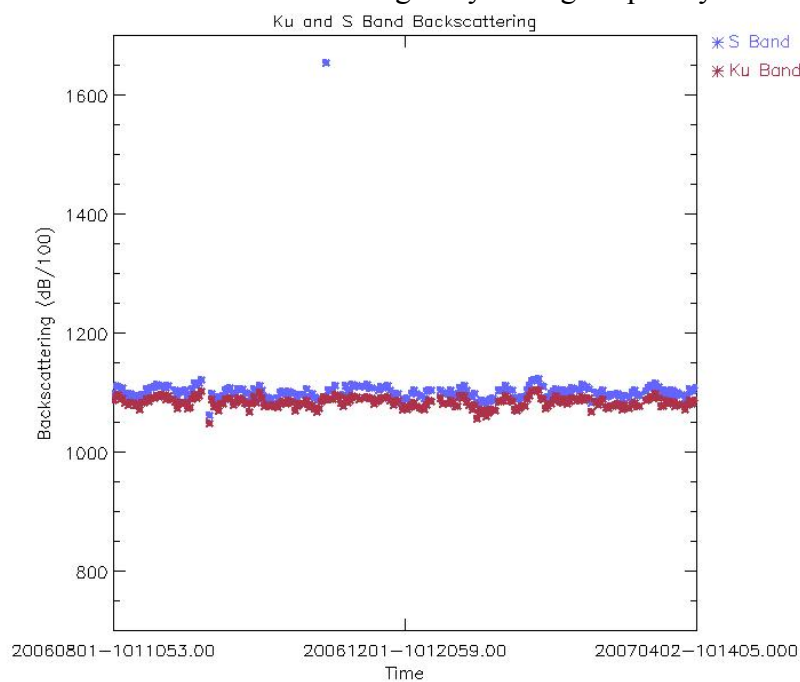


Figure 35A: Ku and S band Backscattering daily averages from cycle 50 onwards (dB/100)

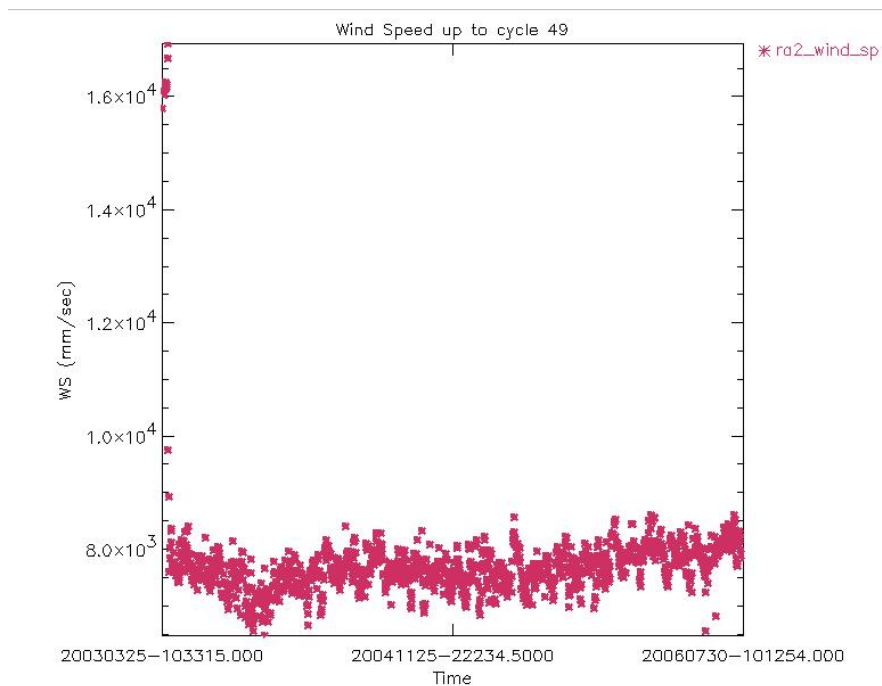


Figure 36: Wind Speed daily averages up to cycle 49 (mm/s)

