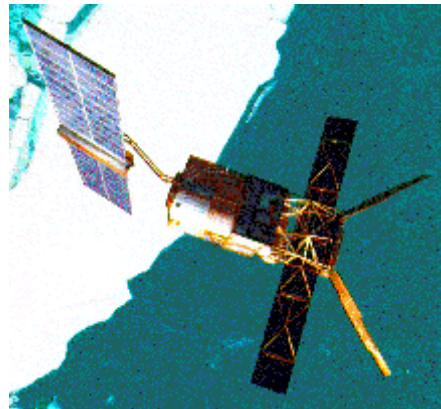

ERS-2 SAR CYCLIC REPORT

C Y C L E 1 0 4

28-MAR-2005 to 02-MAY-2005

Orbit 51946 to 52460



Prepared by:	PCS SAR TEAM
Issue:	1.0
Reference:	
Date of Issue	
Status:	
Document type:	Technical Note
Approved by:	

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document addresses the results of the analysis made on the ERS-2 SAR instrument for the cycle 102 concerning the following activities:

1. external calibration in section 2
2. antenna pattern monitoring in section 4.
3. internal calibration for High rate and Low bit rate mode in section 5
4. attitude/Doppler monitoring in section 6

For further information or comments please write to eohelp@esa.int.

2 MISSION EVENTS

The ERS-2 payload was piloted in YCM mode during the whole current cycle. Please note an increase of the platform instability since orbit ~50600 on 24-DEC-2004 when the yaw bias jumped by ~0.4°. The yaw bias has slowly decreased to -0.3°. The AMI instruments work nominally during the current cycle.

3 EXTERNAL CALIBRATION

External calibration is specific activity performed since the beginning of the ERS-2 mission in order to calibrate the instrument against ground target transponders with a known radar cross-section (RCS).

The SAR calibration site is Flevoland in The Netherlands (NL), with 3 transponders having the following coordinates:

Transponder	Latitude	Longitude
1: Pampushout	+52.36651429N	+5.15197438E
2: Lelystad	+52.45806341N	+5.52755628 ^E
3: Minderhout	+52.55502077N	+5.66896505 ^E

Table 1: Flevoland Transponders coordinates

3.1 ERS-2 Transponder monitoring

Please note that transponder 1 was last detected in 2 Feb 1997, and it has been no longer active ever since. Detection of point targets has continued on transponder 2 and 3, with alternating shut-offs. Transponder 2 was last visible on 17 Oct 2001, and finally Transponder 3 was last visible on 22 Mar 2002. From this date, there has been no detection of point targets in the designated areas in all the following NL scenes.

Date	Value	ERSTran2	ERSTran3	Aalsmeer	Edam
23/06/2000 10:34	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.551746			
	Measured_rcs [dB]	58.2417			
	K [dB]	120.603494			
19/07/2000 21:41	Relative_rcs [dB]		-0.189056		
	Measured_rcs [dB]		57.6609		
	K [dB]		119.121888		
28/07/2000 10:35	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.493343	0.170734		
	Measured_rcs [dB]	58.1833	58.0207		
	K [dB]	120.486688	119.84147		
01/09/2000 10:35	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.381512	0.165394		

	Measured_rcs [dB]	58.0715	58.0154		
	K [dB]	120.26302	119.830789		
10/11/2000 10:35	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.381512	-0.503609		
	Measured_rcs [dB]	58.0715	57.3464		
	K [dB]	120.263025	118.492784		
15/12/2000 10:35	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.46516	-0.050087		
	Measured_rcs [dB]	58.1552	57.7999		
	K [dB]	120.430322	119.399827		
25/04/2001 21:40	Relative_rcs [dB]		-0.370335		
	Measured_rcs [dB]		57.4797		
	K [dB]		118.759332		
04/05/2001 10:34	Relative_rcs [dB]	0.287502			
	Measured_rcs [dB]	57.9775			
	K [dB]	120.075006			
12/02/2003 10:36	Relative_rcs [dB]			-1.14894	
	Measured_rcs [dB]			60.2111	
	K [dB]			117.2021	
09/05/2003 10:33	Relative_rcs [dB]				-0.31983
	Measured_rcs [dB]				61.8902
	K [dB]				118.86

With:

$relative_rcs[dB] = measured_rcs[dB] - nominal_RCS[dB]$

$K [dB] = relative_rcs[dB] + K \text{ annotated } [dB]$

4 ANTENNA PATTERN MONITORING

The Amazon Rain-Forest (RF) presents a well-known and very stable backscattering characteristic. Its homogeneity and isotropic properties provide a stable and constant gamma nought allowing the SAR Antenna Pattern monitoring. SAR data are acquired in ascending and descending pass over RF to investigate changes in the antenna pattern. Since transponders are no more available, acquisitions over the RF also support the radiometric stability analysis mainly based on transponders up to now.

The data will be acquired at the station of Cotopaxi (Ecuador) and Cuiaba (Brazil) and shipped to ESRIN/CPRF for processing. The RF data analysis is usually performed each cycle for the previous one due to the time needed to process HR data, causing a delay in the images availability. Ten images have been selected over this area for cycle 103 (21-Feb-2005 / 28-Mar-2005); their characteristics are summarized in Table 2.

Scene	Orbit – Frame	Acquisition date	Centre lat/long (deg)	Mean σ_0 (dB)
1	51460 – 6957 (ascending)	22-Feb-2005 03:26:33.689	Lat: -11.4040 Lon: 289.9800	-6.137
2	51460 – 6975 (ascending)	22-Feb-2005 03:26:48.720	Lat: -10.5170 Lon: 289.7600	-6.089
3	51460 – 6993 (ascending)	22-Feb-2005 03:27:03.765	Lat: -9.6250 Lon: 289.5570	-5.987
4	51596 – 3699 (descending)	03-Mar-2005 14:42:23.448	Lat: -4.6290 Lon: 293.1760	-6.171
5	51596 – 3717 (descending)	03-Mar-2005 14:42:38.504	Lat: -5.5220 Lon: 292.9790	-6.263
6	51596 – 3735 (descending)	03-Mar-2005 14:42:53.580	Lat: -6.4130 Lon: 292.7640	-6.341
7	51596 – 3753 (descending)	03-Mar-2005 14:43:08.645	Lat: -7.3070 Lon: 292.5650	-6.315
8	51832 – 7011 (ascending)	20-Mar-2005 03:10:01.338	Lat: -8.7970 Lon: 293.6920	-6.110
9	51832 – 7029 (ascending)	20-Mar-2005 03:10:16.412	Lat: -7.9070 Lon: 293.4750	-6.244
10	51832 – 7047 (ascending)	20-Mar-2005 03:10:31.477	Lat: -7.0140 Lon: 293.2750	-6.304

Table 2: Selected Rain Forest scenes for cycle 103

Non-uniform regions have been masked in order to perform the antenna pattern monitoring. Some results of the analysis over the selected scenes are reported in the figures below.

The antenna patterns derived from the selected scenes are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 for ascending and descending passes; Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 6 and Figure 7 show the combination of the patterns for the available scenes, and the difference between the current VMP antenna pattern and the patterns combination which is in the range $-0.1 \div 0.06$ dB for ascending passes and $-0.02 \div 0.1$ dB for descending passes

