



Customer	: ESRIN	Document Ref	: IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071
Contract No	: 4000111304/14/I-AM	Issue Date	: 22 October 2015
WP No	: 6110	Issue	: 1.0



IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report 2015/41: 2015/10/05 - 2015/10/11

Abstract : This is the **Instrument Data quality Evaluation and Analysis Service Plus (IDEAS+)** Swarm Weekly report on Swarm products quality, covering the period from 05 October to 11 October 2015.

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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	REASON
1.0	22 Oct 2015	First issue



1. INTRODUCTION

This document refers to the activities carried out in the framework of the Sensor Performance, Products and Algorithms (SPPA) Office [RD.1], and as such it reports on work related to:

- Algorithms and Processors Development, Maintenance and Evolution: these include all algorithm and software evolution and maintenance aspects for the different components, for both the Operational processors (OP) and Prototypes processors (PP) of L1 and L2 chains.
- Performance Assessment: these include all Quality Control activities (on-line and offline, systematic or on-demand), for the applicable product levels.
- System Calibration: these include the activities related to calibration, from sensor to system level. They also include aspects like cross calibration and handling of external calibration sources.
- Product validation: these include definition and maintenance of product validation plans.
- End-to-end Sensor Dataset Performance: these include activities related to the organisation and coordination of Quality Working Groups and all aspects of the Experimental platform. It also covers the product baseline, coordination and handling of external communities, and all aspects of ADF handling (both for the operational processors and for the prototypes).

This weekly report constitutes a work in progress throughout the mission life time, and new parts and complements will be added while the consolidation of knowledge on Swarm data and instruments will progress.

Section 2.1 always gives an overview of the general quality status of the mission instruments and products, while the main observations of the week are summarized in Section 2.2.

The document also includes information on data quality for the three Swarm spacecraft, inferred from automated HTML quality reports, which are produced on daily basis for each product. Please contact the IDEAS+ Swarm team if interested in accessing the reports via web or FTP (all details about interfaces and folder structure available on [RD.2]). Such quality reports represent the core of the Routine Quality Control (Chapter 3). A description of the implemented quality checks is given in [RD.3], and references therein.

Basing on specific findings of the routine quality control, or on-demand from other entities (i.e. Swarm PDGS, FOS, Mission Management, Post-Launch Support Office, Expert Support Laboratories, Quality Working Groups, and user community), anomalies can be triggered. Preliminary characterisations and investigations of such anomalies are given in Chapter 4. The anomalies documented in the Weekly Reports are tracked in the following way:

1. If triggered by ESA Eohelp or within the Service: IDEAS+ action and ticketing system (<http://requests-sppa.serco.it/RT3/index.html>).
2. If triggered by IDEAS+ Swarm team or other entities:
 - 2a. If the observation/analysis leads to an anomaly to be addressed to the processor provider (GMV): SPR on EO ARTS (<https://arts.eo.esa.int>), **SWL1L2DB** project;
 - 2b. If the observation/analysis does not lead to an anomaly or the investigation shall be escalated to other entities (PLSO/industry, ESL, PDGS): Action tracked on EO ARTS, **SW-IDEAS** project, then addressed to the proper tracking system if needed (e.g. JIRA for ESLs, SW-CP-AR project on EO ARTS for PDGS).

Information on Level 1B Swarm products can be found in [RD.4].



1.1 Current Operational configuration of monitored data:

- Processors Version: L1BOP 3.16, L2-Cat2 1.15
- L0 input products baseline: 02
- L1B baseline: MAGNET and PLASMA 04, ORBATT and ACCELE 03 (for definitions and description of the data baseline concept see <https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/missions/esa-operational-eo-missions/swarm/data-access/product-baseline-definition>)
- Level 2 – Cat 2 baseline: EEF 01, FAC and TEC 02
- Input auxiliary files baseline: CCDB 0005 (20/07/2015), ADF 0101
- MPPF-CVQ v.2.14.01

1.2 Reference documents

The following is a list of documents with a direct bearing on the content of this report. Where referenced in the text, these are identified as RD.n, where 'n' is the number in the list below:

- [RD.1] Sensor Performance, Products and Algorithms (SPPA), PGSI-GSOP-EOPG-TN-05-0025. Version 2.3.
- [RD.2] Swarm PDGS External DMC Interface Control Document, SW-ID-DS-GS-0001, Issue 3.2.
- [RD.3] Swarm MPPF-CVQ Monitoring Baseline Document, ST-ESA-SWARM-MBD-0001, Issue 1.7.
- [RD.4] Swarm Level 1B Product Definition, SW-RS-DSC-SY-0007, Issue 5.13.
- [RD.5] Swarm IDEAS Configuration Management Plan, IDEAS-SER-MGT-PLN-1081 v0.14.
- [RD.6] Swarm Quality Control Project Plan, IDEAS-SER-MGT-PLN-1071
- [RD.7] SW_L1BOP_status_20141124_MoM
- [RD.8] Planned Updates for Level 1b, SW-PL-DTU-GS-008, Rev: 1dC.
- [RD.9] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 25/08/2014 – 31/08/2014, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_20140825_20140831.pdf (ref. for SWL1L2DB-9)
- [RD.10] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 29/09/2014 – 05/10/2014, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_20140929_20141005.pdf (ref. for SW-IDEAS-34)
- [RD.11] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 06/10/2014 – 12/10/2014, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_20141006_20141012.pdf (ref. for SW-IDEAS-36)
- [RD.12] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 20/10/2014 – 26/10/2014, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_20141020_20141026.pdf (ref. for SW-IDEAS-40, GPS sync loss)
- [RD.13] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 15/09/2014 – 21/09/2014, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_20140915_20140921.pdf (ref. for SW-IDEAS-27)
- [RD.14] Swarm L1B 03.15 Validation Report, OSMV-OPMT-SRCP-RP-15-3385, Issue 1.3.
- [RD.15] IDEAS+ Swarm Weekly Report: 23/03/2015 – 29/03/2015, IDEAS+-SER-OQC-REP-2071_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_201513_20150323_20150329.pdf.
- [RD.16] SWARM Weekly Operations Report #76, SW-RP-ESC-FS-6172



- [RD.17] Olsen, N., H. Luhr, C.C. Finlay, T.J. Sabaka, I. Michaelis, J. Rauberg and L. Tøffner-Clausen, The CHAOS-4 geomagnetic field model, *Geophys. J. Int.* 197, 815–827, 2014
- [RD.18] IDEAS+-SER-IPF-PLN-2272, Swarm Level 1B Operational Processor Verification Plan, IDEAS+-SER-IPF-PLN-2272_L1BOP_316_v1.5_final.pdf



2. SUMMARY OF THE OBSERVATIONS

2.1 General status of Swarm instruments and Level 1B products quality

TII test status:

Swarm A: After a prolonged period of 4 orbits/day in Active state, it seems clear that the quality of the images is good and rather stable, except for the first orbit, where peaks in the 2nd Y moments and general high level of noise in both 1st and 2nd moments are observed. This leads to think some kind of “switch-on” adjustment mechanism is at place. Several tests will be now performed, in sequence on TII-A up to the next ARB on 29/10: 1) An update of the gain maps setting the V_{ph} to both 3000 and 5000 V; 2) Faceplate voltage will be varied gradually, down to -3.5 V, in order to exploit whether better operations can be reached in reducing overall the incoming particle flow; 3) 5 consecutive active orbits per day will be activated.

Swarm B: Operations will continue with 2 orbits/day in Active state. A special operation set-up for gain maps calibration will be executed on 26/10.

Swarm C: There are evidences that the degradation of the images begins later when V_{ph} is operated at 3000 V instead of 5000 V. Nonetheless, the time series show that the noise level is moderately high at some intervals, but quite low most of the time. It has been remarked by Richard Enck from Photonis (Phosphor plates manufacturer company) that the kind of test done could have been not representative enough, due to the short time of activation of the two modes and the frequent switch between the two. A new test will therefore start: after a week in Ready state, TII-C will be switched on for 1 orbit per day at V_{ph}=3000 V and V_{MCP} = -2000 V.

