TOPEX/Poseidon MGDR
Quality Assessment Report

Cycle 427

17-04-2004 27-04-2004

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1 Introduction. Document overview

The purpose of this document is to report the major features of the data quality from the Topex/Poseidon mission. The document is associated with data dissemination on a cycle by cycle basis.

The objectives of this document are :

To provide a data quality assessment
To provide users with necessary information for data processing
To report any change likely to impact data quality at any level, from instrument status to software configuration
To present the major useful results for the current cycle

It is divided into the following topics:

Cycle overview
CALVAL main results

2 Cycle overview

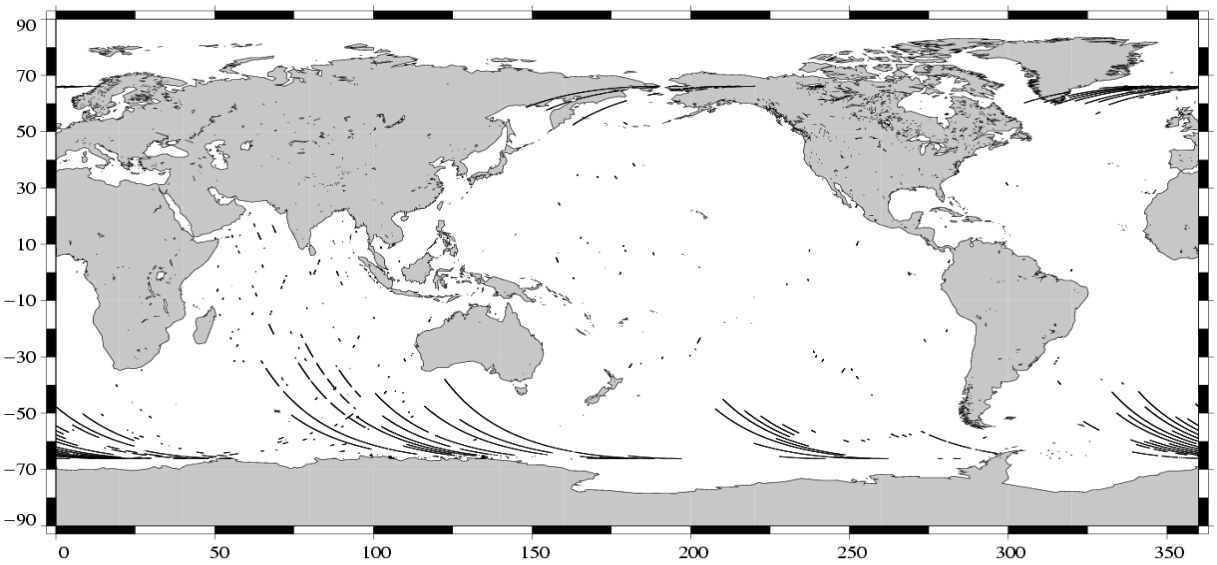
2.1 Cycle quality and performances

Data quality for this cycle appears to be nominal. For this cycle, the crossover standard deviation is 7.11 cm rms, and the standard deviation of Sea Level Anomalies (SLA) relative to a Mean Sea Surface is 9.89 cm.

2.2 Warnings and recommendations

- Missing measurements :
  - There is a lot of data gaps due to tape recorder anomalies, especially in the Indian Ocean, in the South Pacific Ocean close to the South and Central America coasts and below the Groenland coasts. Pass 3 and 6 and a large part of passes 1, 2 and 178 are missing from current data set, probably also due to tape recorder failures.
- Measurements edited by the TMR parameters :
  The following anomalies are explained by the problems in the interpolation of the TMR parameters due to tape recorder failures :
  - 4.02% of the measurements are removed by the TMR correction criterion (see the following figure).
  - Some measurements have radiometer earth flag set to valid over earth. A new criterion has been added to the editing procedure to remove all these measurements (see **Editing**) .