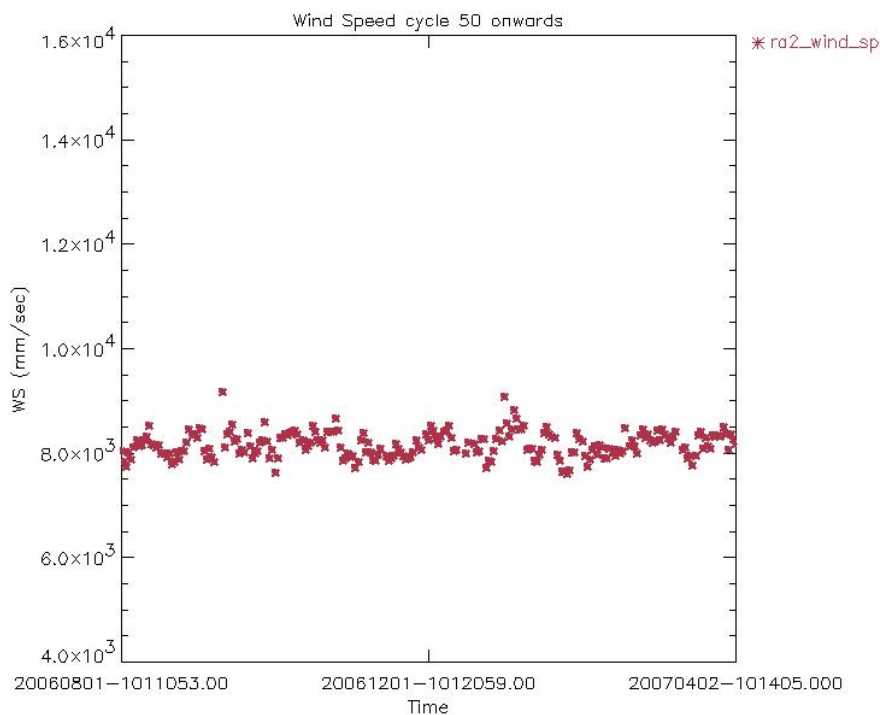


Figure 36A: Wind Speed daily averages from cycle 50 onwards (mm/s)

8 PARTICULAR INVESTIGATIONS

The un-expected behavior of the Envisat RA-2 sensor observed since cycle 44 is no more present on cycle 56. It has disappeared after an instrument unavailability recovery on the 1st March 2007.

The anomaly was not present when the instrument sub-system Radio Frequency Module (RFM) was switched to its B-side, from 15 May until 21 June 2006.

The investigations are currently oriented in understanding the USO anomaly on A-side. In the mean time correction files have been delivered on the web so that the end users can correct the data from the USO anomaly.

APPENDIX 1: IPF UPGRADES

Table 4: L1B IPF version

IPF Version	Date of issue PDHSK& E, LRAC	L1B Algorithm upgrades	L1B ADF updates	ADF filename
V4.53	Nov. 27, 2002			
V4.54	Apr. 7, 2003	*Wrong sign in AGC calibration estimation *Missing integrity check for the Data Block number read from the Level 0 Data Blocks *The altitude above CoG and the altitude rate have to be included in the records also in case of dummy records *1Hz data should be referenced to data block 9.5 not block 10	Correction of the Tx-Rx gain of Ku and S band parameters (3.5 dB)	RA2_CHD_AX
V4.56	Nov. 26, 2003	1 - Extrapolation of AGC value to the Waveform center (49.5) for both Ku- and Sband. 2 - Correction for an error found in the evaluation of S band AGC.	RA2 IF Mask	RA2_IFF_AX
V4.57	PDHS-K: 29-04-2004			

	PDHS-E: 28-04-2004			
V4.58	Aug. 9, 2004			
V5.0.2	Oct. 24, 2005	MWR Side Lobe correction upgrade USO clock period units correction RA-2 alignment: OBDH & USO datation, IE flags correction Rain Flag tuning to compensate for the increase of the S band Sigma0 Monthly IF estimation Level 1B S-Band anomaly flag DORIS Navigator CFI upgrade (RA-2 & MWR)	side lobe table and Config param New ADF format - clock period unit New table in SOI file New format	MWR_SLT_AX MWR_CON_AX RA2_USO_AX RA2_CHD_AX RA2_CON_AX RA2_SOI_AX RA2_IFF_AX RA2_CON_AX
V5.03	Sep. 19, 2006	Level 1B S-Band anomaly flag well implemented Orbit Flag		

Table 5: L2 IPF version

PF Version	Date of issue PDHS	L2 Algorithhm upgrades	L2 ADF updates	ADF filename
V4.53	Nov. 27, 2002			
V4.54	Apr. 7, 2003			
V4.56	Nov. 26, 2003	SPR 26 Tuning of the Ice2 retracking New MWR NN algorithm	MSS CLS01 Rain flag Updated OCOG retracker thresholds Ice1/Sea Ice Conf file Sea State Bias Table file GOT00.2 Ocean Tide Sol 1 Map file FES 2002 Ocean Tide Sol 2 Map file FES 2002 Tidal Loading Coeff Map	RA2_MSS_AX RA2_SOI_AX RA2_ICT_AX RA2_SSB_AX RA2_OT1_AX RA2_OT2_AX RA2_TLD_AX