2.2 Plan for operational processor updates

Nothing new to report.

2.3 Quality Working Group and Cal/Val Coordination

Following the decisions of the 5th QWG in Paris, these activities will be carried on:

- The discussion group on the TII operational configuration has started its works on Wednesday 7th October, at 16 CET, through a WebEx teleconference involving the interested parties: ESA, University of Calgary, IRF, GFZ, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Institute of Space Science (ISS) of Romania. Dr. K. Kauristie from FMI and Dr. Octav Marghitu from ISS are deputed to chair the group.
- The University of Calgary has delivered a new dataset for expert users: 16 Hz on board TII moments. The dataset will be distributed through the ESA FTP server (/Advanced folder) during week 43.

2.4 Summary of observations for 2015, Week 41 (05/10 - 11/10)

During the monitored week, the following events have been found and investigated:

- **Several few seconds gaps in MAGx_CA_1B products** throughout the week. Some of them seem not to be associated to gaps in telemetry. Monitoring on-going.



- **One MAG_LR gap of vector B field** of 2 seconds duration on S/C Alpha, more details in 3.1



3. ROUTINE QUALITY CONTROL

3.1 Gaps analysis

- 2 seconds gap in MAG_LR B_VFM 05-Oct-2015 08:32:35
- Several few seconds gaps in MAGx_CA_1B products for SC Alpha, Bravo and Charlie throughout the week. Some of them seem not to be associated to gaps in telemetry. Monitoring on-going.

3.2 Orbit and Attitude Products

In Table 1 are listed events that have to be reported.

Table 1: List of events related to attitude and orbit products to be reported in the monitoring for 2015, Week 41: 05/10 - 11/10.

Observation ID	Description	Affected parameter	Sect. of Obs. Description	Sect. of Obs. Analysis
SW-IDEAS-63	OBS_ROUTINE: MAGx_CA_1B gaps	MAGx_CA_1B	3.1	3.1

The relevant parameters that have been monitored are:

- Position difference between calculated Medium Accuracy orbits (**MODx_SC_1B**) and on-board solution (**GPSxNAV_0**). Threshold values for such differences have not been assessed yet. We have just monitored the average values and maximum variations around the week. They are reported in tables in the sections below. In addition, some examples of MOD NAV difference are included. For the time being we evaluated an anomaly should be raised if one (or more) of the following conditions occurs:
 - The **average difference** on a given day exceeds the position accuracy requirement for the mission (1.5 m),
 - The variability around the average is quite high: **standard deviation** threshold has been arbitrarily chosen to be twice the position accuracy requirement for the mission (2-sigma = 3 m).
 - At least 4-5 spikes are observed on a given day, exceeding +/- 50 m.
- Visual inspection of Star Tracker characterisation flags (**STRxATT_1B**)
- Deviation of the quaternion norm from unity (deviation threshold = +/- 10⁻⁹)
- Visual inspection of Euler Angles derived from quaternions.

3.2.1 Position Statistics

In Table 2, one can see the statistics of the differences between MOD and on-board solution positions for S/C A, B and C respectively. In the third column the maximum differences (maximum negative and maximum positive) are reported. The maximum standard deviation is in the fourth column. Maxima, minima and standard deviations usually refer to the Z component, which is often the most disturbed; in case another component is most affected, it will be specified in parentheses.



Table 2: Swarm A, B and C, difference between MOD and on-board solution positions. If not specified maximum difference and maximum standard deviation refers to the Z-axis.

Swarm A, 05/10 - 11/10, Position difference					
Day	Average difference (m)	Maximum difference (m)		Maximum standard deviation (m)	Notes
05/10	0.14	-11.4	7.4 (Y)	1.29	
06/10	0.08	-6.4	7.9	1.29	
07/10	0.08	-6.7	5.1	1.12	
08/10	0.07	-9.2	6	1.26	
09/10	0.16	-8.5	6 (X)	1.08	
10/10	0.11	-7.9	6.5 (Y)	1.47	
11/10	0.07	-5.4 (Y)	8.5 (X)	1.09	
Swarm B, 05/10 - 11/10, Position difference					
Day	Average difference (m)	Maximum difference (m)		Maximum standard deviation (m)	Notes
05/10	0.12	-6.7	6.2	1.19	
06/10	0.05	-8.4	9.2	1.44	
07/10	0.07	-7.2	6.3	1.25	
08/10	0.06	-6.8	7.3 (X)	1.28	
09/10	0.13	-5.7	6.8	1.18	
10/10	0.1	-8.2	6.6	1.58	
11/10	0.09	-5.7	4.5	1.14	
Swarm C, 05/10 - 11/10, Position difference					
Day	Average difference (m)	Maximum difference (m)		Maximum standard deviation (m)	Notes
05/10	0.12	-7.5 (X)	6.7	1.2	
06/10	0.07	-6.6	8.5	1.24	
07/10	0.06	-7	7	1.08	
08/10	0.06	-10.9	5.8	1.23	
09/10	0.14	-5.6	7.4	1.06	
10/10	0.07	-8.4	7.7 (Y)	1.43	
11/10	0.05	-5.2	7.7 (X)	1.06	

3.2.1.1 Swarm A

Below some plot example follows of MOD-NAV differences, S/C A, taken at the beginning of the week (05/10, Figure 1) in the middle (08/10, Figure 2) and at the end (11/10, Figure 3). From top to bottom, the plots show of MOD-NAV differences in ITRF reference frame: on X, Y and Z-axis respectively. The difference between both solutions is given in [m].

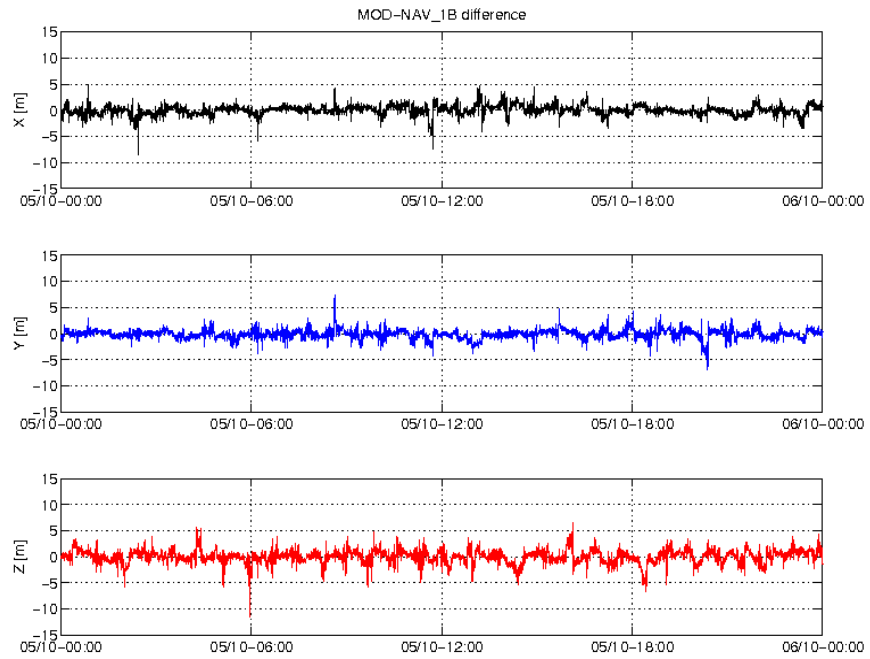


Figure 1: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C A, 05/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