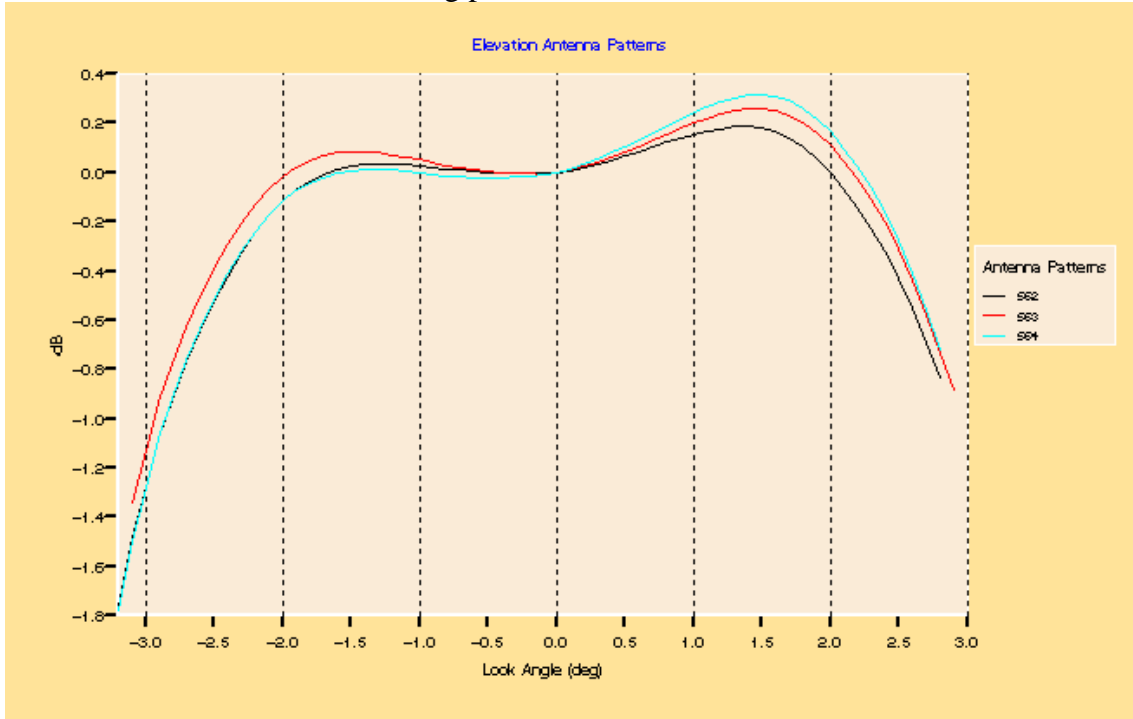


Figure 1: Antenna patterns derived from the ascending pass (February 2005)

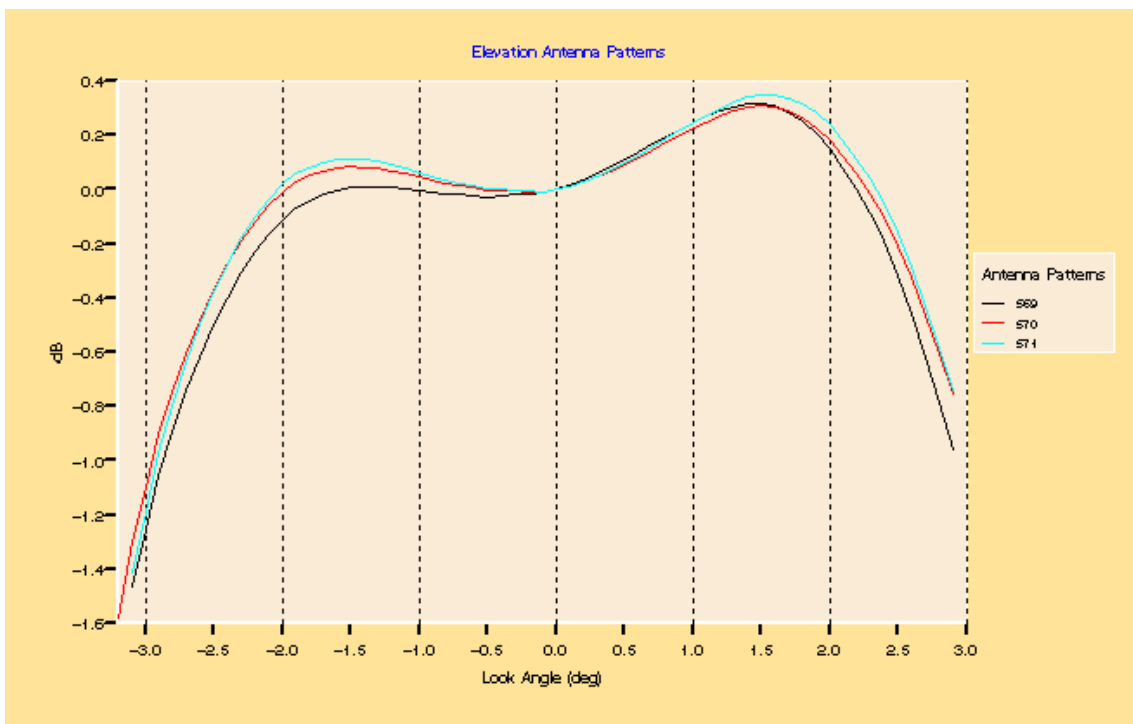


Figure 2: Antenna patterns derived from the ascending pass (March 2005)