V4.57	PDHS-K: 29-04-2004 PDHS-E: 28-04-2004	ECMWF meteo files handling		
V4.58	Aug. 9, 2004	Addition of a Pass Number Field in FD Level		
V5.0.2	Oct. 24, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handling of the new RA2_CHD_AX ADF - Rain Flag tuning to compensate for the increase of the S band Sigma0 - Improving the mispointing estimation - Export of the Level 1B S-band flag into the Level 2 data product - Export of the Level 1B NRT orbit quality flag - Addition of a Pass Number Field in FD Level 2 SPH product - Addition of peakiness in Ku and S band in FDMAR - Addition of square of the SWH in Ku and S band - Correction of MCD flag - SPH pass number (field 8) set to 0 in SPH NRT Level 2 data products 	<p>New table in SOI file</p> <p>Two needed parameters in SOI file New format</p> <p>Addition of GOT2000.2 TLD New DEM AUX file (MACESS) merge of ACE land elevation data and Smith and Sandwell ocean bathymetry</p>	<p>RA2_CHD_AX</p> <p>RA2_SOI_AX</p> <p>RA2_SOI_AX</p> <p>RA2_SOI_AX</p> <p>RA2_TLG_AX</p> <p>AUX_DEM_AX</p>
V 5.03	Sep. 19, 2006			

APPENDIX 2: AVAILABILITY:

Table 6: RA-2 L0, L1b and L2 FGD Data products availability summary for Cycle 56

Start orbit	Stop orbit	Time [sec] instrum. Unavail-ability	Data Unav Time [sec]	Time [sec] L0 gaps	Time [sec] L1b gaps	Time [sec] L2 (FGD) gaps	% instrum. avail.	% data avail.	% L0 avail.	% L1b avail.	% L2 (FGD) avail.
26107	26207	54250,00	56128,85	29557,71	29595,29	29625,38	91,03	90,72	85,83	85,83	85,82
26207	26307	224914,66	227229,05	13260,69	12417,83	12439,34	62,81	62,43	60,24	60,38	60,37
26307	26408	9658,00	11814,58	1730,82	31407,70	13647,29	98,40	98,05	97,76	92,85	95,79
26408	26508	24432,00	26500,42	2826,46	2307,87	2339,34	95,96	95,62	95,15	95,24	95,23
26508	26608	31980,42	34229,42	11818,67	5974,13	12815,61	94,71	94,34	92,39	93,35	92,22

Table 7: MWR L0 Data products availability summary for Cycle 56

Start orbit	Stop orbit	Time [sec] instrum. unavailability	Time [sec] L0 gaps	% instrum. avail.	% L0 avail.
26107	26207	0	28248,00	100	95,33
26207	26307	0	11856,00	100	98,04
26307	26408	0	5640,00	100	99,07
26408	26508	0	5928,00	100	99,02
26508	26608	0	4296,00	100	99,29

Table 8: DORIS L0 Data products availability summary for Cycle 56

Start orbit	Stop orbit	Time [sec] instrum. unavailability	Time [sec] L0 gaps	% instrum. avail.	% L0 avail.
26107	26207	0	71917,00	100	94,05
26207	26307	0	26524,00	100	97,81
26307	26408	0	84862,00	100	92,98
26408	26508	0	14093,00	100	98,83
26508	26608	0	24486,00	100	97,98

Table 9: List of gaps for RA-2 L0 Cycle 56

Start date	Start time	Stop date	Stop time	Duration [sec]	Start orbit	Stop orbit	Reason
26-feb-07	23.23.59	26-feb-07	23.25.24	85	26107	26107	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	4.55.19	27-feb-07	4.56.36	77	26111	26111	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	17.41.59	01-mar-07	17.43.17	78	26147	26147	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	19.01.19	01-mar-07	20.41.44	6025	26148	26149	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	5.01.04	02-mar-07	5.02.21	77	26154	26154	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	5.48.42	02-mar-07	6.57.33	4131	26154	26155	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	10.19.06	02-mar-07	11.56.16	5830	26157	26158	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	16.41.48	02-mar-07	16.43.06	78	26161	26161	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
03-mar-07	4.29.27	03-mar-07	4.30.44	77	26168	26168	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
03-mar-07	16.10.17	03-mar-07	16.11.35	78	26175	26175	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
03-mar-07	18.19.21	03-mar-07	18.20.39	78	26176	26176	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	13.30.27	27-feb-07	15.08.58	5911	26116	26117	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	16.36.38	27-feb-07	16.37.55	77	26118	26118	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	4.23.42	28-feb-07	4.24.59	77	26125	26125	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	11.01.40	28-feb-07	11.01.44	4	26129	26129	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	16.04.34	28-feb-07	16.05.52	78	26132	26132	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	18.13.36	28-feb-07	18.14.50	74	26133	26133	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	9.19.00	01-mar-07	9.20.05	65	26142	26142	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	15.33.49	01-mar-07	15.35.07	78	26146	26146	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