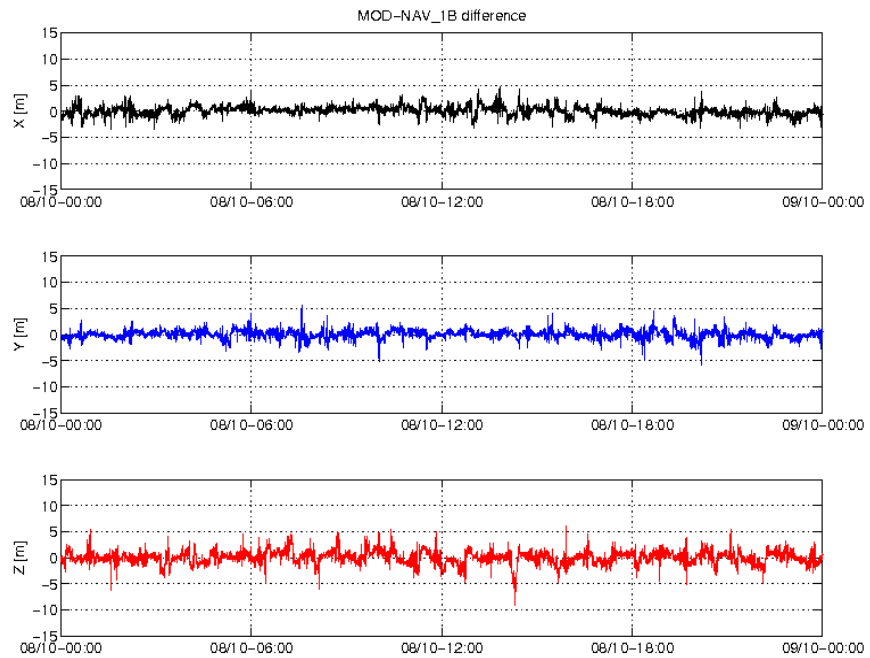


Figure 2: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C A, 08/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

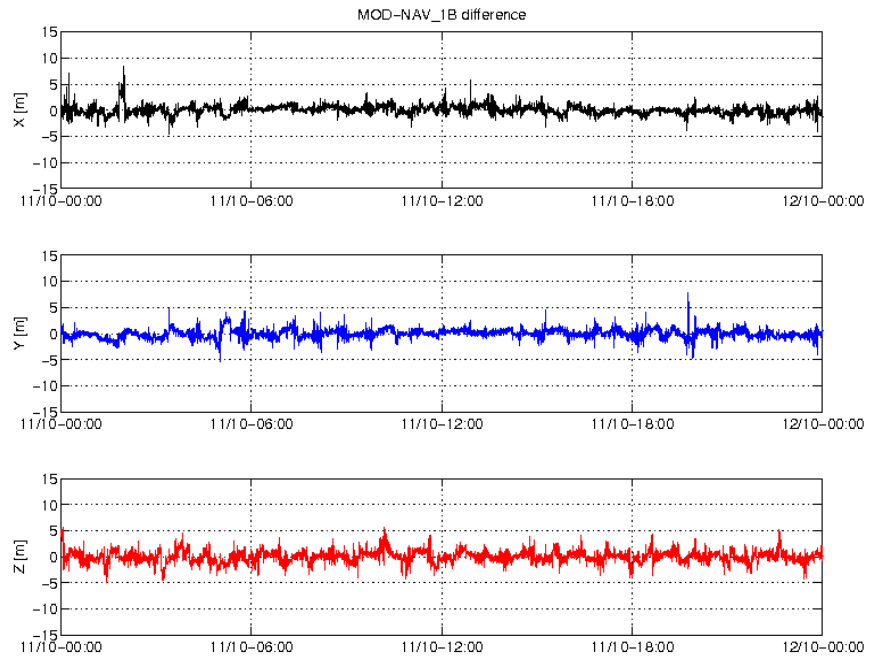


Figure 3: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C A, 11/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

3.2.1.2 Swarm B

Below some plot example follows of MOD-NAV differences, S/C B, taken at the beginning of the week (05/10, Figure 4), in the middle (08/10, Figure 5), and at end of the week (11/10, Figure 6). From top to bottom, the plots show of MOD-NAV differences in ITFR reference frame: on X, Y and Z-axis respectively. The difference between both solutions is given in [m].

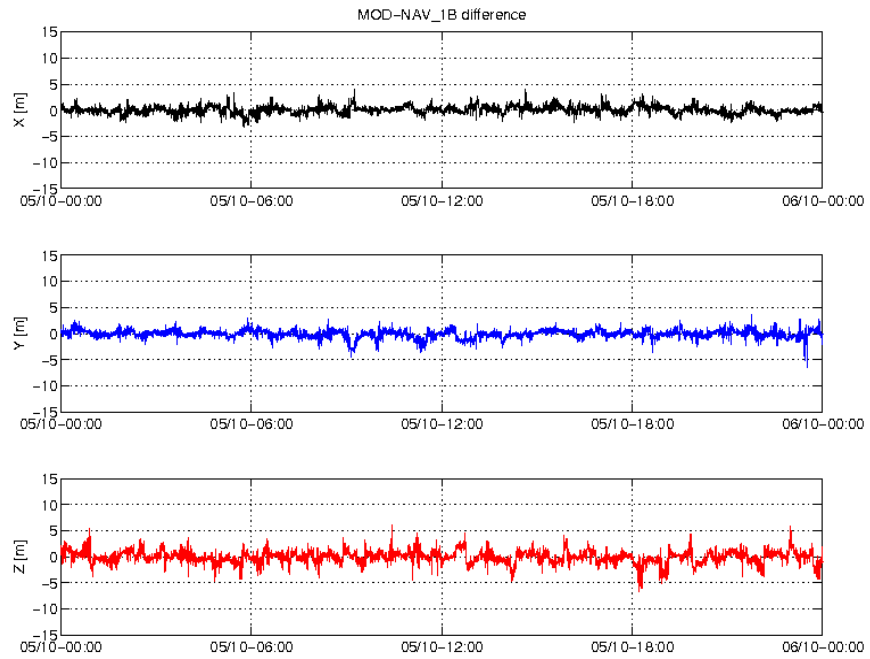


Figure 4: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C B, 05/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

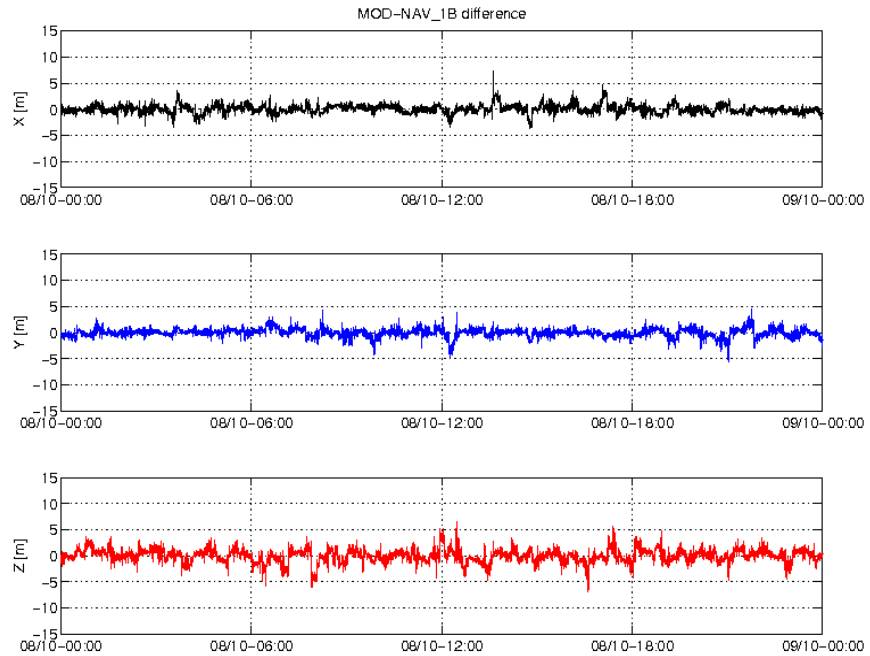


Figure 5: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C B, 08/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