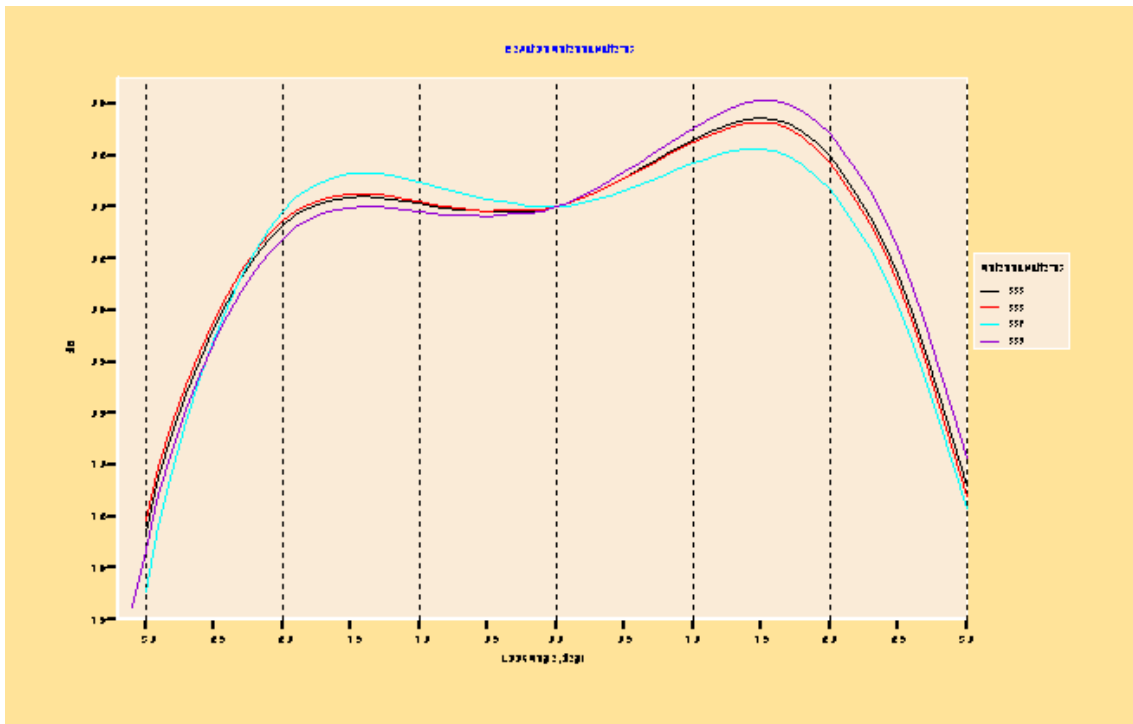


Figure 3: Antenna patterns derived from the descending passes

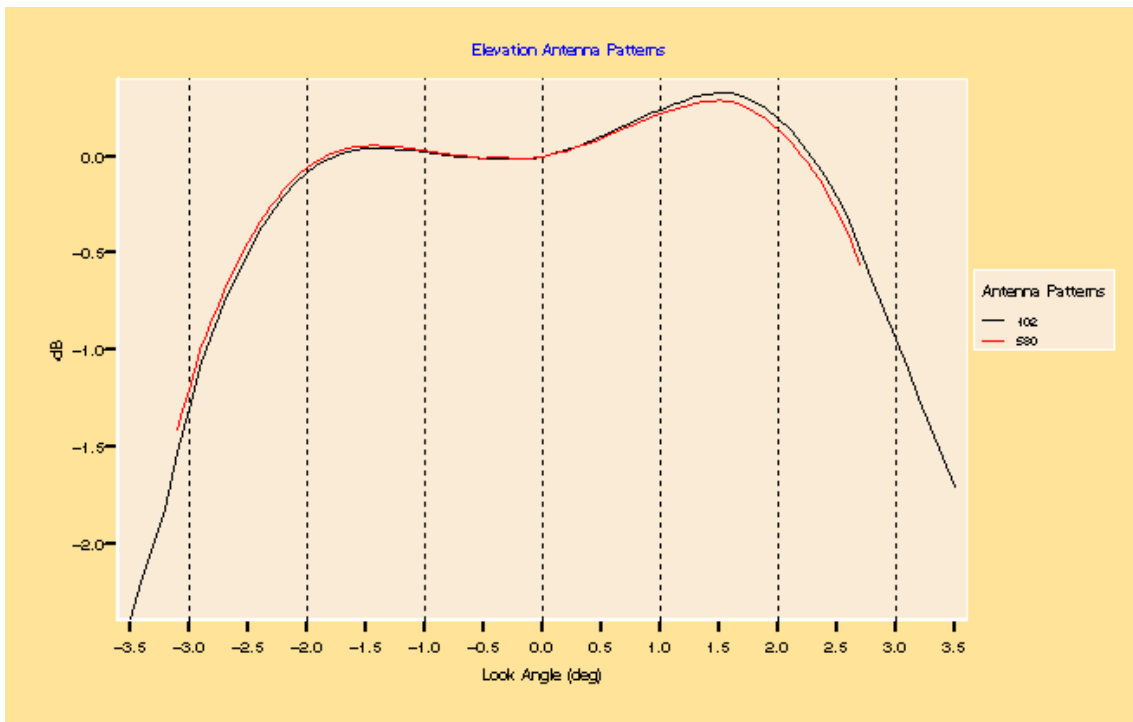


Figure 4: Antenna patterns combination (red curve) plus reference pattern (black curve) for ascending passes

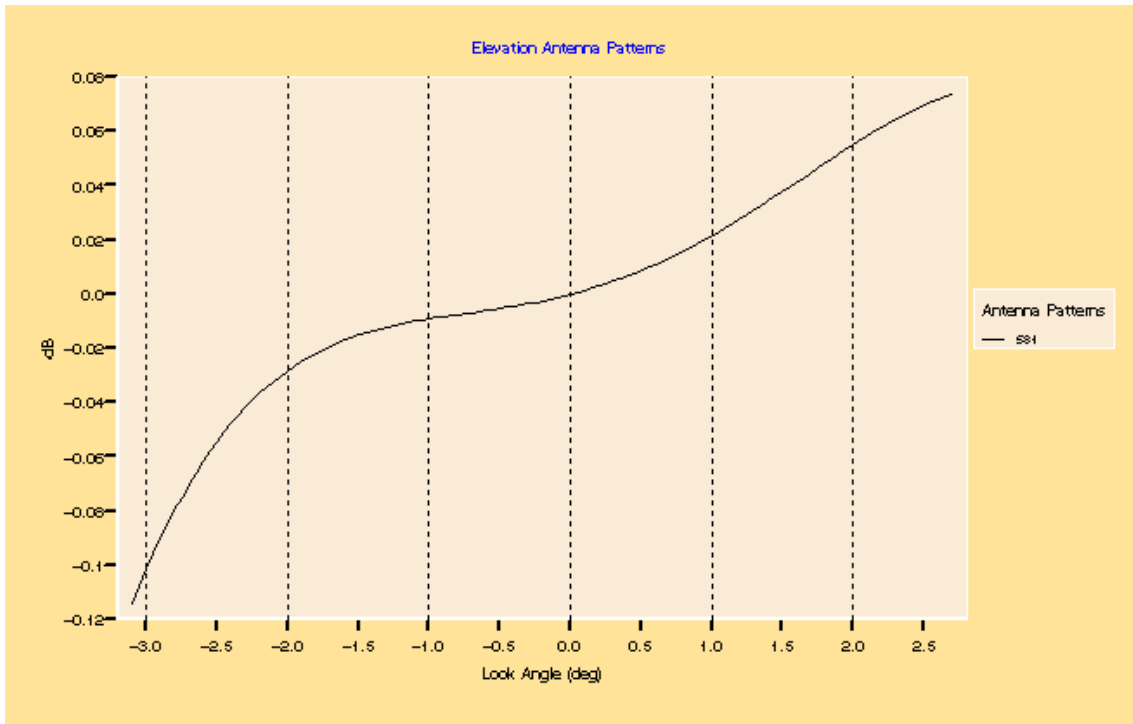


Figure 5: Difference between the reference pattern and the pattern combination for ascending passes

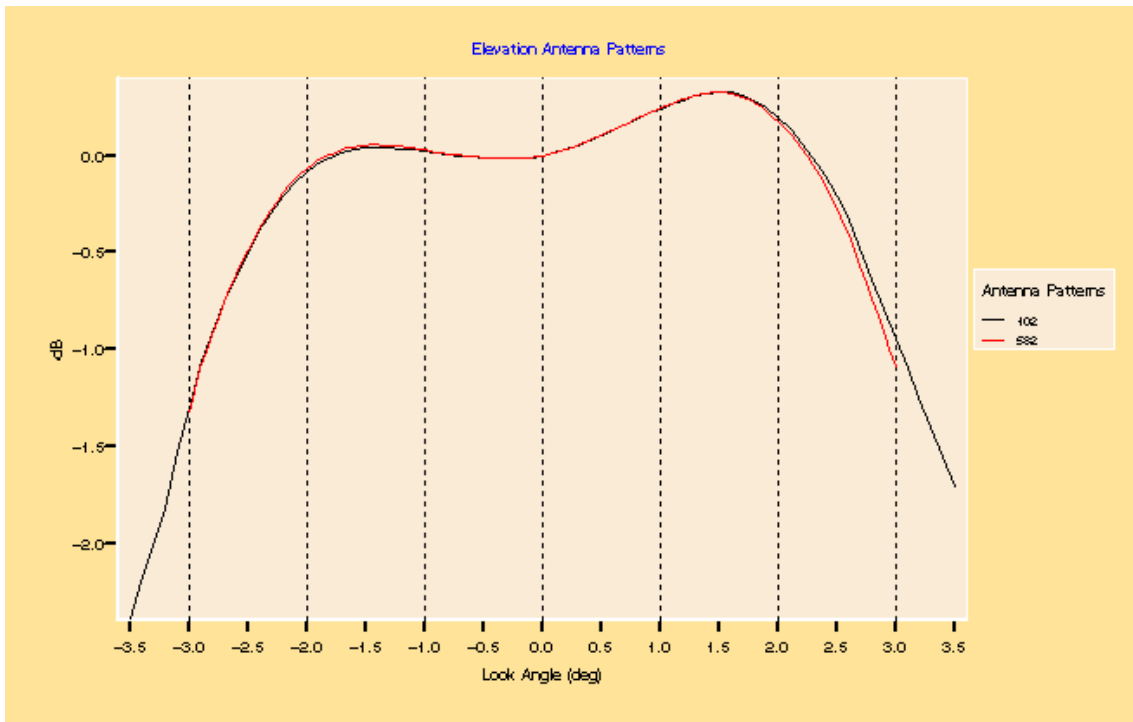


Figure 6: Antenna patterns combination (red curve) plus reference pattern (black curve) for descending passes

