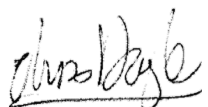


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Title : **IDEAS-QA4EO – SMOS Monthly Report - March 2024**

Abstract : This document provides a summary of the status and performance of SMOS over the course of the reporting month

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AMENDMENT POLICY

This document shall be amended by releasing a new edition of the document in its entirety. The Amendment Record Sheet below records the history and issue status of this document.

AMENDMENT RECORD SHEET

ISSUE	DATE	DCI No	REASON
1.0	10/04/2024	N/A	Formal release

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the routine Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (**SMOS**) Monthly Public Report containing a summary of the instrument health, product quality status and updates to SMOS processing and auxiliary files during March 2024.

The instrument health during March 2024 was found to be nominal. There were 5 unavailabilities reported during the reporting period which translated into time intervals with data loss or degraded data. The list of unavailabilities is included in section 3.2.

The data quality during March 2024 was found to be nominal, with the exceptions listed in section 4.5. These degraded periods have been induced either by instrument anomalies or by unavailability of dynamic auxiliary files.

On 3rd March at 15:59:38z, SMOS entered into a safe mode due to unknown reasons. The recovery was successfully performed on 7th March at 09:40:55z. Data gaps have occurred for telemetry and L1 and L2 science data for this period.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Structure of the Document

After this introduction, the document is divided into several major sections that are briefly described below:

1 Executive summary

The executive summary covers the main findings from the report.

2 Introduction

A list of referenced documents and definitions of terms are available.

3 Instrument status

This section covers the instrument health and unavailabilities from this reporting period.

4 Data Summary

This section covers reprocessing, updates to processors and aux files as well as a data coverage summary.

5 Long Term Analysis

Long-term analysis of the instrument calibration and data quality are provided in this section.

2.2 Reference Documents

RD1	XSMS-GSEG-EOPG-TN-08-0016 SMOS L1OP-V3 Product Quality Flag format definition V3.1
-----	--

2.3 Definitions of Terms

The following terms have been used in this report with the meanings shown.

Term	Definition
CCU	Correlator and Control unit, instrument computer on-board
CMN	Control and Monitoring Node, responsible for commanding the receivers, reading their physical temperatures and telemetry and the generation of the synchronization signal (local oscillator tone) among receivers.
DPGS	Data Processing Ground Segment
ESL	Expert Science Laboratory
IC4EC	Internal Calibration for External calibration. Calibration sequences for the instrument monitoring and calibration of science data acquired in external target pointing.
IFREMER	French Research Institute for Sea Exploitation (Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la MER)

IPF	Instrument Processor Facility
L2OS	Level 2 Ocean Salinity
L2SM	Level 2 Soil Moisture
LICEF	Lightweight Cost Effective Receivers
MIRAS	Microwave Imaging Radiometer using Aperture Synthesis
MM	Mass Memory
N/A	Not applicable
OCM	Orbit Correction Manoeuvre
Pi-MEP	SMOS Pilot-Mission Exploitation Platform project
PMS	Power Measurement System
RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
SPQC	Systematic Product Quality Control facility
SSS	Sea Surface Salinity

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3 INSTRUMENT STATUS

3.1 Instrument Health

The current instrument status is that all the **instrument** subsystems are working correctly. The current configuration of the instrument is that the arm A and the arm B are working in nominal side and arm C is in the redundant side.

Table 3-1 History of instrument problems and mode changes

Start	Stop	Description
11 January 2010 12:07z Orbit 1013	N/A	Arm A changes from redundant to nominal side. That operation is to avoid the malfunction of one of the redundant CMNs of the arm.
12 January 2011 09:15z Orbit 6278	N/A	Arm B changes from redundant to nominal side. That operation is to avoid the malfunction of one of the redundant CMNs of the arm.

3.2 Instrument Unavailabilities and Anomalies

The unavailabilities and anomalies listed in Table 3-2 occurred during the reporting period. A full list of unavailabilities can be found in the Mission Status section on the SMOS Earthnet website accessible [here](#)

During these unavailabilities and anomalies the instrument may have either not collected data or may have collected corrupt data which may not have been processed to higher levels. Table 4-7, Table 4-8 and Table 4-9 provide details of the data which has been affected by gaps and quality degradation respectively.

Table 3-2 SMOS unavailability list

Start Time (UTC)	Stop Time (UTC)	Unavailability Report Reference	Planned	Description
03/03/2024 15:59:38z	07/03/2024 09:40:55z		No	SMOS Safe mode shut-down
09/03/2024 11:17:01z	09/03/2024 11:27:01z	FOS-6160	No	CMN Unlock B1
26/03/2024 13:55:39z	26/03/2024 14:05:39z	FOS-6126	No	CMN Unlock H1
28/03/2024 22:33:45z	28/03/2024 22:53:35z	FOS-6148	No	Orbital Correction Manoeuvre

Start Time (UTC)	Stop Time (UTC)	Unavailability Report Reference	Planned	Description
30/03/2024 10:57:13z	30/03/2024 11:07:13z	FOS-6164	No	CMN Unlock on H3

4 DATA SUMMARY

4.1 Reprocessing Activities

The information regarding to data reprocessing activities (REPR data type) is shown in the table below.

Table 4-1 Data Summary - REPR

Data type	Sensing start	Sensing stop	Version	Comments
L2	09/10/2019 17:40:46z	10/10/2019 19:35:05z	V700	ECMWF corrupted files affected the Reprocessing Campaign L2 data for that period. Data have been regenerated once the correct ECMWF dataset was available.
L2	31/03/2020	31/01/2021	V700	L2 V700 Reprocessing Catch-Up Campaign started on March 8 th 2021 and finished on March 27 th 2021.
L1	31/03/2020	31/01/2021	V724	L1 V724 Reprocessing Catch-Up Campaign began on March 8 th 2021 and finished on March 27 th 2021.
L2	13/04/2010	31/03/2020	V700	L2 V700 Full Reprocessing Campaign started on December 5 th 2020, and finished on March 4 th 2021.
L1	01/10/2019	31/03/2020	V724	L1 V724 Reprocessing Catch-Up Campaign began on May 22 nd 2020 and finished on May 29 th 2020.
L1	01/01/2010	30/09/2019	V724	L1 V724 Reprocessing Campaign began on January 2 nd 2020, finished on February 12 th 2020. Reprocessing of pending products finished on February 19 th 2020, concluding this reprocessing activity.

4.2 Operational Activities

The information regarding to the data regeneration activities (OPER data type) is shown in the table below:

Table 4-2 Data Summary - OPER

Reporting period			
Data type	Sensing start	Sensing stop	Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Previous reporting periods			
Data type	Sensing start	Sensing stop	Comments

MIR_CSTD1A	2023/10/03 01:02:46z	2023/10/03 17:32:48z	Due to a CORE anomaly two CORD0 were not processed, introducing a gap in the Local Oscillator at L1a Level.
L1 and L2 science	2023/10/02 21:33:03z	2023/10/03 03:27:18z	Due to a CORE anomaly two CORD0 were not processed, introducing a gap in the Local Oscillator at L1a Level.
L1 and L2 science	20/09/2023 16:09:37z	21/09/2023 20:14:25z	Due to a CORE anomaly CORD0 files were not correctly orchestrated, this introduced a gap in the Local Oscillator at L1a Level
MIR_CSTD1A	20/09/2023 00:48:03z	21/09/2023 10:15:23z	Due to a CORE anomaly CORD0 files were not correctly orchestrated, this introduced a gap in the Local Oscillator at L1a Level.
MIR_CSTD1A	04/09/2023 22:43:04z	06/09/2023 09:13:06z	Due to a CORE anomaly two CORD0 were not processed, introducing a gap in the Local Oscillator at L1a
L1 and L2 science	31/08/2023 00:39:02z	31/08/2023 04:52:24z	VTEC_P was delayed. Data were successfully regenerated once the applicable VTEC files were available.
L1 and L2 Science	23/08/2023 06:51:27z	23/08/2023 09:13:58z	Issue in the nominal platform failed the processing of some files. Data were successfully regenerated.
MIR_CSTD1A	23/08/2023 07:41:30z	24/08/2023 01:01:32z	Issue in the nominal platform failed the processing of some files. Data were successfully regenerated.
L1 and L2 science	18/08/2023 11:34:40z	18/08/2023 13:18:44z	Acquisition issues due to RFI in Svalbard. Data was successfully regenerated.
MIR_CSTD1A	18/08/2023 10:51:56z	18/08/2023 20:41:57z	Acquisition issues due to RFI in Svalbard. Data was successfully regenerated.
Telemetry	18/08/2023 12:14:33z	18/08/2023 13:18:44z	Acquisition issues due to RFI in Svalbard. Data was successfully regenerated.
MIR_CSTD1A	26/07/2023 02:27:24z	26/07/2023 21:30:39z	Issues caused by antenna maintenance issues on the 26 th of July
L1 and L2 Science	26/07/2023 00:39:18z	26/07/2023 03:38:16z	Issues caused by antenna maintenance issues on the 26 th of July
Telemetry	26/07/2023 001:19:10z	26/07/2023 03:13:24z	Issues caused by antenna maintenance issues on the 26 th of July
MIR_CSTD1A	21/07/2023 23:57:19z	22/07/2023 17:27:20z	Issue in the core database the 22 nd of July lead to incorrect orchestration of MIR_CSTD1A files.
L1 and L2 Science	21/07/2023 22:14:58z	22/07/2023 00:49:03z	Issue in the core database the 22 nd of July lead to incorrect orchestration of MIR_CSTD1A files.
MIR_CSTD1A	30/05/2023 19:27:29z	31/05/2023 14:27:30z	Major incident on KSAT core network led to L1A Calibration gap and degraded science data. Data were successfully regenerated.
L1 and L2 Science	30/05/2023 18:28:57z	30/05/2023 21:53:04z	Major incident on KSAT core network led to L1A Calibration gap and degraded science data. Data were successfully regenerated.

Telemetry	29/03/2023 05:11:49z	29/03/2023 06:16:00z	Antenna malfunction impacted the receiving of one pass that was properly processed later on.
MIR_CSTD1A	29/03/2023 05:30:00z	29/03/2023 23:40:01z	Antenna malfunction impacted the receiving of one pass that was properly processed later on.
L1 and L2 Science	29/03/2023 04:09:54z	29/03/2023 07:06:02z	Antenna malfunction impacted the receiving of one pass that was properly processed later on.
L1A onwards	20/11/2022 00:44:04z	20/11/2022 07:27:42z	Due to network issues from 18/11/2022 to 21/11/2022 production was degraded, the following time periods were successfully regenerated.
L2 Science	18/11/2022 12:52:37z	19/11/2022 23:57:20z	Due to network issues from 18/11/2022 to 21/11/2022 production was degraded and the following time periods were successfully regenerated.
L1 and L2 Science	20/10/2022 12:30:49z	22/10/2022 11:16:54z	A corrupted data file arrived into the DPGS stopping production the 20 th of October. Nominal production was resumed the next day but several calibrations products were incorrectly orchestrated. Due to this, some L1 and L2 science data were also affected by calibration errors. Files were regenerated once good calibration files were made available.
MIR_UAVD1A	20/10/2022 14:16:18z	20/10/2022 16:34:07z	Corrupted data file arrived into the DPGS stopping production the 20 th of October. Nominal production resumed the next day but several MIR_CSTD1A files were not well orchestrated. This affected the MIR_UAVD1A production. Files were regenerated once MIR_CSTD1A files were made available.
MIR_CSTD1A and MIR_CRSD1A	19/10/2022 21:59:12z	21/10/2022 15:14:14z	Corrupted data file arrived into the DPGS stopping production the 20 th of October. Nominal production resumed the next day but several MIR_CSTD1A files were not well orchestrated. The files were regenerated.
L1 and L2 Science	29/06/2022 06:29:10z	29/06/2022 08:23:23z	Incomplete passes acquired in Svalbard. Data were recovered with the next pass and reprocessed.
L1 and L2 Science	31/03/2022 00:52:55z	01/04/2022 11:57:47z	VTEC_P files arrived with delay creating degraded science data due to ADF errors. Period was regenerated once the corresponding VTEC_P files were made available.
L2OS	29/01/2022 12:07:50z	01/02/2022 21:04:44z	L2OS data between 28 th and 1 st of February lack retrievals for some areas. This had to do with L1C data flagged with instrument errors due to antenna temperature slightly higher than 29°C. Deeper analysis on this was carried out and it was agreed to reprocess the data and force the L2OS to retrieve the measurements, since no clear degradation is detected despite the surpassed of the temperature thresholds.
MIR_CSTD1A	16/12/2021 13:16:29z	17/12/2021 08:21:28z	Svalbard tracking issues on the 16th of December lead to incorrect orchestration of MIR_CSTD1A files. These data were successfully regenerated.
L1 and L2 Science	16/12/2021 11:29:43z	17/12/2021 14:53:52z	Svalbard tracking issues on the 16th of December lead to incorrect orchestration of MIR_CSTD1A files

			and degraded L1 and L2 science data. These data were successfully regenerated with no degradation.
L1 and L2 Science	06/11/2021 19:57:42z	06/11/2021 22:31:49z	Degraded L0 calibration due to acquisition pass affected by RFI in Svalbard. This led to degraded science data, period was successfully regenerated.
MIR_CSTD1A	06/11/2021 20:59:51z	07/11/2021 15:09:52z	L0 calibration degraded due to acquisition pass affected by RFI in Svalbard. These data were successfully regenerated.
Telemetry	06/11/2021 20:37:35z	06/11/2021 21:41:46z	Degraded TLM due to acquisition pass affected by RFI in Svalbard. These data were recovered in the next pass and successfully regenerated.
L1 and L2 Science	03/10/2021 23:41:28z	04/10/2021 02:15:33z	L0 calibration gap due to acquisition pass affected by RFI in Svalbard. This led to degraded science data, period was successfully regenerated.
MIR_CSTD1A	04/10/2021 00:41:39z	04/10/2021 19:41:40z	L0 calibration gap due to acquisition pass affected by RFI in Svalbard. These data were successfully regenerated.
Calibration	19/09/2021 01:08:55	19/09/2021 02:48:54	DPGS issues on the 19 th September 2021 led to a LO calibration gap in between 2021-09-19T01:08:55z and 2021-09-19T02:48:54z. The data has now been re-generated.
L2	15/06/2021 01:42:22z	17/06/2021 05:27:55z	Reprocessed period due to incorrect LSMASK orchestrated in the DPGS.
L1	15/06/2021 01:42:22z	17/06/2021 05:27:55z	Reprocessed period due to incorrect LSMASK orchestrated in the DPGS.

The information regarding the past version V5xx data regeneration and reprocessing activities (OPER and REPR data type) are available in the monthly report of April 2015.

The information regarding the past version v6xx data regeneration and reprocessing activities (OPER and REPR data type) are available in the monthly report of May 2021.

4.3 Processing Changes

4.3.1 Processor Updates

During the reporting period, no new processor versions were deployed into operations.

4.3.2 Processor Status

At the end of the reporting period, the Processing Facility is using the following processors:

Table 4-3 Instrument Processors status

Processor	Version	Deployment date
L1OP	724	25/05/2021
L2OS	700	25/05/2021
L2SM	700	25/05/2021

Table 4-4 Pre- and Post-processors status

Processor	Version	Deployment date
ECMWFP	318	07/11/2013
VTECGN	320	18/05/2016
OSCOTT	700	25/05/2021
L2 Post-processors	600	25/05/2021
SNOWP	102	28/10/2016

4.3.3 Schema Updates

No updates for product schema in the reporting period.

4.3.4 Schema Status

At the end of the reporting period, the schema version of the data block of the products generated and distributed through SMOS dissemination service is:

Table 4-5 Schema version status

Product type	Version
MIR_SC_F1B	402
MIR_SCSF1C	401
MIR_SCLF1C	401
MIR_BWSF1C	400
MIR_BWLF1C	400
MIR_SMUDP2	400
MIR_OSUDP2	401
AUX_ECMWF_	300

The schema package v07.08.01, the XML Read/Write API libraries to read SMOS products, visualization and mapping tools for SMOS L1 and L2 products are available [here](#) (See [GMT](#) for the schemas)

Further information about the product format is available in the level 1 and level 2 product specification documents available [here](#)

4.3.5 Auxiliary Files Updates

The status of the quasi-static and static AUX files at the end of the reporting period is in the section 7.

Since 27 July 2023 an operational version of the AUX_SUN_BT auxiliary file is used by the L2 Ocean Salinity (L2OS) processor in the Data Processing Ground Segment. The AUX_SUN_BT auxiliary file contains daily estimates of Sun L-band Brightness Temperature derived from SMOS

L1B measurements. These estimates are now used in the L2OS Sun glint over Sea surface forward model for a better characterization of the minimization function used in the sea surface salinity retrieval.

The following quasi-static and static AUX files were disseminated to the processing stations this reporting period.

- **AUX_CNFOF**
- **AUX_BULL_B**

Note that, as reported in SPCM37, the format of the BULL_B primitive has been manually modified to obtain a properly formatted SMOS file. This is due to a small format change since February 2019 Bulletin B.

SM_OPER_AUX_BULL_B_20240102T000000_20240201T235959_120_001_3
Start sensing time at L1 processor: N/A

Justification: Bulletin Update including values from January 2024 and the prediction for February 2024. Its usage is intended for reprocessing.

SM_OPER_AUX_BULL_B_20240102T000000_20500101T000000_120_001_3
Start sensing time at L1 processor: 2024-03-07 17:12:37z

Justification: Bulletin Update including values from January 2024 and the prediction for February 2024. Its usage is intended for the nominal production.

4.4 Calibration Events Summary

The following table summarizes the major calibration activities conducted during the reporting period. The Local Oscillator calibration is not included in the table since occurs periodically every 10 minutes. The short calibrations are acquired weekly since 2011-03-24 and they are currently used in the nominal processing chain.

Table 4-6 Calibration summary

Date	Start Time	Stop Time	Calibration	Comments
13/03/2024	02:28:38z	03:50:51z	Warm-NIR	Nominal Brightness Temperature 3.8015 K RMS: 0.2133K Moon Elevation: 16.9888 Sun Elevation: 9.750625 Right Ascension (deg): 71.64 Declination (deg): -47.5
14/03/2024	07:40:30z	07:42:14z	Short	Nominal
18/03/2024	14:51:00z	17:25:49z	Long	Nominal
21/03/2024	06:28:00z	06:29:44z	Short	Nominal

Date	Start Time	Stop Time	Calibration	Comments
27/03/2024	03:24:09z	04:46:22z	Warm-NIR	Nominal Brightness Temperature 3.87 K RMS: 0.5524K Moon Elevation: -10.6008 Sun Elevation: 5.036416 Right Ascension (deg): 84.98 Declination (deg): -48.98
28/03/2024	15:00:00z	17:36:19z	Long	Nominal

4.5 Data Coverage Summary

Where instrument unavailabilities or anomalies have occurred during this reporting period, gaps in data coverage may have also occurred. A list of the gaps due to a permanent data loss is given in Table 4-7 by product level. On the other hand, a list of gaps due to operational problems is given in Table 4-8. The latter gaps may be recovered when the problem is fixed.

The science data gaps due to the execution of calibration activities are not listed in this section.

Table 4-7 Data loss summary

Start	Finish	Data Level	Comments
03/03/2024 15:59:38z	07/03/2024 09:40:55z	All	SMOS Safe mode shut-down
28/03/2024 22:33:45z	28/03/2024 22:53:35z	L1 and above Science Data	Orbit Correction Manoeuvre (FOS-6148)

1: Data acquired during the manoeuvre is flagged as external pointing and not available as nominal data.

Table 4-8 Operational gaps summary

Start	Finish	Data Level	Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.6 Summary of Degraded Data

In March 2024, SMOS data was affected by the following instrument and processing anomalies which have had a detrimental effect on the data quality.

Table 4-9 Summary of degraded data

Start	Finish	Affected products	Problem Description
09/03/2024 11:17:01z	09/03/2024 11:27:01z	L1a Science and above	CMN Unlock on B1(FOS-6160)
26/03/2024 13:55:39z	26/03/2024 14:05:39z	L1a Science and above	CMN Unlock on H1 (FOS-6126)

Start	Finish	Affected products	Problem Description
30/03/2024 10:57:13z	30/03/2024 11:07:13z	L1a Science and above	CMN Unlock on H3(FOS-6164)

4.7 Product Quality Disclaimers

The following product disclaimers affects the data generated in the reporting period:

Table 4-10 Summary of product quality disclaimers

Date	Product level	
From 26 th January 2024 to 8 th February 2024	CSTD1A, L1A L1C	Most CSTD1A, L1A and L1C products are flagged as Warning. This is related with the expected temperature increase of segment A1 during the eclipse season which has reached and slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag. Temperature evolution of this LICEF is being monitored.
From 5 th November 2023 to 15 th November 2023	CSTD1A, L1A L1C	Most CSTD1A, L1A and L1C products are flagged as Warning. This is related with the expected temperature increase of segment A1 during the eclipse season which has reached and slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag. Temperature evolution of this LICEF is being monitored.
From 28 th January 2023 To 3 rd February 2023	CSTD1A, L1A, L1C	Most CSTD1A, L1A and L1C products are flagged as Warning. This is related with the expected temperature increase of segment A1 during the eclipse season which has reached and slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag. Temperature evolution of this LICEF is being monitored.
From 7 th November 2022 To 14 th November 2022	CSTD1A, L1C	Most CSTD1A, L1A and L1C products are flagged as Warning. This is related with the expected temperature increase of segment A1 during the eclipse season which has reached and slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag. Temperature evolution of this LICEF is being monitored.
From 28 th January 2022 To 2 nd February 2022	CSTD1A, L1C	Most CSTD1A and L1C products are flagged as Warning due to Instrument Error. This is related with the expected temperature increase of segment A1 during the eclipse season which has reached and slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag. Temperature evolution of this LICEF is being monitored.
From: 12 th January 2010 To: 1 st August 2021	L1B	Direct_Sun_Correction_Type inside MIR_SC_F1B headers is incorrectly defined. Its value should be 4, which relates to "Correction by Measurements. BT Self-estimation with improved Sun Position Estimate Technique"

Date	Product level	
From: 21 st June 2017 (06:05:53z) To: 21 st June 2017 (07:28:07z)	L1	Due to CCU reset side effect science data was acquired with instrument pointing in external target looking at deep sky.