Edited parameter : Radiometer wet tropospheric correction
T/P Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)



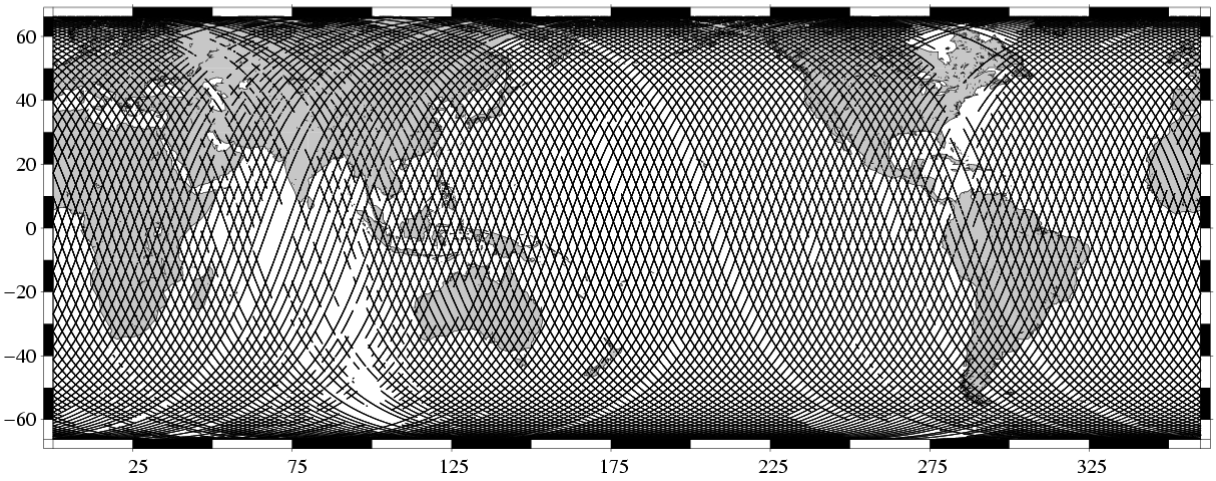
3 CALVAL main results

This section presents results that illustrate data quality during this cycle. These verification products are produced operationally so that they allow systematic monitoring of the main relevant parameters.

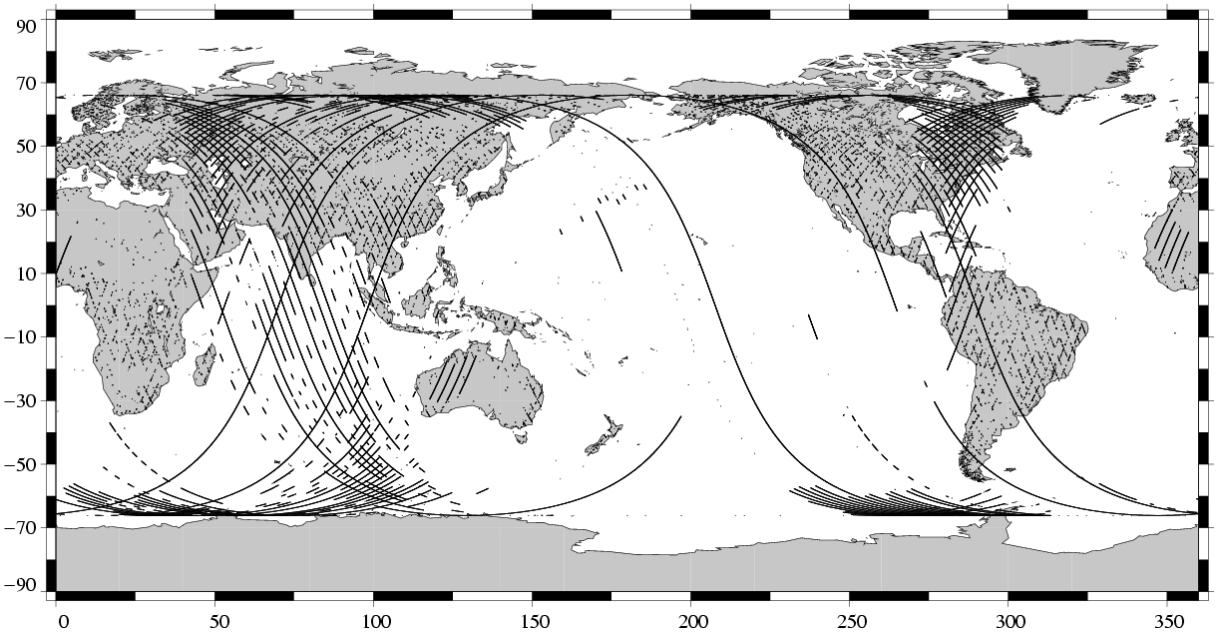
3.1 Missing measurements

687927 altimeter measurements are present, and 106632 are missing.
The map below shows all the available measurements for this cycle and illustrates the tape recorder problems. The latter figure shows missing 1Hz measurements in the GDRs, with respect to a 1 Hz sampling of a nominal repeat track.