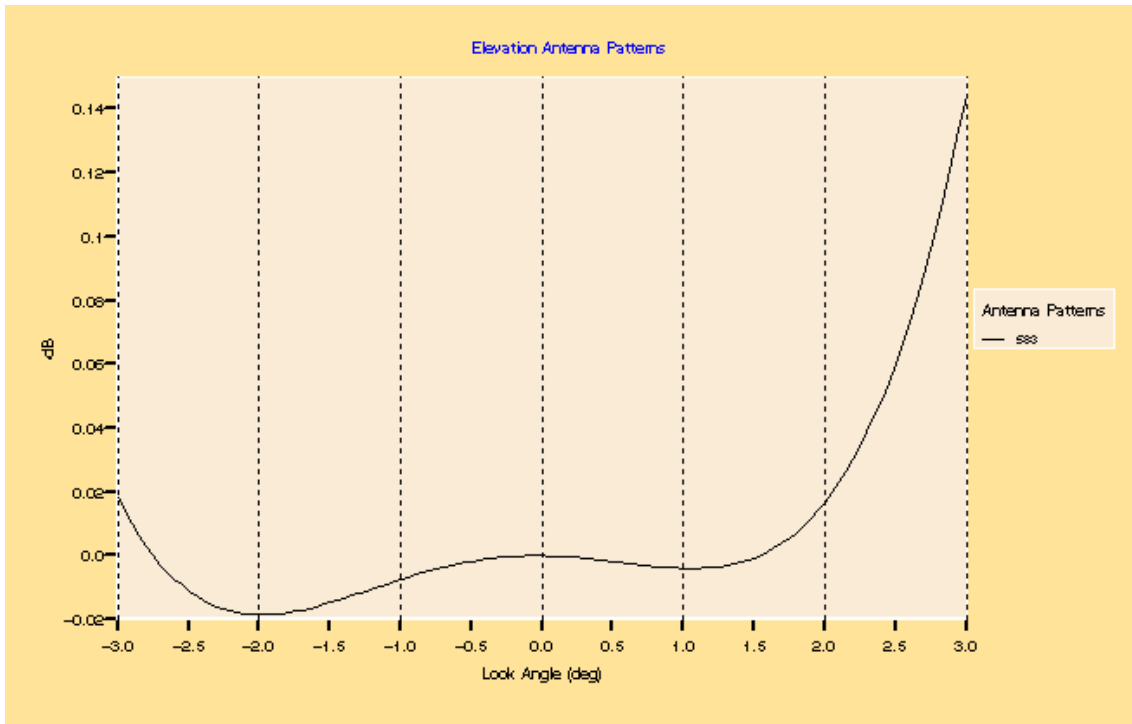


Figure 7: Difference between the reference pattern and the patterns combination for descending passes

The radiometric stability can be derived referring the mean gamma value derived from each available scene. Starting from cycle 101 the gamma values are on average higher than nominal. In order to obtain a clear pattern of the variation around the nominal mean gamma value (~ -6.5 dB) a radiometric error has been defined as the difference between the measured mean gamma and the nominal one. For cycle 103 the calculated values are reported in Table 3; the mean error and standard deviation are respectively -0.48 and 0.044 . Figure 8 shows the trend of the gamma error starting from June 2002 up to cycle 103.

Scene	Orbit – Frame	Mean gamma (dB)	Mean gamma radiometric error (dB)
1	51460 - 6957 (ascending)	-5.779	0.7210
2	51460 - 6975 (ascending)	-5.732	0.7680
3	51460 - 6993 (ascending)	-5.629	0.8710
4	51596 - 3699 (descending)	-5.808	0.6920
5	51596 - 3717 (descending)	-5.900	0.6000
6	51596 - 3735 (descending)	-5.976	0.5240
7	51596 - 3753 (descending)	-5.951	0.5490
8	51832 – 7011 (ascending)	-5.749	0.7510
9	51832 – 7029 (ascending)	-5.886	0.6140
10	51832 - 7047 (ascending)	-5.944	0.5560

Table 3: Mean gamma value for the selected scenes

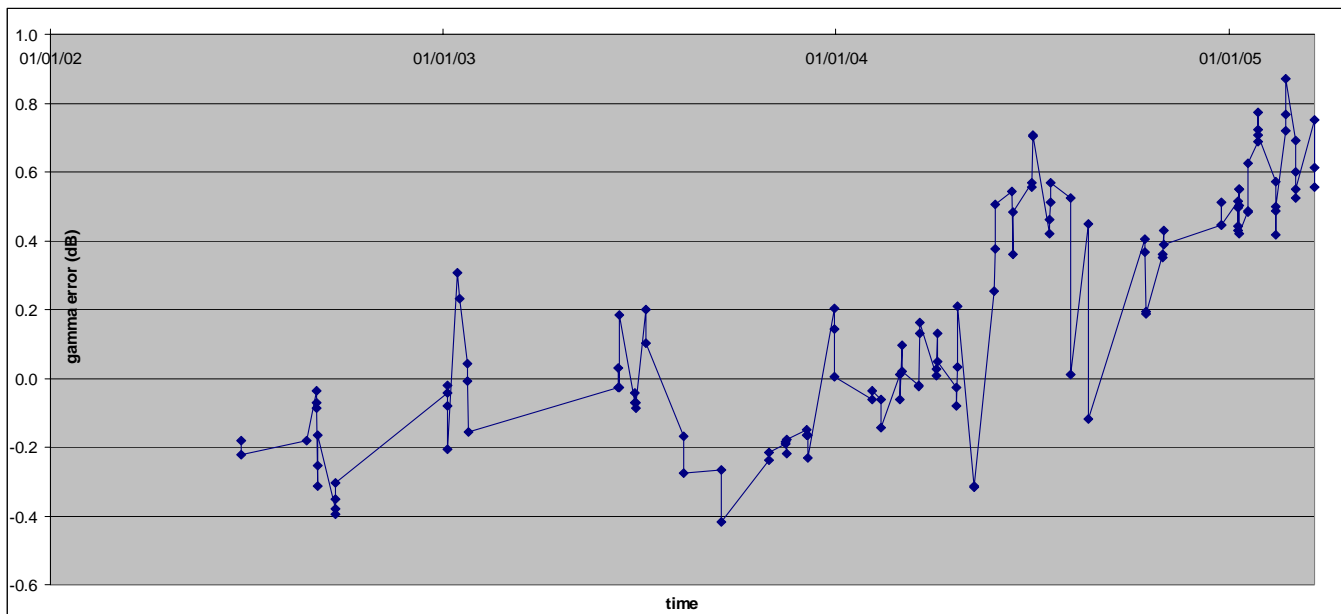


Figure 8: Gamma error (since June 2002 up to cycle 103)

5 INTERNAL CALIBRATION

5.1 Image mode internal calibration

During the cycle 82, a gain increase of 3.5dB has been performed in two steps:
Increase of the Image up-converter level by 2.5dB on 26-FEB-2003.

- Decrease of the Image receiver attenuation gain by 1dB on 28-FEB-2003.

During the cycle 98, an erroneous command uploaded on board causes a significant decrease of 4dB of the replication pulse power. Images acquired from 04-SEP-2004 10:04:14 to 14-OCT-2004 14:37:11 UTC are affected by this power drop. Since this drop affects only the instrument calibration, it can be corrected afterwards using the good replica power as given in the section below.

No major event occurred during the reported period.

5.1.1 High rate products analysis

5.1.1.1 Replica pulse power monitoring

The replica pulse power is extracted from the annotations of the level 1 High Rate SLC and PRI products. As shown in the following plot, the replica pulse power has lost ~5dB since the beginning of the mission with a regular slope of -0.61 dB/year until the gain increase of 3.5dB performed in February 2003. Figure 9 shows that the calibration pulse power has retrieved the level of May 1998. Since the gain increase, the replica pulse power is decreasing with a slope of -0.35 dB/year. Figure 10 shows the evolution of the HR calibration pulses during the cycle 98 to 99. On cycle 98, the calibration pulse power drops by 4dB from 50.16dB to 45.799dB. After correction, the power level went back on cycle 99 to a nominal value of 49.911dB.

The mean replica power level is of 49.84dB for the current cycle.