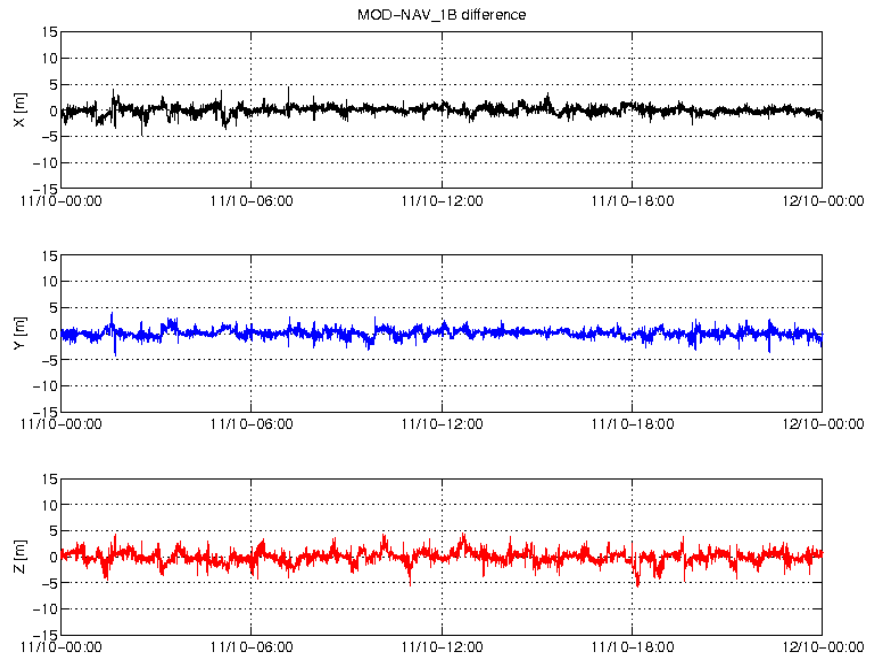


Figure 6: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C B, 11/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

3.2.1.3 Swarm C

Below some plot example follows of MOD-NAV differences, S/C C, taken at the beginning of the week (05/10, Figure 7), in the middle (08/10, Figure 8) and at the end (11/10, Figure 9). From top to bottom, the plots show of MOD-NAV differences in ITFR reference frame: on X, Y and Z-axis respectively. The difference between both solutions is given in [m].

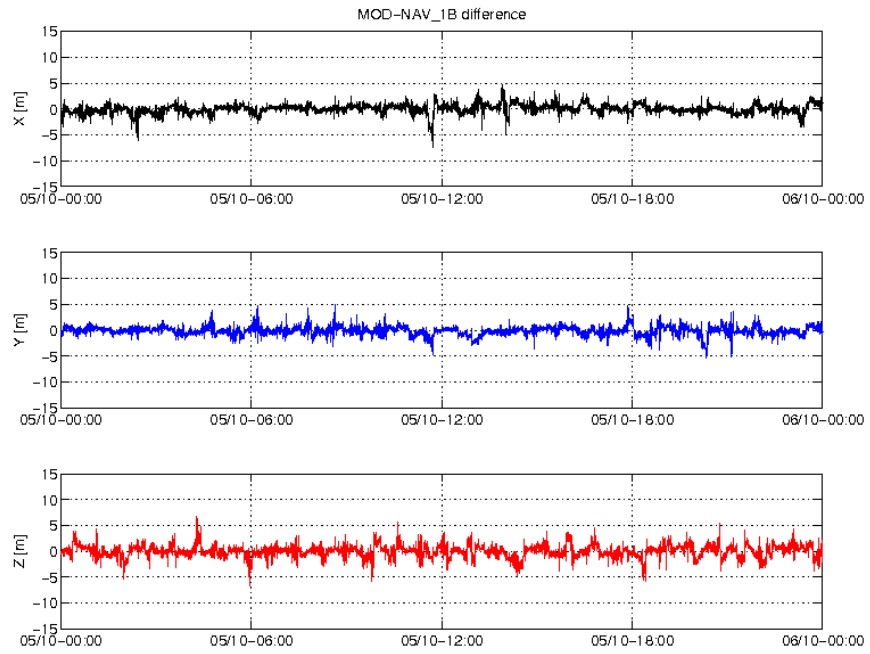


Figure 7: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C C, 05/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

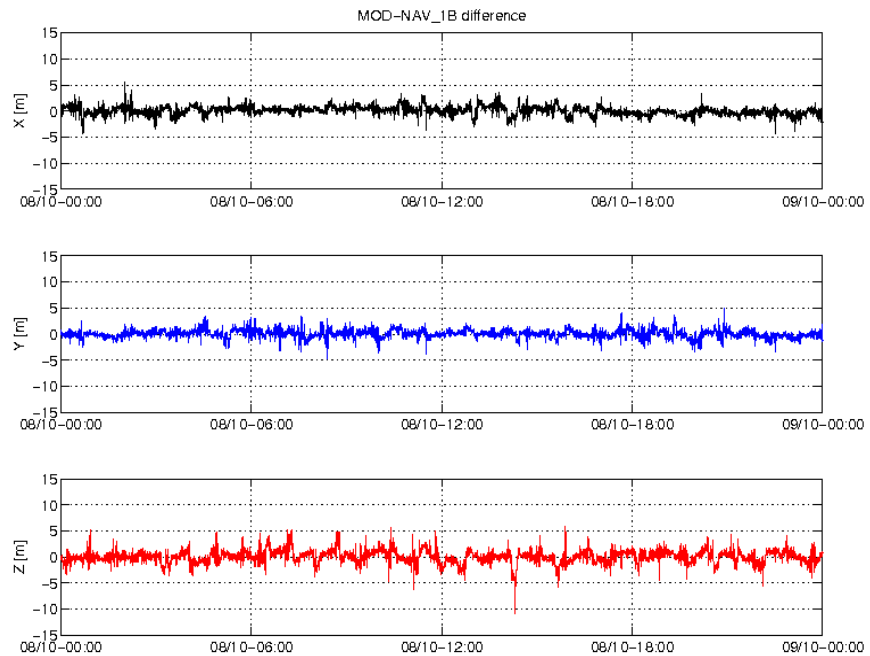


Figure 8: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C C, 08/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

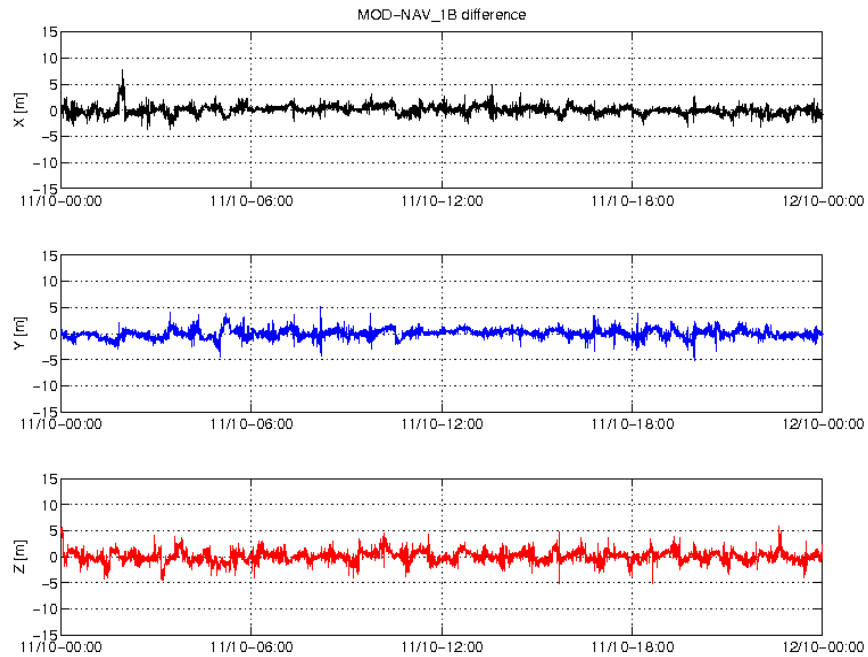


Figure 9: Difference MOD-GPSNAV, S/C C, 11/10. From top to bottom: X, Y and Z-axis

3.2.2 Attitude observations

3.2.2.1 Swarm A

Nothing to report.