Available measurements
TOPEX Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)



Missing measurements
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)

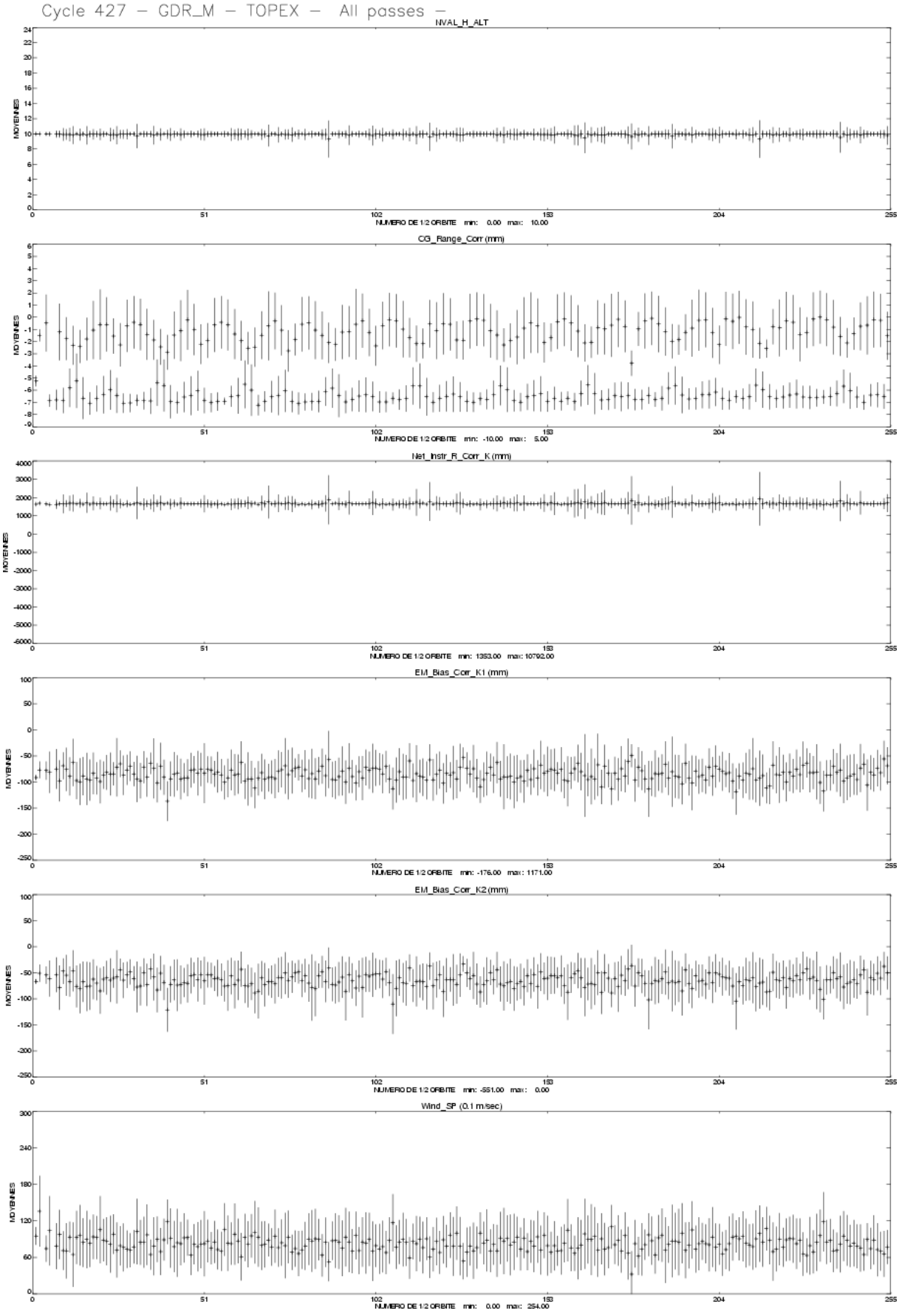


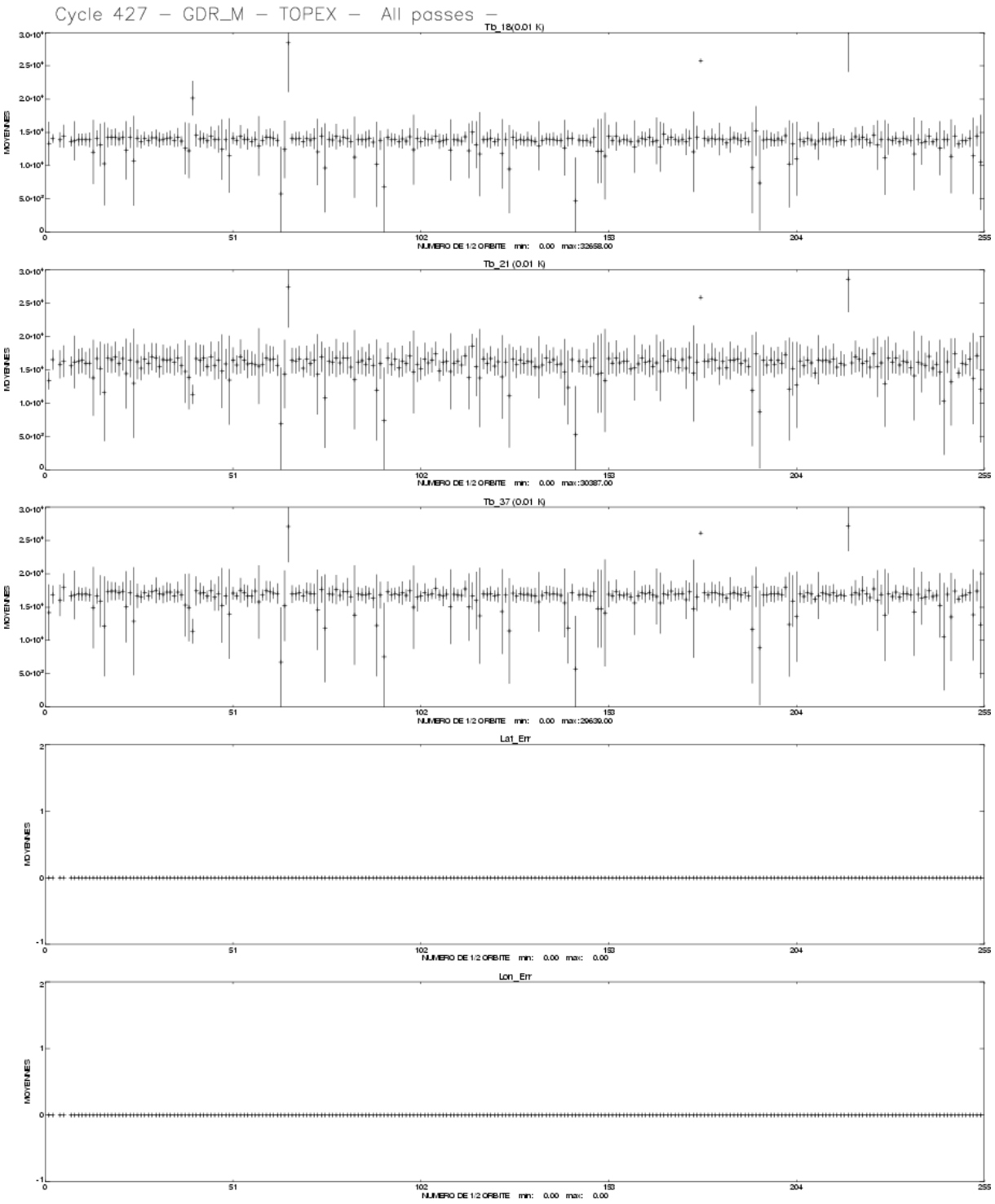
3.2 M-GDR quality flags