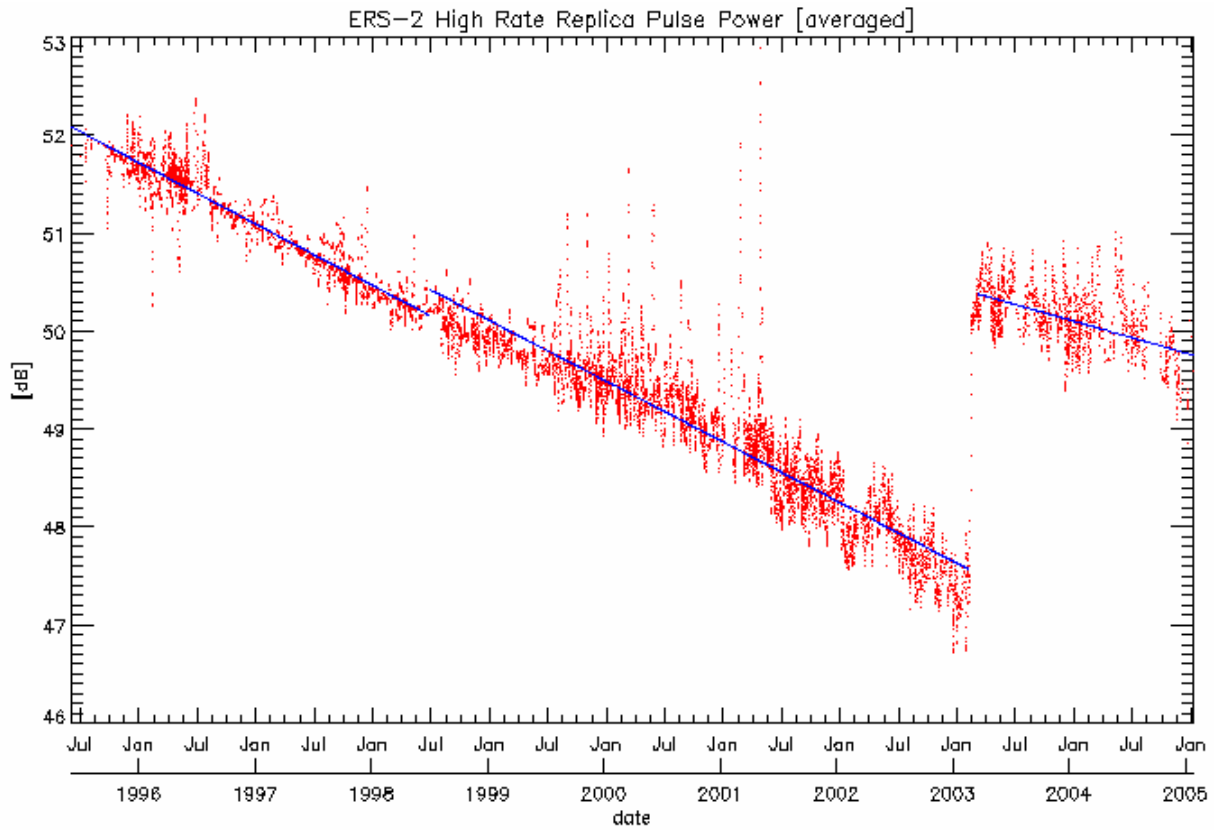


Figure 9: Evolution of Replica pulse power for High Rate products. In order to not bias the trend the data relative to the temporary power jump have been removed.

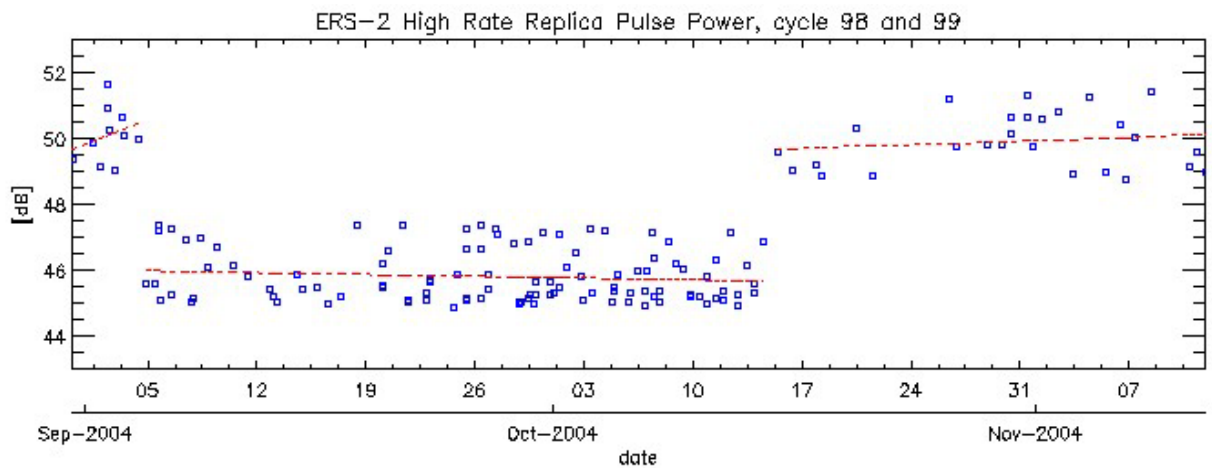


Figure 10: Evolution of replica pulse power for cycle 98 and 99

Table 4 gives the replica pulse power correction factor averaged over 3 months.

Year	Jan-Feb-Mar	Apr-May-Jun	Jul-Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov-Dec
1995	Not available	Not available	215.23	210.835
1996	203.534	201.705	196.501	184.085
1997	178.818	173.012	164.666	159.916
1998	155.797	150.462	146.509	140.186
1999	139.446	133.889	132.352	129.449
2000	127.202	121.463	120.669	115.158
2001	110.416	109.128	99.859	98.068
2002	91.014	93.22	86.05	82.954
2003	76.578 /151.28	153.464	153.805	148.575
2004	146.281	149.892	147.715/77.274	137.193
2005	126.347			

Table 4: Evolution of the Replica Pulse Power correction factor from the HR products. The yellow case is relative to the gain increase of March 2003 and to the power drop of September 2004.

5.1.2 QCP analysis

As a replacement of the UIND¹ and UIC² products, the QCP files are used to monitor the evolution of the:

- replica pulse power,
- calibration pulse power and
- noise power (not calibrated)

In particular, QCP gives two measures of the above parameters: at the start/end of the acquisition. For further details on QCP, please see annex B. Please see Figure 11 for trend plots where red points are for the measures at the beginning of the product and green are the ones at the end.

Replica Pulse Power

The replica pulse power measurements (start/stop) are almost identical. Since the gain increase, the level decreases with a slope -0.57dB/year . Due to the anomaly of cycle 98, the power level drops from 49.29dB to 45.12dB. After correction, the power level went back on cycle 99 to a nominal value of 49.04dB. For the current cycle, the power level is of 48.77dB as shown in Figure 12. As done previously with the HR products, the mean replica pulse power derived from the QCP is given in Table 5.

2. Calibration Pulse Power

As the measure made at the end of the segment is noisier, only the first is used. For the current cycle the power level has reached a mean level of 42.68dB. As shown in Figure 13 there is (as expected) a linear correlation between replica and calibration pulse power. However, the effect of the power drop is clearly visible as it appears like outliers to this linear relationship. Since

¹ UIND gives information on noise power level and the calibration pulse power level

² UIC gives on the replica Pulse power

the gain increase, the mean calibration pulse power is decreasing with a regular slope of -0.53dB/year.

3. Noise Power

The noise power level seems to be constant during the whole mission. It decreases with a low slope of -0.08dB/year from the last gain increase. During the current cycle it has reached a mean level of 7.23dB.

Year	Jan-Feb-Mar	Apr-May-Jun	Jul-Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov-Dec
1996	211.622	205.018	Not available	184.384
1997	182.15	173.055	167.219	162.305
1998	155.998	151.48	144.595	138.553
1999	135.867	128.822	Not available	127.188
2000	115.325	109.939	109.38	105.205
2001	101.302	97.039	91.881	88.518
2002	83.486	81.575	77.354	72.151
2003	70.864/145.35	139.799	134.951	129.152
2004	122.444	123.601	121.708/ 47.42	113.769
2005	107.806			

Table 5: Evolution of Replica Pulse correction factor for QCP files. The yellow case is relative to the gain increase of March 2003 and to the power drop of September 2004.

