
Swarm DISC Weekly Report 2019/33: 2019/08/12 - 2019/08/18



Abstract : This is the **Swarm Data Innovation and Science Cluster** (Swarm DISC) Weekly report on Swarm products quality, covering the period from 12 August to 18 August 2019.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Annual Swarm Data Quality Workshop	4
1.2 Current Operational configuration of monitored data:	5
1.3 Recent evolutions:	5
1.4 Reference documents	5
2. SUMMARY OF THE OBSERVATIONS	7
2.1 Changes in the general status of Swarm instruments and Level 1B products quality	7
2.2 Relevant observations of the week 33 (12/08 - 18/08)	7
3. ROUTINE QUALITY CONTROL	8
3.1 Gaps analysis	8
3.2 Orbit and Attitude Products	8
3.2.1 Position Statistics	8
3.2.2 Attitude observations	9
3.2.2.1 Swarm A	9
3.2.2.2 Swarm B	9
3.2.2.3 Swarm C	9
3.3 Magnetic Products	10
3.3.1 VFM-ASM anomaly	10
3.3.1.1 ASM-VFM difference statistics	10
3.3.1.2 Swarm A	12
3.3.1.3 Swarm B	12
3.3.1.4 Swarm C	12
3.3.2 ASM Instrument parameters: quartz frequency and ASM temperature (ASMAVEC_0)	12
3.3.3 VFM Instrument parameters: VFM temperatures (MAG_CA)	13
3.3.4 Magnetic time series visual inspection	13
3.3.4.1 Swarm A	13
3.3.4.2 Swarm B	14
3.3.4.3 Swarm C	15
3.3.5 B_{NEC} vs Chaos6 model residuals	15
3.3.5.1 Swarm A	16
3.3.5.2 Swarm B	16
3.3.5.3 Swarm C	17
3.4 Plasma Products	17
3.4.1 Plasma time series visual inspection	18
3.4.1.1 Swarm A	18
3.4.1.2 Swarm B	19
3.4.1.3 Swarm C	20
3.4.2 Plasma products latitudinal variations	20
3.4.2.1 Swarm A	20
3.4.2.2 Swarm B	21
3.4.2.3 Swarm C	21
4. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS	22

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	03 Oct 2019	First issue

1. Introduction

This document refers to the activities carried out in the framework of the ESA Sensor Performance, Products and Algorithms (SPPA) Office [RD.1].

Chapter 1 gives an overview on the outcomes from the annual Swarm Data Quality Workshop and reports the information on the current operational configuration and its future improvements. It also contains the list of used reference documents.

In Chapter 2, the Section 2.1 gives an overview of the general quality status of the Swarm mission instruments and products, while the main observations of the week are summarized in the 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. If interested in accessing the reports via web or FTP, please contact the Swarm DISC team at the following email address: <swarm@eo-sppa.org>. Such data quality reports represent the main component of the Routine Quality Control performed by ESA SPPA (Chapter 3). A description of the implemented quality checks is given in [RD.2], and references therein.

Based on specific findings of the routine quality control, or requests from other entities (i.e. Swarm Payload Data Ground Segment (PDGS), Flight Operation Segment (FOS), Mission Management, Post-Launch Support Office (PLSO), Expert Support Laboratories (ESL), Quality Working Groups (QWG), and user community), investigations on anomalies can be triggered. Preliminary characterisations on such anomalies are given in Chapter 4.

Information on Swarm Level 1B products can be found in [RD.3].

This weekly report is based on QC methods and diagnostics that tend to be continuously evolved and improved throughout the mission lifetime, reporting on the data quality, product evolutions, and status of the instruments on weekly basis.

1.1 Annual Swarm Data Quality Workshop

The Swarm Data Quality Workshop takes place each year. The 8th Swarm Data Quality Workshop (DQW#8) held in ESA ESRIIN from 08 to 12 October 2018.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide an overview of Swarm Mission status to the user Community
- Update the data quality status from Magnetic, Electric, GPSR and accelerometer measurements
- Discuss new Swarm-based Scientific results

Besides the usual Cal/Val topics, this Swarm DQW#8 has also allowed to address new technical, scientific and strategic challenges related to:

- Swarm-based Multi-disciplinary applications
- Swarm-based Data processing virtual environments
- Swarm-based Machine Learning methods
- Multi-mission synergies (e.g. with CryoSat, Goce, e-POP, CSES etc.)

The Swarm DQW#8 was an occasion to discuss potential synergetic benefits obtained through collaboration initiatives with ESA's partner agencies and other sensor systems.

A complete summary of the recommendations based on the contributions from Swarm DQW#8 sessions can be found at [RD.6] and [RD.7].

1.2 Current Operational configuration of monitored data:

Processor	
Name	Version
L1BOP	v3.20p1
L2-Cat2	v01.18p2
Products	
Name	Baseline
L0 inputs	01
L1B MAGNET and PLASMA	05
L1B ORBATT and ACCELE	04
L2-Cat2 EEF*	01
L2-Cat2 IBI, FAC and TEC	03
Others	
Input auxiliary files	S/C A, CCDB 0022 (06/03/2019) S/C B, CCDB 0022 (02/01/2019) S/C C, CCDB 0023 (06/03/2019) ADF 0101
MPPF-CVQ	v03.07 (27/12/2018)

1.3 Recent evolutions:

The L1BOP v03.21 has been delivered on 11/03/2019, and the L2 Cat-2 OP v01.19 has been delivered on 13/03/2019. These new versions of the operational processors contain only the porting to a newer operational system, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.5. No evolutions of the processor algorithms are included in this delivery. The PDGS Team has generated the test scenarios in order to compare their outputs with the ones from GMV. The comparison with the L1BOP v03.20 has been performed by the Data Quality Team. Negligible discrepancies have been found, demonstrating that the porting to the newer OS will be transparent to the users.