28-feb-07	18.14.50	01-mar-07	9.19.00	54250	26133	26142	UNAV_RA2
05-mar-07	5.06.48	05-mar-07	5.08.06	78	26197	26197	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	14.18.16	05-mar-07	14.21.16	180	26202	26202	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	18.25.06	06-mar-07	18.26.24	78	26219	26219	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	4.03.58	07-mar-07	4.05.15	77	26225	26225	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	15.45.00	07-mar-07	15.46.18	78	26232	26232	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	17.53.29	07-mar-07	17.54.47	78	26233	26233	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	5.12.33	08-mar-07	5.13.51	78	26240	26240	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	15.13.11	08-mar-07	15.14.28	77	26246	26246	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	17.21.52	08-mar-07	17.23.10	78	26247	26247	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	4.40.56	09-mar-07	4.42.14	78	26254	26254	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	16.22.06	09-mar-07	16.23.24	78	26261	26261	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	16.32.05	09-mar-07	18.09.04	5819	26261	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	15.05.57	05-mar-07	15.05.59	2	26203	26203	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	18.30.51	09-mar-07	18.32.09	78	26262	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	19.32.03	09-mar-07	19.32.08	5	26262	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	15.07.16	05-mar-07	15.08.34	78	26203	26203	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	17.16.07	05-mar-07	17.17.25	78	26204	26204	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	2.39.34	06-mar-07	2.42.33	179	26209	26210	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	4.35.11	06-mar-07	4.36.29	78	26211	26211	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	5.06.34	06-mar-07	5.09.33	179	26211	26211	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	13.10.01	06-mar-07	14.48.42	5921	26216	26217	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	16.16.11	06-mar-07	16.17.29	78	26218	26218	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	19.32.08	10-mar-07	4.08.01	30953	26262	26268	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	4.09.19	10-mar-07	15.47.49	41910	26268	26275	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	15.50.35	10-mar-07	17.57.39	7624	26275	26276	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	17.59.14	11-mar-07	5.16.43	40649	26276	26283	UNAV_RA2
12-mar-07	10.13.30	12-mar-07	10.14.36	66	26300	26300	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	16.28.00	12-mar-07	16.29.18	78	26304	26304	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	17.33.21	14-mar-07	17.34.39	78	26333	26333	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
15-mar-07	4.52.25	15-mar-07	4.53.43	78	26340	26340	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
15-mar-07	16.33.54	15-mar-07	16.35.12	78	26347	26347	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	4.20.48	16-mar-07	4.22.06	78	26354	26354	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	12.01.26	16-mar-07	12.01.32	6	26358	26358	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	14.42.30	16-mar-07	14.43.35	65	26360	26360	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	16.01.46	16-mar-07	16.03.04	78	26361	26361	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	18.10.43	16-mar-07	18.12.01	78	26362	26362	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	5.28.52	17-mar-07	5.30.10	78	26369	26369	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	15.30.54	17-mar-07	15.32.12	78	26375	26375	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	18.34.44	12-mar-07	18.34.46	2	26305	26305	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	17.39.06	17-mar-07	17.40.24	78	26376	26376	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	18.35.45	12-mar-07	18.37.03	78	26305	26305	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
13-mar-07	4.15.04	13-mar-07	4.16.21	77	26311	26311	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

13-mar-07	15.56.11	13-mar-07	15.57.28	77	26318	26318	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
13-mar-07	18.04.58	13-mar-07	18.06.16	78	26319	26319	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	5.23.54	14-mar-07	5.25.12	78	26326	26326	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	5.52.53	14-mar-07	5.55.52	179	26326	26326	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	15.25.00	14-mar-07	15.26.17	77	26332	26332	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
11-mar-07	21.40.23	12-mar-07	4.45.06	25483	26292	26297	UNAV_RA2
12-mar-07	4.46.41	12-mar-07	10.13.30	19609	26297	26300	UNAV_RA2
16-mar-07	12.01.32	16-mar-07	14.42.30	9658	26358	26360	UNAV_RA2
19-mar-07	4.26.33	19-mar-07	4.27.51	78	26397	26397	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	7.01.17	19-mar-07	7.01.20	3	26398	26398	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	5.32.50	21-mar-07	5.35.49	179	26426	26426	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	16.44.17	21-mar-07	16.45.35	78	26433	26433	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	17.13.25	21-mar-07	17.14.43	78	26433	26433	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	4.32.18	22-mar-07	4.33.35	77	26440	26440	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	16.13.13	22-mar-07	16.14.30	77	26447	26447	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	18.22.12	22-mar-07	18.23.30	78	26448	26448	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
23-mar-07	15.42.11	23-mar-07	15.51.57	586	26461	26461	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
23-mar-07	17.50.35	23-mar-07	17.51.53	78	26462	26462	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	5.08.02	24-mar-07	5.08.05	3	26469	26469	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	5.09.39	24-mar-07	5.10.57	78	26469	26469	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	16.07.21	19-mar-07	16.08.39	78	26404	26404	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	13.45.46	24-mar-07	13.46.38	52	26474	26474	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	15.10.12	24-mar-07	15.11.30	78	26475	26475	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	17.18.58	24-mar-07	17.20.16	78	26476	26476	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	18.16.28	19-mar-07	18.17.45	77	26405	26405	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	1.13.46	20-mar-07	1.16.45	179	26409	26409	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	2.32.45	20-mar-07	2.32.48	3	26410	26410	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	9.20.00	20-mar-07	9.21.06	66	26414	26414	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	15.36.36	20-mar-07	15.37.53	77	26418	26418	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	17.44.50	20-mar-07	17.46.08	78	26419	26419	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	5.03.55	21-mar-07	5.05.12	77	26426	26426	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	2.32.48	20-mar-07	9.20.00	24432	26410	26414	UNAV_RA2
26-mar-07	4.06.32	26-mar-07	4.07.50	78	26497	26497	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	5.53.00	26-mar-07	5.55.59	179	26498	26498	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	18.33.10	28-mar-07	18.34.28	78	26534	26534	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	0.59.51	29-mar-07	0.59.55	4	26538	26538	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	9.54.30	29-mar-07	9.55.36	66	26543	26543	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	12.48.43	29-mar-07	14.25.56	5833	26545	26546	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	15.53.21	29-mar-07	15.54.39	78	26547	26547	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	18.02.04	29-mar-07	18.03.22	78	26548	26548	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	5.19.31	30-mar-07	5.19.33	2	26555	26555	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	5.21.08	30-mar-07	5.22.26	78	26555	26555	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	15.19.24	30-mar-07	15.19.27	3	26561	26561	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