5 LONG-TERM ANALYSIS

5.1 Calibration Analysis

Since Level 1 product version v724, the dataset is processed with a fixed NIR noise temperature set to +424.41 [K] for H-Pol and +416.12 [K] for V-Pol. The impact is a more long-term stable Brightness Temperature measurements. The NIR calibration is performed only for monitoring purpose and results are presented in this section.

During the reporting period, there has been two Warm-NIR calibration events: on the 13th and 27th March.

The evolution of the noise temperature of the reference noise diodes Tna and Tnr computed with processor baseline V724 since March 2011 is shown from Figure 1 to Figure 4. The evolution of the NIR noise temperature parameters, which are related to the internal diode stability, are stable in particular for the NIR-CA. The small deviations in the NIR Tna calibration are due to either Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) that corrupted the calibration measurement (e.g. 3rd June 2015, 2nd August 2017), or HOT-NIR calibration with different thermal environment with the Sun above the antenna plane (e.g. 1st November 2020, 27th October 2021 and 22nd December 2021).

Currently, the calibration team is monitoring an ongoing evolution for the NIR CA Tna H-Pol which began end 2019. The origin of this evolution could be either internal reference diode power evolution or inaccuracy in the antenna losses thermal compensation during calibration. With reduced magnitude the effect is also present for the NIR CA Tna V-Pol.

5.2 Seasonal Evolution of the Calibration Parameters

The Tna and Tnr present in the previous processor baseline V5xx (see for example the monthly report for April 2015) had been largely mitigated by the new calibration algorithm, which decouples the variation of the antenna losses and the drift of the reference diode. This approach allows compensating each drift separately improving the diode stability monitoring and increasing the accuracy of the consequent calibration correction. Further improvements in the calibration stability were achieved by implementing the "Warm-NIR calibration" since 15th of October 2014. During "Warm-NIR calibration", the Noise Injection Radiometer (NIR) calibration is performed with a Sun elevation of 10 degrees above the antenna plane to maintain a stable thermal environment of the instrument through the calibration sequence.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 present the evolution of the NIR Observed Brightness Temperature (BT) since the beginning of the mission for V724 baseline. The small variation of a few Kelvins, in the observed BT are due to slightly different regions of the Sky sensed during the calibration manoeuvre. This parameter is used only for monitoring purpose.

The leakage and cross-coupling factors of the NIR channels shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8 remain small and no problems can be observed apart from a peak in the phase of the NIR-AB cross-coupling term on 11 April 2012. That peak corresponds to an anomaly in the NIR-AB that did not have impact on the data.

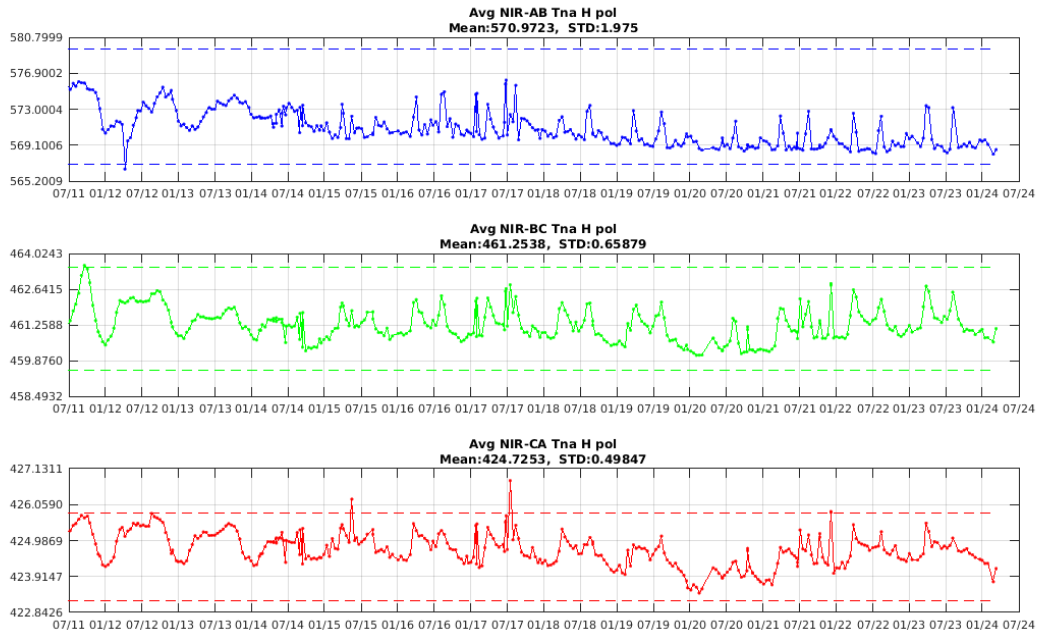


Figure 1 Tna evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the H-channel since the beginning of the mission. Thresholds in dashed lines

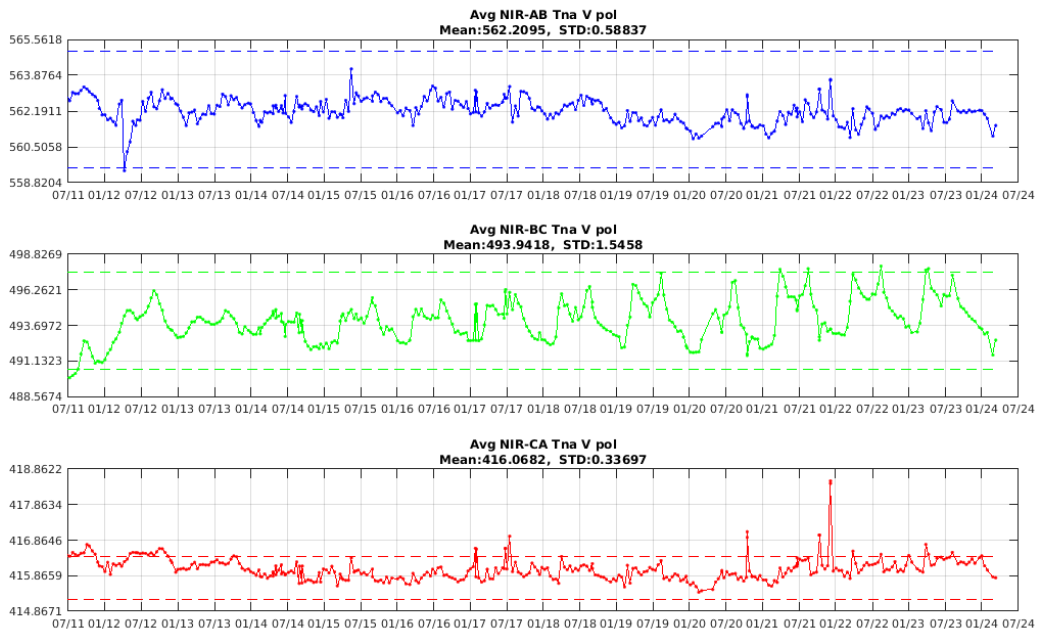


Figure 2 Tna evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the V-channel since the beginning of the mission. Thresholds in dashed lines

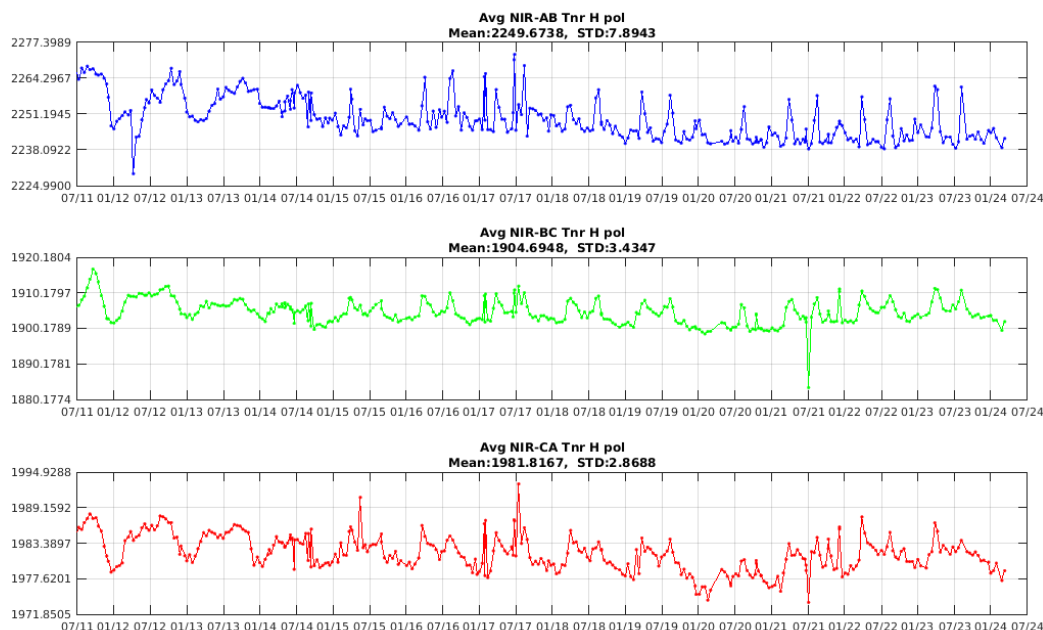


Figure 3 Tnr evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the H-channel since the beginning of the mission.

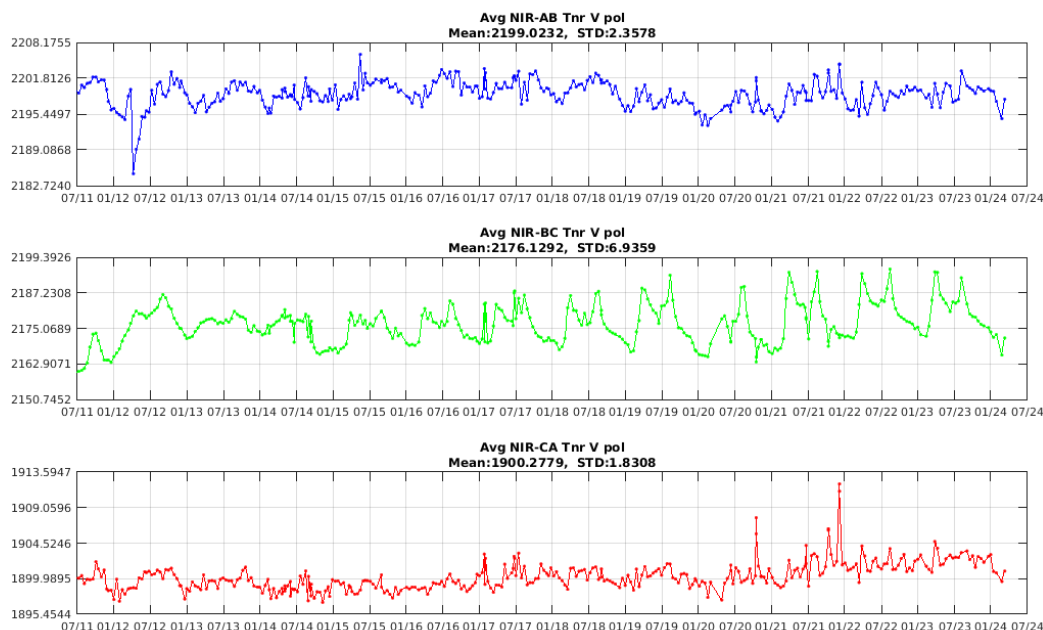


Figure 4 Tnr evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the V-channel since the beginning of the mission.

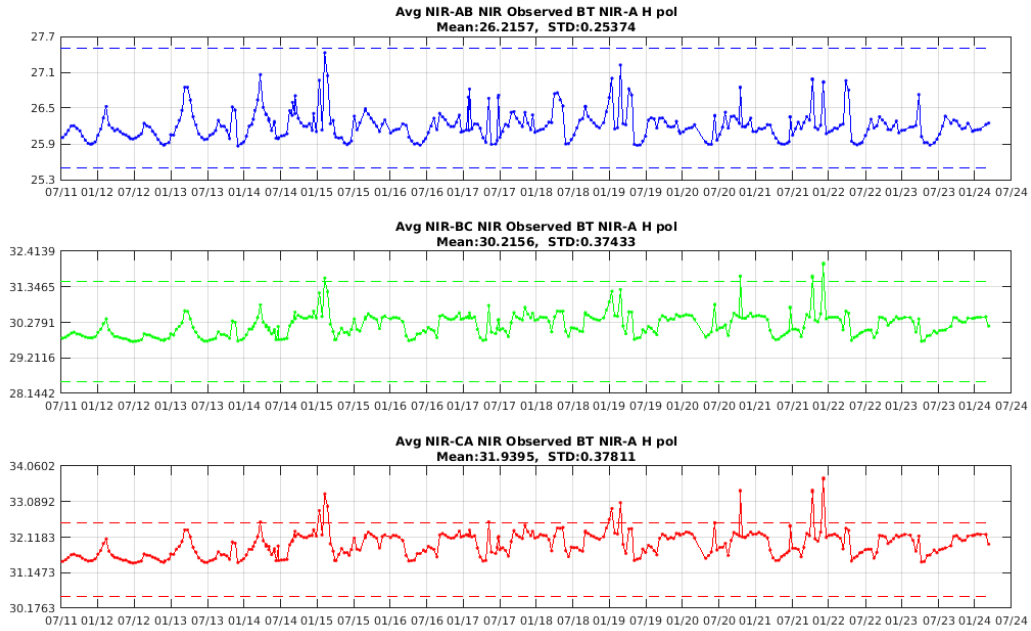


Figure 5 NIR Observed BT evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the H-channel since the beginning of the mission. Thresholds in dashed lines

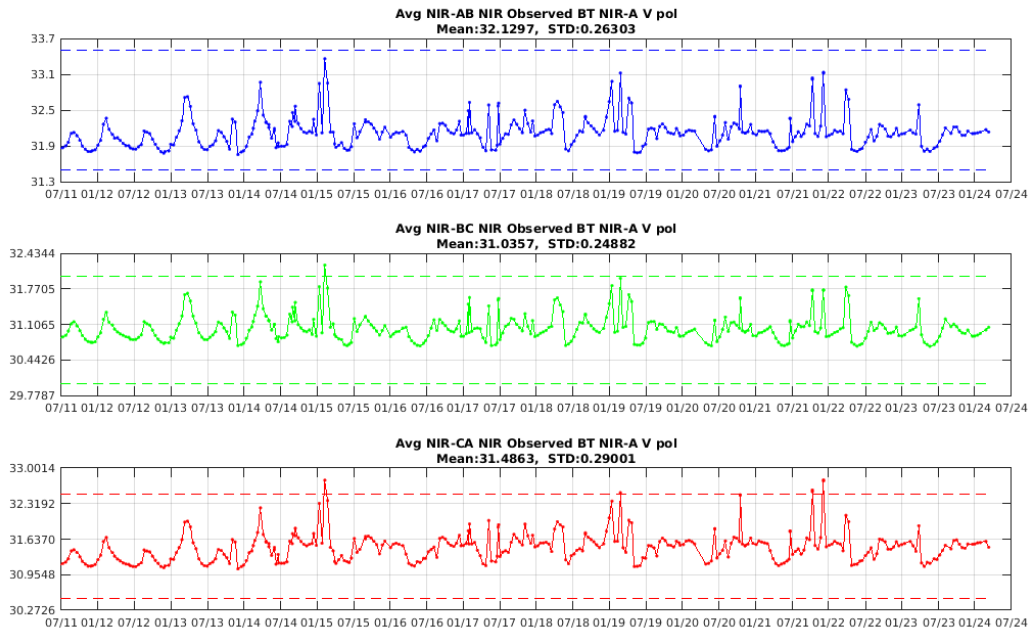


Figure 6 NIR Observed BT evolution of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) in the V-channel since the beginning of the mission. Thresholds in dashed lines

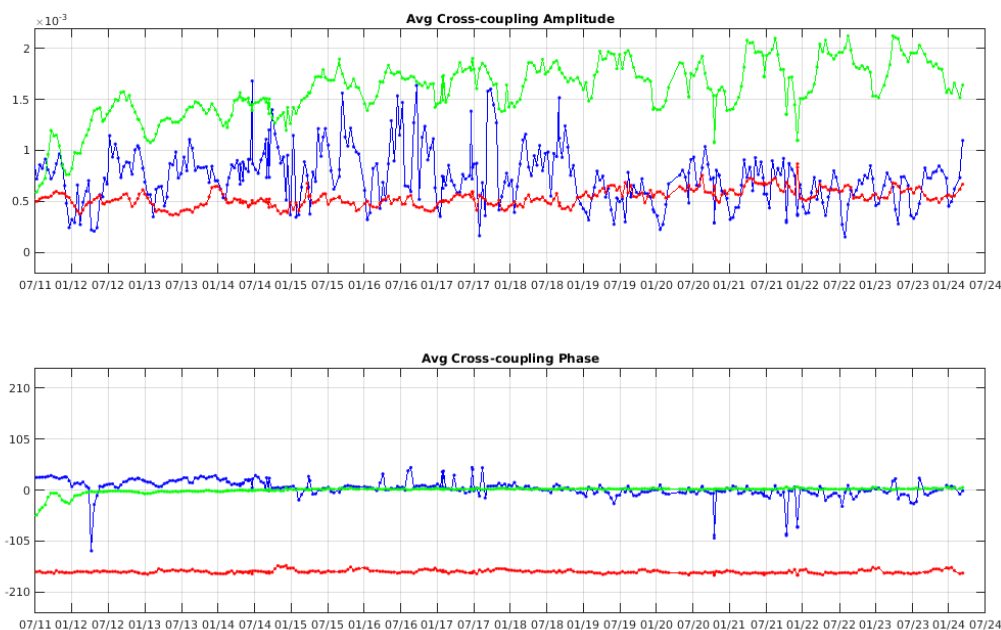


Figure 7 Cross-coupling evolution in amplitude and phase of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) since the beginning of the mission

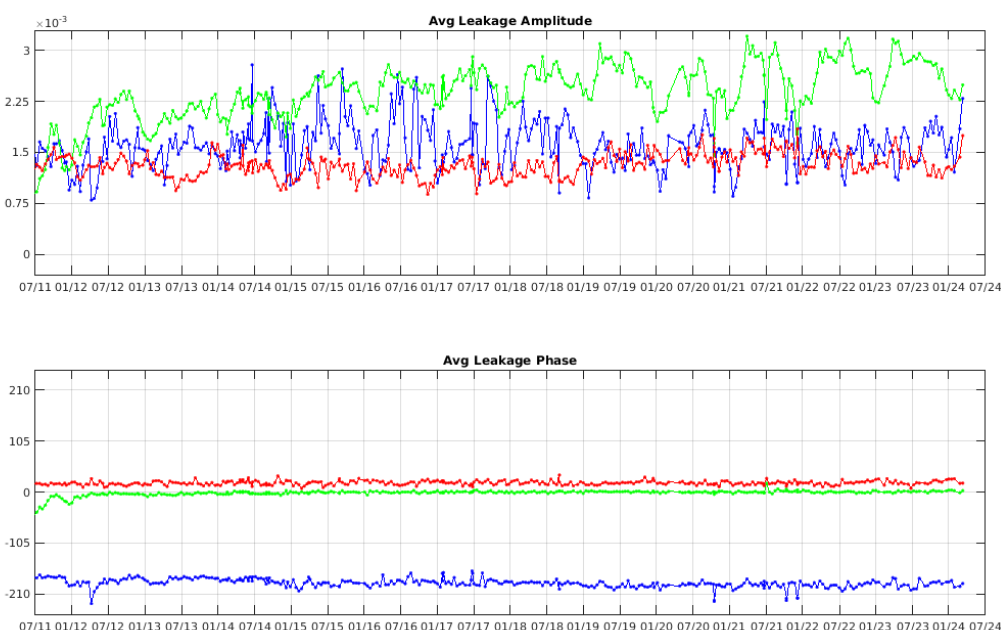


Figure 8 Leakage factor evolution in amplitude and phase of NIR AB (blue), NIR BC (green) and NIR CA (red) since the beginning of the mission

LICEFs

The Lightweight Cost-Effective Receivers (LICEF) calibration status is updated by long (every 8 weeks) and short (weekly) on-board calibration activities. Two long calibration was executed during this reporting period on the 18th and 28th of March.

LICEF PMS gain is derived during the long calibration activity and Figure 9 to Figure 20 show the evolution (V724 algorithm baseline) of the deviations of the PMS gain with respect to its average over time. Note that PMS gain depends on the physical temperature of the receivers; PMS calibration is performed at slightly different physical temperature due to calibration time (season effect) and position of the receiver (LICEF) in the instrument (arms and central hub). To compare the calibration results the gains and offsets obtained during the calibration are normalised to 21 degrees Celsius temperature by using the receiver PMS gain and offset temperature sensitivity parameter (one value for each LICEF).

Apart from receiver (LICEF) LCF_A_18, LCF_C_11, LCF_C_19, which have shown a clear evolution from the main trend (see Figure 12, 19, 20) the others PMS gains are stable. The seasonal PMS gain variation present in some LICEFs for previous product version 6 has been mitigated in the current product version 7 by a better characterization of the PMS gain temperature sensitivity parameters. Few LICEFs still present seasonal PMS variation which needs further refinement for the sensitivity parameter.

Figures from Figure 21 to Figure 32 show the evolution of the PMS offsets (V724 algorithm baseline) derived during the short calibration activity.

Figure 33 shows the evolution of the average overall the baselines of the Fringe Washing Function (FWF) amplitude in the origin derived during the long calibration. The amplitude of the FWF at the origin shows a small drift since the beginning of the mission, nevertheless the values are inside the ranges defined in the routine calibration plan.