1.4 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 MPPF-CVQ Monitoring Baseline Document, ST-ESA-SWARM-MBD-0001, Issue 1.7.
- [RD.3] Swarm Level 1B Product Definition, SW-RS-DSC-SY-0007, Issue 5.13.
- [RD.4] 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.5] SW-RP-SER-GS-010_SPPA_SwarmWeeklyReport_201641_20161010_20161016.pdf
- [RD.6] <https://earth.esa.int/documents/10174/3687590/SWARM-DQW%238-SUMMARY-%26-RECOM-VFINAL.pdf/73683cc8-be21-47f7-a1c3-db4a60a911cb>

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

Doc. no: SW-RP-SER-GS-010, Rev: 1

Page 6 of 23

[RD.7] <https://eos.org/meeting-reports/the-swarm-satellite-trio-studies-earth-and-its-environment>

2. Summary of the observations

2.1 Changes in the general status of Swarm instruments and Level 1B products quality

- From 11 to 19 August 2019, the ASM (Absolute Scalar Magnetometer) instrument on board Swarm Alpha was commanded in burst mode. The magnetic field intensity derived from the ASM and stored in MAGA_LR_1B and MAGA_CA_1B products is set to zero from 11 August at 23:51:00 UTC to 19 August at 00:10:30 UTC.
- An anomaly occurred on the VFM (Vector Field Magnetometer) on board the Swarm Bravo satellite between 18:30 UTC on 16 August and 12:59 UTC on 17 August. The production of L1B Magnetic and Plasma data, and of Level 2 - Cat 2 FAC and IBI data is affected in this time window.

2.2 Relevant observations of the week 33 (12/08 - 18/08)

During the monitored week the following events have been found:

- On 14/08/2019 a data gap was detected in the VC4 dump for Swarm Bravo. The affected data generation time was between 13/08/2019 22:01:23 and 13/08/2019 22:01:27. As the gap was below the 5 minutes threshold, it was not recovered. Data gap found in products: ASMBVEC_0, VFMBNOM_0, HK_BNOM_0, GPSBOBS_0, GPSBNAV_0. It affects L1A and L1B magnetic, L1B GPS and plasma data.

3. Routine Quality control

3.1 Gaps analysis

- Swarm Bravo data gap in all the L1B MAGNET and PLASMA data products, and I L2-CAT2 FAC and IBI products from 16/08/2019 18:30 UTC to 17/08/2019 18:30 UTC 12:59 UTC.

3.2 Orbit and Attitude Products

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 within the week. They are reported in tables in the sections below. In addition, some example plots are given from the HTML daily reports. 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 Figure 3-1 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 standard deviation is in the fourth column. Maxima, minima and standard deviations usually refer to the Z component that is often the most disturbed; in case another component is most affected, it will be specified in parentheses. Figure 3-1 shows a cumulative trend of the maximum daily standard deviation for the past 30 days of operations of the MOD-NAV difference, while Figure 3-2 shows the daily maximum difference, in absolute value, of the MOD-NAV difference, always for the past 30 days of operations.

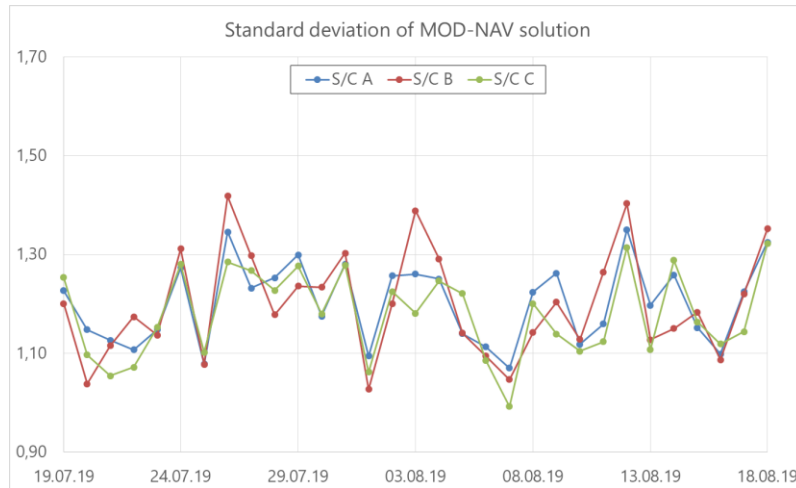


Figure 3-1: Plot of the standard deviation of the difference between MOD and NAV solutions for all satellites. Plot covers last month of operation.

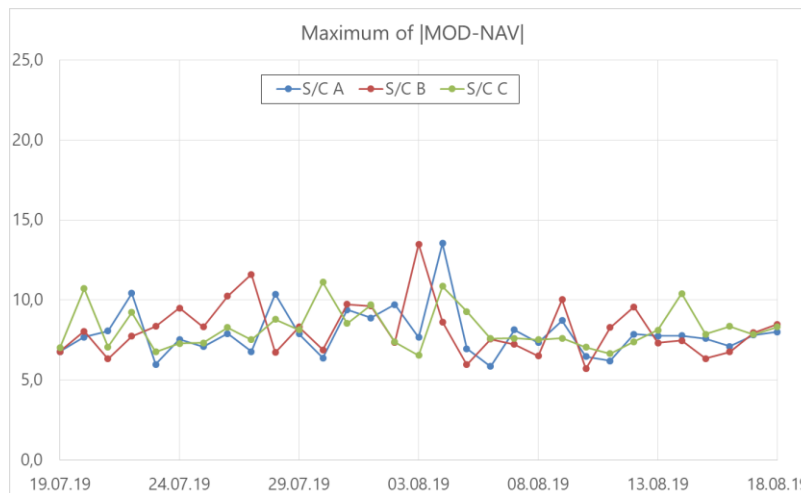


Figure 3-2: Plot of the maximum difference of the absolute value of the difference between MOD and NAV solutions for all satellites. Plot covers last month of operation.

3.2.2 Attitude observations

3.2.2.1 Swarm A

Flags_q set to 255 from 18:51:25-18:52:07 on day 14/08/2019.

3.2.2.2 Swarm B

Nominal. Nothing to report.

3.2.2.3 Swarm C

Nominal. Nothing to report.

3.3 Magnetic Products

For the magnetic products, the weekly monitoring consists of:

- ASM instrument monitoring: quartz frequency (nominal range: [2.949E7 – 2.950E7] Hz) and ASM temperature (temperature range shall be: [-30;+50] °C, Rel. Variation shall not exceed: 0.1 °C/sec).
- VFM instrument monitoring: temperatures (Rel. Variation shall not exceed: 0.1 °C/sec).
- Visual inspection of daily time series of magnetic field intensity F , B_{NEC} and B_{VFM} . 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. Map plots of F and B_{NEC} for the whole week are then displayed.
- Monitoring of the ASM-VFM known anomaly: visual inspection of $|B_{VFM}| - F$ taken from $MAGx_CA_1B$ products and recording of daily maximum variations and standard deviations. If +/- 1 nT are exceeded on a given day, an alert is raised. Map plots of the residuals are shown along with weekly time series of the residuals with and without the "dB_Sun" correction: in fact, at least a part of the discrepancies found in the measurements between ASM and VFM are modelled through a stray field (dB_Sun) that is a function of the orientation of the VFM wrt Sun.
- Comparison of magnetic data (B_{NEC}) with a model (Chaos6).