30-mar-07	15.22.00	30-mar-07	15.23.18	78	26561	26561	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	15.47.46	26-mar-07	15.49.04	78	26504	26504	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	17.30.27	30-mar-07	17.31.45	78	26562	26562	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	18.46.58	30-mar-07	18.49.58	180	26563	26563	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
31-mar-07	4.49.31	31-mar-07	4.50.49	78	26569	26569	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
31-mar-07	16.30.55	31-mar-07	16.32.13	78	26576	26576	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-apr-07	4.17.54	01-apr-07	4.19.11	77	26583	26583	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	17.56.19	26-mar-07	17.57.37	78	26505	26505	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	5.15.24	27-mar-07	5.16.41	77	26512	26512	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	15.13.46	27-mar-07	15.13.49	3	26518	26518	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	15.16.06	27-mar-07	15.17.24	78	26518	26518	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	17.24.42	27-mar-07	17.26.00	78	26519	26519	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	4.43.46	28-mar-07	4.45.04	78	26526	26526	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	16.25.01	28-mar-07	16.26.19	78	26533	26533	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	0.59.55	29-mar-07	4.10.35	11440	26538	26540	UNAV_RA2
29-mar-07	4.12.09	29-mar-07	9.54.30	20541	26540	26543	UNAV_RA2

Table 10: List of gaps for MWR L0 Cycle 56

Start date	Start time	Stop date	Stop time	Duration [sec]	Start orbit	Stop orbit	Reason
26-feb-07	23.23.03	26-feb-07	23.25.03	120	26107	26107	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	13.29.28	27-feb-07	15.08.40	5952	26116	26117	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	19.00.21	01-mar-07	20.41.33	6072	26148	26149	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	5.47.34	02-mar-07	6.57.10	4176	26154	26155	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	10.17.59	02-mar-07	11.55.59	5880	26157	26158	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	13.08.56	06-mar-07	14.48.32	5976	26216	26217	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	16.31.03	09-mar-07	18.09.03	5880	26261	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	14.03.21	17-mar-07	15.37.21	5640	26374	26375	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
23-mar-07	14.14.23	23-mar-07	15.51.35	5832	26460	26461	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	13.44.49	24-mar-07	13.46.25	96	26474	26474	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

Table 11: List of gaps for RA-2 L1b Cycle 56

Start date	Start time	Stop date	Stop time	Duration [sec]	Start orbit	Stop orbit	Reason
26-feb-07	23.24.00	26-feb-07	23.25.24	84	26107	26107	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	4.55.19	27-feb-07	4.56.36	77	26111	26111	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	19.01.20	01-mar-07	20.41.44	6024	26148	26149	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	5.01.04	02-mar-07	5.02.21	77	26154	26154	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	5.48.43	02-mar-07	6.57.33	4130	26154	26155	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	8.39.40	02-mar-07	10.18.05	5905	26156	26157	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
02-mar-07	16.41.48	02-mar-07	16.43.06	78	26161	26161	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