3.2.2.2 Swarm B

Nothing to report.

3.2.2.3 Swarm C

Nothing to report.

3.3 Magnetic Products

For the magnetic products, the weekly monitoring consists in:

- ASM instrument monitoring: quartz frequency and ASM temperature
- VFM instrument monitoring: temperatures
- Visual inspection of daily time series of magnetic field intensity F, BNEC and BVFM. Looking for gaps (or zero values in case of MAGx_LR_1B products), out-of-threshold values (i.e. exceeding +/- 60000 nT), and other strange features.
- Monitoring of the ASM-VFM known anomaly: visual inspection of $|BNEC| - F$ and recording of daily maximum variations. If +/- 2 nT are exceeded on a given day, an alert is raised.
- Comparison of magnetic data (B_NEC) with a model (Chaos4plus).



3.3.1 VFM-ASM anomaly

3.3.2 ASM-VFM difference statistics

In Table 3, one can see the statistics of the differences between magnetic field absolute value measured by ASM and by VFM. In the second and third column are reported the maximum differences, maximum negative and maximum positive respectively. The maximum standard deviation is in the fourth column.

The ASM-VFM difference is defined as follow:

$$dF = |B_{NEC}| - F_{ASM}$$

Table 3: Swarm A and B, difference between magnetic field absolute value measured by ASM and by VFM.

Swarm A, 05/10 - 11/10, ASM-VFM difference					
Day	Max (nT)	Min (nT)	Standard deviation (nT)	Mean (nT)	Notes
05/10	2.07	-31663.78	152.32	-0.71	Single spike in the residuals
06/10	0.69	-1.85	0.31	0	
07/10	8.07	-10.58	0.34	0.01	
08/10	1.95	-0.84	0.31	0.03	
09/10	4.15	-1.46	0.3	0.05	
10/10	2.24	-4.57	0.29	0.04	
11/10	2.03	-2.41	0.28	0.04	
Swarm B, 05/10 - 11/10, ASM-VFM difference					
Day	Max (nT)	Min (nT)	Standard deviation (nT)	Mean (nT)	Notes
05/10	1.18	-1.23	0.23	0.02	
06/10	1.39	-0.72	0.29	0.01	
07/10	4.74	-5.61	0.27	0.01	
08/10	1.82	-0.66	0.23	0.01	
09/10	1.62	-2.14	0.23	0.01	
10/10	0.89	-0.76	0.26	0.01	
11/10	2.51	-0.75	0.26	0	

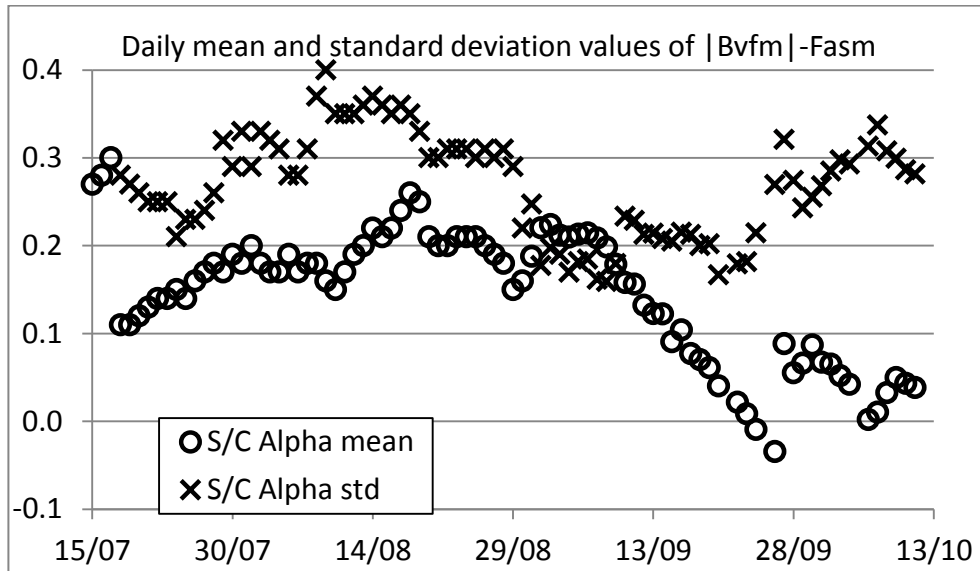


Figure 10: Daily mean and standard deviation values of ASM-VFM residuals (defined as $dF=|B_{VFM}-F_{ASM}$) for S/C Alpha.

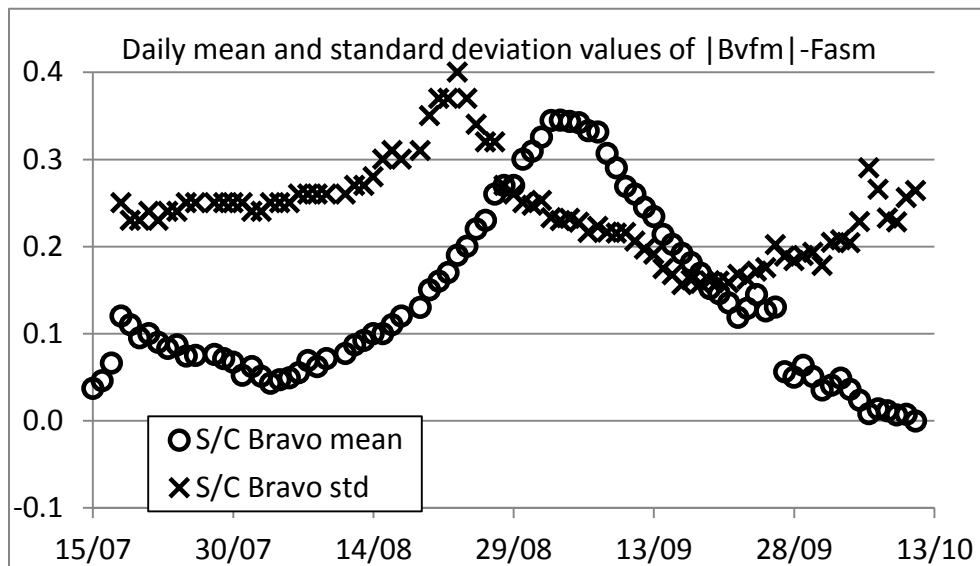


Figure 11: Daily mean and standard deviation values of ASM-VFM residuals (defined as $dF=|B_{VFM}-F_{ASM}$) for S/C Alpha.

3.3.2.1 Swarm A

The daily peak-to-peak difference around the week stays within $[-1, 0.8]$ nT with a few spikes not exceeding 4nT and two spikes of about 8 and 10nT on 07/10. Below two example plots of such differences for the days: 05/10 (Figure 12), and 11/10 (Figure 13).

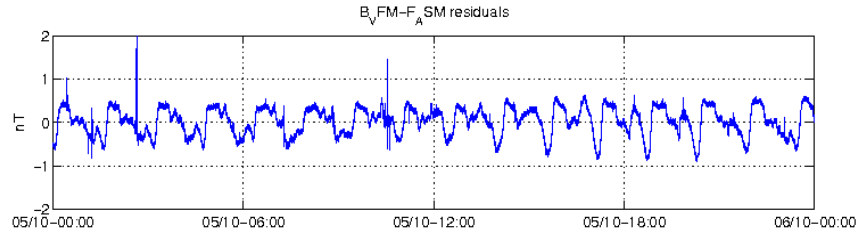


Figure 12: ASM-VFM residuals for S/C A, 05/10.