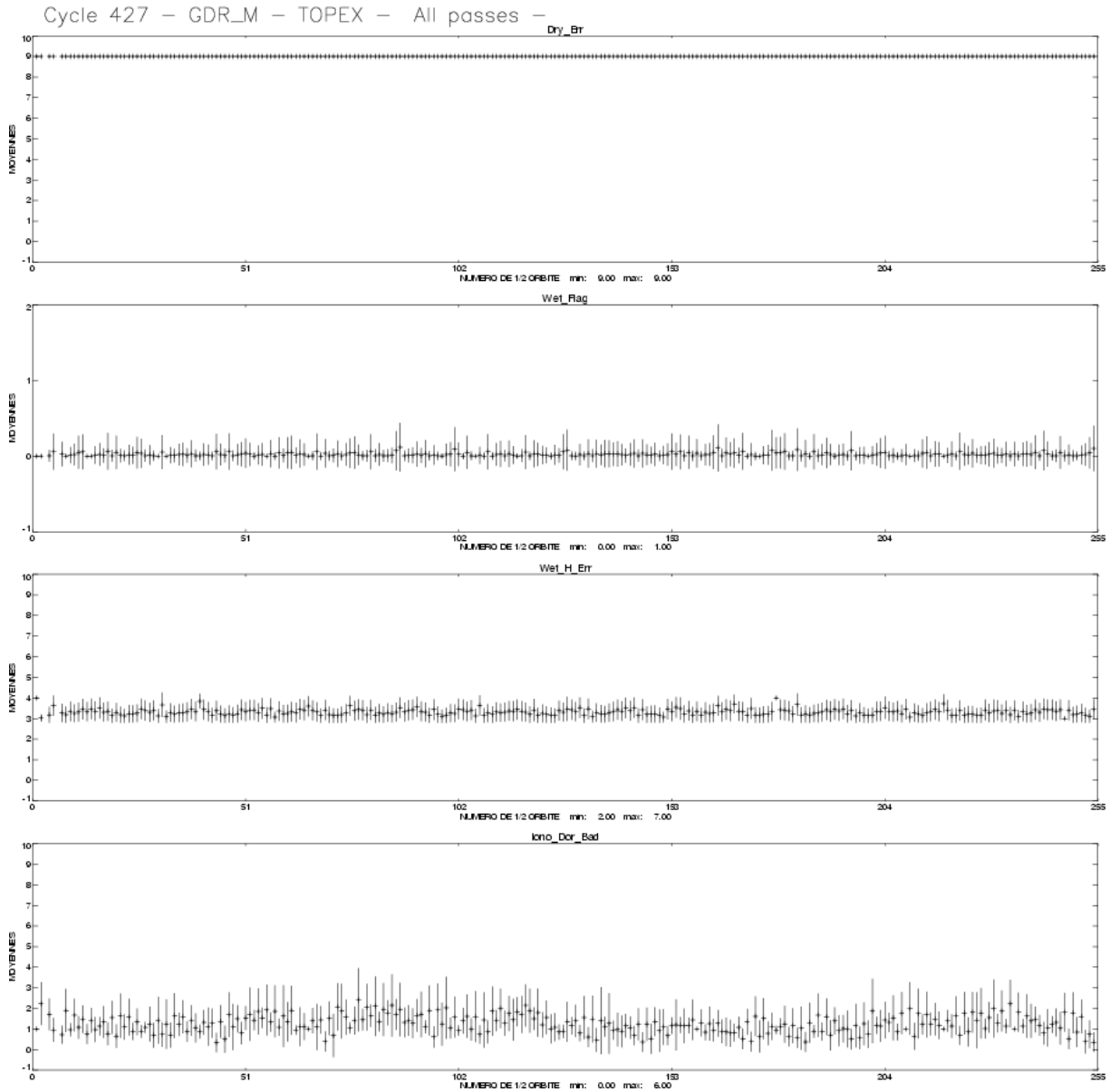
The following table indicates the percentage of measurements for which those flags are set.