03-mar-07	4.29.27	03-mar-07	4.30.44	77	26168	26168	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
03-mar-07	16.10.17	03-mar-07	16.11.35	78	26175	26175	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
03-mar-07	18.19.21	03-mar-07	18.20.39	78	26176	26176	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-feb-07	16.36.38	27-feb-07	16.37.55	77	26118	26118	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	4.23.42	28-feb-07	4.24.59	77	26125	26125	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	11.01.41	28-feb-07	11.01.44	3	26129	26129	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	16.04.34	28-feb-07	16.05.52	78	26132	26132	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	18.13.36	28-feb-07	18.14.50	74	26133	26133	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	9.19.00	01-mar-07	9.20.05	65	26142	26142	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	15.33.49	01-mar-07	15.35.07	78	26146	26146	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-mar-07	17.41.59	01-mar-07	17.43.17	78	26147	26147	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	5.06.48	05-mar-07	5.08.06	78	26197	26197	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	14.18.17	05-mar-07	14.21.16	179	26202	26202	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	16.17.29	06-mar-07	16.23.49	380	26218	26218	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	18.25.06	06-mar-07	18.26.24	78	26219	26219	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	4.03.58	07-mar-07	4.05.15	77	26225	26225	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	15.45.00	07-mar-07	15.46.18	78	26232	26232	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
07-mar-07	17.53.29	07-mar-07	17.54.47	78	26233	26233	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	5.12.33	08-mar-07	5.13.51	78	26240	26240	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	15.13.11	08-mar-07	15.14.28	77	26246	26246	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
08-mar-07	17.21.52	08-mar-07	17.23.10	78	26247	26247	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	4.40.56	09-mar-07	4.42.14	78	26254	26254	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	14.54.32	09-mar-07	16.19.29	5097	26260	26261	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	15.07.16	05-mar-07	15.08.34	78	26203	26203	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	16.22.06	09-mar-07	16.23.24	78	26261	26261	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	16.23.24	09-mar-07	16.29.57	393	26261	26261	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	18.30.51	09-mar-07	18.32.09	78	26262	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
09-mar-07	19.32.05	09-mar-07	19.32.08	3	26262	26262	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	15.17.06	05-mar-07	16.55.09	5883	26203	26204	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
05-mar-07	17.16.07	05-mar-07	17.17.25	78	26204	26204	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	2.39.35	06-mar-07	2.42.33	178	26209	26210	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	4.35.11	06-mar-07	4.36.29	78	26211	26211	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	5.06.35	06-mar-07	5.09.33	178	26211	26211	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	14.49.48	06-mar-07	16.13.42	5034	26217	26218	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
06-mar-07	16.16.11	06-mar-07	16.17.29	78	26218	26218	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	10.13.30	12-mar-07	10.14.36	66	26300	26300	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	16.28.00	12-mar-07	16.29.18	78	26304	26304	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
15-mar-07	4.52.25	15-mar-07	4.53.43	78	26340	26340	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
15-mar-07	16.33.54	15-mar-07	16.35.12	78	26347	26347	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	4.20.48	16-mar-07	4.22.06	78	26354	26354	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	12.01.28	16-mar-07	12.01.32	4	26358	26358	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

16-mar-07	14.42.30	16-mar-07	14.43.35	65	26360	26360	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	16.01.46	16-mar-07	16.03.04	78	26361	26361	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	16.09.56	16-mar-07	18.09.08	7152	26361	26362	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	18.10.43	16-mar-07	18.12.01	78	26362	26362	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
16-mar-07	18.12.01	16-mar-07	21.09.15	10634	26362	26364	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	5.28.52	17-mar-07	5.30.10	78	26369	26369	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
12-mar-07	18.35.45	12-mar-07	18.37.03	78	26305	26305	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	15.30.54	17-mar-07	15.32.12	78	26375	26375	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	15.32.12	17-mar-07	15.37.42	330	26375	26375	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
17-mar-07	17.39.06	17-mar-07	17.40.24	78	26376	26376	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
13-mar-07	4.15.04	13-mar-07	4.16.21	77	26311	26311	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
13-mar-07	15.56.11	13-mar-07	15.57.28	77	26318	26318	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
13-mar-07	18.04.58	13-mar-07	18.06.16	78	26319	26319	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	5.23.54	14-mar-07	5.25.12	78	26326	26326	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	5.52.54	14-mar-07	5.55.52	178	26326	26326	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	15.25.00	14-mar-07	15.26.17	77	26332	26332	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
14-mar-07	17.33.21	14-mar-07	17.34.39	78	26333	26333	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	4.26.33	19-mar-07	4.27.51	78	26397	26397	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	7.01.18	19-mar-07	7.01.20	2	26398	26398	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	5.03.55	21-mar-07	5.05.12	77	26426	26426	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	5.32.51	21-mar-07	5.35.49	178	26426	26426	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	16.44.17	21-mar-07	16.45.35	78	26433	26433	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
21-mar-07	17.13.25	21-mar-07	17.14.43	78	26433	26433	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	4.32.18	22-mar-07	4.33.35	77	26440	26440	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	16.13.13	22-mar-07	16.14.30	77	26447	26447	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
22-mar-07	18.22.12	22-mar-07	18.23.30	78	26448	26448	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
23-mar-07	15.42.11	23-mar-07	15.43.29	78	26461	26461	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
23-mar-07	17.50.35	23-mar-07	17.51.53	78	26462	26462	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	5.09.39	24-mar-07	5.10.57	78	26469	26469	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	14.39.53	19-mar-07	16.05.03	5110	26403	26404	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	13.45.47	24-mar-07	13.46.38	51	26474	26474	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	15.10.12	24-mar-07	15.11.30	78	26475	26475	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
24-mar-07	17.18.58	24-mar-07	17.20.16	78	26476	26476	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	16.07.21	19-mar-07	16.08.39	78	26404	26404	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	16.08.39	19-mar-07	16.17.58	559	26404	26404	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
19-mar-07	18.16.28	19-mar-07	18.17.45	77	26405	26405	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	1.13.47	20-mar-07	1.16.45	178	26409	26409	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	9.20.00	20-mar-07	9.21.06	66	26414	26414	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	15.36.36	20-mar-07	15.37.53	77	26418	26418	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
20-mar-07	17.44.50	20-mar-07	17.46.08	78	26419	26419	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	4.06.32	26-mar-07	4.07.50	78	26497	26497	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE