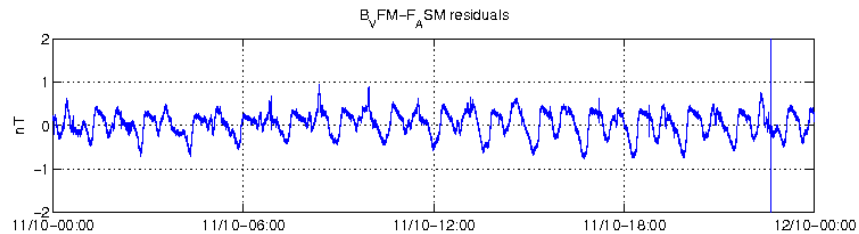


Figure 13: ASM-VFM residuals for S/C A, 11/10.

3.3.2.2 Swarm B

The daily peak-to-peak difference around the week is, on average: [-0.6, 0.6] nT, with a few spikes not exceeding 4 nT and two spikes of 4.5 and 5.5nT on 07/10. Below two example plots follows of such differences: 05/10 (Figure 14), and 11/10 (Figure 15).

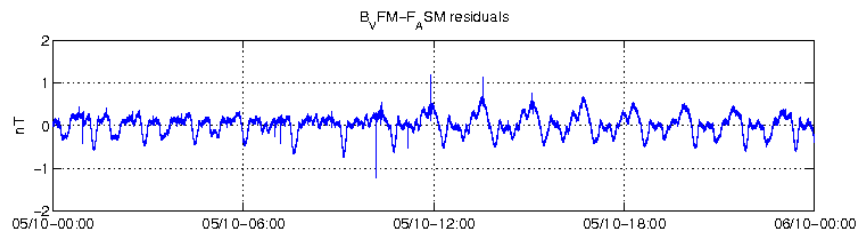


Figure 14: ASM-VFM residuals for S/C B, 05/10.

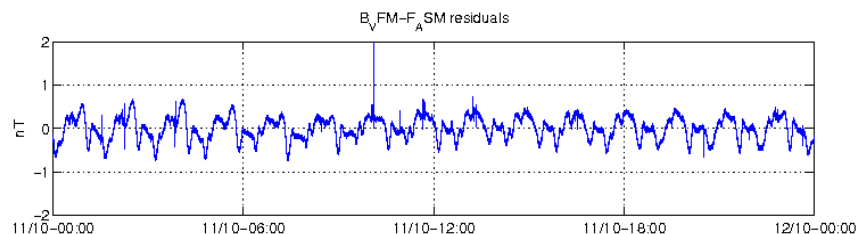


Figure 15: ASM-VFM residuals for S/C B, 11/10.

3.3.2.3 Swarm C

No data because ASM is switched off.

3.3.3 ASM Instrument parameters: quartz frequency and ASM temperature (ASMAVEC_0)

For S/C Alpha and Bravo, the temperature and quartz frequency behaved as expected.



3.3.4 VFM Instrument parameters: VFM temperatures (MAG_CA)

The VFM instrument parameters important for monitoring the instrument health are the VFM sensor temperatures: T_CDC, T_CSC and T_EU.

For S/C Alpha and Bravo for reported period, the temperatures behaved as expected.

3.3.5 Magnetic time series visual inspection

3.3.5.1 Swarm A

An example of representative magnetic field time series for S/C A (11/10) can be seen in Figure 16 below.

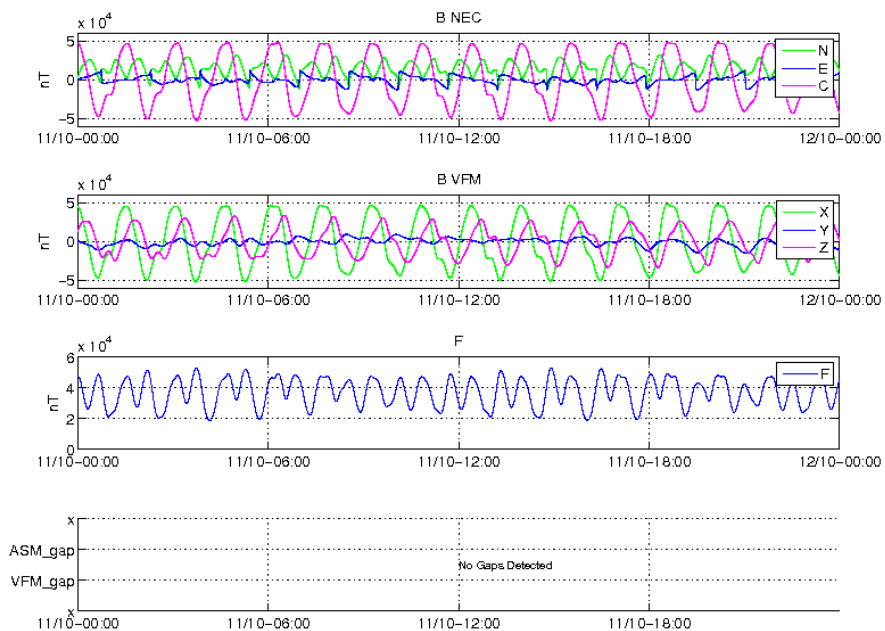


Figure 16: Time series of the geomagnetic field, for 11/10, S/C A. From top to bottom: magnetic field components in NEC reference frame, magnetic field components in the VFM reference frame, magnetic field intensity (F) from ASM, and location of gaps (if any).

3.3.5.2 Swarm B

An example of representative magnetic field time series for S/C B (11/10) can be seen in Figure 17 below.

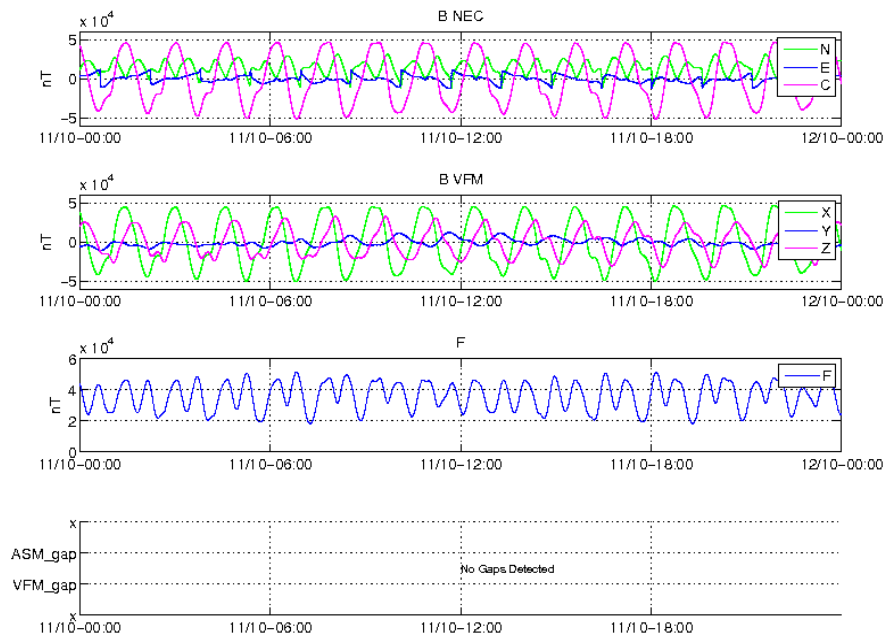


Figure 17: Time series of the geomagnetic field for 11/10, S/C B. From top to bottom: magnetic field components in NEC reference frame, magnetic field components in the VFM reference frame, magnetic field intensity (F) from ASM, and location of gaps (if any).