3.3.1 VFM-ASM anomaly

- S/C A – violation of:
 - VFM-ASM residuals threshold on 12/08, 13/08, 14/08, 15/08, 16/08, 17/08, 18/08;
 - mean value of residuals threshold on 12/08, 13/08, 14/08, 15/08, 16/08, 17/08, 18/08;
 - standard deviation of residuals threshold on 12/08, 13/08, 14/08, 15/08, 16/08, 17/08, 18/08.
- S/C B – no violations of thresholds.

3.3.1.1 ASM-VFM difference statistics

The ASM-VFM difference is defined as follow:

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

Figure 3-3 and Figure 3-4 show the daily mean (circles) and standard deviation (crosses) of dF of the last month for Swarm A and Swarm B respectively.

Missing data in Figure 3-3 are due to the ASM instrument on board Swarm Alpha commanded in burst mode from 11 August at 23:51:00 UTC to 19 August at 00:10:30 UTC. The magnetic field intensity derived from the ASM and stored in $MAGA_LR_1B$ and $MAGA_CA_1B$ products is set to zero in this time window (see Section 2).

Missing data in Figure 3-4 are due to the VFM anomaly on board Swarm Bravo affecting the time window between 18:30 UTC on 16 August and 12:59 UTC on 17 August (see Section 2).

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

Doc. no: SW-RP-SER-GS-010, Rev: 1

Page 11 of 23

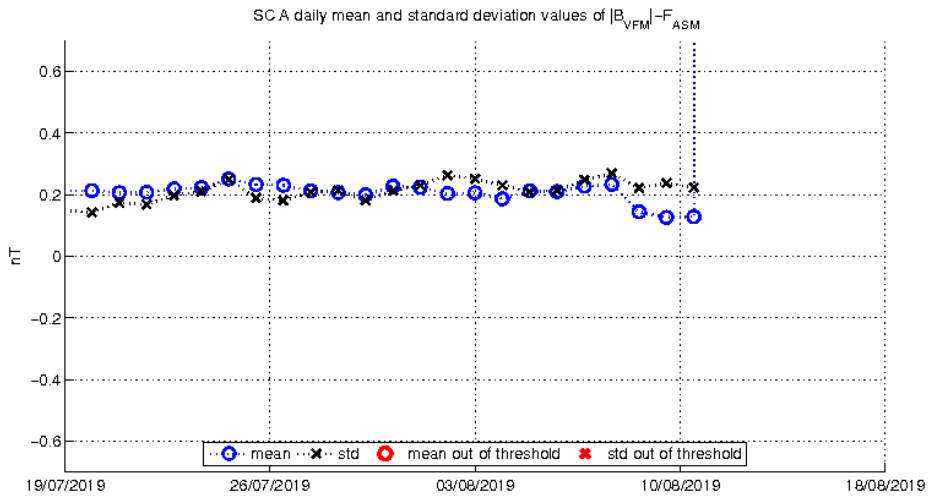


Figure 3-3: Daily mean and standard deviation values of ASM-VFM residuals (defined as $dF = |B_{VFM}| - F_{ASM}$) for S/C A.

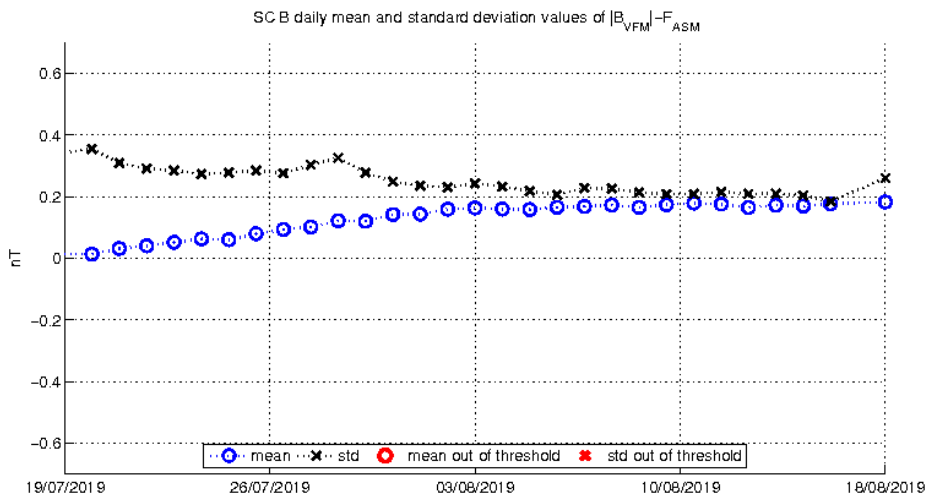


Figure 3-4: Daily mean and standard deviation values of ASM-VFM residuals (defined as $dF = |B_{VFM}| - F_{ASM}$) for S/C B.

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

3.3.1.2 Swarm A

No data because of the ASM in burst mode for the entire week (see Section 2 for more details).

3.3.1.3 Swarm B

The daily peak-to-peak difference around the week stays within [-0,56 - 0,83] nT. Below follow two plots of such differences for current week (Figure 3-5).

Data gap between 18:30 UTC on 16 August and 12:59 UTC on 17 August is due to the VFM anomaly (see Section 2 for more details).

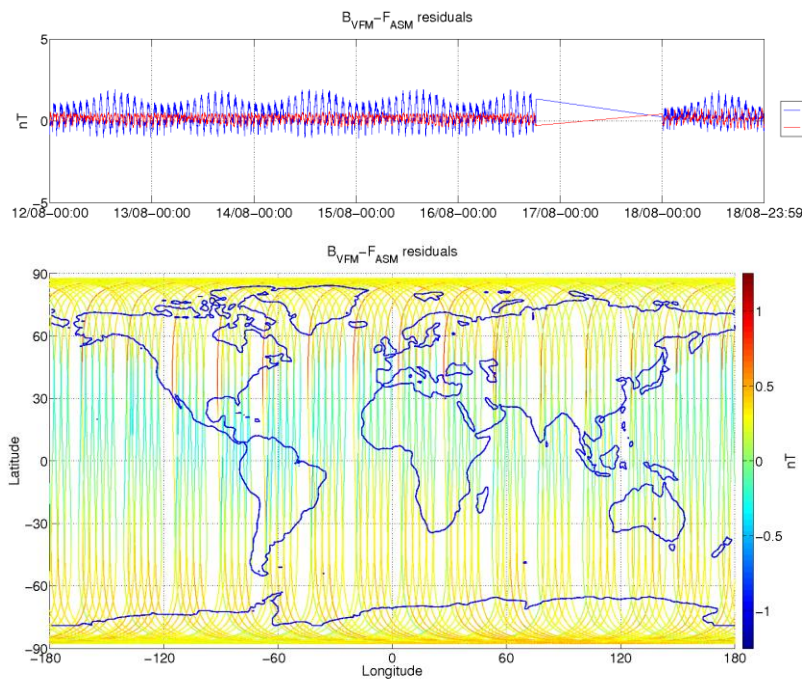


Figure 3-5: ASM-VFM residuals for S/C B, during monitoring period 12/08-18/08. In top figure are plotted: difference between $|B_{VFM}|$ and F_{ASM} (without dB_{Sun} correction) (blue colour), and the residuals with dB_{Sun} corrections (red colour). In bottom figure residuals are presented on the world map.