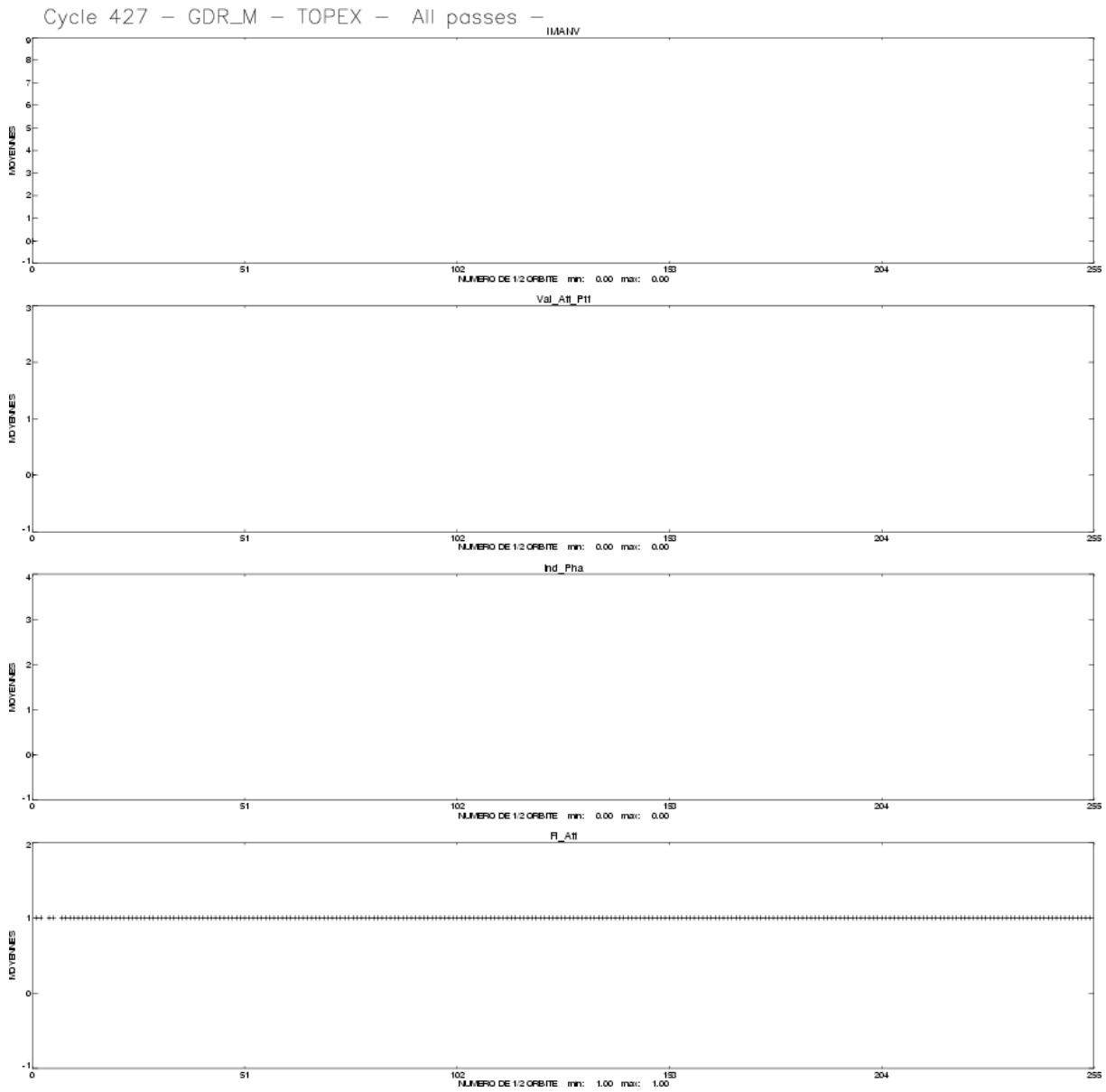
Name	Descrition	% bad
Geo_Bad_1	altimeter land flag	26.03
Geo_Bad_1	ice flag	3.91
Geo_Bad_1	radiometer land flag	28.14
Alt_Bad_1	conditions 1 altimeter	4.40
Alt_Bad_2	conditions 2 altimeter	4.28
Geo_Bad_2	rain (liquid water in excess)	7.13
Geo_Bad_2	less than 4 points for CSR3.0 tide calculation	0.37
Geo_Bad_2	less than 4 points for FES95.2.1 tide calculation	2.48
TOPEX	TOPEX not valid	0.00
TMR	TMR not valid	0.00
TMR_Bad	Brightness temperatures not valid	5.22
DORIS	DORIS not valid	0.00