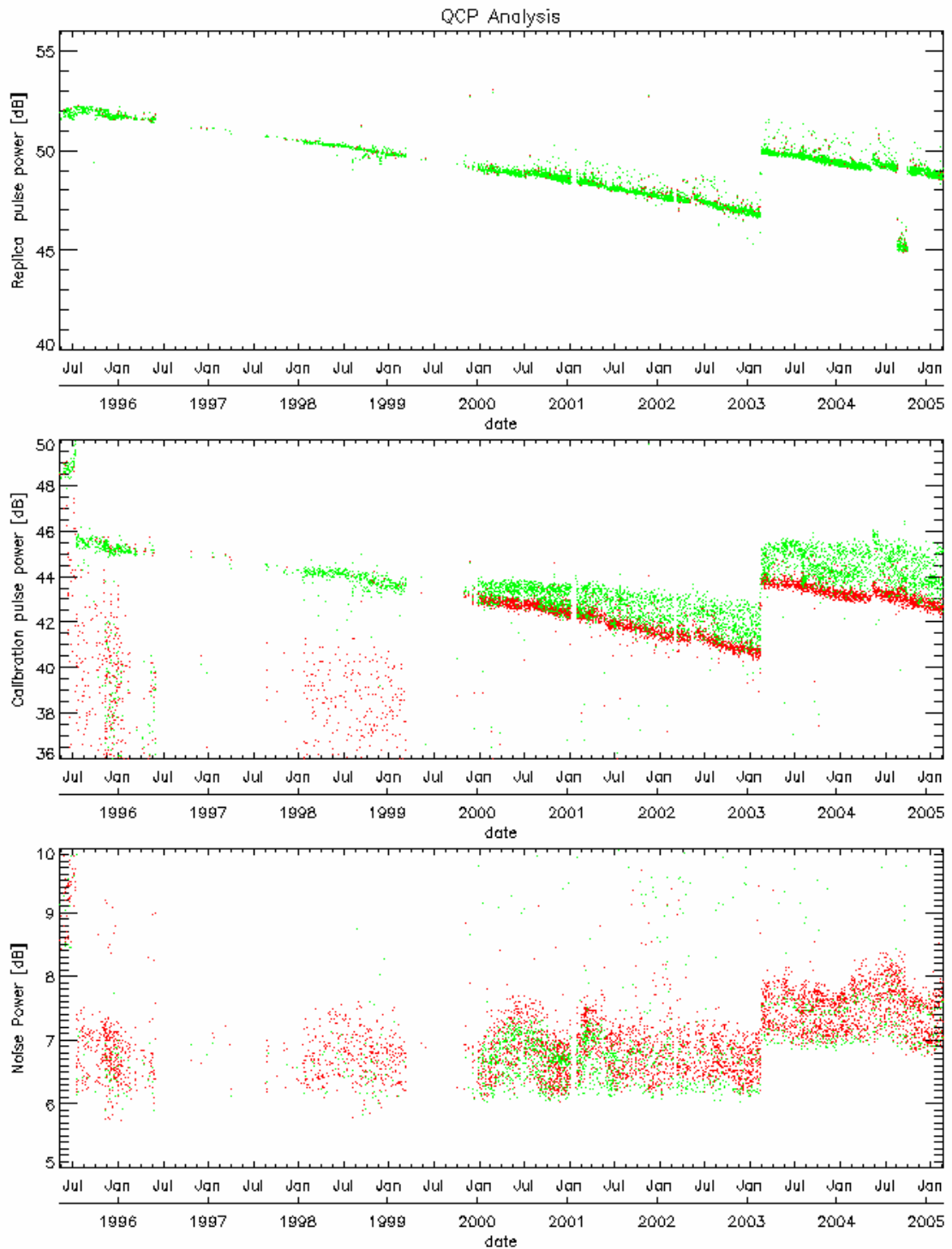


Figure 11: Evolution of Replica, calibration and noise pulses from QCP files. Red points are for the measures at the beginning of the product, while green are the ones at the end.

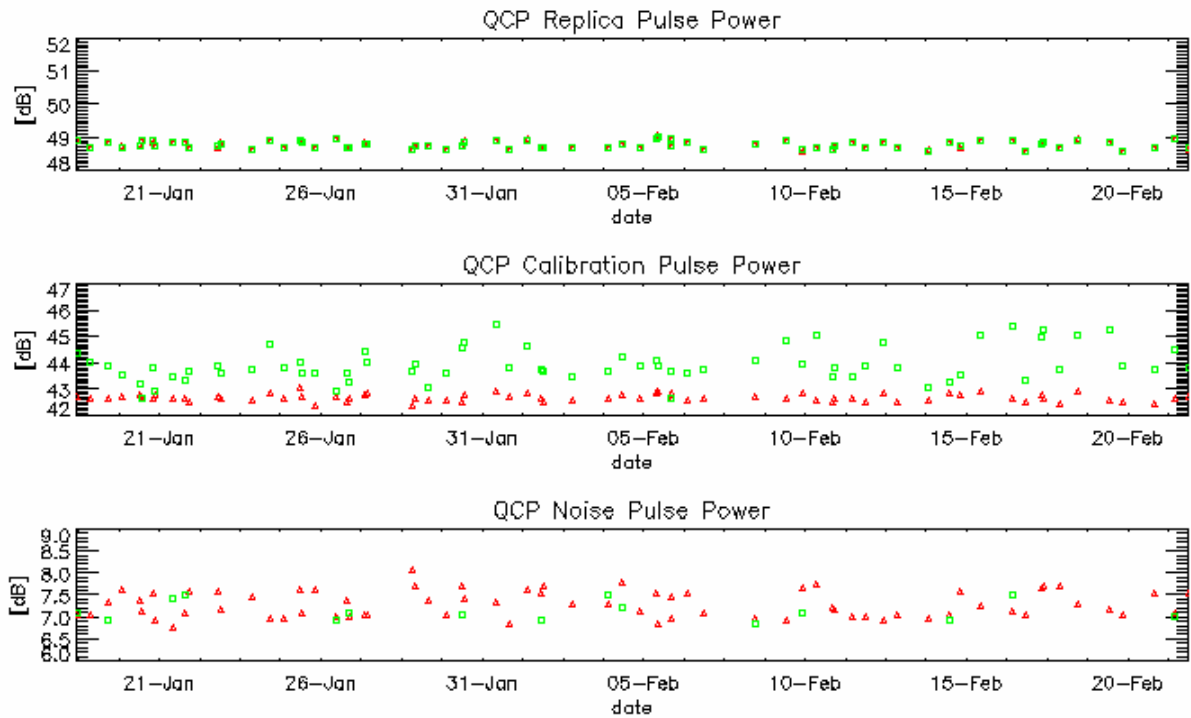


Figure 12: Evolution of Replica, calibration and noise pulses from QCP files for the current cycle

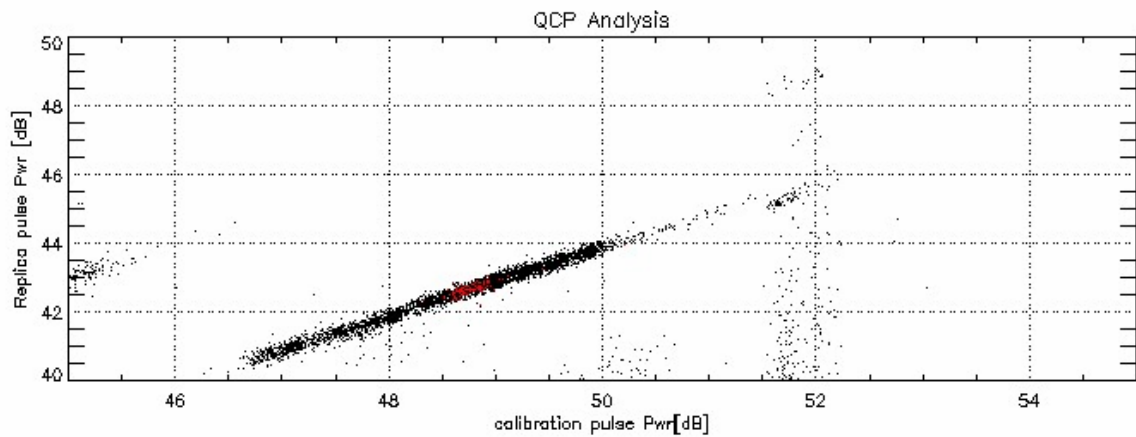


Figure 13: Joint evolution of Replica and calibration pulses. Red dots are the data for the current cycle.

5.2 Wave mode internal calibration

5.2.1 Calibration pulse power monitoring

From cycle 39 to 77 (Jan-1999 to Sep-2002), the calibration pulse power was decreasing with a slope of -0.215dB/year .

On 4th September 2002 an update of the ERS-2 AMI up-converter gain occurred. For wave mode the gain was increased by 3dB. However, only a change of ~1dB has been measured, as shown in Figure 14. The level of the calibration pulse power rose up from 23.5dB to 24.4dB. Since the gain increase, the power level is decreasing with a regular slope of -0.21dB/year.

The calibration pulse power has reached for the current cycle a mean level of 23.88dB as show in Figure 15.