The evolution of the visibility average offsets (Figure 34 and Figure 35) had an unexpected peak on the 2nd of February 2017. According to preliminary analysis, this seems related to RFI. The quality impact on the data is small with a peak-to-peak bias of about 0.1K in brightness temperature.

On 3rd March at 15:59:38z, SMOS entered into a safe mode due to unknown reasons. The recovery was successfully performed on 7th March at 09:40:55z and afterwards long calibration was successfully executed on the 18th of March. PMS gains has a noticeable drop after this SAFE mode event affecting all the LCF. Range of the y-axis in the following PMS gains plots has been increased from [-3,2] in previous reports to [-5,2] to properly show the evolution of the PMS gains for all the receivers.

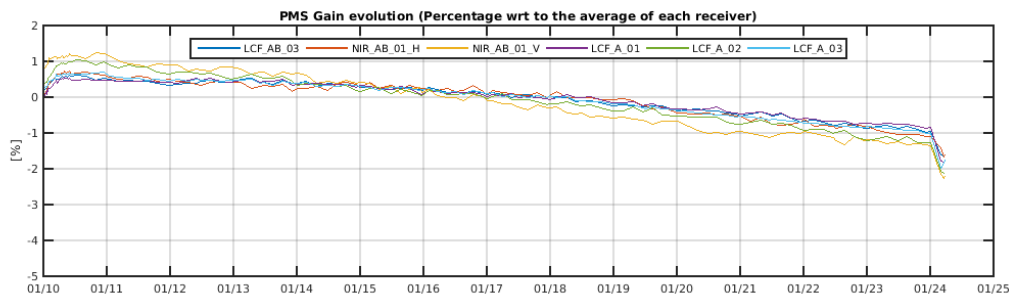


Figure 9 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN H1

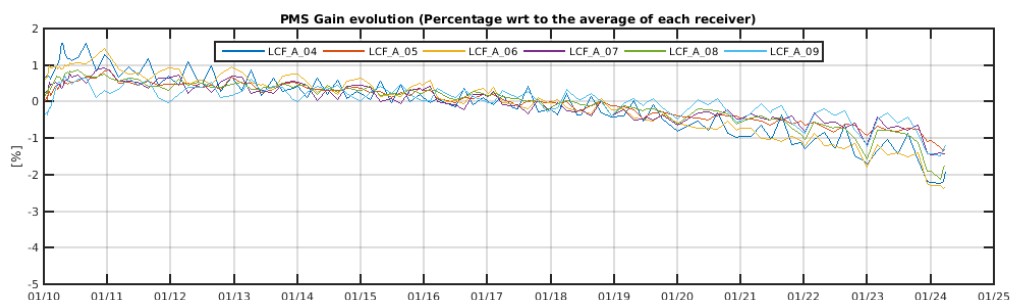


Figure 10 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN A1

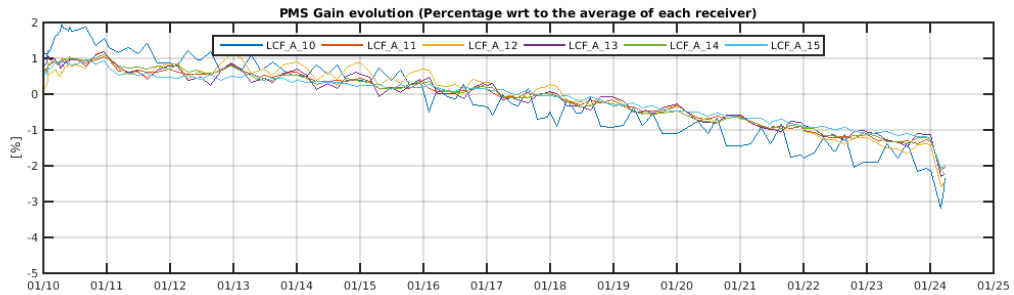


Figure 11 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN A2

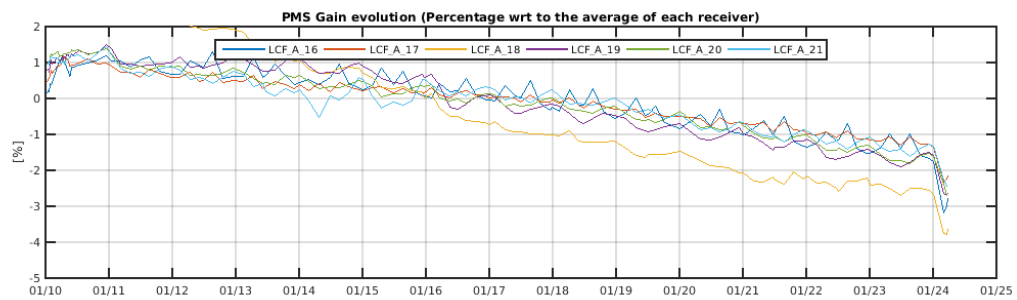


Figure 12 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN A3

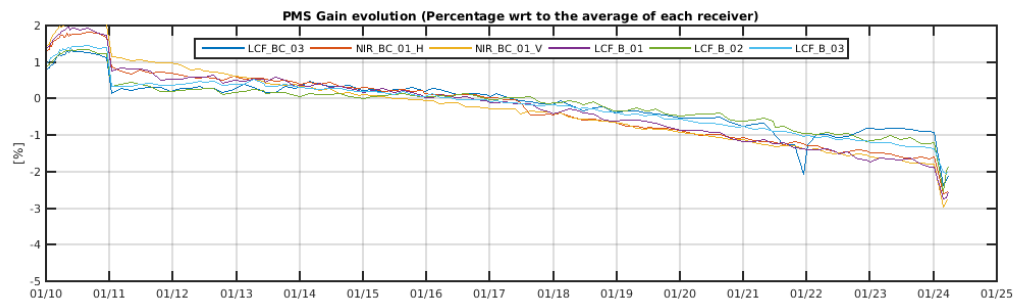


Figure 13 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN H2

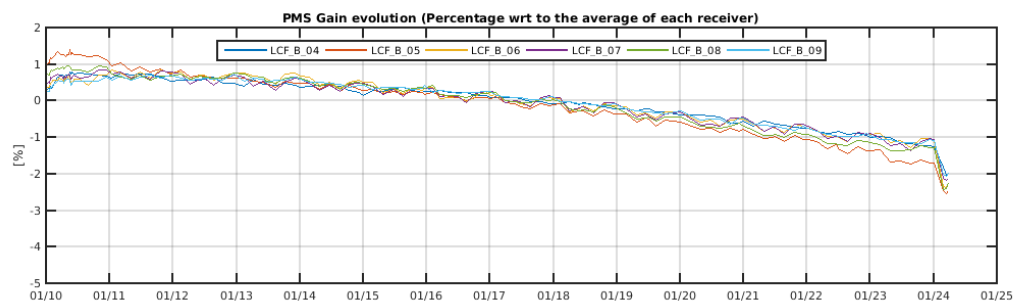


Figure 14 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN B1

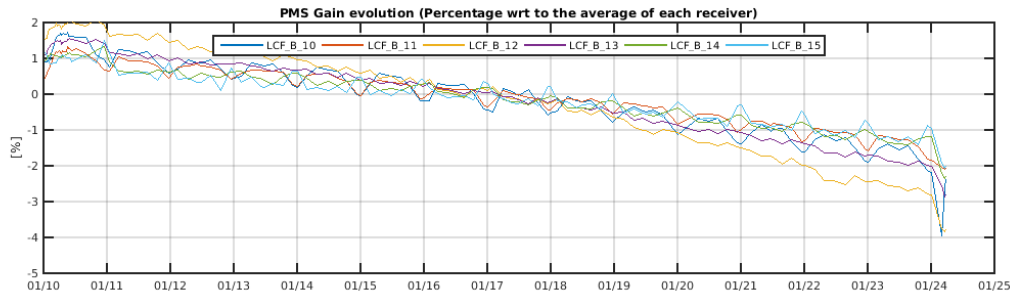


Figure 15 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN B2

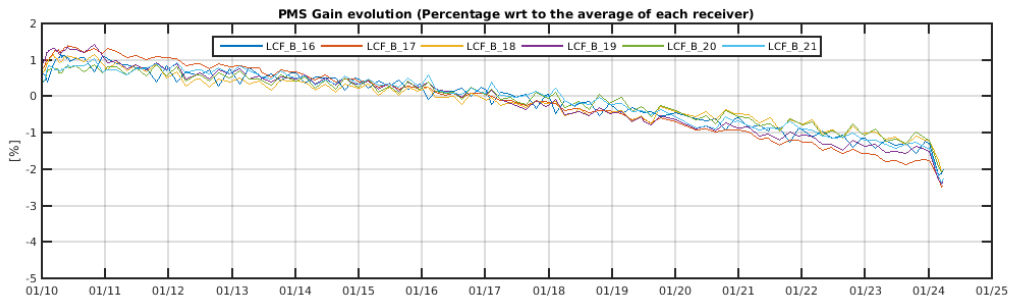


Figure 16 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN B3

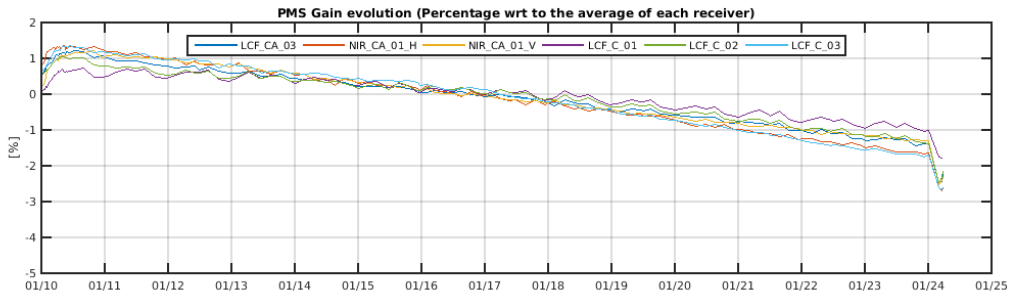


Figure 17 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN H3

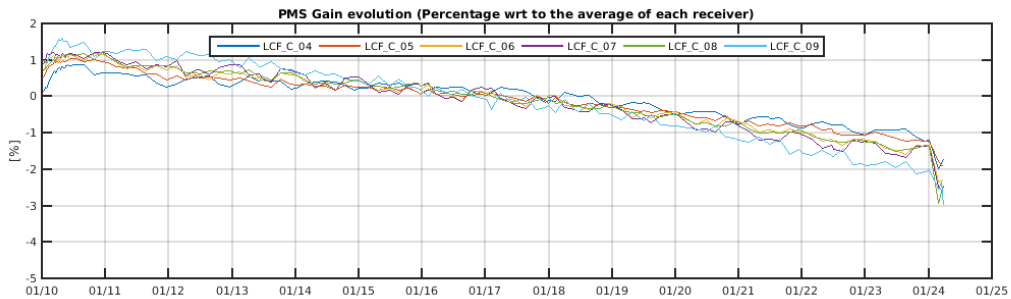


Figure 18 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN C1

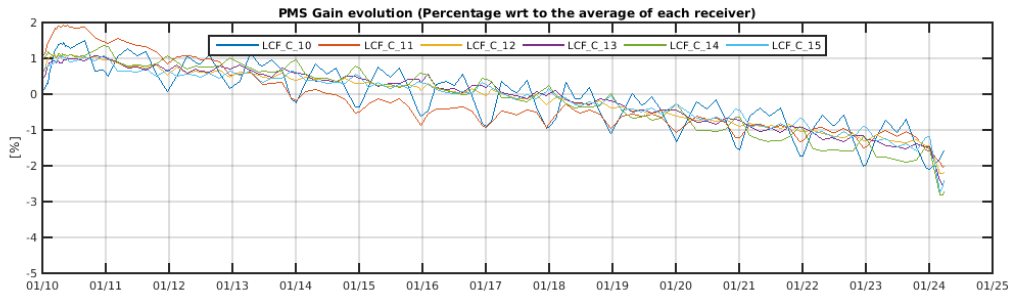


Figure 19 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN C2

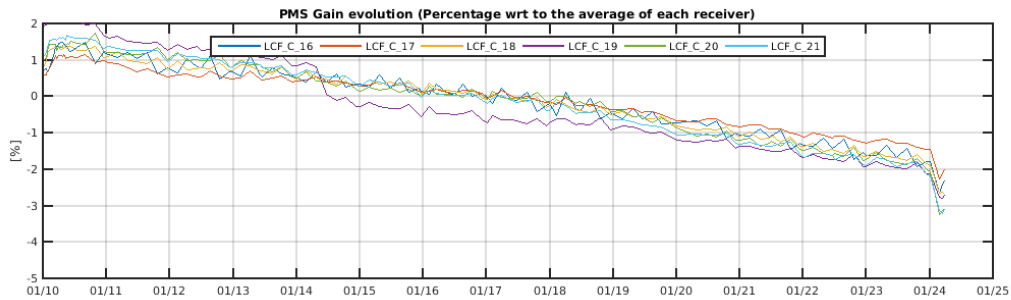


Figure 20 Evolution of the Δ PMS Gain of the LICEFS in CMN C3

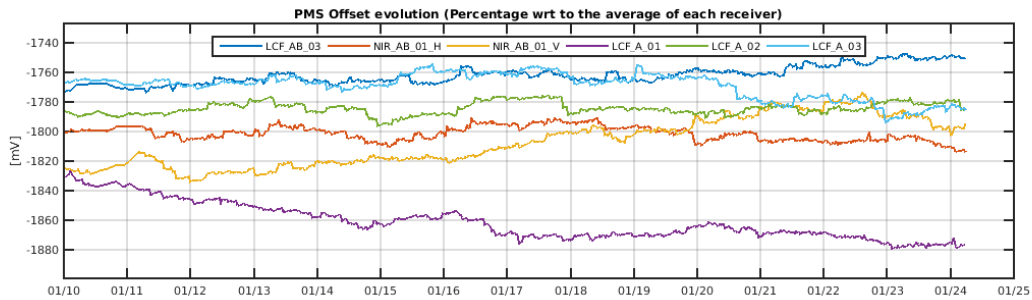


Figure 21 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN H1

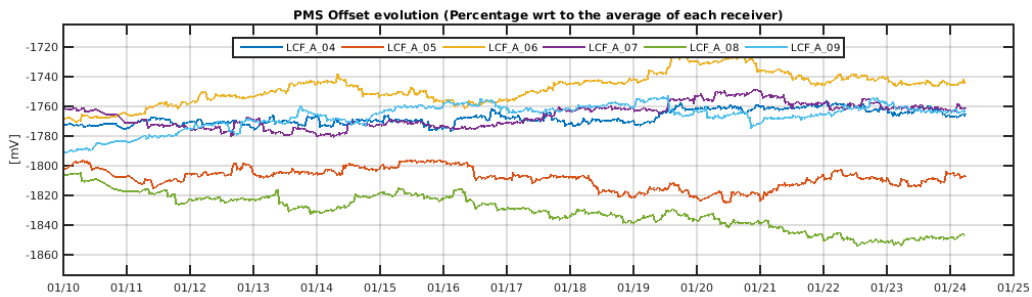


Figure 22 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN A1

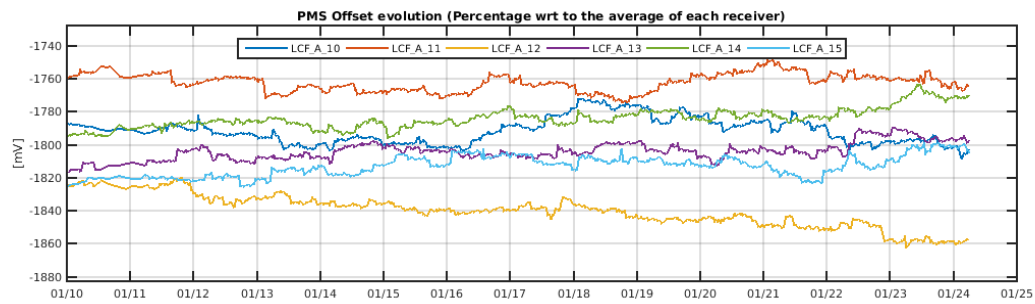


Figure 23 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN A2

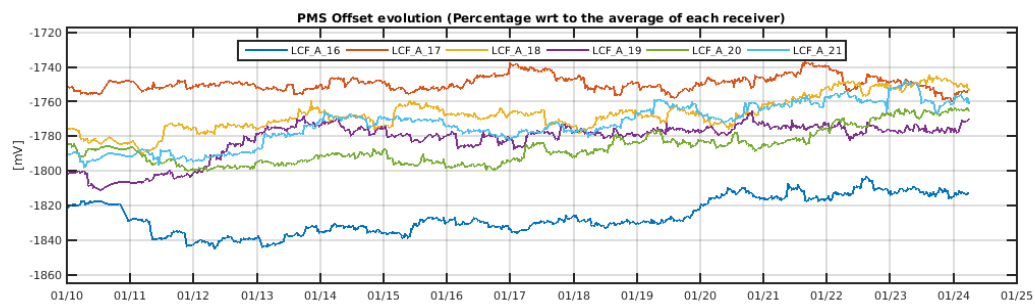


Figure 24 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN A3

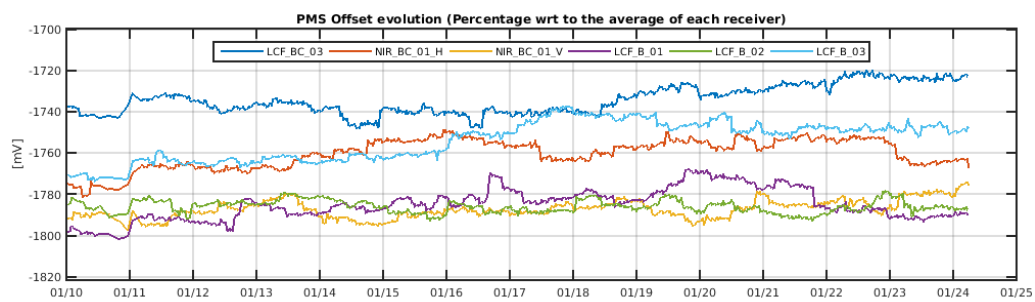


Figure 25 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN H2

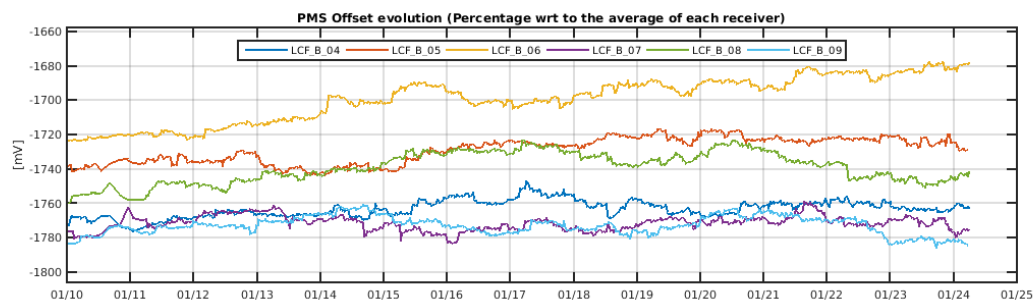


Figure 26 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN B1

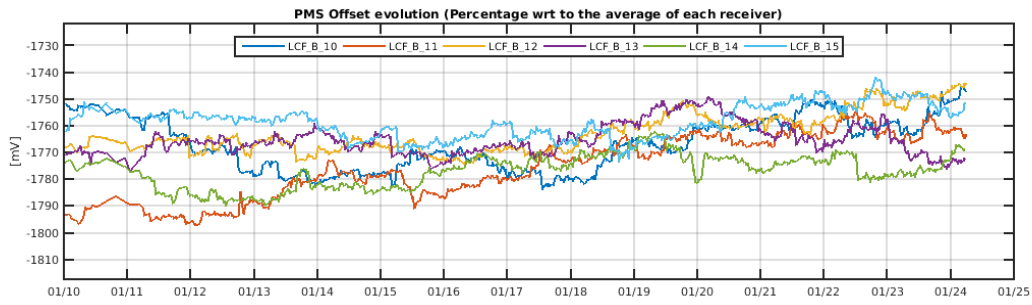


Figure 27 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN B2

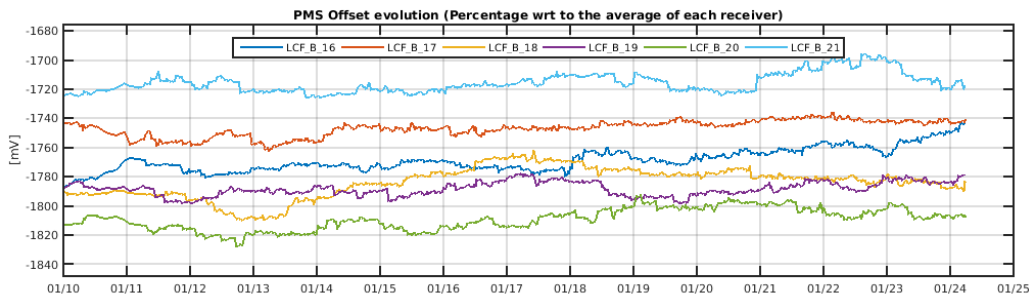


Figure 28 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN B3

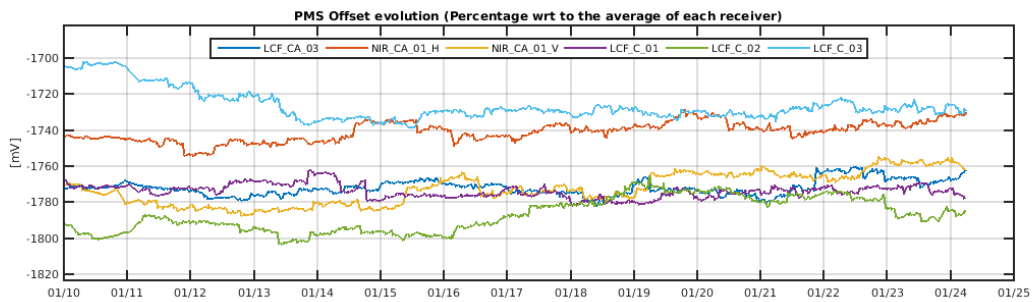


Figure 29 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN H3

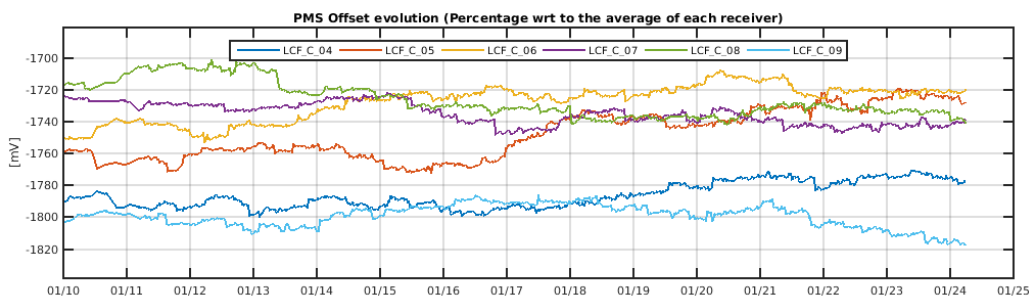


Figure 30 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN C1

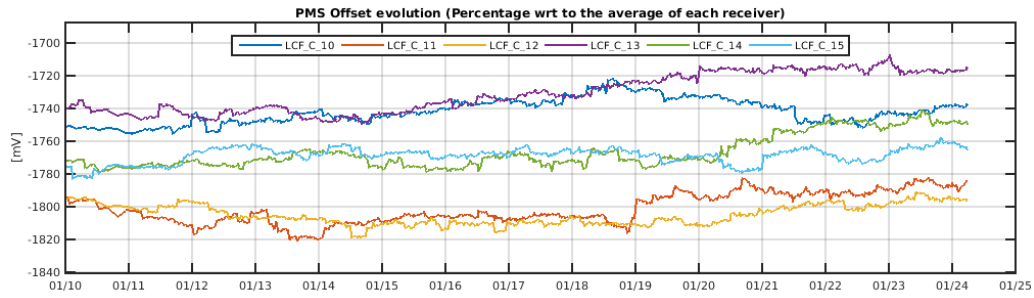


Figure 31 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN C2

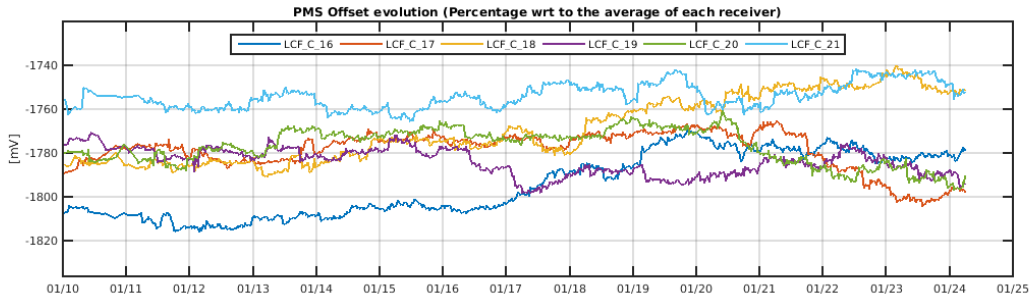


Figure 32 Evolution of the Δ PMS Offset of the LICEFS in CMN C3

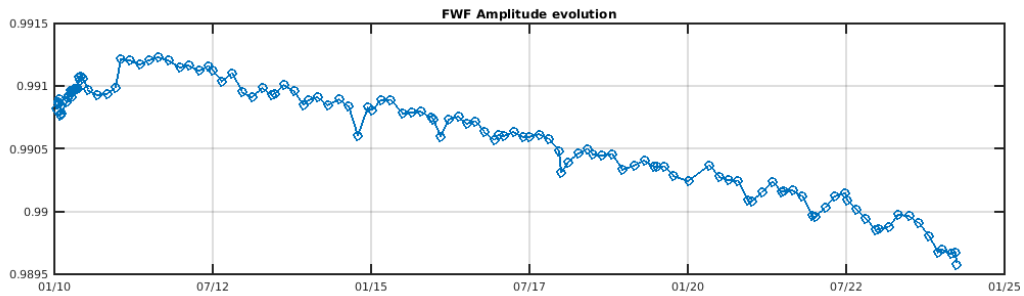


Figure 33 Evolution of the average of the FWF Amplitude at the origin

The evolution of the average of the correlator offsets does not show any significant drift. Also, the correlation offsets between receivers that do not share local oscillator remains much smaller than the correlation offsets between receivers sharing local oscillator. This result is expected since any residual correlated signal arriving to a pair of receivers, arrives through the local oscillator signal.

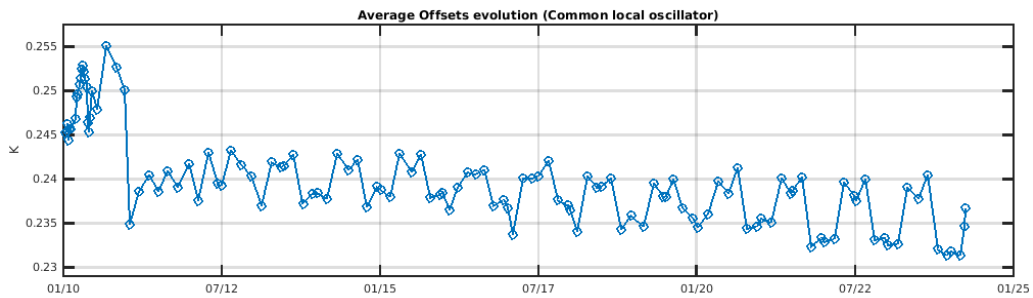


Figure 34 Evolution of the average of the Correlator offsets for the baselines which share local oscillator.

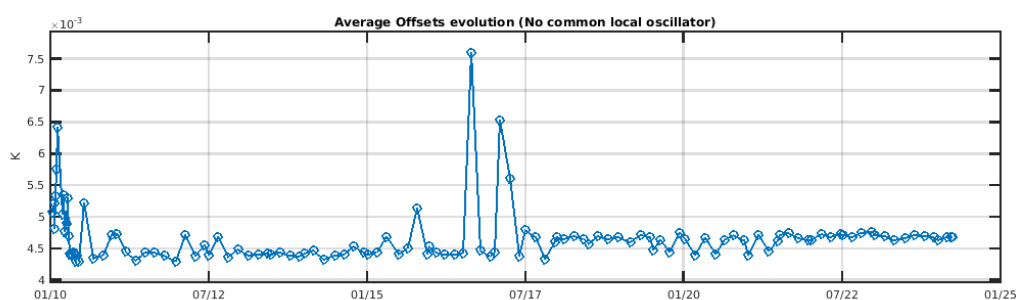


Figure 35 Evolution of the average of the Correlator offsets for the baselines which do not share local oscillator

5.3 Brightness Temperatures Trends over Dome-C Point (Antarctic)

The result of the monitoring of the evolution of the SMOS brightness temperature over Dome-C is shown in the Figure 36 (X and Y polarization at antenna frame for all the incidence angles) and in Figure 37, Figure 38 (H and V polarization at surface level for 42.0 degrees incidence angle for different areas of the Field of View). The values are averaged every 18 days to reduce the noise and the value for July 2010 is subtracted and used as relative reference. In figure 37 are also shown in situ measurements (Dome-C) from the DOMEX experiment averaged on the same period of the SMOS data. DOMEX data for year 2017 has been calibrated with a more accurate and refined procedure, this explains the bias with reference to previous year acquisition. The residual long-term drift in 2017 is due to drift in calibration parameters. Therefore, is not a geophysical effect and it will be corrected in the next delivery of DOMEX data.