3.3.1.4 Swarm C

No data because ASM is switched off.

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

From 11/08/2019 ASM in Burst Mode on SC A for entire week.

For S/C A and B, the temperature and quartz frequency behaved as expected.

3.3.3 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 A, B and C, for reported period, the temperatures behaved as expected.

3.3.4 Magnetic time series visual inspection

3.3.4.1 Swarm A

Map plots of magnetic field measurement for week 33 for S/C A can be seen in Figure 3-6 below.

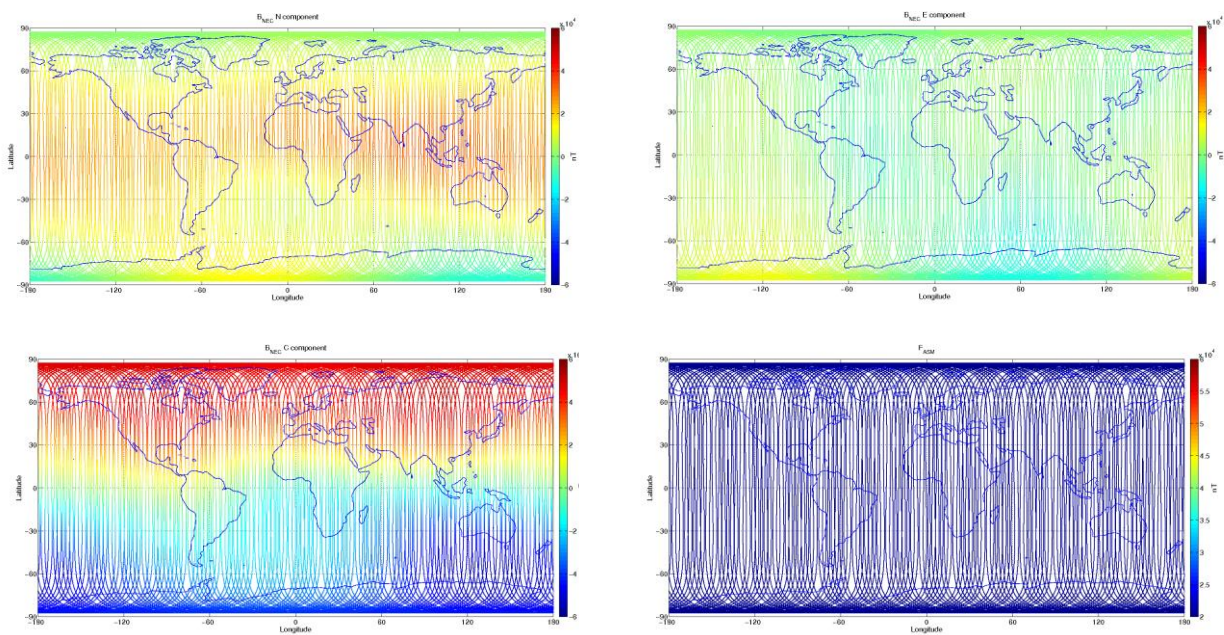


Figure 3-6: S/C A, world map plots of the geomagnetic field and components measured during monitoring period 12/08-18/08. From top to bottom: B_{NEC} components (North, East, and Centre) of magnetic field from VFM measurement, F_{ASM} magnetic field from ASM measurement.

3.3.4.2 Swarm B

Map plots of magnetic field measurement for week 33 for S/C B can be seen in Figure 3-7 below.

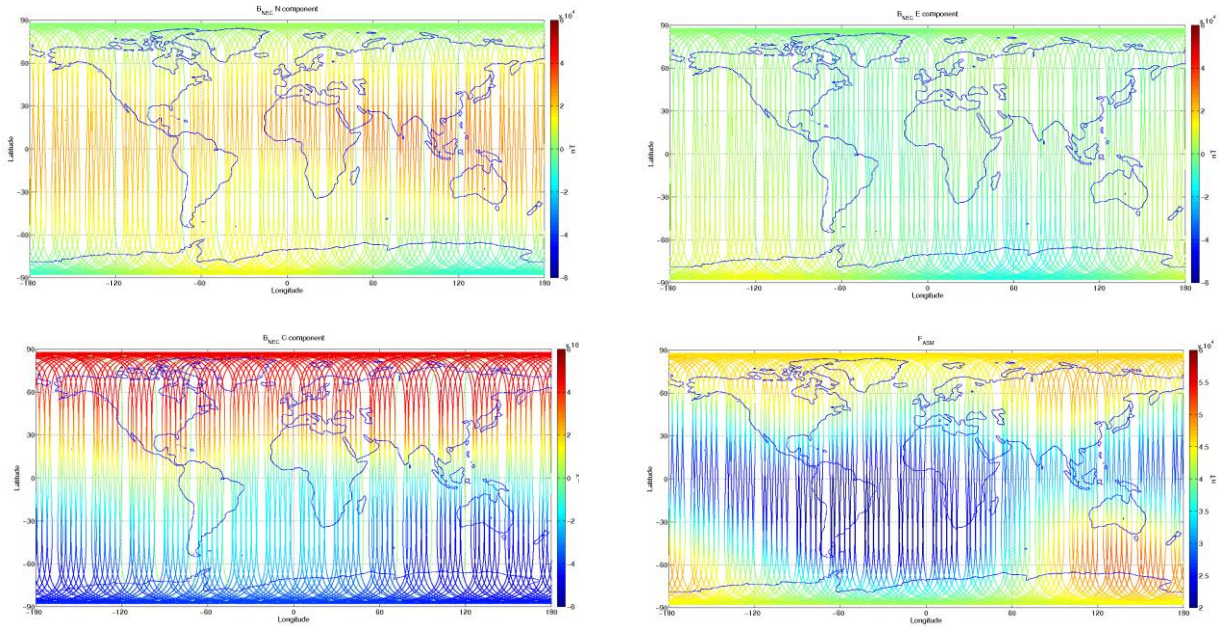


Figure 3-7: S/C B, world map plots of the geomagnetic field and components measured during monitoring period 12/08-18/08. From top to bottom: B_{NEC} components (North, East, and Centre) of magnetic field from VFM measurement, F_{ASM} magnetic field from ASM measurement.