3.3.5.3 Swarm C

An example of magnetic field time series for S/C C (11/10) can be seen in Figure 18.

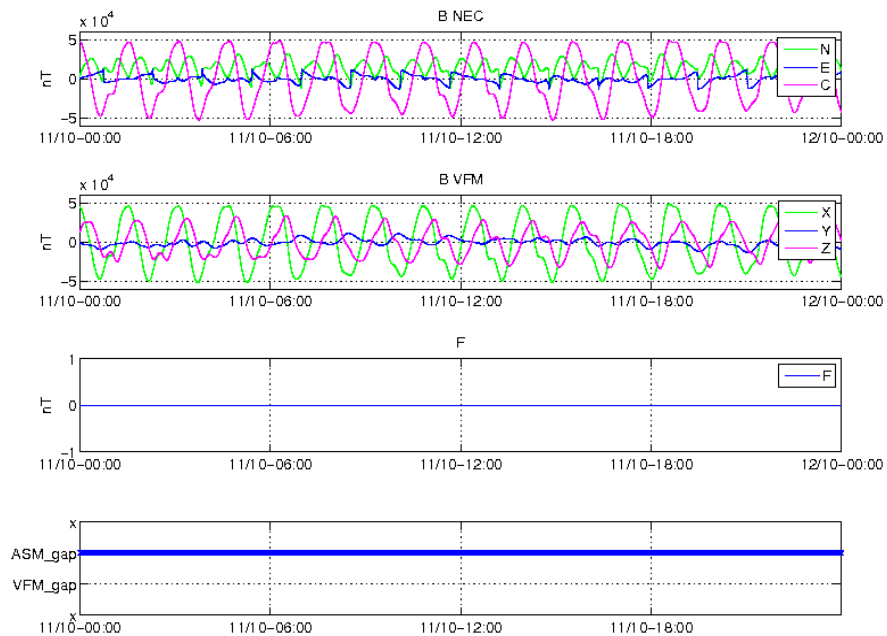


Figure 18: Time series of the geomagnetic field for 11/10, S/C C. From top to bottom: magnetic field components in NEC reference frame, magnetic field components in the VFM reference frame, magnetic field intensity (F) from ASM (no data here because ASM it is off) and location of gaps.

3.3.6 B_{NEC} vs Chaos4plus model residuals

Figure 19, Figure 21 and Figure 23 show field residuals $\Delta B = B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ (all versus co-latitude in degrees), from top to bottom: 1) B_r , 2) B_θ and 3) B_ϕ .

As a general feature one can see the field residuals to be steady and usually below 50 nT at low and middle latitudes, up to $|55| - |60|$ degrees; then the residual increases at high latitudes because the Chaos model does not take into account the contribution from the external field ([RD.17]).

Figure 20, Figure 22 and Figure 24 shows, from top to bottom, the time series on 05/10 of: (1-2-3) residuals of $B_{NEC} - B_{CHAOS}$ by components, related to Swarm Alpha, Bravo and Charlie respectively,

The component most affected by residual spikes and variations is B_θ_{NEC} , i.e. the component which shows the variations of the field wrt to co-latitude. At high latitudes, the order of magnitude of the variability is about ± 200 nT.

3.3.6.1 Swarm A

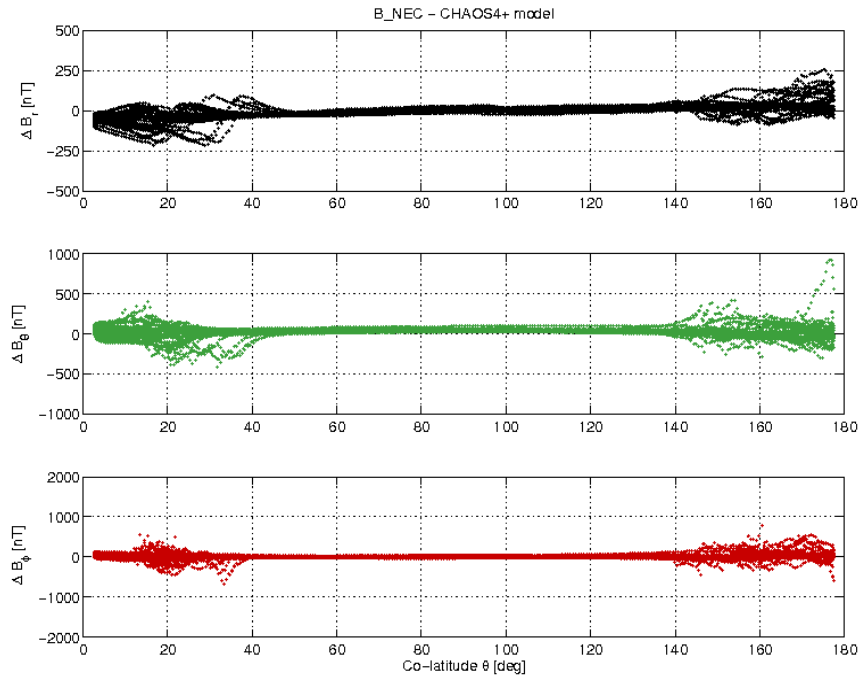


Figure 19: Swarm A day 05/10 B_NEC - B_Chaos vs colatitude.

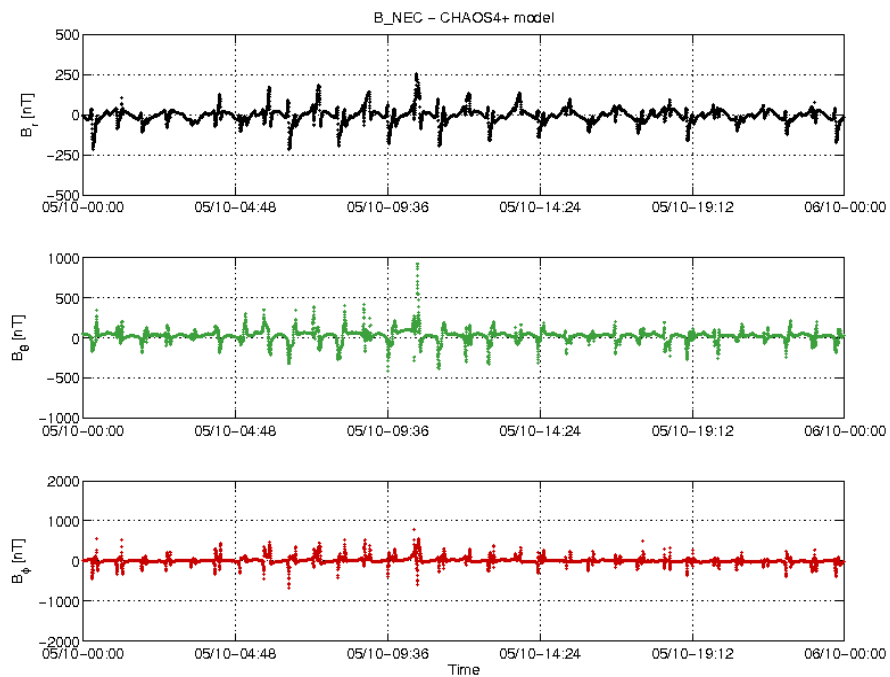


Figure 20: Swarm A day 05/10: time series of B_NEC – B_Chaos residuals.