The evolution of the SMOS brightness temperature trend over Dome-C does not show any significant drift except for two events, in H polarization, at the beginning of 2015 and in March 2020. The increase in Brightness temperature in 2015 was due to a change on surface geophysical condition: accumulation of snow since November 2014 and rapidly evolution of snow density on 22 March 2015 when a strong wind had changed the surface condition. This event has impacted the emissivity of the ice that was confirmed by on-site L-band measurement (DOMEX experiment) and from the Aquarius data set. The decrease in Brightness Temperature in March 2020 is confirmed to be related to changes in surface geophysical condition, since analysis of SMAP data over the same area shows similar trend in H polarisation. Further details can be found at 'Influence of snow surface properties on L-band brightness temperature at Dome C' paper published by IFAC-CNR, Grenoble Alpes University and CESBIO (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2017.07.035>).

New increase of Brightness Temperature, in H polarization, in February 2024. This might be caused by the reduction of the available dataset due to the SAFE mode or to a geophysical effect. Analysis to conclude the reason is currently on-going.

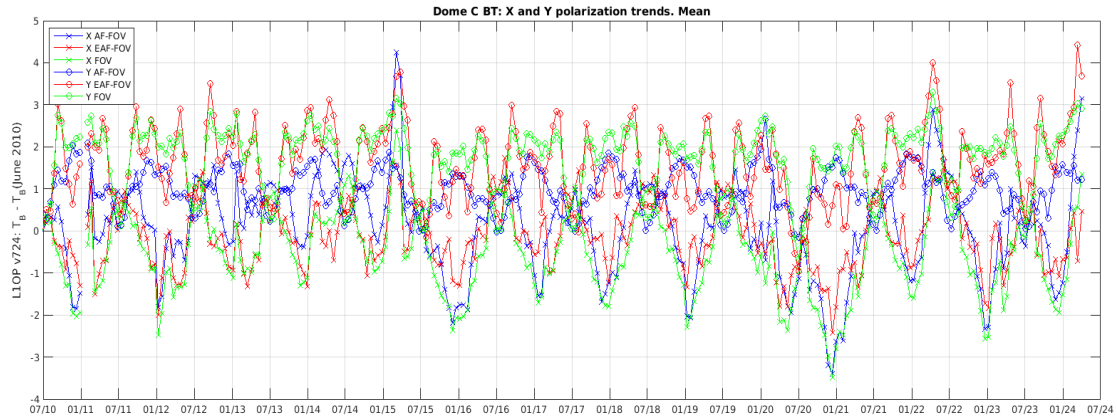


Figure 36: Dome-C X and Y polarization trends (all incidence angles).

FOV: statistics computed for Dome-C grid point located in any position of the retrieved image (excluding alias images borders). *AF*: statistics computed for Dome-C grid point located only in the position of the retrieved image not impacted by alias (alias free area). *EAF-FOV*: statistics computed for Dome-C grid point located only in the position of the retrieved image where the alias free area has been extended.

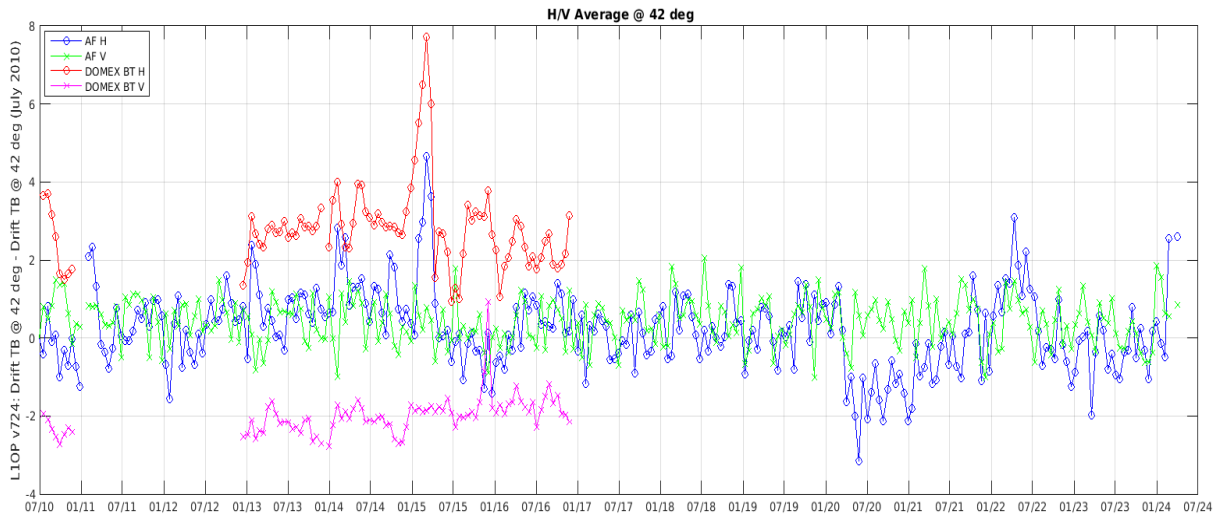


Figure 37: Dome-C H and V polarization trends in Alias Free zone (incidence angle 42°)

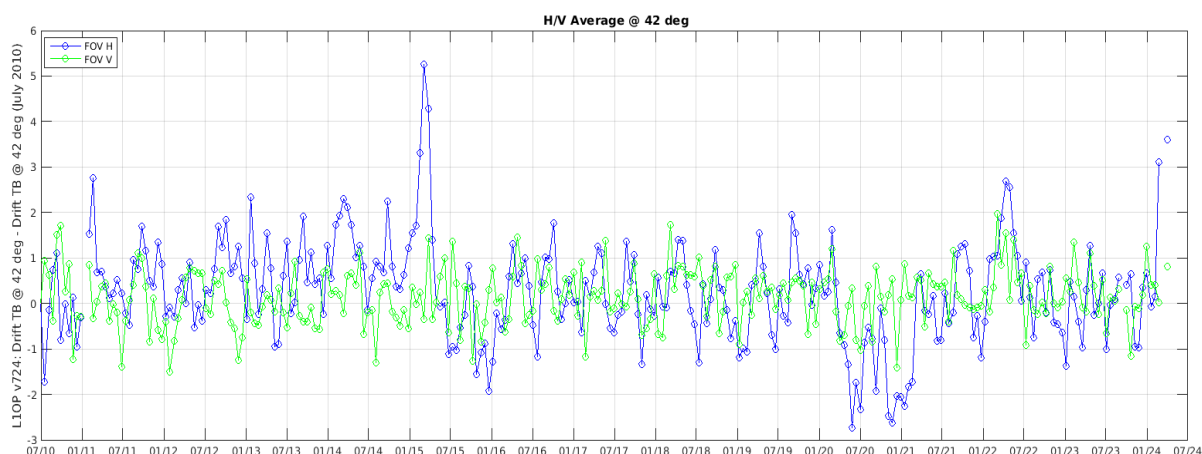


Figure 38: Dome-C H and V polarization trends in Extended Alias Free zone (incidence angle 42°)

5.4 Brightness Temperature Stability over the ocean:

SMOS Brightness Temperature Stability over the ocean is monitored by comparison of SMOS measurements with the forward ocean model. The initial monitoring based on Sea Surface Salinity derived by monthly fixed map from World Ocean Atlas model (WOA2009) has been upgraded with the usage of In-Situ Analysis System (ISAS) measurements interpolated by Objective Analysis (OA). With the new approach, geophysical effects in the difference between SMOS measurements and ocean model has been greatly mitigated allowing a better instrument calibration monitoring.

The result of the monitoring of the evolution of the SMOS brightness temperature over the ocean is shown in the Figures 40-43 as a Hovmöller plot (time-latitude plot with averaged longitudes for the Brightness Temperature anomaly with respect to the ocean model).

The latitude-longitude area is defined as described in figure 39. This aims to obtain a sufficiently large water body without much interfering land masses, land sea contamination, RFI presence, etc, to be used as a well-known reference. For that area, the ocean model is deemed sufficiently known.

The long-term ocean monitoring is provided since the beginning of the mission, until the latest plot available.

The monitoring uses ISAS-OA until December 2022 and OPER from January 2023; since this date and given the off-line availability of the ISAS-OA model, the monitoring is using WOA2009. Note that the differences between the models are expected to be a low-frequency component up to 0.2 K, and mostly affecting the central latitude range. Due to unknown reasons a gap in the ISAS-OA sourced data is present in late 2021.

In addition to the Hovmöller plots, several additional metrics are provided. Figures 44-47 contain trends computed over the Hovmöller for several areas of interest. They contain latitude-longitude Brightness Temperature averages evolution.

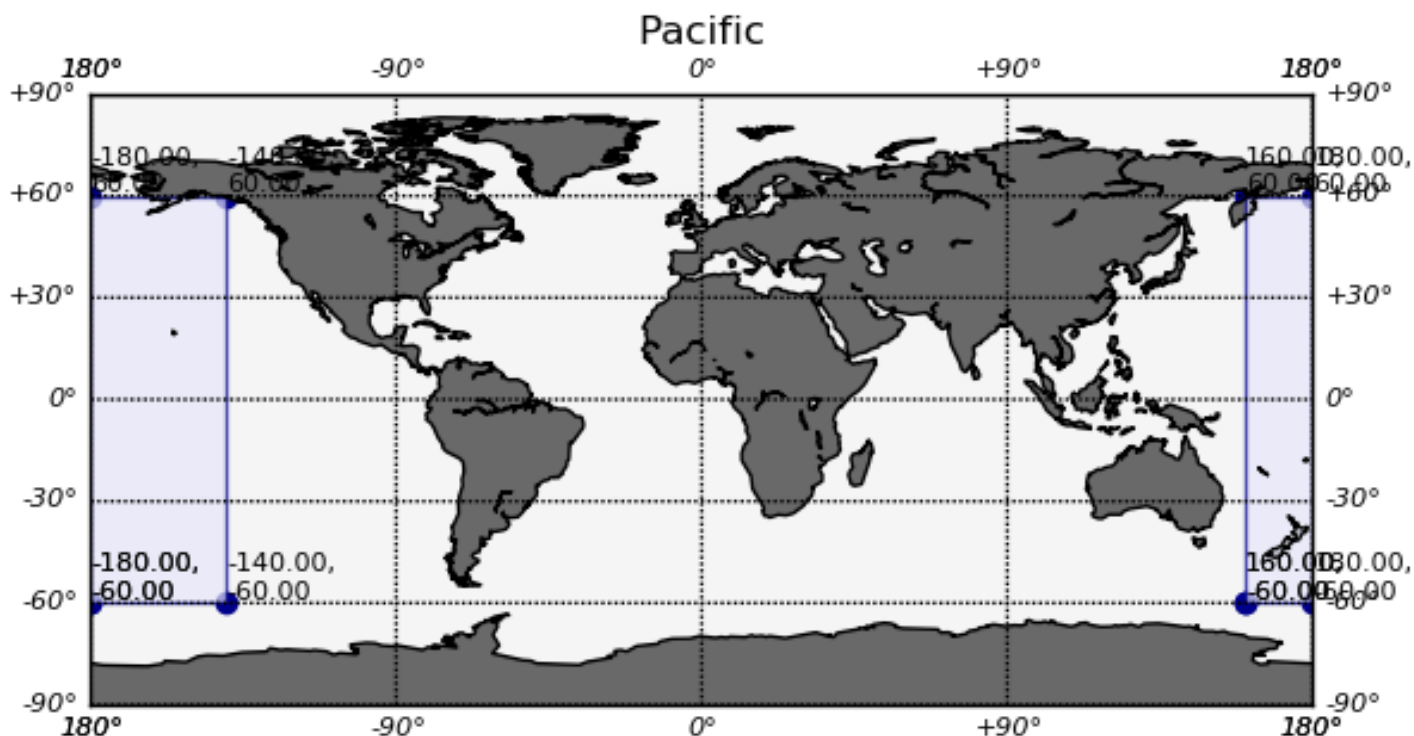


Figure 39: Open Ocean region used for the Hövmöller computation.

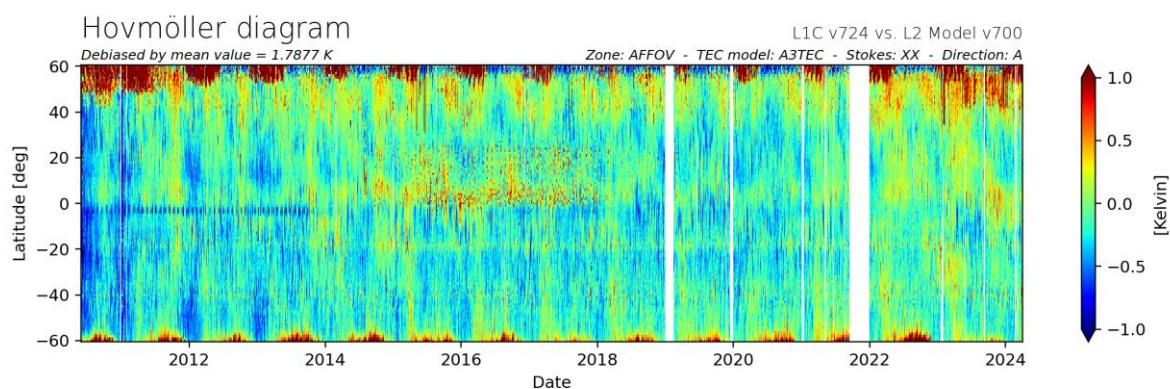


Figure 40: BT stability over the ocean, for XX polarization and Ascending passes in Kelvin.

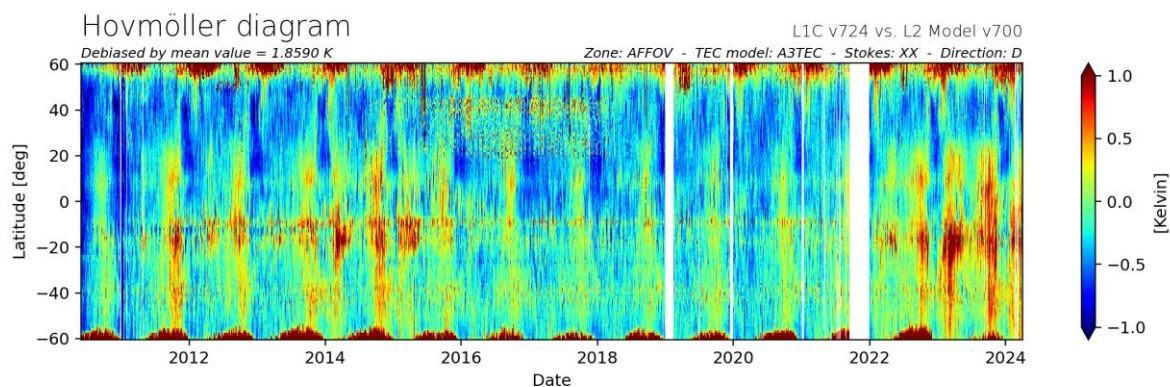


Figure 41: BT stability over the ocean, for XX polarization and Descending passes in Kelvin.