3.3.4.3 Swarm C

Map plots of magnetic field measurement for week 33 for S/C C can be seen in Figure 3-8.

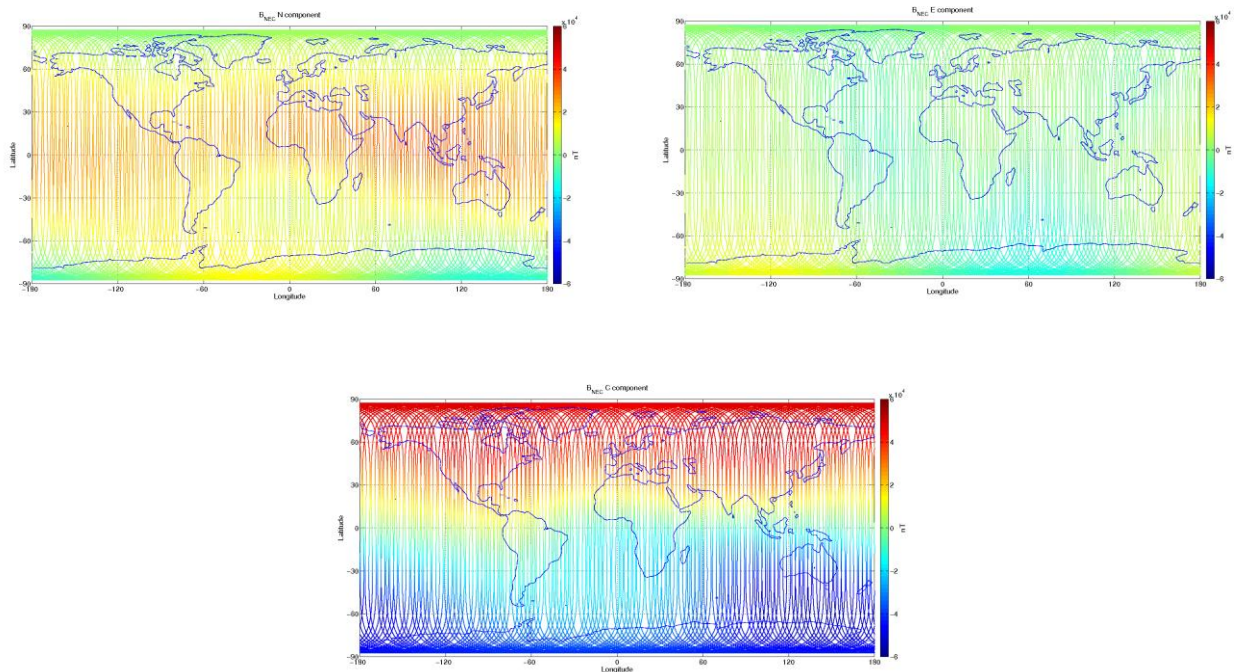


Figure 3-8: S/C C, world map plots of the geomagnetic field and components measured during monitoring period 12/08-18/08. From top to bottom: B_{NEC} components (North, East, and Centre) of magnetic field from VFM measurement

3.3.5 B_{NEC} vs Chaos6 model residuals

The magnetic field measurement is compared to magnetic field estimated from the Chaos6 global geomagnetic field model (only Core and Crustal contributions). Currently in the monitoring routines the external contribution based on Dst index is not taken into account.

Left side of Figure 3-9, Figure 3-10 and Figure 3-11 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.4]).

Right side of Figure 3-9, Figure 3-10 and Figure 3-11 show, from top to bottom, the time series on first day of the week of: (1-2-3) residuals of $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ by components, related to S/C A, B and C respectively.

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

3.3.5.1 Swarm A

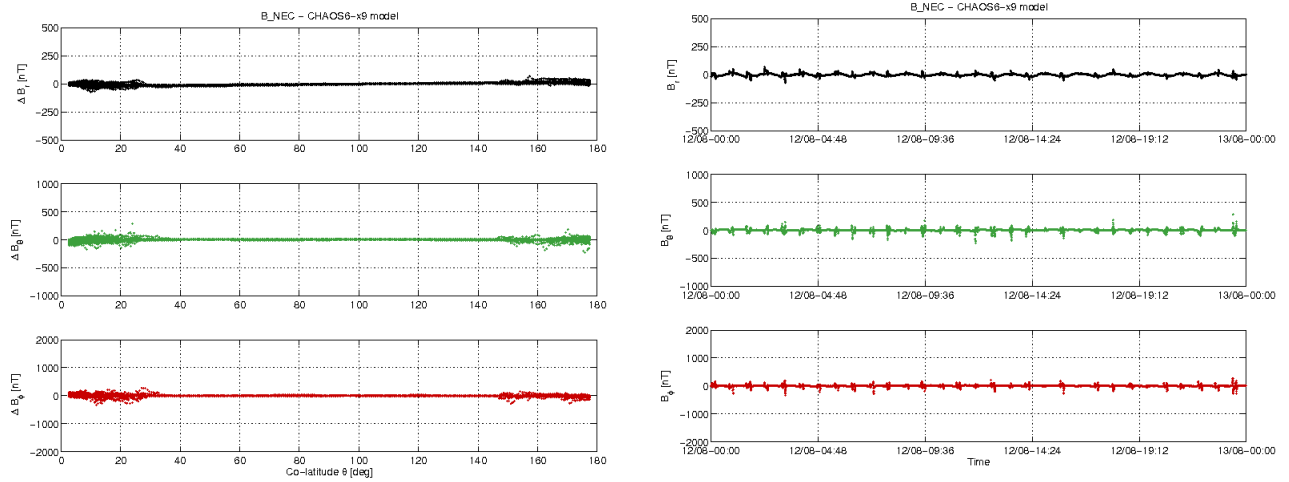


Figure 3-9: S/C A day 12.08: time series of $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ residuals (right) and $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ vs colatitude (left).