26-mar-07	5.53.01	26-mar-07	5.55.59	178	26498	26498	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	0.59.52	29-mar-07	0.59.55	3	26538	26538	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	9.54.30	29-mar-07	9.55.36	66	26543	26543	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	15.53.21	29-mar-07	15.54.39	78	26547	26547	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
29-mar-07	18.02.04	29-mar-07	18.03.22	78	26548	26548	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	5.21.08	30-mar-07	5.22.26	78	26555	26555	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	15.19.25	30-mar-07	15.19.27	2	26561	26561	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	15.22.00	30-mar-07	15.23.18	78	26561	26561	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	17.30.27	30-mar-07	17.31.45	78	26562	26562	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
30-mar-07	18.47.00	30-mar-07	18.49.58	178	26563	26563	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
31-mar-07	4.49.31	31-mar-07	4.50.49	78	26569	26569	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	15.47.46	26-mar-07	15.49.04	78	26504	26504	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
31-mar-07	16.30.55	31-mar-07	16.32.13	78	26576	26576	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
01-apr-07	4.17.54	01-apr-07	4.19.11	77	26583	26583	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
26-mar-07	17.56.19	26-mar-07	17.57.37	78	26505	26505	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	5.15.24	27-mar-07	5.16.41	77	26512	26512	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	15.16.06	27-mar-07	15.17.24	78	26518	26518	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
27-mar-07	17.24.42	27-mar-07	17.26.00	78	26519	26519	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	4.43.46	28-mar-07	4.45.04	78	26526	26526	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	16.25.01	28-mar-07	16.26.19	78	26533	26533	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-mar-07	18.33.10	28-mar-07	18.34.28	78	26534	26534	PDS_UNKNOWN_FAILURE
28-feb-07	18.14.50	01-mar-07	9.19.00	54250	26133	26142	UNAV_RA2
09-mar-07	19.32.08	10-mar-07	4.08.01	30953	26262	26268	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	4.09.19	10-mar-07	15.47.49	41910	26268	26275	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	15.50.35	10-mar-07	17.57.39	7624	26275	26276	UNAV_RA2
10-mar-07	17.59.14	11-mar-07	5.16.43	40649	26276	26283	UNAV_RA2
11-mar-07	21.40.23	12-mar-07	4.45.06	25483	26292	26297	UNAV_RA2
12-mar-07	4.46.41	12-mar-07	10.13.30	19609	26297	26300	UNAV_RA2
16-mar-07	12.01.32	16-mar-07	14.42.30	9658	26358	26360	UNAV_RA2
20-mar-07	2.32.48	20-mar-07	9.20.00	24432	26410	26414	UNAV_RA2
29-mar-07	0.59.55	29-mar-07	4.10.35	11440	26538	26540	UNAV_RA2
29-mar-07	4.12.09	29-mar-07	9.54.30	20541	26540	26543	UNAV_RA2

APPENDIX 3: LEVEL 2 STATIC AUXILIARY DATA FILES

AUX_DEM_AXVIEC20031201_000000_20031201_000000_20200101_000000
 AUX_ATT_AXVIEC20020924_131534_20020703_120000_20781231_235959
 AUX_LSM_AXVIEC20020123_141228_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 MWR_LSF_AXVIEC20020313_172218_20020101_000000_20200101_000000

MWR_CHD_AXVIEC20021111_131410_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 MWR_LSF_AXVIEC20020313_172218_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 MWR_SLT_AXVIEC20050426_120000_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_IFA_AXVIEC20050216_125529_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_IFB_AXVIEC20050216_125738_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_CHD_AXVIEC20051017_093900_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_CST_AXVIEC20020621_135858_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_DIP_AXVIEC20020122_134206_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_GEO_AXVIEC20020314_093428_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_ICT_AXVIEC20031208_143628_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_IOC_AXVIEC20020122_141121_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_MET_AXVIEC20020204_073357_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_MSS_AXVIEC20031208_145545_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_OT1_AXVIEC20040120_082051_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_OT2_AXVIEC20031208_150159_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_SET_AXVIEC20020122_150917_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_SL1_AXVIEC20030131_100228_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_SL2_AXVIEC20030131_101757_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_SOI_AXVIEC20051003_170000_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_SSB_AXVIEC20051129_111810_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_TLD_AXVIEC20031208_151137_20020101_000000_20200101_000000
 RA2_TLG_AXVIEC20040310_110000_20020101_000000_20200101_000000