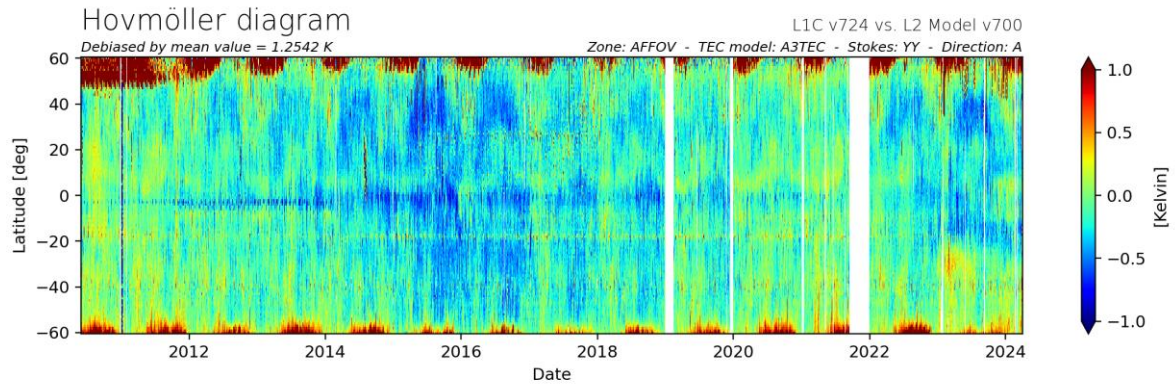


Figure 42: BT stability over the ocean, for YY polarization and Ascending passes in Kelvin.

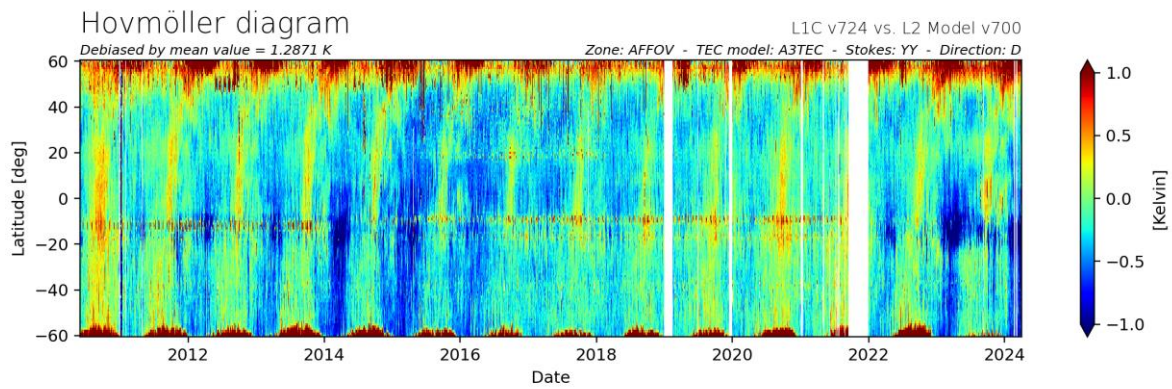


Figure 43: BT stability over the ocean, for YY polarization and Descending passes in Kelvin.

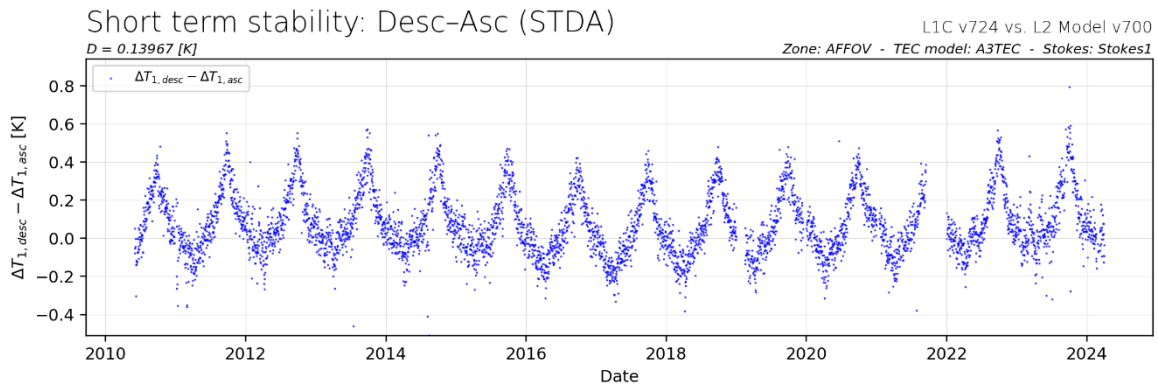


Figure 44: BT short-term stability trends (ASC-DES) for Stokes 1, XX and YY polarizations

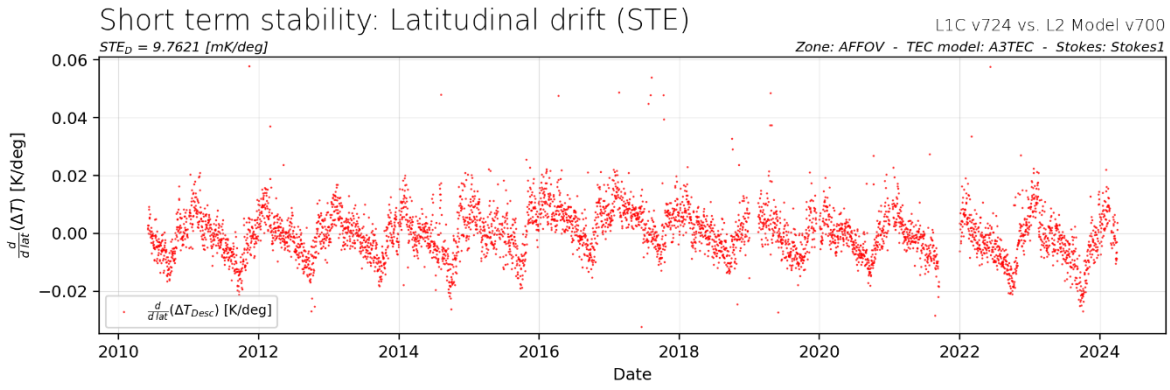


Figure 45: BT short term stability at Eclipse regions, for Stokes 1, XX and YY polarizations.

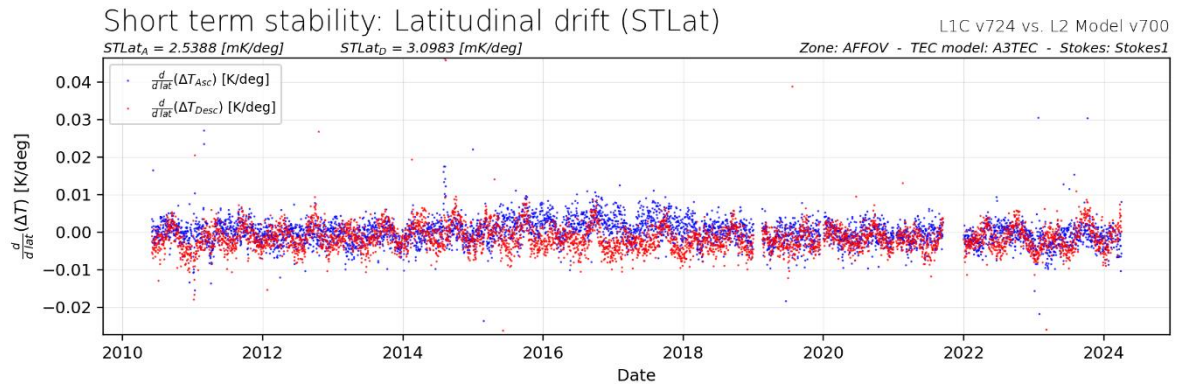


Figure 46: BT short term stability (Latitudinal drift) for ASC-DES Stokes 1, XX and YY polarizations.

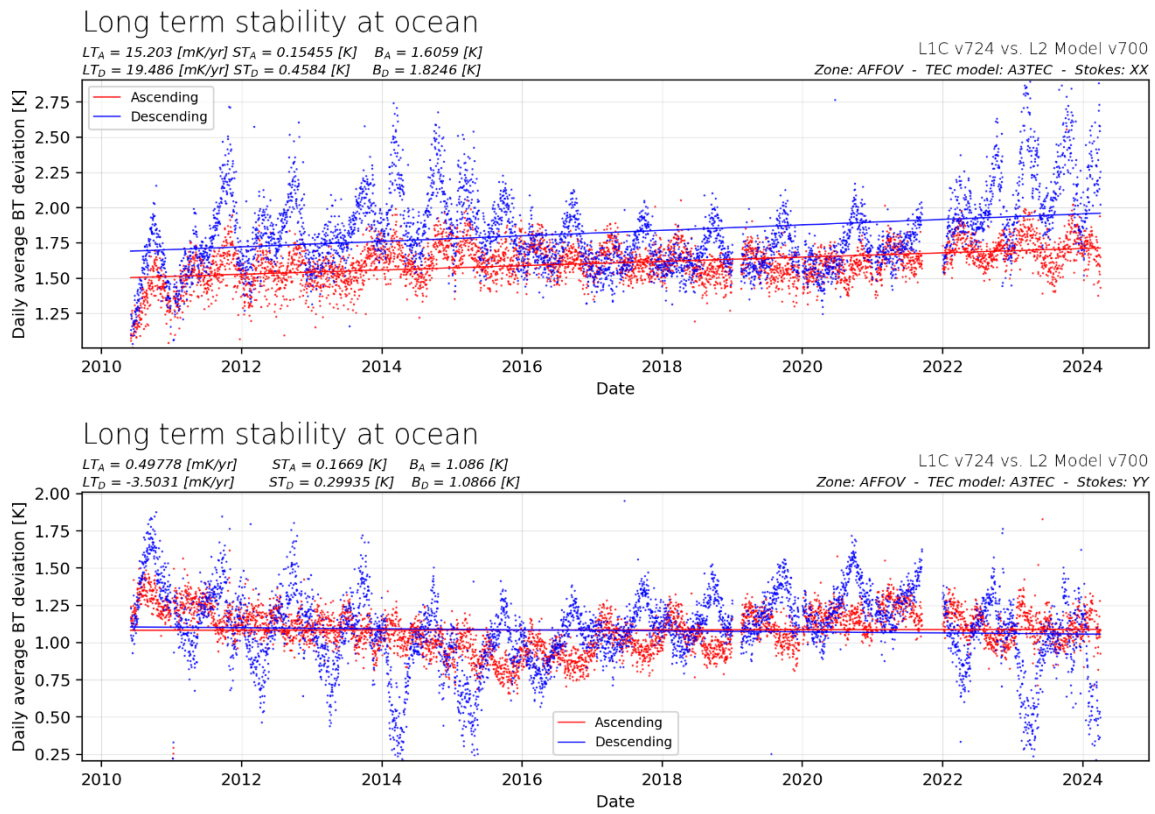


Figure 47: BT long term stability (ASC/DES), for XX and YY polarizations.

5.5 L1C Quality Parameter Analysis

This section provides a long-term overview of the monitoring of the L1C quality parameters, to identify major problems and trends.

The L1C quality flags have been extracted for the whole dataset. The L1C quality flags identify the total number of degraded measurements (snapshots) which have been affected by software, instrument, auxiliary data (ADF) or calibration errors. They provide a way to assess the degradation of a particular measurement and product and to help to identify its causes.

A daily average of the number of degraded measurements per MIR_SCxx1C file (product) has been selected as a metric. This provides an estimation of the mean number of degraded snapshots per file (product) for each day:

$$\text{Mean number of degraded snapshot per product} = \frac{\text{total number of degraded snapshots per day}}{\text{total number of products per day}}$$

The metric is also given in relative percentage with respect the total number of snapshots in that day:

$$\text{Percentage of degraded snapshots per day} = 100 \times \frac{\text{total number of degraded snapshots per day}}{\text{total number of snapshots that day}}$$

The metric is computed for ascending and descending orbit direction separately. In case the percentage of degraded snapshots per day is not negligible (e.g., above 2%) a detailed analysis of the dataset is performed to identify the root cause of the degradation for that day.

5.5.1 Software Errors

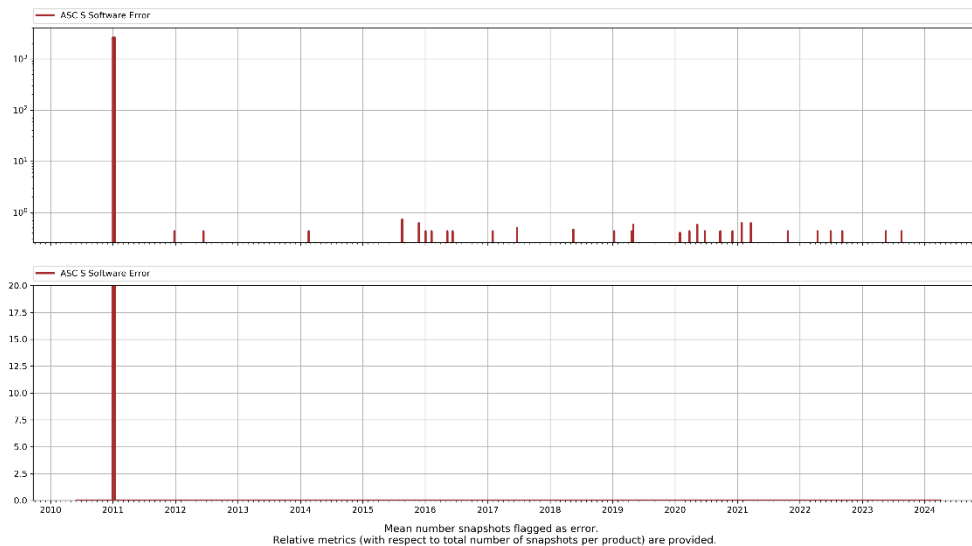


Figure 48: L1C V724 Software Errors Ascending Orbits

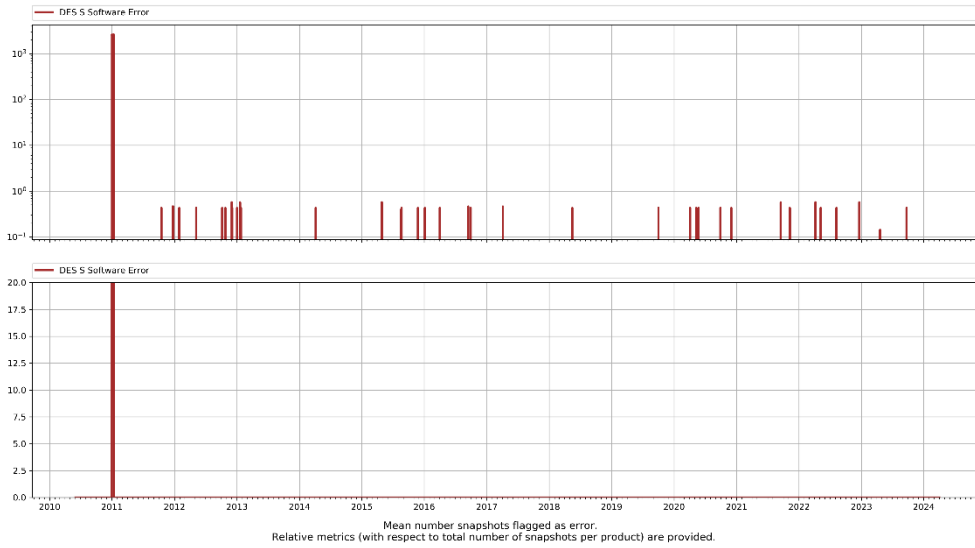


Figure 49: L1C V724 Software Errors Descending Orbits

This error summarizes several exceptions that the SW may encounter, such as interpolation problems, denominator equal to 0, out-of-bound parameters, etc (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). Only few software errors were logged for the entire dataset. The exception is Jan 2011, which were originated on the instrument anomaly, and May 2010, during commissioning phase (origin under investigation). After Jan 2011, the number of affected snapshots is negligible.

5.5.2 Instrument Errors

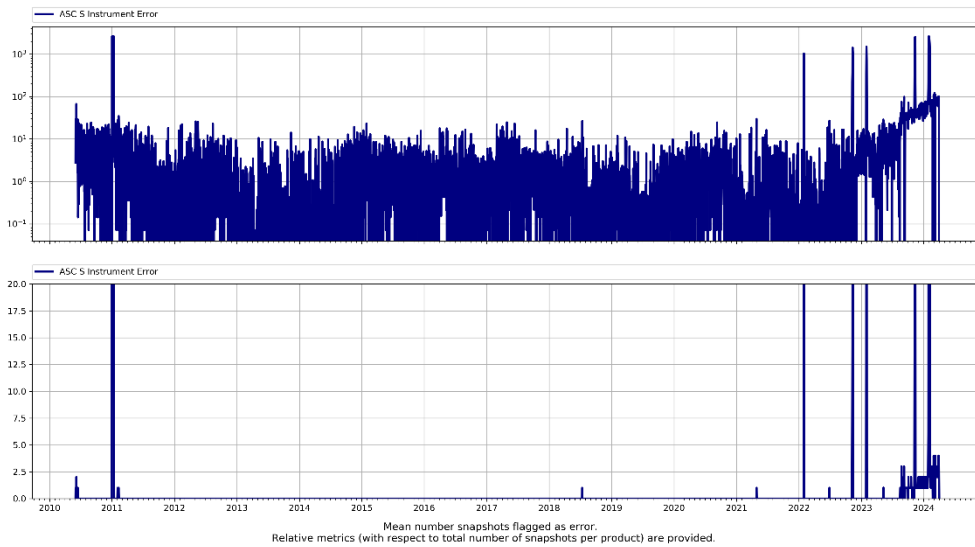


Figure 50: L1C V724 Instrument Errors Ascending Orbits

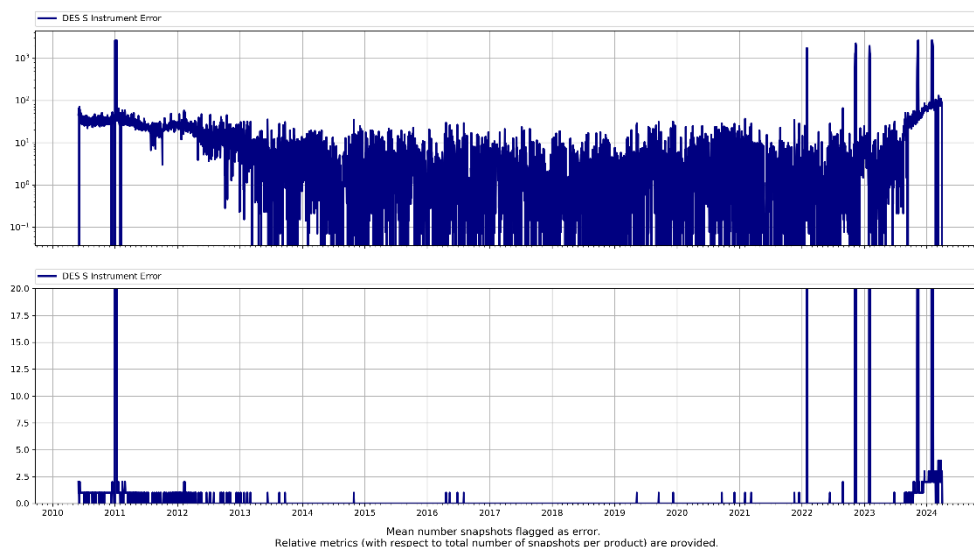


Figure 51: L1C V724 Instrument Errors Descending Orbits

This error signals instrument anomalies that could have impact in data quality (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). In addition, it has been discovered that severe RFI may trigger this error flag as well: In some cases, RFIs sources strongly degrades the instrument correlation measurement. This degradation impacts the number of iterations required to converge in the internal L1A correlation correction and therefore is flagged as potential instrument error and further propagated to L1C product. Also, it should be mentioned that instrument errors might also be triggered by the increase of Arm-A temperatures during eclipse seasons, this is the case for the peak during January 2022, November 2022, January 2023 and November 2023: LICEF-A4 slightly surpassed the threshold of 29°C used to set the flag.

Besides commissioning period (May 2010), the instrument anomaly in January 2011 and the increase of Arm-A temperatures from 2022 onwards, during the eclipse season (November and January), the number of flagged snapshots is very low, always being < 2.5%. An interesting drift is observed for the Instrument Error flag for Descending passes, as it clearly shows a progressive reduction of the number of corrupted snapshots from an average of 50 affected snapshots per day to an average of five. This can be related with the removal of on ground RFIs sources with respect the beginning of the mission. Interesting enough, the same trend cannot be appreciated for Ascending passes. This can be associated with the fact that reduction of RFI was particularly intense for some North American sources that mainly affected descending passes.

Since 2023 and increase of the instrument error flag is noted for both ascending and descending passes due to the presence of RFI over areas affected by geopolitical crisis.