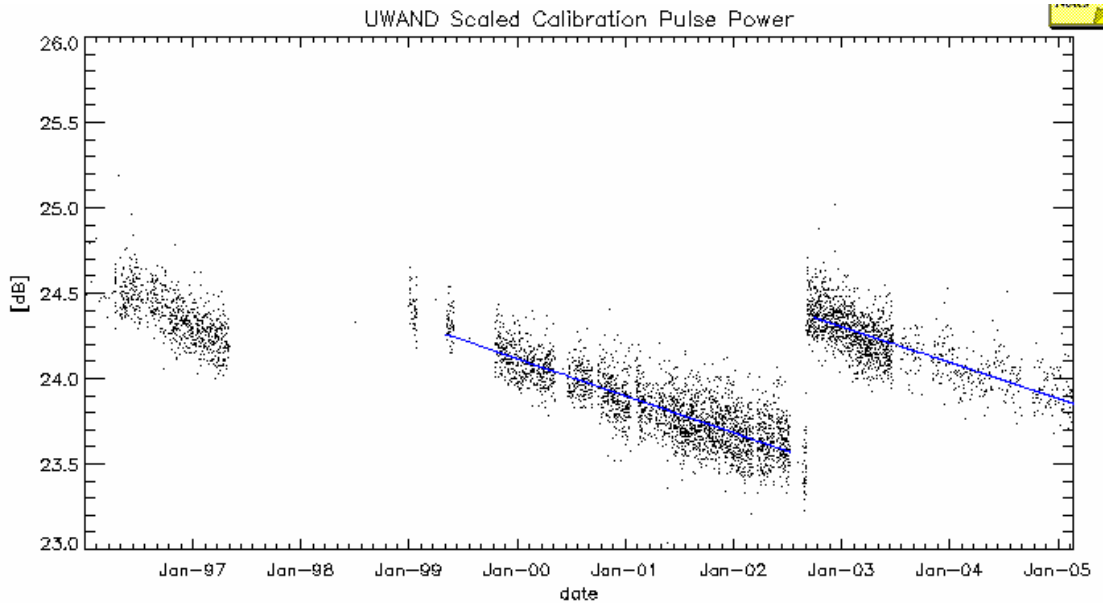


Figure 14: Evolution of Mean Calibration Pulse

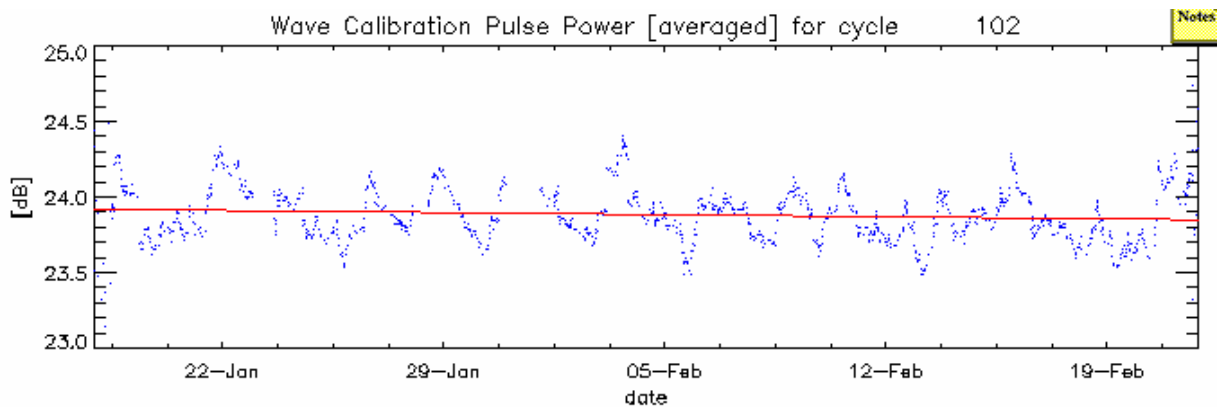


Figure 15: Evolution of Calibration Pulse Power for the current cycle

Please see appendix A for further details on calibration pulse power.

6 SAR PERFORMANCE

6.1 Image/Wave acquisition

Starting from July 2003, due to tape recorders failure, the ERS LR mission continues within the full coverage of ESA LBR receiving stations, which are:

- Maspalomas, Gatineau, Prince Albert, Kiruna: immediately available
- West Freugh, Matera, O'Higgins: available in the near future

Please note that SAR HR mission is not affected. By consequence, SAR image availability is not influenced.

6.2 Doppler/Attitude analysis

6.2.1 AOCS overview

ERS-2 was piloted in yaw-steering mode using three gyroscopes since the beginning of the mission until February 2000, when a new yaw-steering mode using only one gyroscope was implemented. The ERS-2 gyroscopes have experienced several problems during the mission and the new mono-gyro mode (1GP) was intended to ensure the mission continuity even in case of additional failures. In January 2001 a new test piloting mode using no gyroscopes, the Extra-Backup Mode (EBM), was implemented as a first stage of a gyro-less piloting mode. The aim of this challenging mode was to use the remaining gyroscopes only for those activities absolutely requiring them, such as some orbit manoeuvres. A more accurate version of this yaw-steering zero-gyro mode (ZGM) was operationally used since June 2001 and the performance was further improved with the implementation of the Yaw Control Monitoring mode (YCM) on the beginning of 2002. The evolution from the nominal and extremely stable three-gyro piloting mode (3GP) to the YCM has allowed to successfully continuing the ERS-2 operations despite of the gyroscopes failures. Nevertheless, this evolution has significantly affected the stability of the satellite attitude and the SAR Doppler Centroid frequency. Figure 16 gives a summary of the ERS-2 piloting modes.

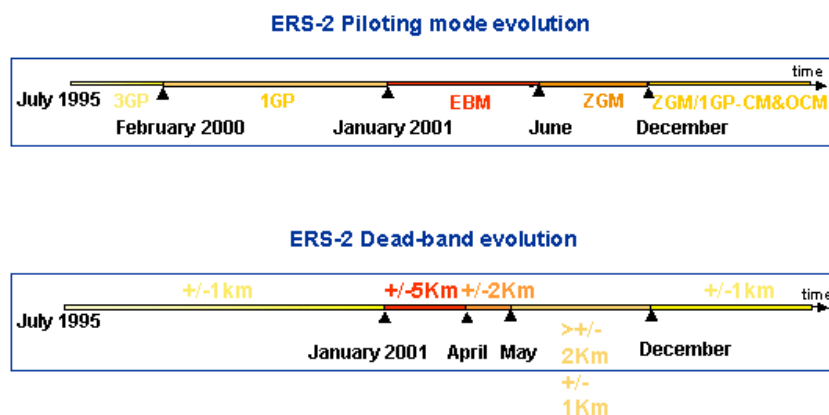


Figure 16: Summary of ERS-2 Piloting Mode

As an example of the attitude instability Figure 17 shows the evolution of the Doppler Centroid since the beginning of the ERS-2 mission.

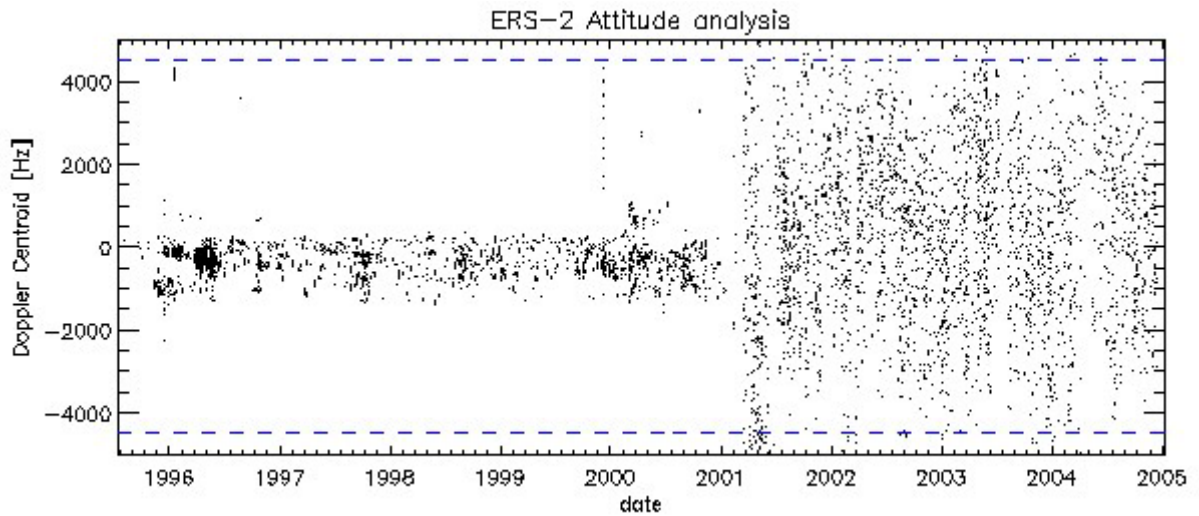


Figure 17: Evolution of Doppler Centroid Frequency since the beginning of the mission

6.2.2 Attitude monitoring

The YCM piloting mode requires a monitoring in near real time of the yaw angle. The mean yaw per orbit angle is currently derived HEY (scatt) products.