3.3.6.2 Swarm B

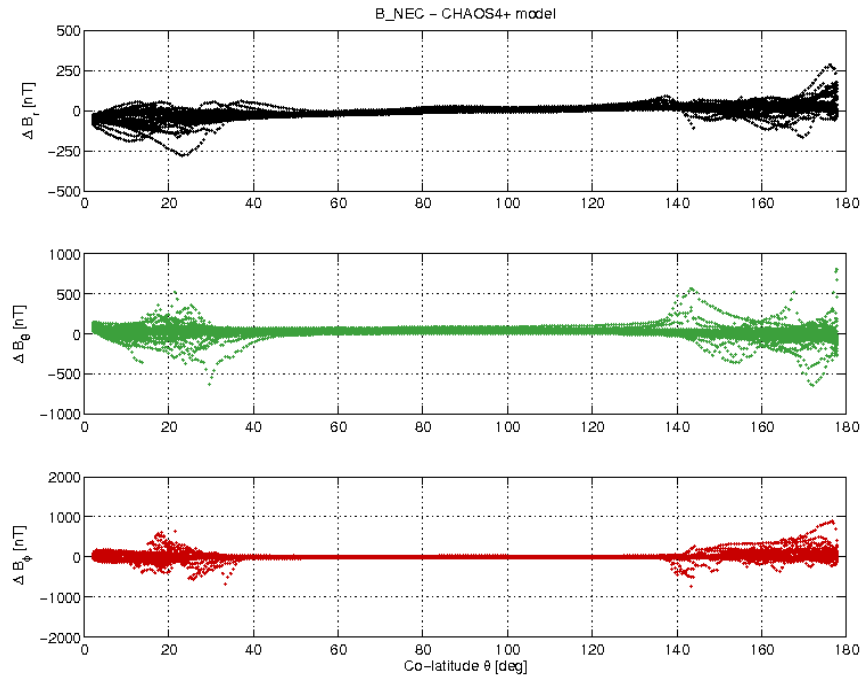


Figure 21: Swarm B day 05/10 B_NEC - B_ChaoS difference vs colatitude.

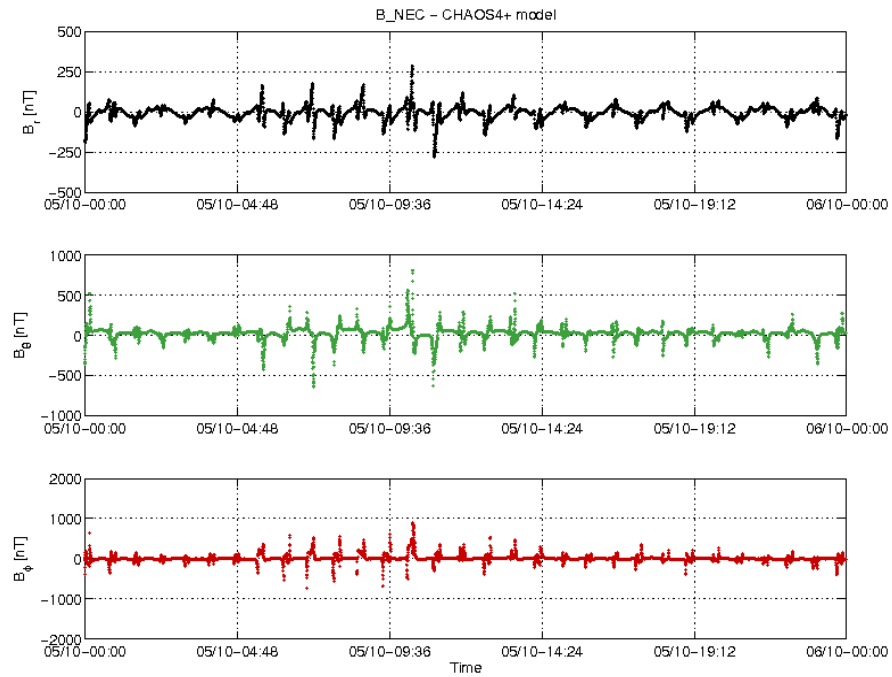


Figure 22: Swarm B day 05/10 time series of B_NEC – B_ChaoS residuals.

3.3.6.3 Swarm C

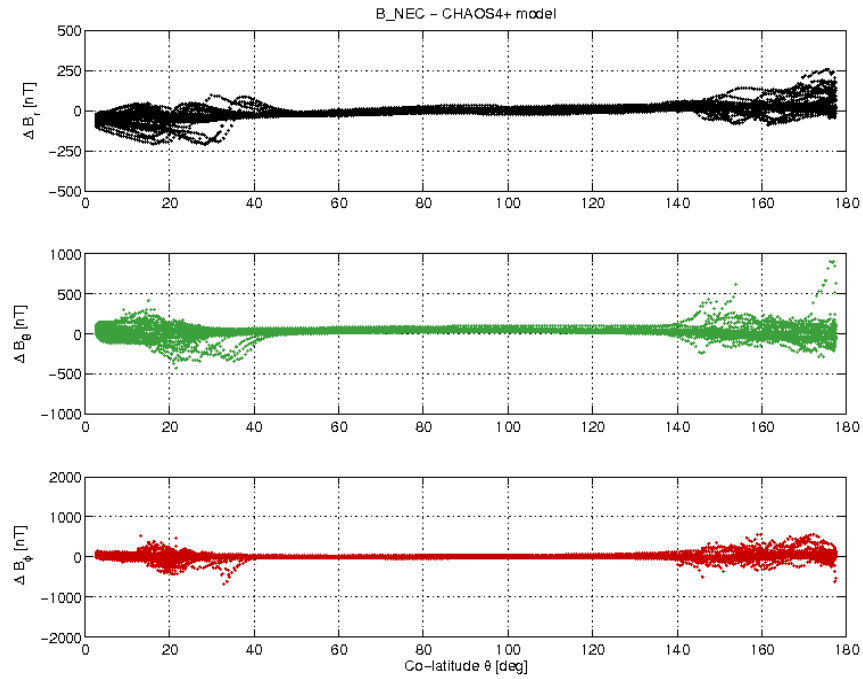


Figure 23: Swarm C day 05/10 B_NEC - B_Chaos difference vs colatitude.

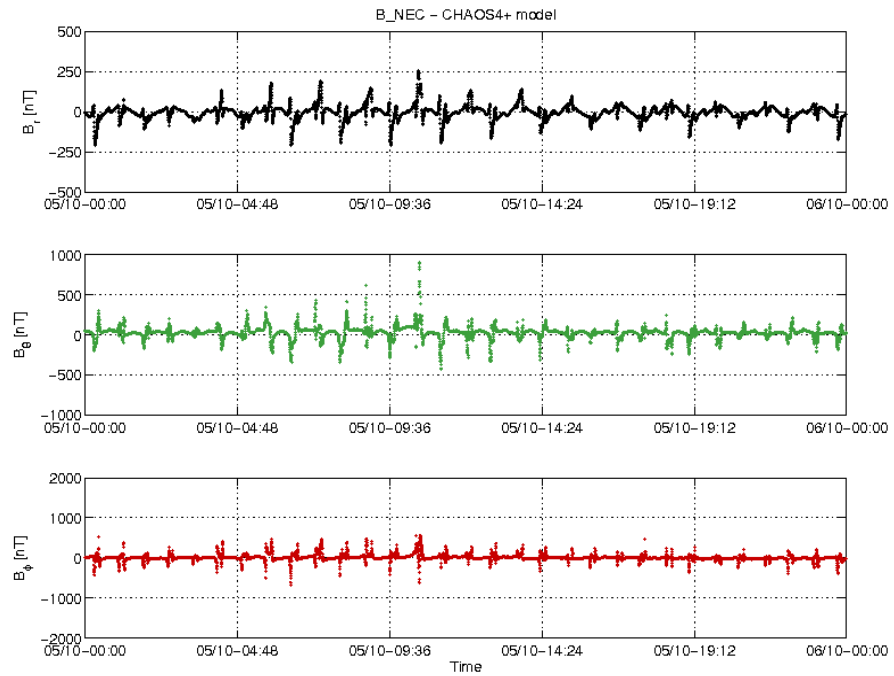


Figure 24: Swarm C day 05/10 time series of B_NEC – B_Chaos residuals.



4. ON-DEMAND ANALYSIS

Nothing to report.



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