5.5.3 ADF Errors

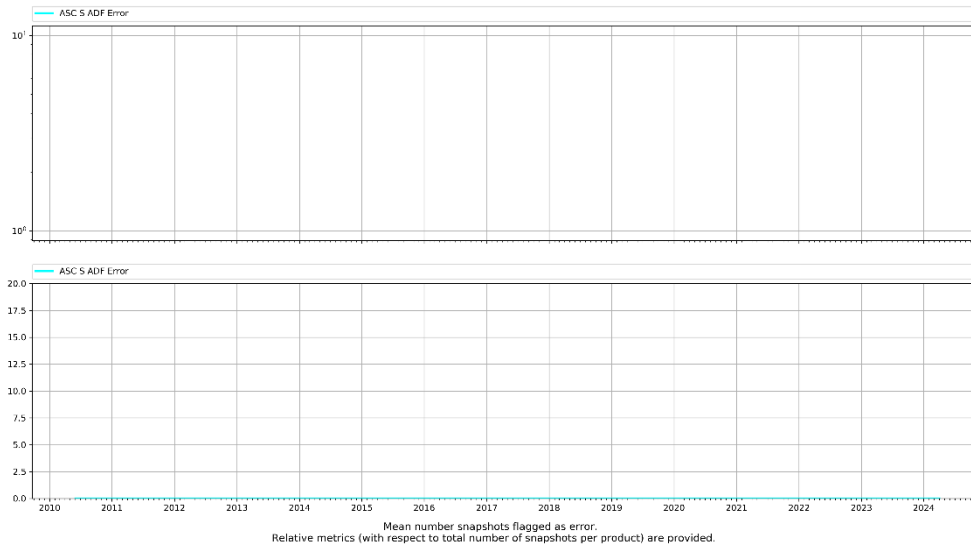


Figure 52: L1C V724 ADF Errors Ascending Orbits

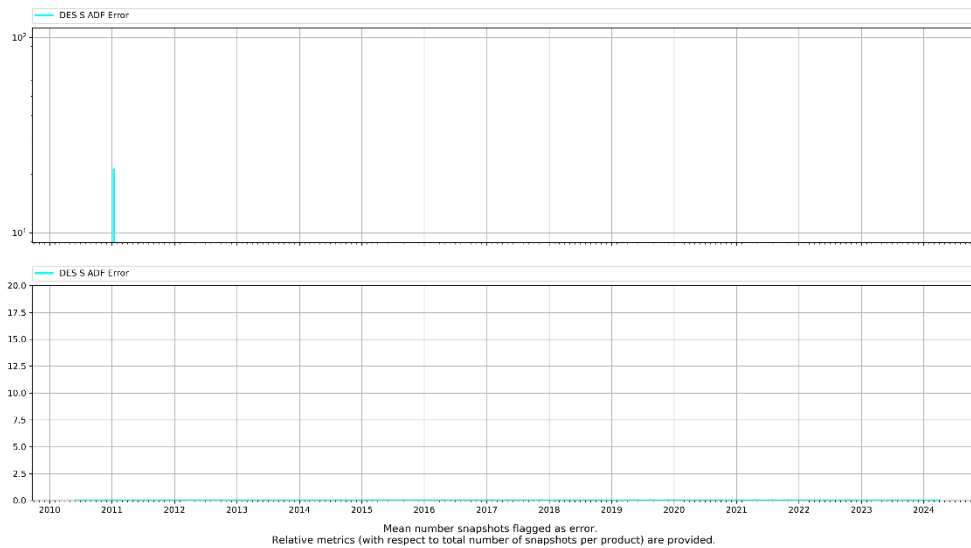


Figure 53: L1C V724 ADF Errors Descending Orbits

ADF Errors count the number of snapshots affected by Auxiliary Data anomalies (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). No significant number of ADF errors are logged for the entire dataset. The exception is Jan 2011, which were originated on the instrument anomaly. Some other products from 2010 to 2015 present ADF errors coming from no AUX_RFILST data available. This issue only affects some snapshots one product each change of month and it is caused by a non-enough overlapping of the input 2010-2015 AUX_RFILST dataset.

5.5.4 Calibration Errors

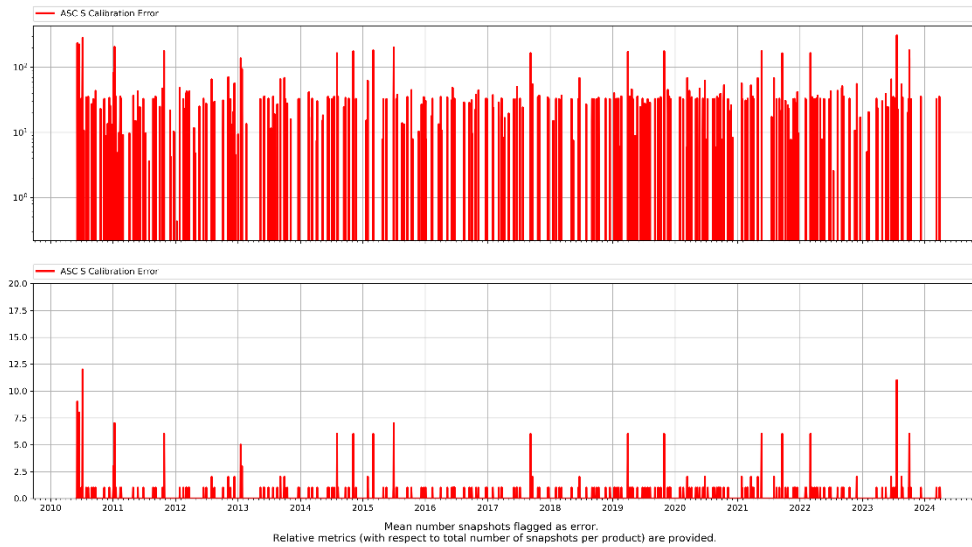


Figure 54: L1C V724 Calibration Errors Ascending Orbits

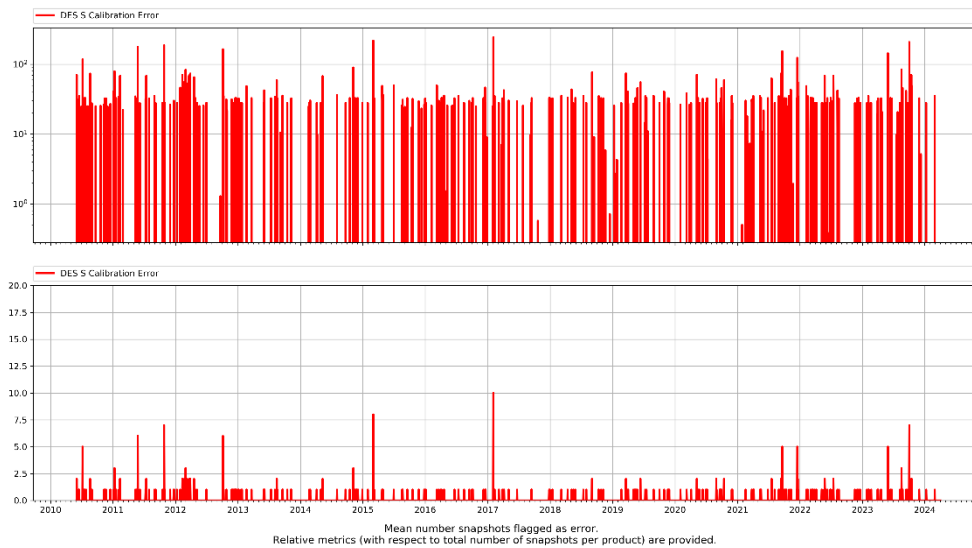


Figure 55: L1C V724 Calibration Errors Descending Orbits

Calibration errors summarize diverse errors related to calibration sequences usage (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). Calibration errors are consistent across the mission, generally affecting less than to the 1% of the sequences every day. In selected dates, however, anomalies that are more serious can be appreciated, affecting up to 5% of the snapshots.

For the rest of the dataset, calibration errors are commonly triggered due to events causing gaps in the Local Oscillator calibrations (CSTD1A) or degraded calibration data due to CMN Unlocks. Specific detail for each product affected by calibration errors can be found in RD1 inside 'ALL FULL Degraded Products' section. Additionally, it should be mentioned that most of the products proposed inside the 'Main FULL Degraded Products' section to be discarded are the ones affected by calibrations errors.

5.5.5 Invalid Blocks

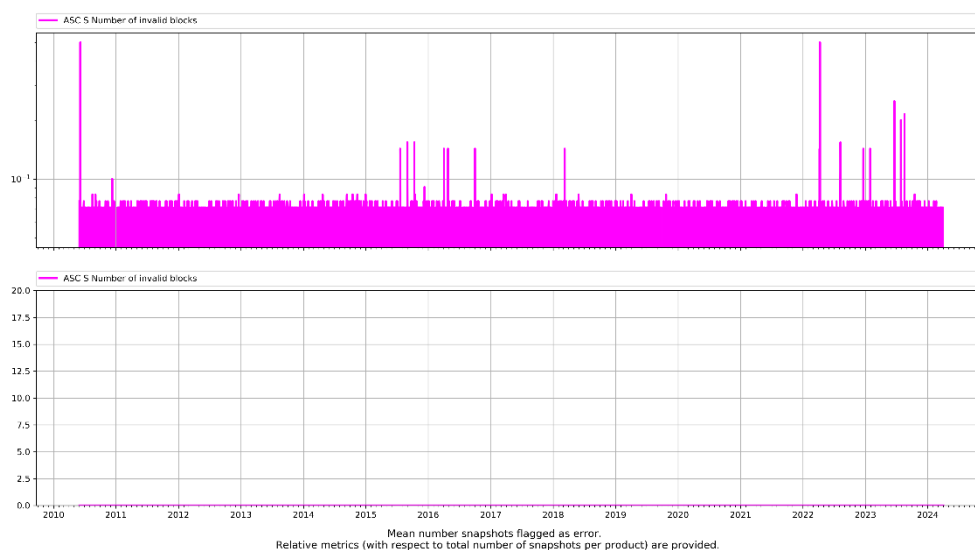


Figure 56: L1C V724 Invalid Blocks Ascending Orbits

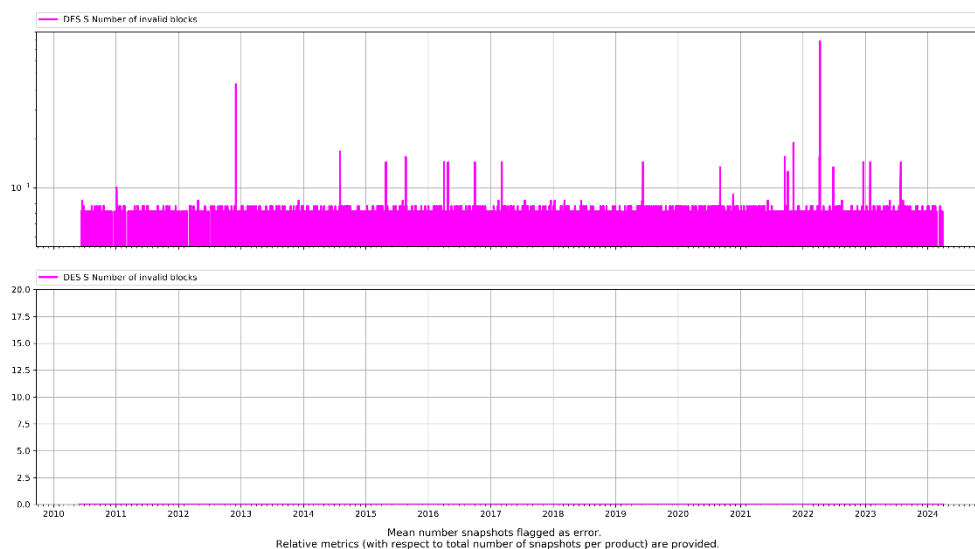


Figure 57: L1C V724 Invalid Blocks Descending Orbits

The invalid blocks flag counts the number of blocks of 24 packets in the corresponding L0 product that have at least one invalid packet (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). Albeit some packets are regularly flagged as invalid, the number of flagged packets is negligible for the entire dataset. The peak in June 2022 is related to incomplete pass acquire in Svalbard, data was recovered within the next pass. It is expected the peak disappears once the recovered data have been regenerated.

5.5.6 Discarded Scenes

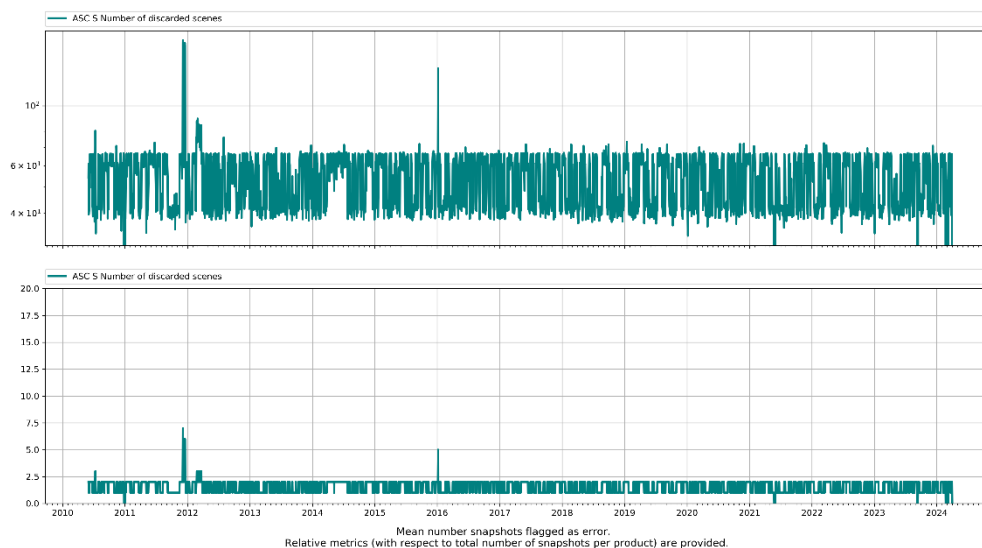


Figure 58: L1C V724 Discarded Scenes Ascending Orbits

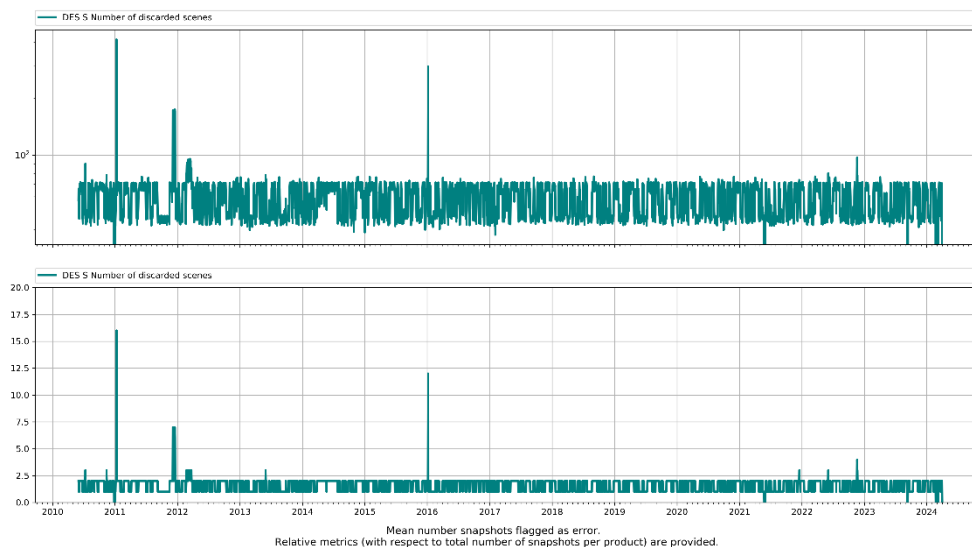


Figure 59: L1C V724 Discarded Scenes Descending Orbits

The number of discarded scenes counts the number of snapshots discarded at all the processing stages (L0, L1A, L1B and L1C). A snapshot may be discarded due to different reasons (see [RD1](#) for more comprehensive detailed description). The number of discards remain consistent (around 60 snapshots, < 2.5%) outside the commissioning period and the Jan 2011 anomaly. Nevertheless, two events with higher number of discards have been identified, at Dec 2011 and Jan 2016, respectively:

Between 20111213T173338 and 20111219T002236, 160-170 discards are reported per product.

For two products large discards are reported,
SM_REPR_MIR_SCSF1C_20160106T031835_20160106T033333_724_201_1 with 2868

snapshots discarded, and
SM_REPR_MIR_SCSF1C_20160106T042338_20160106T050151_724_200_1 with 1184. No
clear cause for this has been found yet.

5.6 L2OS Ocean Target Transformation (OTT) Orchestration Analysis

The OTT correction is used by the L2OS processor for sea surface salinity retrieval. The correction is computed roughly on a daily basis by accumulating previous SMOS L1C measurements. The proper usage of the OTT correction is monitored, and results are present in **Figure 60** since June 2010. **Figure 60** shows the OTT delay defined as the delta time between the L2OS science product sensing time and the OTT correction validity time and averaged over 1 day period. As the validity time of the OTT correction depends on the dataset used to compute the correction, this OTT delay represents a quality indicator for the selection of the best OTT correction (i.e., the better correction is achieved by using an OTT with validity time closer to the L2OS sensing time).

Nominal OTT delay interval goes from 4 to 8 days of delay. Most of the OTT delays fall in the middle of such values, 5-6 days. OTT delays outside the nominal interval reveals anomalies either in the data selection policy or problems in accumulating L1C dataset (i.e., gaps or data rejection due to bad quality or presence of RFI).

For the current SMOS L2OS v700 dataset, the next anomaly periods affecting the OTT delay (i.e., delay above 8 days) have been found:

- 1) From 21/12/2010 to 08/01/2011: Electrical Stability Test and Temperature Reading anomalies with consequent unavailability of L1C data and increased OTT delay
- 2) From 01/04/2014 to 08/04/2014 OTT delays above 8 days due to L1C rejected data for OTT correction. Data rejection was due to corrupted L1C measurement affected by RFI.
- 3) Several OTT were not produced during February, March and April 2023 increasing the OTT delay for those periods. This was caused by discarding several orbits over the OTT region affected by the presence of apparent Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) sources.
- 4) High increase of OTT delay during April and May 2023 since several AUX_DTBXY for descending orbits during several days in a row are not considered for consolidating the OTT. Deeper analysis on this is still on-going.
- 5) Increase of OTT delay during September 2023 due to data gap created by the GPS receiver anomaly.

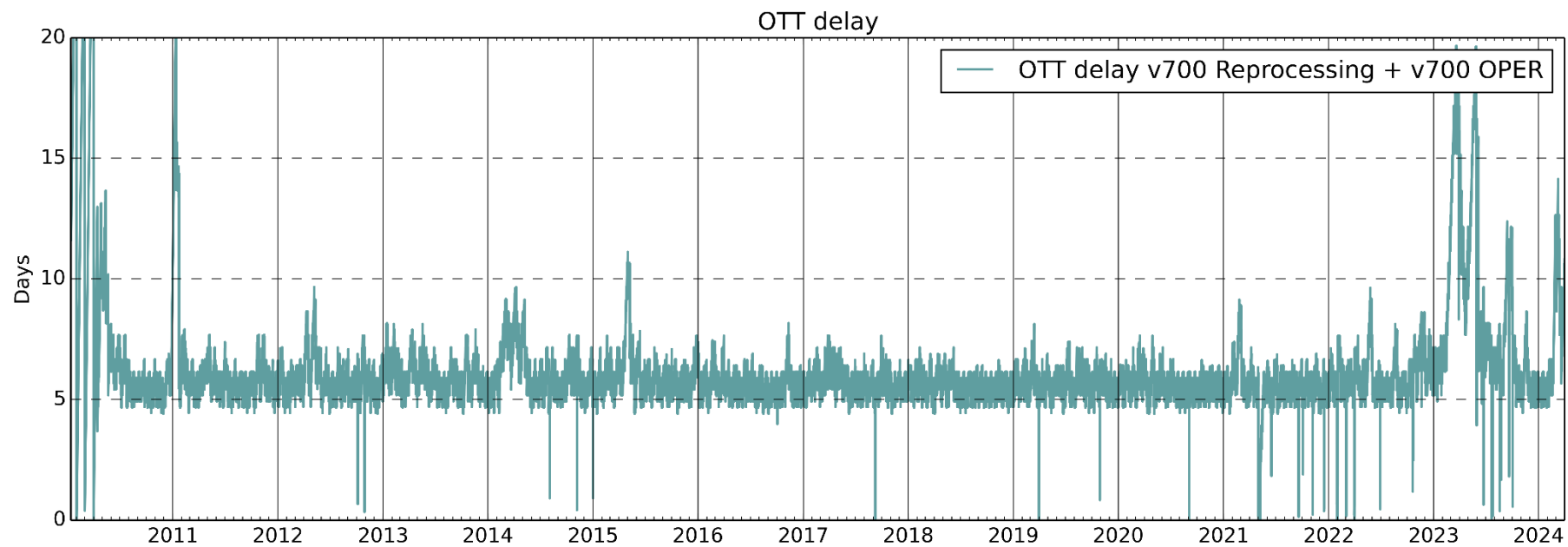


Figure 60: OTT delay per semi-orbit (Delta time between each L2OS product start time and the OTT correction validity start time file).

5.7 L2OS Retrievals Assessment

Analysis on the overall quality of the L2OS dataset is based on the evolution of the number of 'good quality' retrievals as shown in RD1 (ascending orbits) and in Figure 62 (descending orbits) as reported in the product header.