3.3.5.2 Swarm B

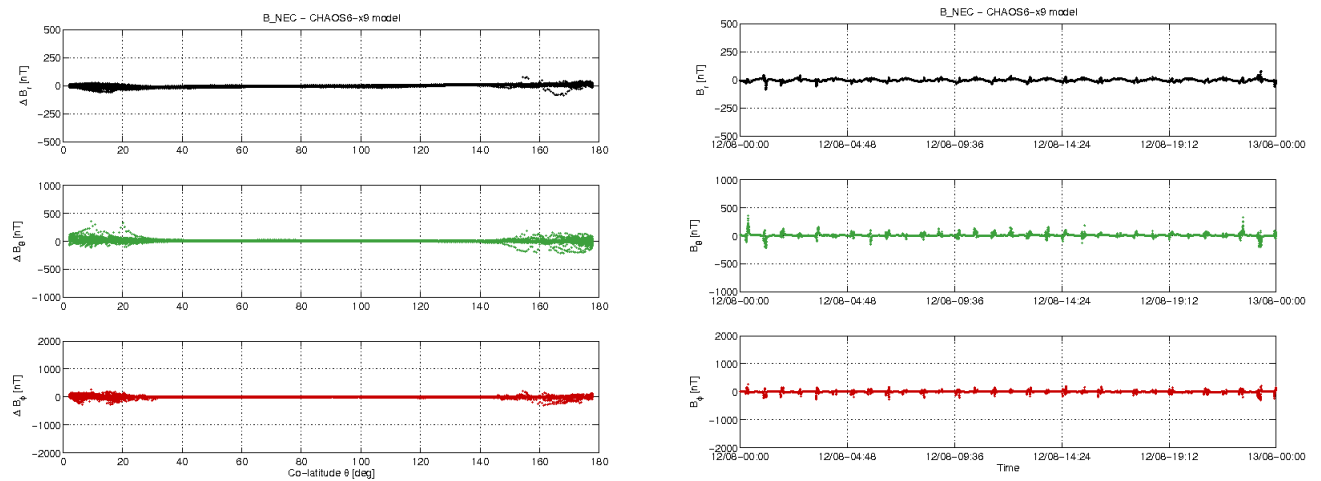


Figure 3-10: S/C B day 12.08: time series of $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ residuals (right) and $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ vs colatitude (left).

3.3.5.3 Swarm C

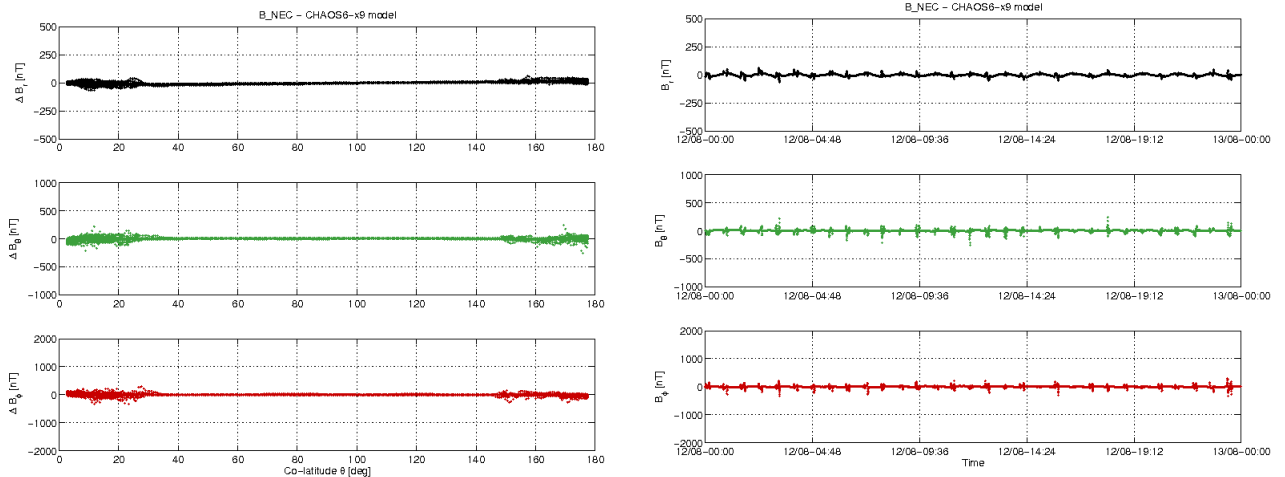


Figure 3-11: S/C C day 12.08: time series of $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ residuals (right) and $B_{NEC} - B_{Chaos}$ vs colatitude (left).

3.4 Plasma Products

The monitored plasma products are the electron density (Ne) and electron temperature (Te) measured by the EFI-LP instruments. The monitoring of the data is done on different temporal basis (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly) in order to have a comprehensive view on the data quality. Here we report only two examples of the performed data monitoring, which are the most representative of the data quality.

Figures from Figure 3-12 to Figure 3-14 show the weekly profiles of the electron density and temperature as a function of time for the last week of operations. Data have been down sampled from 0.5s to 2min in order to have a clearer representation (grey lines). Also, the 20 minutes moving window average is shown in the figures (black points). From these figures, it is possible to see if there are measurements with large discrepancies from the average behaviour, and their time location. Information on the local magnetic time is reported in the captions.

Figures from Figure 3-15 to Figure 3-17 show the variations of the electron density and temperature as a function of the latitudes in quasi-dipole (QD) coordinate system, during the last week of operation. These analyses are useful to study the dependence of the variables on the QD magnetic coordinate system.

These analyses are shown for the ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) phase orbits, separately.

It is visible that sometimes the electron temperature reaches very high values, exceeding ten thousands Kelvin, particularly at high latitudes. The nature of this feature is currently under investigation.