From January to March the payload is in the sun blinding period where for ~4minutes per orbit the satellite flies with uncontrolled attitude due to sensor blinding. During this period increase in the dispersion of the yaw values is expected.

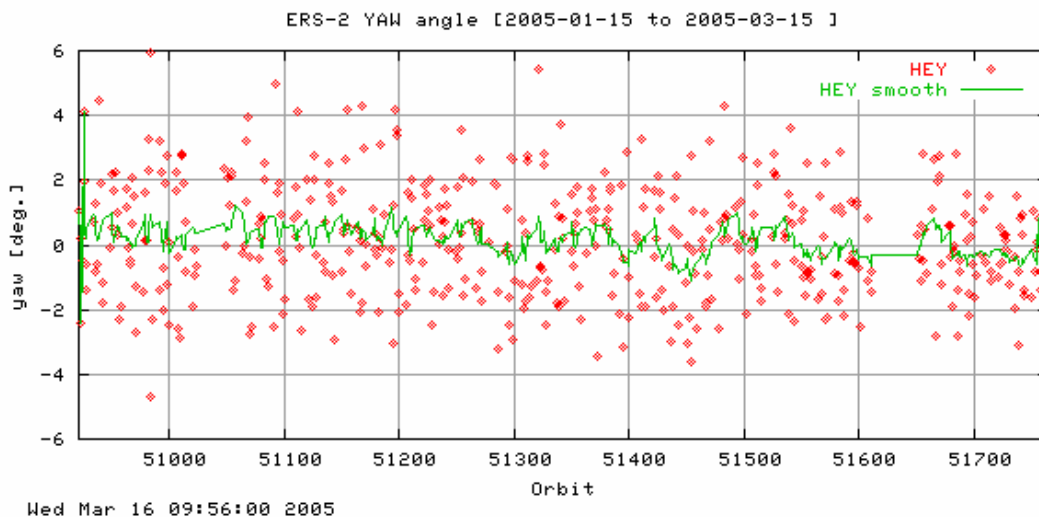


Figure 18: Mean yaw angle/orbit derived from HEY data since 06-JUN-2004

Please note an increase of the platform instability since orbit ~50600 on 24-DEC-2004. The yaw bias has jumped by $\sim 0.4^\circ$. Since orbit ~51600, the yaw bias dropped to -0.3° .

6.2.3 SAR high rate Doppler monitoring

For monitoring purposes a specific HR product ordering (~ 90 products per cycle) is made to follow the evolution of the platform attitude/Doppler Centroid frequency.

For the current cycle too few HR products are available to present reliable trends.

ANNEX A: WAVE CALIBRATION PULSE POWER

Noise power density, scaled and unscaled calibration pulse power can be calculated extracting the following parameters from **UWAND** products:

- σ_I the standard deviation of I part noise data on SPH
- σ_Q the standard deviation of Q part noise data on SPH
- I and Q part of the 4 calibration pulse datasets

Noise power density

The noise power density is defined as follows:

$$npd = \sigma_i^2 + \sigma_q^2$$

Calibration pulse power

For each four DSRs, we search the peak intensity of the calibration pulses. In order to take into account only the energy of the main lobe of the calibration pulses only 16 samples are used around the peak. If p is the position of the peak the calibration pulse power for one DSR is defined as following:

$$powerDSR = \frac{1}{16} \sum_{n=p-8}^{p+7} I_n^2 + Q_n^2$$

The Calibration Pulse Power is obtained by averaging:

$$CalibrationPulsePower = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^4 powerDSR(j)$$

- a) Unscaled calibration pulse power

The unscaled calibration power is identical as the previous formula:

$$UnscaledCalibrationPulsePower = CalibrationPulsePower = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^4 powerDSR(j)$$

- b) Scaled calibration pulse power

The scaled calibration pulse power is defined as follows:

$$scaledCalibrationPulsePower = CalibrationPulsePower - 16 * npd = \left[\frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^4 powerDSR(j) \right] - 16 * npd$$

ANNEX B: PRODUCTS QUALITY ANALYSIS

This activity is principally dedicated to the user support. The two main types of activities are:

- Verification of products with a high Doppler value (rejected products)
- Product quality/format anomalies

Rejected products during the cycle

Rejected products are those having Doppler Centroid frequencies outside the interval $[-4500, 4500]$ Hz. In this case VMP ambiguity estimation is not reliable so the product's focusing has to be checked.

Product quality anomalies

Products quality anomalies are detected internally or via the users complaints.

The action is to analyze the faulty products and report the analysis results.

ANNEX C: EXAMPLE OF QCP FILE

Processing - ERS_2_\$QCP200_027387.\$EXCHANGE

Filename = ERS_2_\$QCP200_027387.\$EXCHANGE
 File size in bytes = 3551
 Time of last access = 01-NOV-2002 19:33:37.000
 Time of last data modification = 27-JUL-2000 09:38:23.000
 Time of last file status change = 27-JUL-2000 09:38:23.000

[QCP200Header]

Filename = ERS_2_\$QCP200_027387.\$EXCHANGE
 ArrivalTime = 2000-07-27 09:38:23
 Platform Id = 2
 NumOfPasses = 1
 PassId = 1
 NumOfImagingSeqs = 1

[ImageSeqId_1]

NumberOfValidNoisePulsesStart = 3
 NumberOfValidCalibPulsesStart = 4
 NumberOfValidRepPulsesStart = 8
 MeanPowerOfValidRepStart = 78166.750000
 MeanPowerOfValidRepFlagStart = 0.000000
 IndexOfFirstValidRepSampleWindowStart = 29
 FirstValidReplicaSampleWindowFlagStart = 1
 RangeCompressionNormFactorStart = 77990.000000
 RangeCompressionNormFactorFlagStart = 0
 MeanPowerOfValidCalibStart = 18861.839990
 MeanPowerOfValidCalibFlagStart = 0
 MeanPowerOfValidNoiseStart = 5.681800
 MeanPowerOfValidNoiseFlagStart = 1
 NumberOfValidNoisePulsesEnd = 6
 NumberOfValidCalibPulsesEnd = 4
 NumberOfValidRepPulsesEnd = 8
 MeanPowerOfValidReplicaEnd = 77995.250000
 MeanPowerOfValidReplicaFlagEnd = 0
 IndexOfFirstValidReplicaSampleWindowEnd = 28
 FirstValidReplicaSampleWindowFlagEnd = 1
 RangeCompressionNormFactorEnd = 77890.000000
 RangeCompressionNormFactorFlagEnd = 0
 MeanPowerOfValidCalibEnd = 18015.237350
 MeanPowerOfValidCalibFlagEnd = 0
 MeanPowerOfValidNoiseEnd = 5.276930
 MeanPowerOfValidNoiseFlagEnd = 1
 MeanReplicaPulsePowerUpperThreshold = 255000.000000
 MeanReplicaPulsePowerLowerThreshold = 85000.000000
 MeanNoiseSignalPowerUpperThreshold = 7.500000
 MeanNoiseSignalPowerLowerThreshold = 2.500000
 MeanCalibSignalPowerUpperThreshold = 3750.000000
 MeanCalibSignalPowerLowerThreshold = 1250.000000
 RangeCompressNormFactorUpperThreshold = 255000.000000
 RangeCompressNormFactorLowerThreshold = 85000.000000