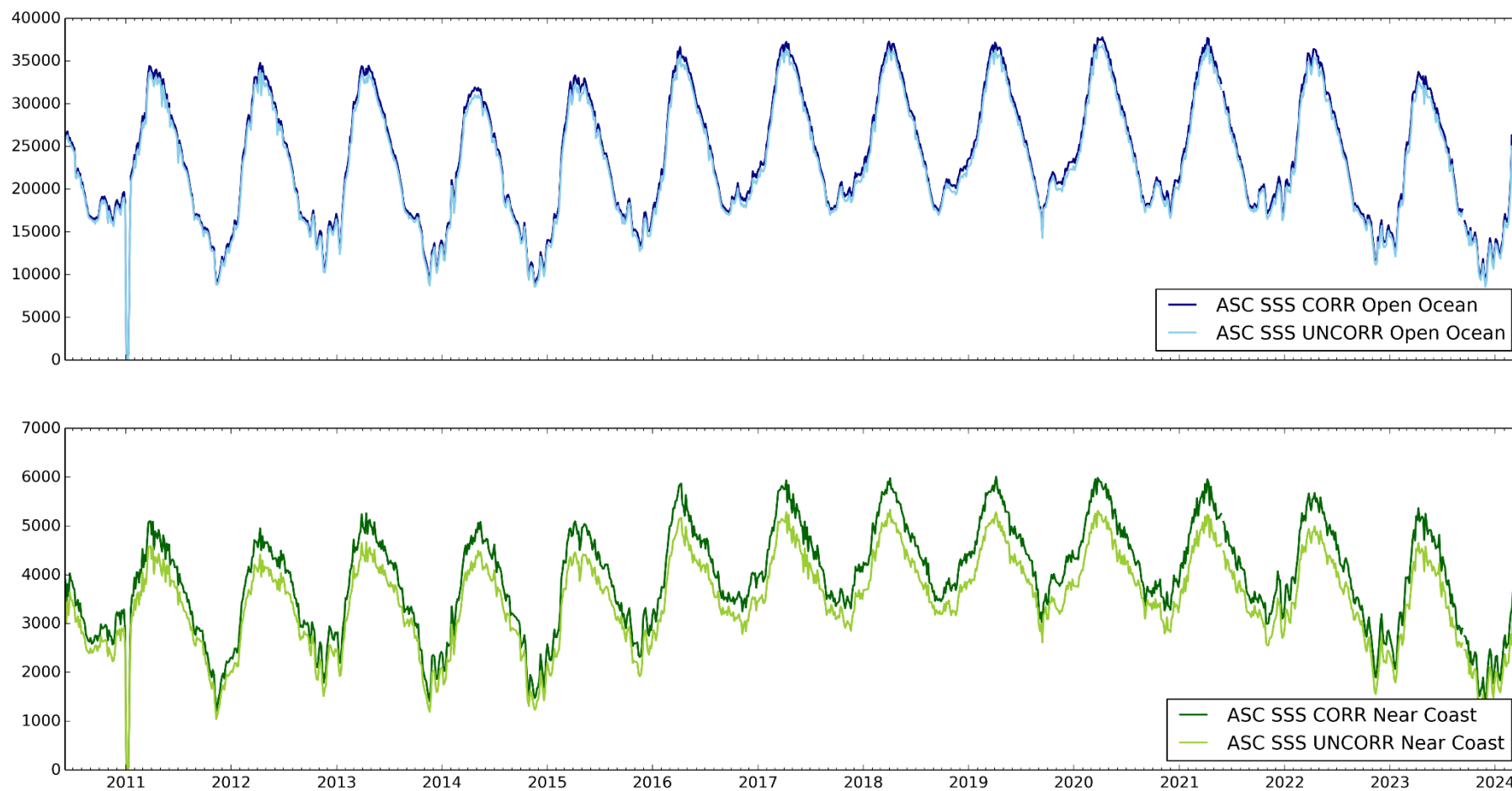
These 'Good Quality' retrievals are considered for two different areas: Open Ocean (more than 800km away from coastline) and Near Coast (within 800 km from the coastline).

Also, retrievals have been computed for the land-sea contamination corrected and uncorrected Sea Surface Salinity (SSS_corr, SSS_uncorr) and averaged daily, providing an estimation of the average number of retrievals per product. The seasonal variation in the number of good retrievals is mainly due to the criteria used to classify the data. This criteria is based on the following flags contained in the product:

- fg_ctrl_many_outliers
- fg_ctrl_sunglint
- fg_ctrl_moonglint
- fg_ctrl_gal_noise
- fg_ctrl_num_meas_low
- fg_sc_suspect_ice
- fg_sc_rain
- fg_sc_TEC_gradient

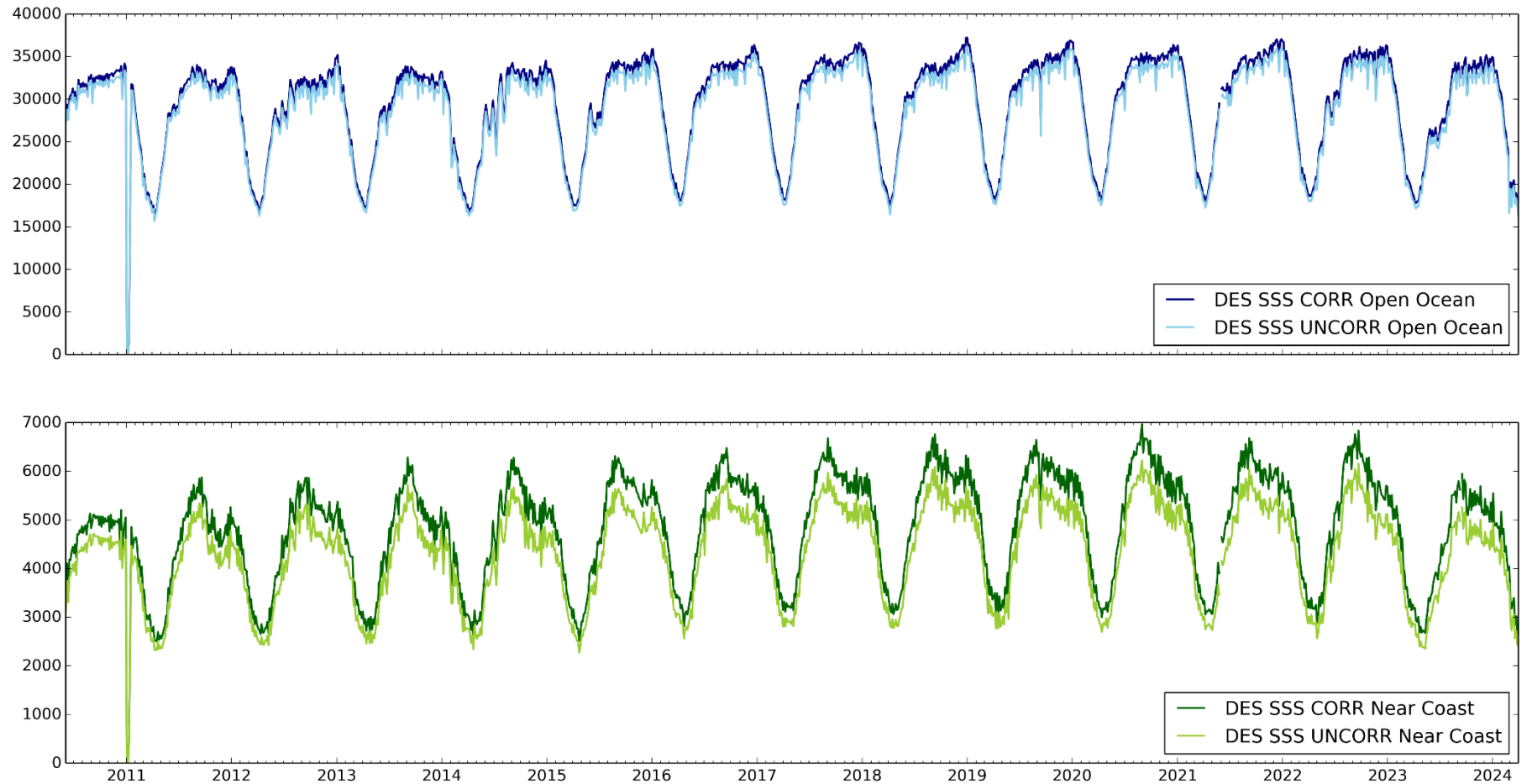
This criteria, will be reviewed in the next version of the L2OS processor and aligned with the "good quality" criteria recommended by the Expert Support Laboratory based on the following flags contained in the product:

- fg_ctrl_range
- fg_ctrl_sigma
- fg_ctrl_chi2
- fg_ctrl_chi2_P
- fg_ctrl_marq
- fg_ctrl_reach_maxiter



Number of successful salinity retrievals per retrieval case (Open Ocean and Near Coast). Computed as 4-day per product average.

Figure 61 ASC Open Ocean and Near Coast L2OS Good Quality Retrievals



Number of successful salinity retrievals per retrieval case (Open Ocean and Near Coast). Computed as 4-day per product average.

Figure 62 ASC Open Ocean and Near Coast L2OS Good Quality Retrievals

5.8 L2SM Retrievals Assessment

Analysis on the overall quality of the L2SM v700 dataset is based in the number of successful retrievals annotated in the SMUDP2 header file.

Such parameter is extracted for each retrieval branch. For some of the retrieval branches (i.e., Soil and Forest cover) this means a successful Soil Moisture retrieval. For the rest of branches, however, the parameter retrieved could be surface dielectric constant, optical depth, surface roughness or surface temperature. Please, refer to L2SM processor product specification for more details at this respect.

The metric is aggregated every 4 days in order to remove rapid variations originated due to geophysical changes in the surface. Also, it is provided as an average value per product, both in absolute value and in percentage with respect the total retrievals per branch. The metric is computed separately between ASC and DES semi-orbits, as the time of the overpass is different (ascending pass equator crossing at 06.00UTC a.m., descending pass equator crossing at 06.00UTC p.m.).

An increase on the number of retrievals for the 3 first years of operations is apparent. The origin of this is the reduction of RFI sources as a consequence of reporting the RFI case to the Spectrum Management Authorities since launch. In addition, v700 shows a higher number of retrievals with respect to v700. This is expected due to the change in the land cover auxiliary information especially relevant for Forest cover, but it is also apparent for other retrieval branches (e.g., Soil).

The relative total number of successfully retrievals presents some seasonal behaviour specially for descending semi-orbits. For some of the parameters (i.e., Forest, Snow) this bearing is especially clear for both ascending and descending and may be related with surface changes across the seasons.

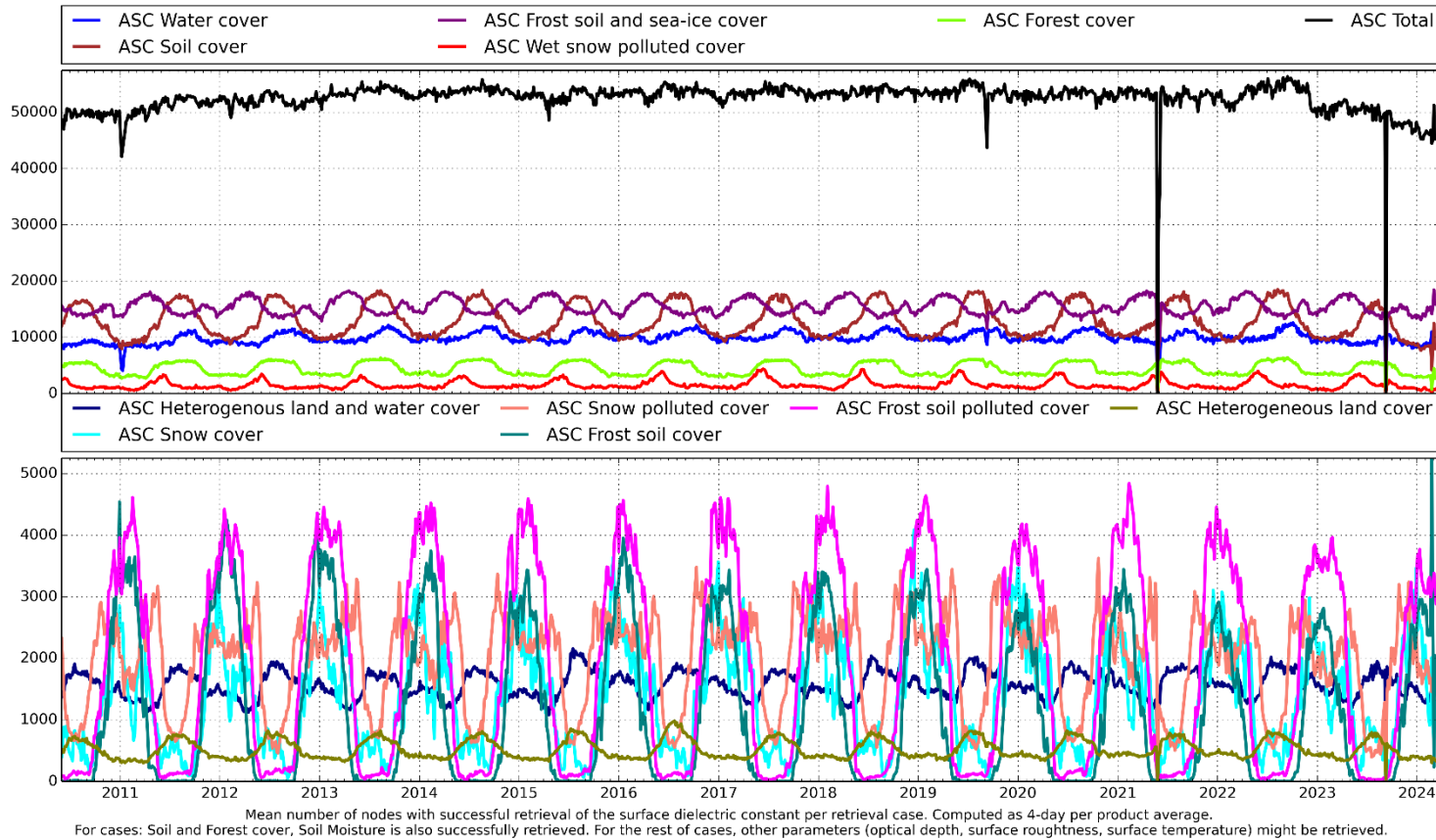


Figure 63: L2SM v700 Mean Retrievals Absolute - ASC

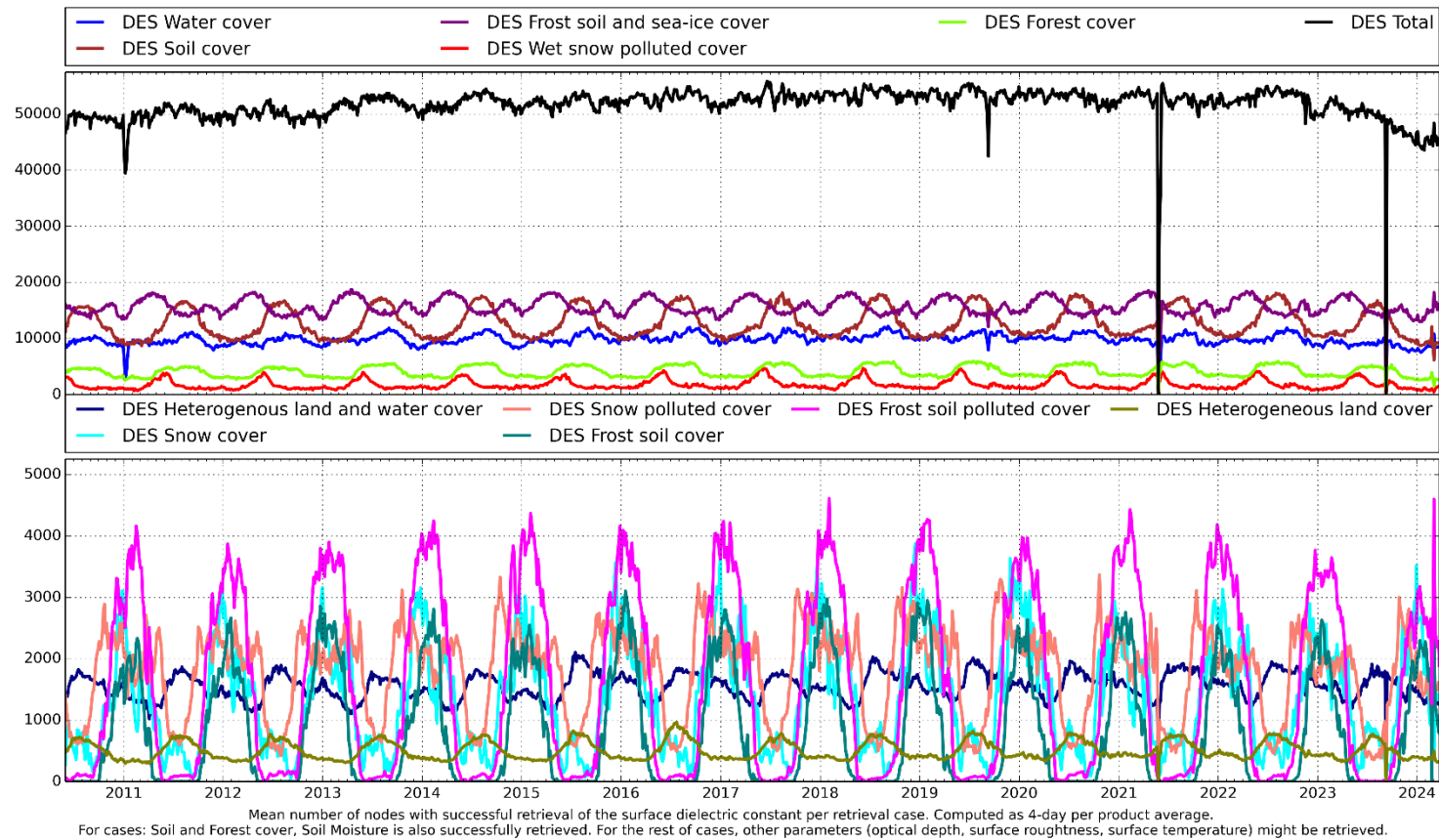


Figure 64: L2SM v700 Mean Retrievals Absolute - DES

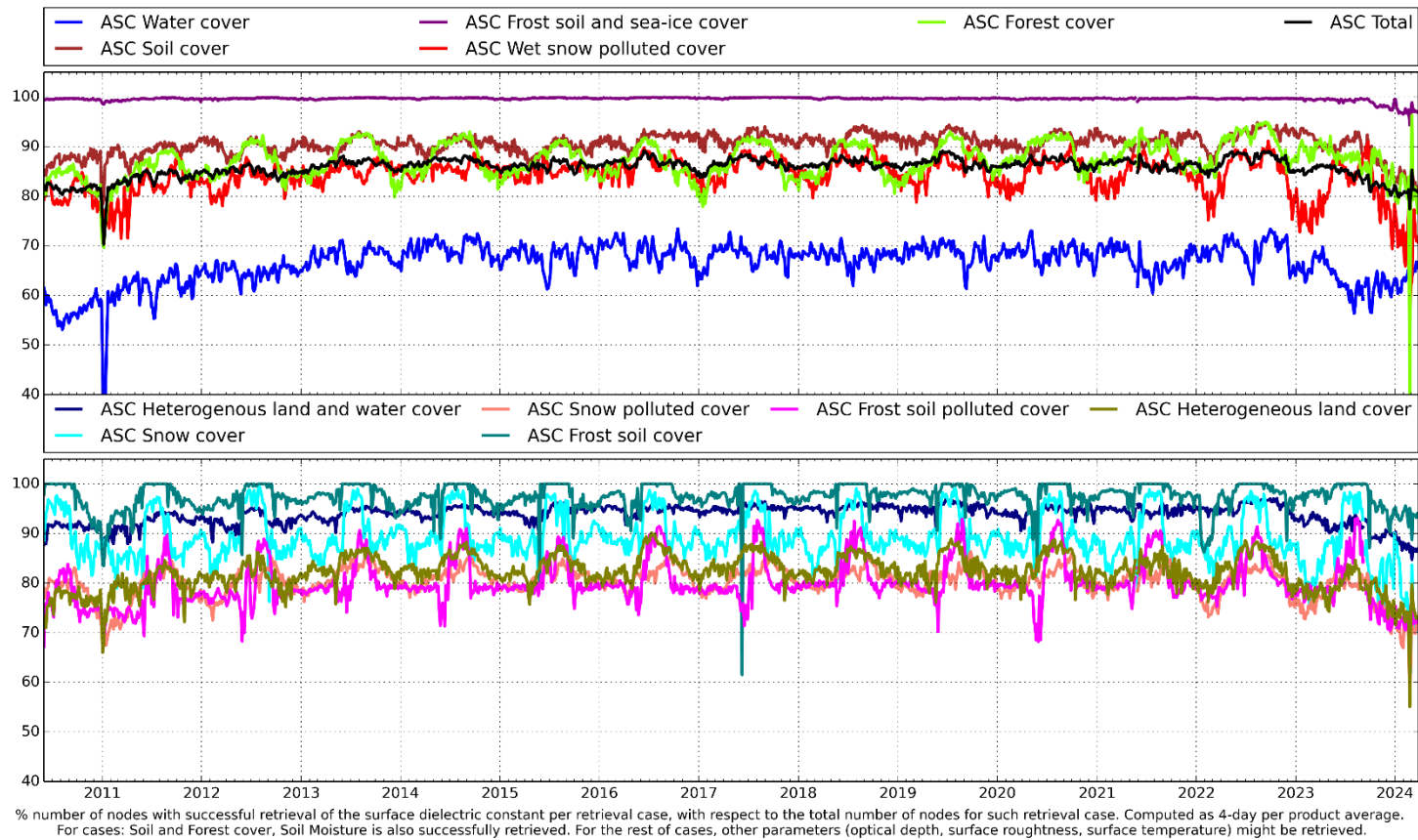


Figure 65: L2SM v700 Mean Retrievals Relative - ASC

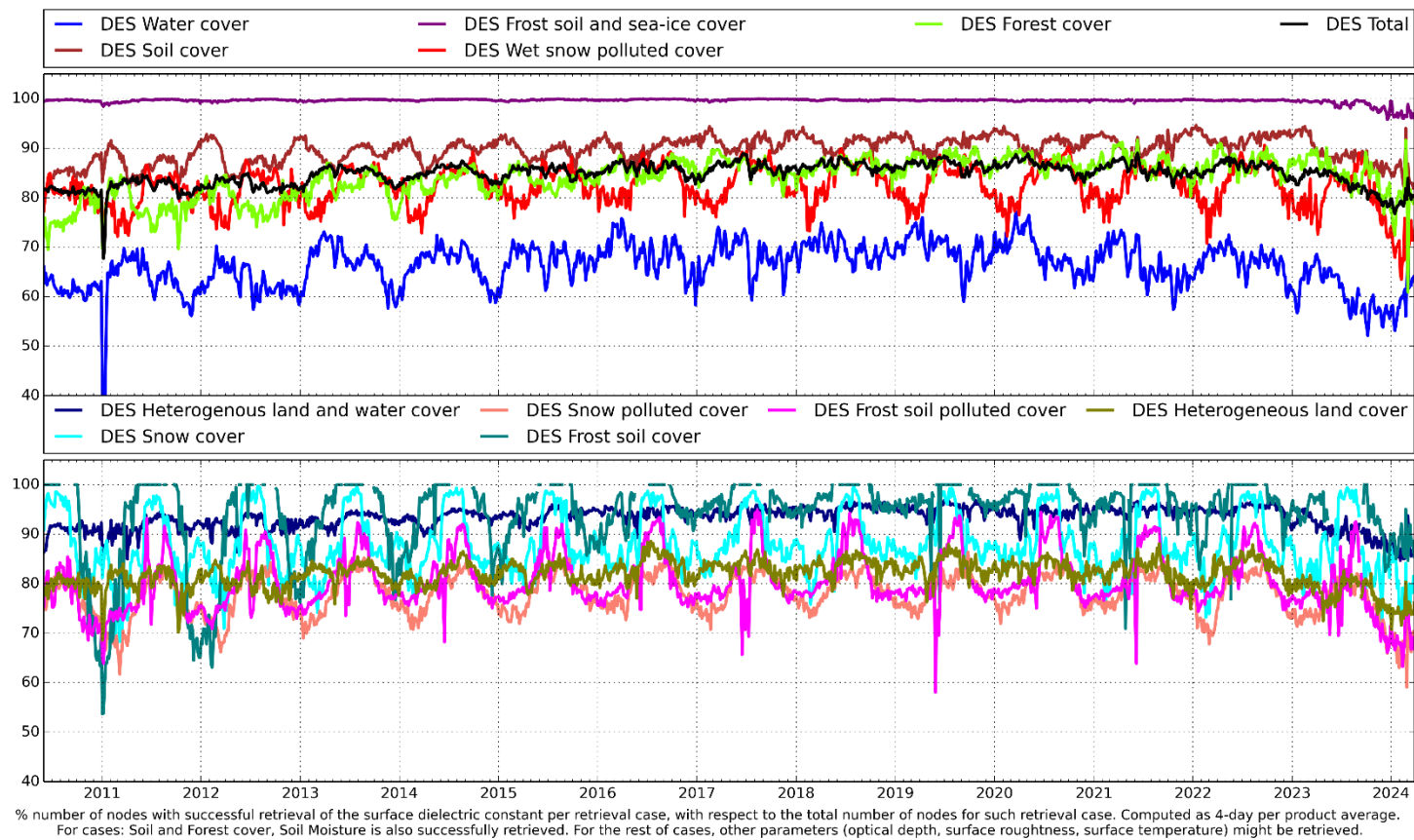


Figure 66: L2SM v700 Mean Retrievals Relative - DES

5.9 Pi-MEP: SSS Time series with Argo Buoy.

This section presents the systematic analysis of the Sea Surface Salinity difference between SMOS Level 2 measurements and in-situ (Argo buoys) measurements, specifically the time series of the monthly median and standard deviation of them from the SMOS Pi-MEP. For more information about the match-up database used to derive the differences please see the full monthly report from the SMOS Pilot-Mission Exploitation Platform for SSS available here (https://pimep.ifremer.fr/diffusion/smos-l2-v700_monthly-update/).