3.4.1 Plasma time series visual inspection

3.4.1.1 Swarm A

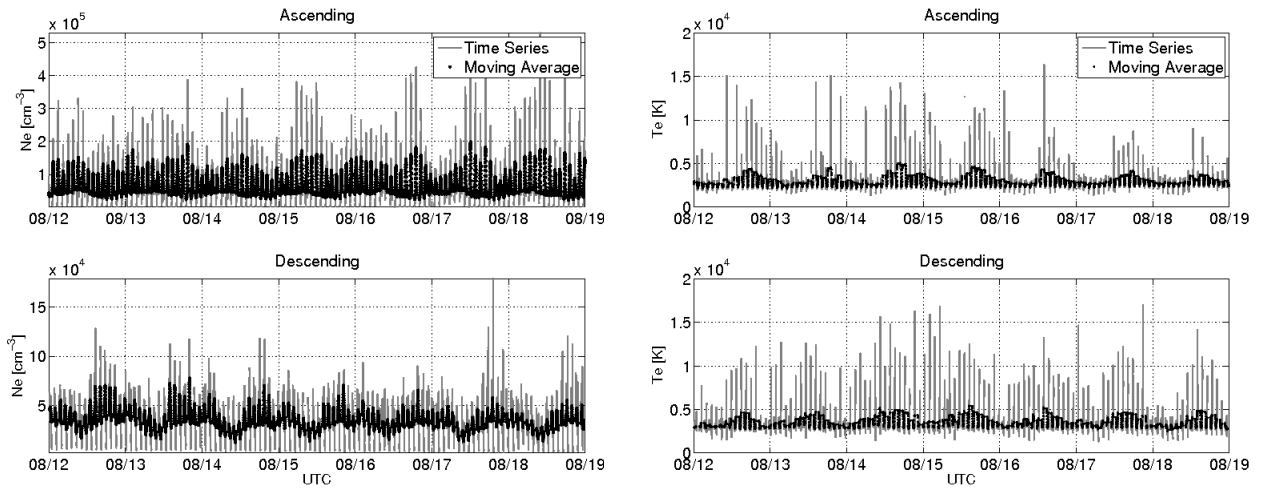


Figure 3-12: The panels show the electron density (left) and temperature (right) weekly time series (grey lines) together with the 20 min moving windows average (black lines). The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits. The average magnetic local time during the week is 7 a.m. for ascending phase and 7 p.m. for descending phase.

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

Doc. no: SW-RP-SER-GS-010, Rev: 1

Page 19 of 23

3.4.1.2 Swarm B

Data gap between 18:30 UTC on 16 August and 12:59 UTC on 17 August is due to the VFM anomaly (see Section 2 for more details).

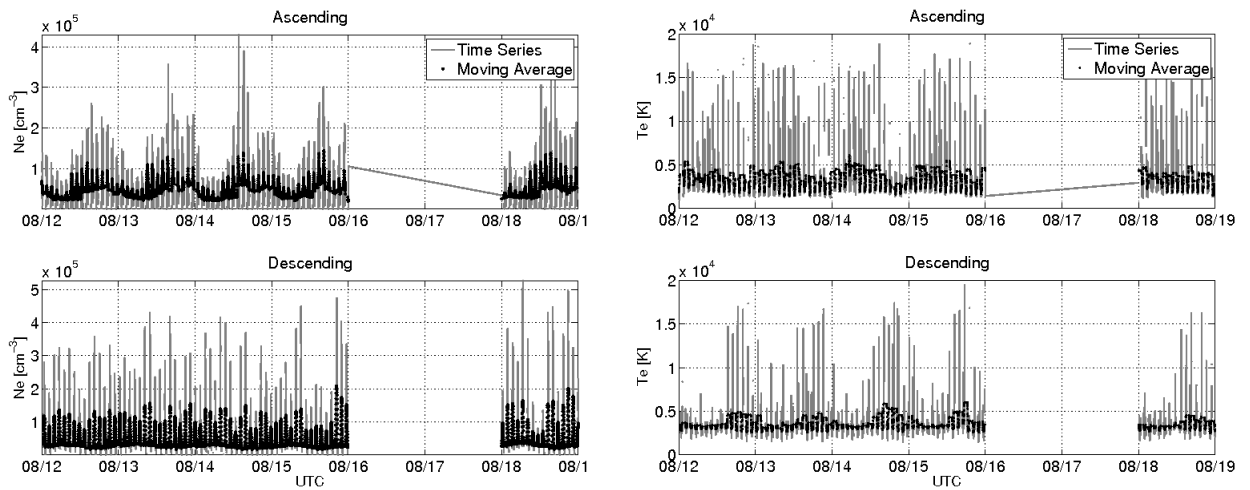


Figure 3-13: The panels show the electron density (left) and temperature (right) weekly time series (grey lines) together with the 20 min moving windows average (black lines). The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits. The average magnetic local time during the week is 3 a.m. for descending phase and 3 p.m. for ascending phase.

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

Doc. no: SW-RP-SER-GS-010, Rev: 1

Page 20 of 23

3.4.1.3 Swarm C

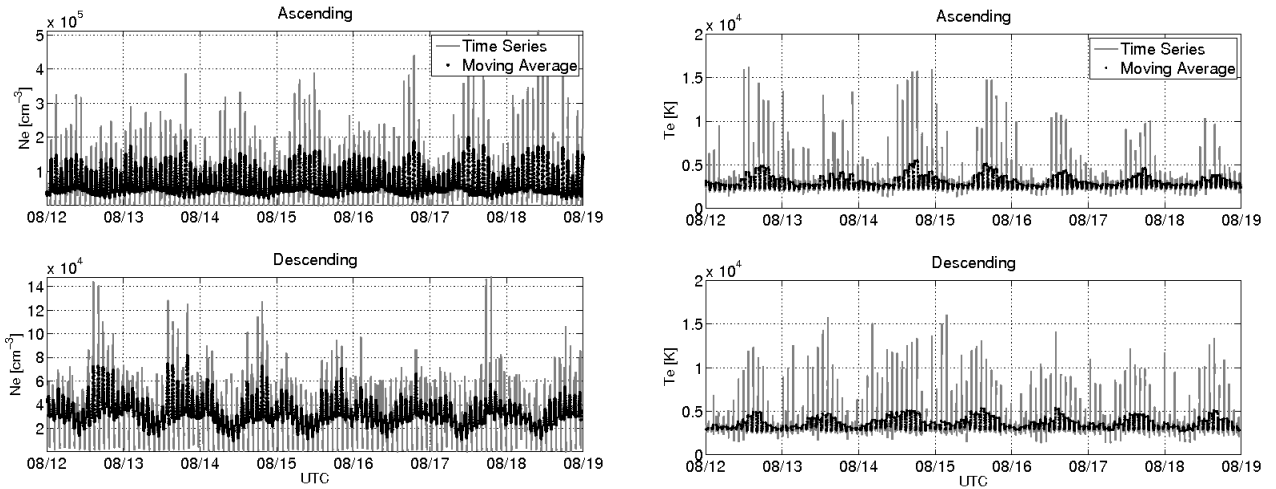


Figure 3-14: The panels show the electron density (left) and temperature (right) weekly time series (grey lines) together with the 20 min moving windows average (black lines). The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits. The average magnetic local time during the week is 7 a.m. for ascending phase and 7 p.m. for descending phase.