APPENDIX 4: SIGMA0 ABSOLUTE CALIBRATION

Table 18: Transponder measurement results up to cycle 55

Absolute Orbit nb	Date of Measurement	Location / Rel. track	RA-2 resolution	Transponder Bias [dB]	ECMWF Wet Tropo. Corr. [dB]
10389	24-feb-04	Rome / 315	Low	1,552	0,120
10511	04-mar-04	Valmontone / 437	Low	1,542	0,102
10618	11-mar-04	Fiuggi / 43	Low	1,447	0,135
10783	23-mar-04	Maccarese / 208	Low	1,540	0,142
10890	30-mar-04	Rome / 315	Low	1,442	0,152
11119	15-apr-04	Fiuggi / 43	High	0,963	0,122
11513	13-mag-04	Valmontone / 437	Low	1,353	0,133
11620	20-mag-04	Fiuggi / 43	Low	1,427	0,139
11892	08-giu-04	Rome / 315	Low	1,504	0,154
12014	17-giu-04	Valmontone / 437	Low	1,448	0,348
12121	24-giu-04	Fiuggi / 43	Low	1,576	0,149
14290	23-nov-04	Maccarese / 208	Low	1,43	0,164
14397	30-nov-04	Rome / 315	Low	1,11	0,142
14519	9-dic-04	Valmontone / 437	Low	1,26	0,248
14791	28-dic-04	Maccarese / 208	High	0,97	0,134
14898	4-gen-05	Rome / 315	High	0,95	0,114
15020	13-gen-05	Valmontone / 437	High	0,88	0,118
15127	20-gen-05	Fiuggi / 43	High	1,01	0,108
15292	1-feb-05	Maccarese / 208	High	0,95	0,132

15399	8-feb-05	Rome / 315	High	1,05	0,124
15521	17-feb-05	Valmontone / 437	High	0,94	0,115
15793	8-mar-05	Maccarese / 208	High	0,93	0,116
15900	15-mar-05	Rome / 315	High	0,93	0,128
16022	24-mar-05	Valmontone / 437	High	0,94	0,154
16294	12-apr-05	Maccarese / 208	High	0,97	0,140
16401	19-apr-05	Rome / 315	High	0,99	0,134
16523	28-apr-05	Valmontone / 437	High	0,97	0,114
16795	17-may-05	Maccarese / 208	High	0,84	0,168
16902	24-may-05	Rome / 315	High	1,00	0,152
17403	28-jun-05	Rome / 315	High	1,13	0,16
17525	7-jul-05	Valmontone / 437	High	1,04	0,13
17904	02-aug-05	Rome / 315	High	1,02	0,188
18026	11-aug-05	Valmontone / 437	High	0,93	0,154
18405	06-sep-05	Rome / 315	High	1,06	0,16
18634	22-Sep-05	Fiuggi/43	High	1,00	0,152
18799	04-Oct-05	Maccarese/208	High	0,85	0,164
18906	11-Oct-05	Perm site Rome / 315	Low	1,46	0,156
19407	15-Nov-05	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,09	0,19
20409	24-Jan-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,38	0,110
20910	28-Feb-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	0,98	0,124
21912	9-May-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,0	0,138
23916	26-Sep-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,05	0,172
24417	31-Oct-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,08	0,146
24918	05-Dec-06	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,00	0,156
25419	09-Jan-2007	Perm site Rome / 315	High	0,97	0,148
25929	13-Feb-2007	Perm site Rome / 315	High	1,07	0,118

APPENDIX 5: S-BAND ANOMALY

Table 13: List of L2 FGD Files affected by S-Band anomaly during cycle 56: no files affected by S Band Anomaly on cycle 56

APPENDIX 6: IE SITES COORDINATES

ZONE_ID="CapraiaA"
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+009.934000<deg> LAT=+042.970000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+009.863000<deg> LAT=+042.970000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+009.863000<deg> LAT=+043.166000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+009.934000<deg> LAT=+043.166000<deg>
ENDRECORD

ZONE_ID="Toulon_D"
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+005.500000<deg> LAT=+043.070000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+005.473000<deg> LAT=+043.070000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+005.473000<deg> LAT=+043.160000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+005.500000<deg> LAT=+043.160000<deg>
ENDRECORD
ZONE_ID="Vostok_x"
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+106.500000<deg> LAT=-078.000000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+105.500000<deg> LAT=-078.000000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+105.500000<deg> LAT=-077.500000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+106.500000<deg> LAT=-077.500000<deg>
ENDRECORD
ZONE_ID="Dome_x_ "
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+124.000000<deg> LAT=-075.250000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+122.000000<deg> LAT=-075.250000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+122.000000<deg> LAT=-074.750000<deg>
ENDRECORD
RECORD polygon_pt: LONG=+124.000000<deg> LAT=-074.750000<deg>
ENDRECORD