SMOS Pi-MEP is a project funded by ESA focused on validation of various satellite derived SSS products. The project gathers together European expertise groups (IFREMER, OceanDataLab, OceanScope) as well as NASA Expert Laboratories. For more detail on the project, please visit the [SMOS Pilot-Mission Exploitation Platform \(Pi-MEP\)](#).

Ascending and Descending Orbits.

For Figure 67:

- The *top panel* shows the time series of the monthly median SSS estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region for both SMOS SSS L2 v700 satellite SSS product (in black) and the Argo in situ dataset (in blue) at the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs.
- The *middle panel* shows the time series of the monthly median of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.
- The *bottom panel* shows the time series of the monthly standard deviation of the Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.

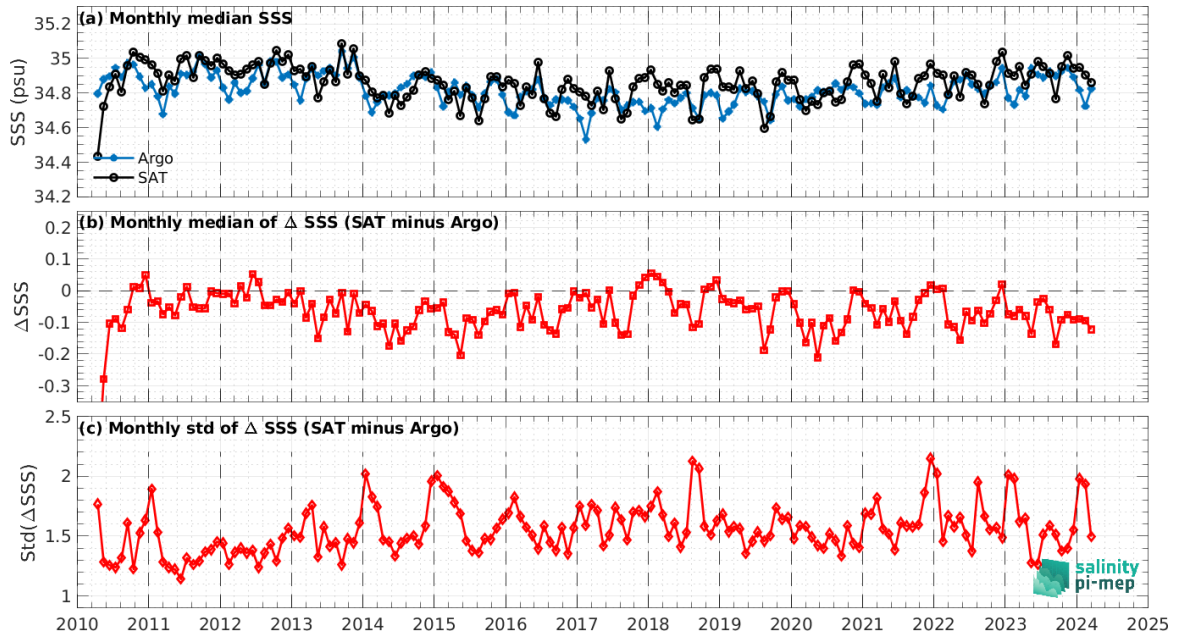


Figure 67 - Time series of the monthly median SSS (top), median of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) and Std of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) over the Global Ocean Pi-MEP region considering all match-ups collected by the Pi-MEP.

Ascending Orbits

For Figure 68:

- The *top panel* shows the time series of the monthly median SSS estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region for both SMOS SSS L2 v700 satellite SSS product (in black) and the Argo in situ dataset (in blue) at the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs.
- The *middle panel* shows the time series of the monthly median of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.
- The *bottom panel* shows the time series of the monthly standard deviation of the Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.

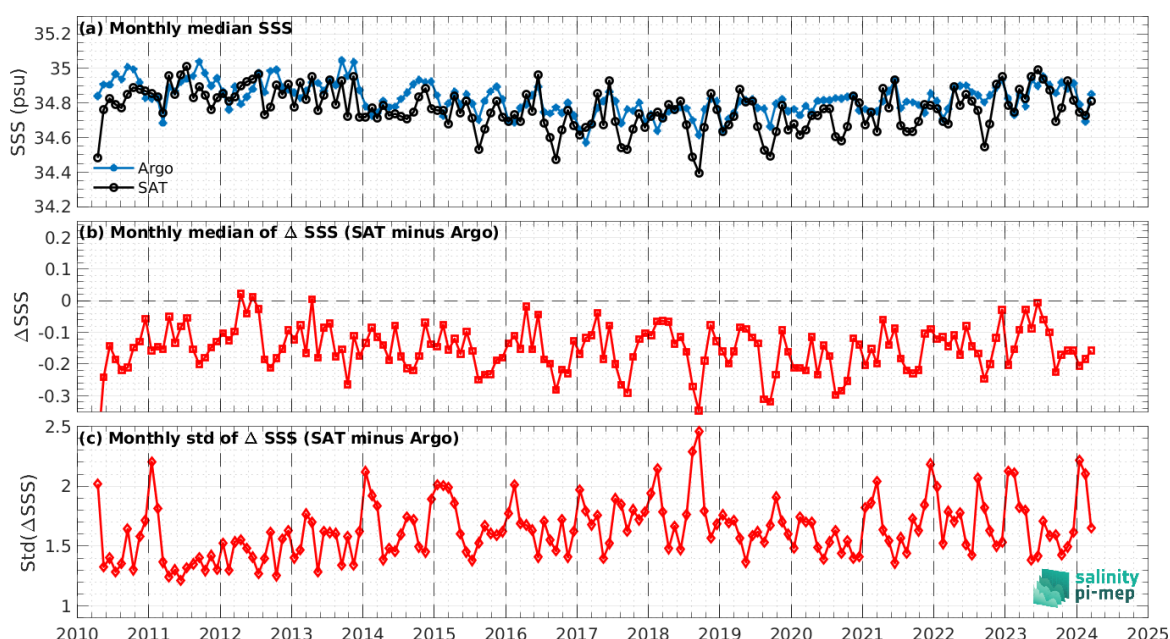


Figure 68 - Time series of the monthly median SSS (top), median of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) and Std of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) over the Global Ocean Pi-MEP region considering only ascending orbits from all match-ups collected by the Pi-MEP.

Descending Orbits

For Figure 69:

- The *top panel* shows the time series of the monthly median SSS estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region for both SMOS SSS L2 v700 satellite SSS product (in black) and the Argo in situ dataset (in blue) at the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs.
- The *middle panel* shows the time series of the monthly median of Δ SSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.

- The *bottom panel* shows the time series of the monthly standard deviation of the ΔSSS (Satellite - Argo) for the collected Pi-MEP match-up pairs and estimated over the full Global Ocean Pi-MEP region.

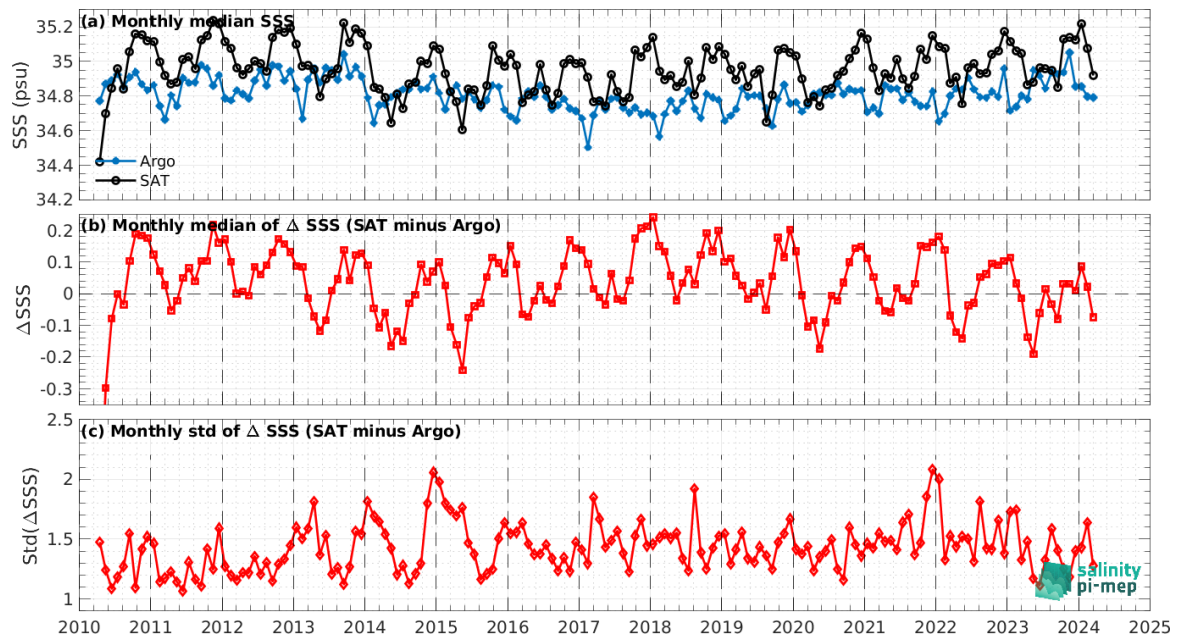


Figure 69 - Time series of the monthly median SSS (top), median of ΔSSS (Satellite - Argo) and Std of ΔSSS (Satellite - Argo) over the Global Ocean Pi-MEP region considering only descending orbits from all match-ups collected by the Pi-MEP.

6 PRODUCT QUALITY ANALYSIS

Level 1 data quality for March has found to be nominal except in the time intervals listed in the section 4.5. Weekly maps for ascending and descending passes for the Stokes 1, Stokes 3 and Stokes 4 in videos format can be found at: <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/instruments/miras/quality-control-reports/smos-videos>

All the artificial patterns in the maps can be explained by the presence of RFIs.

Level 2 Soil Moisture data quality for March has found to be nominal. Weekly maps for ascending and descending passes for the soil moisture in video format can be found at: <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/instruments/miras/quality-control-reports/smos-videos>

Level 2 Sea Surface Salinity data quality is nominal in the reporting period. Weekly maps for ascending and descending passes for good quality retrieved sea surface salinity in video format can be found at: <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/instruments/miras/quality-control-reports/smos-videos>

The lack of good retrieval at descending passes during the boreal winter season has an inter-annual variation. In particular data gaps are less evident for winter season 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 and more extended for 2013/2014 season and in January 2023. This fact points out that thermal effect on the instrument due to eclipse is only one contributor and other sources (e.g., L-band Sun signal direct or reflected) impacting the number of good retrievals are under investigation by the calibration team and Level 2 ESL.

For more details on soil moisture and sea surface salinity retrieval algorithms and caveats in data usage see the **Level 2 Algorithm Theoretical Baseline Documents** and the read-me-first note available here:

- **L2OS:** <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/documents/20142/37627/SMOS-L2OS-ATBD.pdf?text=smos+atdb>
- **L2SM:** <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/documents/20142/37627/SMOS-L2-SM-ATBD.pdf?text=smos+atdb>

7 ADF CONFIGURATION AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

ADF File Type	Operational ADF Version (DPGS Baseline)	Updated
AUX_APDL	SM_OPER_AUX_APDL_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_004_3.EEF	No
AUX_APDNRT	SM_OPER_AUX_APDNRT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_208_001_6.EEF	No
AUX_APDS	SM_OPER_AUX_APDS_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_004_3.EEF	No
AUX_ATMOS	SM_OPER_AUX_ATMOS_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_010_3.EEF	No
AUX_BFP	SM_OPER_AUX_BFP_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_340_004_3.EEF	No
AUX_BNDLST	SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20050101T000000_20110518T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20110518T000000_20150512T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20150512T000000_20160308T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20160308T000000_20190611T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20190611T000000_20500101T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20200701T000000_20500101T000000_303_005_3 SM_OPER_AUX_BNDLST_20230627T000000_20500101T000000_303_005_3	No
AUX_BSCAT	SM_OPER_AUX_BSCAT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_003_3	No
AUX_BULL_B	SM_OPER_AUX_BULL_B_20240102T000000_20500101T000000_120_001_3	Yes
AUX_BWGHT	SM_OPER_AUX_BWGHT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_340_006_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFFAR	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFFAR_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_100_002_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFL0P	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFL0P_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_007_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFL1P	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFL1P_20110206T010100_20500101T000000_721_055_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFNRT	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFNRT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_620_012_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFOSD	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFOSD_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_029_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFOSF	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFOSF_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_032_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFSMD	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFSMD_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_017_3.EEF	No
AUX_CNFSMF	SM_OPER_AUX_CNFSMF_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_017_3.EEF	No
AUX_DFFFRA	SM_OPER_AUX_DFFFRA_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_007_3	No
AUX_DFFLAI	SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230101T000000_20230111T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230111T000000_20230121T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230121T000000_20230203T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230203T000000_20230213T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230213T000000_20230223T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230223T000000_20230302T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230302T000000_20230312T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230312T000000_20230322T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230322T000000_20230402T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230402T000000_20230412T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230412T000000_20230422T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230422T000000_20230501T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230501T000000_20230511T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230511T000000_20230521T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230521T000000_20230601T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230601T000000_20230611T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230611T000000_20230621T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230621T000000_20230630T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230630T000000_20230710T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230710T000000_20230720T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230720T000000_20230730T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230730T000000_20230809T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230809T000000_20230819T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230819T000000_20230829T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230829T000000_20230909T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230909T000000_20230919T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230919T000000_20230929T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20230929T000000_20231008T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231008T000000_20231018T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231018T000000_20231028T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231028T000000_20231108T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231108T000000_20231118T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231118T000000_20231128T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231128T000000_20231207T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231207T000000_20231217T014000_600_001_3 SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLAI_20231217T000000_20240101T014000_600_001_3	No

AUX_DFFLMX	SM_OPER_AUX_DFFLMX_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_006_3	No
AUX_DFFSOI	SM_OPER_AUX_DFFSOI_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_003_3	No
AUX_DFFXYZ	SM_OPER_AUX_DFFXYZ_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_003_3	No
AUX_DGG	SM_OPER_AUX_DGG_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_003_3	No
AUX_DGGXYZ	SM_OPER_AUX_DGGXYZ_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_004_3	No
AUX_DISTAN	SM_OPER_AUX_DISTAN_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_011_3	No
AUX_DTBCUR	SM_REPR_AUX_DTBCUR_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor.	No
AUX_ECOLAI	SM_OPER_AUX_ECOLAI_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_305_006_3	No
AUX_ECMCDF	SM_OPER_AUX_ECMCDF_20101109T000000_20500101T000000_001_003_3.EEF SM_OPER_AUX_ECMCDF_20050101T000000_20101109T000000_001_003_3	No
AUX_FAIL	SM_OPER_AUX_FAIL_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_004_3.EEF	No
AUX_FLTSEA	SM_OPER_AUX_FLTSEA_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_012_3.EEF	No
AUX_FOAM	SM_OPER_AUX_FOAM_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_011_3	No
AUX_FRSNEL	SM_OPER_AUX_FRSNEL_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_720_001_3	No
AUX_GAL_OS	SM_OPER_AUX_GAL_OS_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_011_3	No
AUX_GAL_SM	SM_OPER_AUX_GAL_SM_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_003_3	No
AUX_GAL2OS	SM_OPER_AUX_GAL2OS_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_016_3	No
AUX_GALAXY	SM_OPER_AUX_GALAXY_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_004_3	No
AUX_GALNIR	SM_OPER_AUX_GALNIR_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_003_3	No
AUX_LANDCL	SM_OPER_AUX_LANDCL_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_006_3.EEF	No
AUX_LCF	SM_OPER_AUX_LCF_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_720_019_3.EEF	No
AUX_LSMASK	Discontinued (dynamic ADF for V7xx baseline onwards)	No
AUX_MASK	SM_OPER_AUX_MASK_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_002_3	No
AUX_MISP	SM_OPER_AUX_MISP_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_004_3.EEF	No
AUX_MN_WEF	SM_OPER_AUX_MN_WEF_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_002_3	No
AUX_MOONT	SM_OPER_AUX_MOONT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_002_3	No
AUX_MSOTT	SM_OPER_AUX_MSOTT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_002_3	No
AUX_N256	SM_OPER_AUX_N256_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_504_002_3	No
AUX_NIR	SM_OPER_AUX_NIR_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_720_012_3.EEF	No
AUX_NRTMSK	SM_OPER_AUX_NRTMSK_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_207_001_6	No
AUX_OTT1D	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT1D_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor. Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	No
AUX_OTT1F	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT1F_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor. Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	No
AUX_OTT2D	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT2D_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor. Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	No
AUX_OTT2F	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT2F_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor. Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	No
AUX_OTT3D	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT3D_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor. Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	No
AUX_OTT3F	SM_REPR_AUX_OTT3F_20210520T083700_20500101T000000_699_320_1 Initialization file for the deployment of the L2OS V700 processor.	No

	Since level 2 OS processor V62x the new file is generated on routine basis by the level 2 post processor	
AUX_PATT__	SM_OPER_AUX_PATT__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_720_004_3	No
AUX_PLM__	SM_OPER_AUX_PLM__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_600_008_3.EEF	No
AUX_PMS__	SM_OPER_AUX_PMS__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_711_013_3.EEF	No
AUX_RFI__	SM_OPER_AUX_RFI__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_003_3	No
AUX_RFILST	Since level 1 processor version V62x the file is generated by CATDS on monthly basis	No
AUX_RGHNS1	SM_OPER_AUX_RGHNS1_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_016_3	No
AUX_RGHNS2	SM_OPER_AUX_RGHNS2_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_013_3	No
AUX_RGHNS3	SM_OPER_AUX_RGHNS3_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_016_3	No
AUX_SGLINT	SM_OPER_AUX_SGLINT_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_012_3	No
AUX_SOIL_P	Discontinued (replaced by AUX_DFFSOI for V6xx baseline onwards)	No
AUX_SPAR__	SM_OPER_AUX_SPAR__ 20110112T091500_20500101T000000_720_013_3.EEF SM_OPER_AUX_SPAR__ 20100111T120700_20110112T091500_720_013_3.EEF SM_OPER_AUX_SPAR__ 20050101T000000_20100111T120700_720_013_3.EEF	No
AUX_SSS__	SM_OPER_AUX_SSS__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_014_3	No
AUX_SSSCLI	SM_OPER_AUX_SSSCLI_20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_002_3	No
AUX_SUNT__	SM_OPER_AUX_SUNT__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_300_002_3	No
AUX_WEF__	SM_OPER_AUX_WEF__ 20050101T000000_20500101T000000_001_003_3	No
MPL_ORBSCT	SM_OPER_MPL_ORBSCT_20091102T031142_20500101T000000_464_001.EEF	No

8 APPENDIX A. CONFIGURATION DOCUMENT LIST

The list of internal documents used for the generation of this report is:

- Unavailability.xls
- Details_Calibrations.xls
- SMOS-CEC-VEG-IPF-REP-0609_v3.03_SMOS_Auxiliary_Data_File_List_20230710_signed.pdf

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