3.4.2 Plasma products latitudinal variations

3.4.2.1 Swarm A

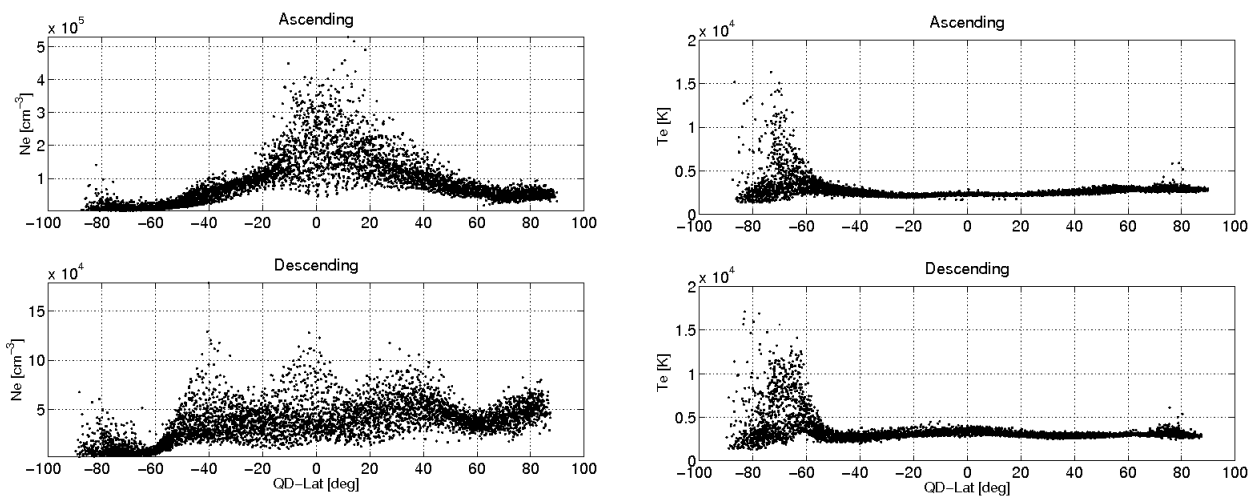


Figure 3-15: The panels show the electron density (left) and temperature (right) profile as a function of QD Latitudes for the last week of operation. The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits.

Swarm DISC Weekly Report

Doc. no: SW-RP-SER-GS-010, Rev: 1

Page 21 of 23

3.4.2.2 Swarm B

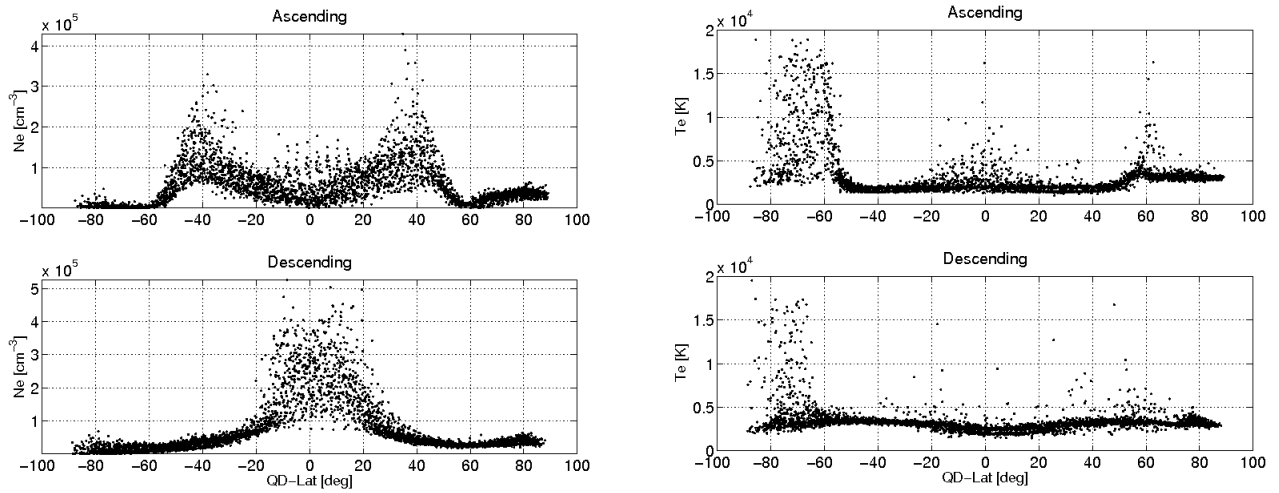


Figure 3-16: The panels shown the electron density (left) and temperature (right) profile as a function of QD Latitudes for the last week of operation. The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits.

3.4.2.3 Swarm C

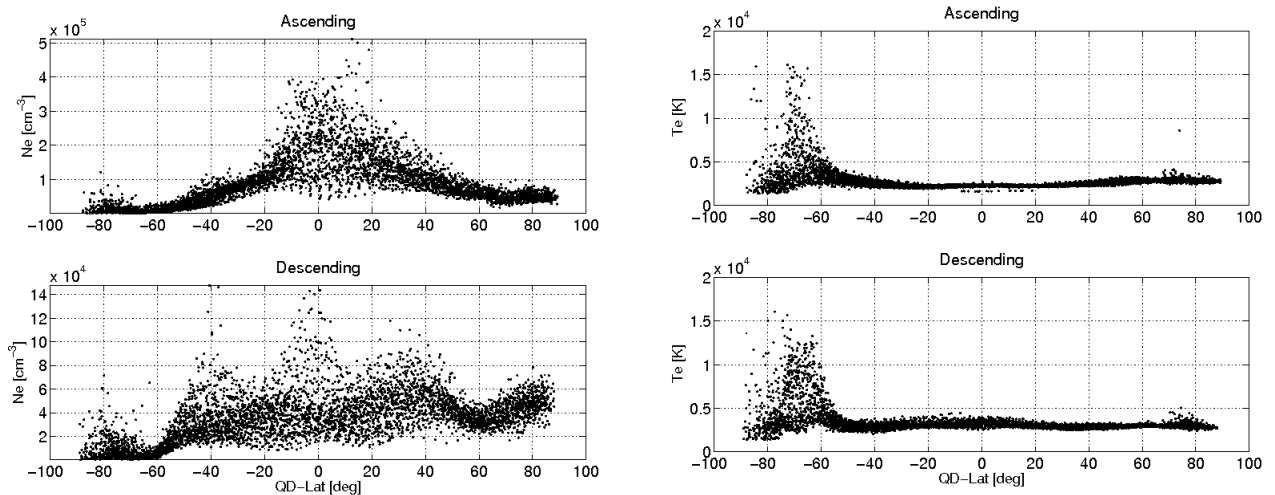


Figure 3-17: The panels shown the electron density (left) and temperature (right) profile as a function of QD Latitudes for the last week of operation. The analysis is made separately for ascending (upper panels) and descending (bottom panels) orbits.

4. Special Investigations

Nothing to report.

End of Document