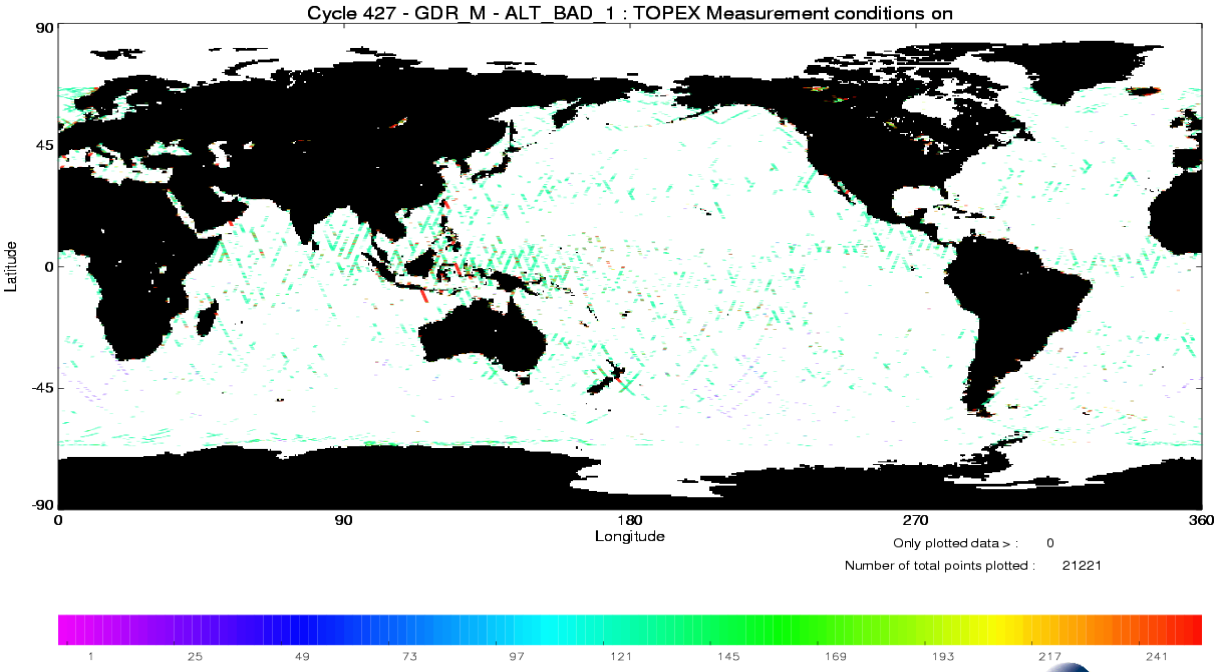
3.3 M-GDR parameter plots

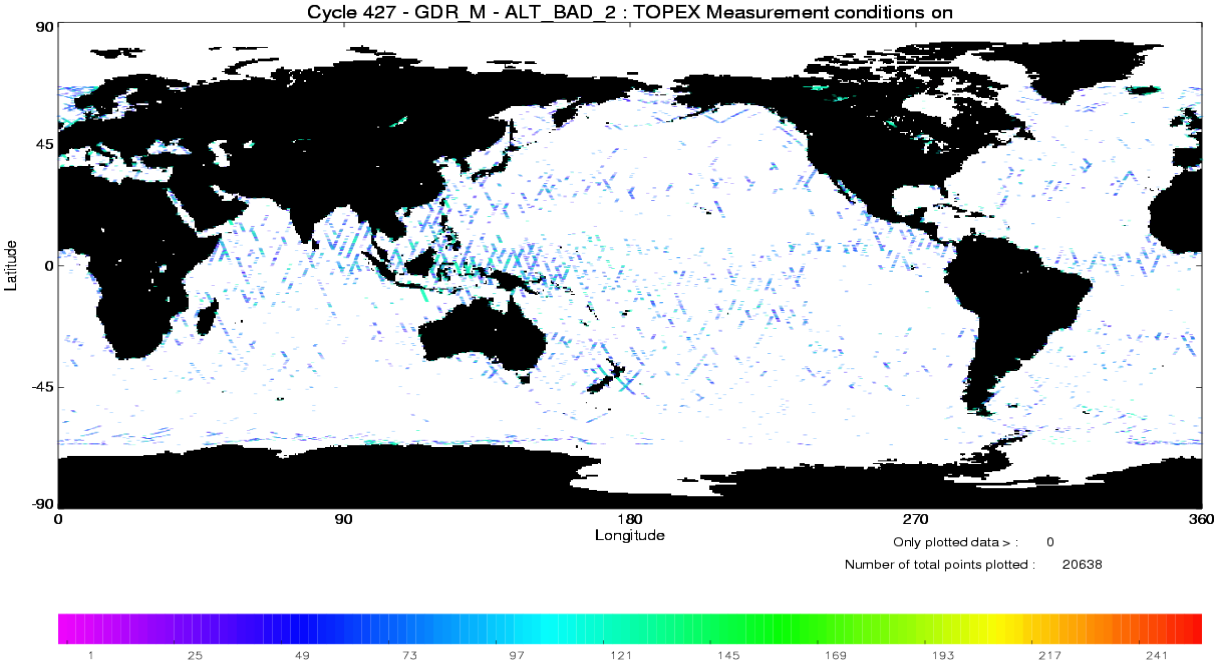


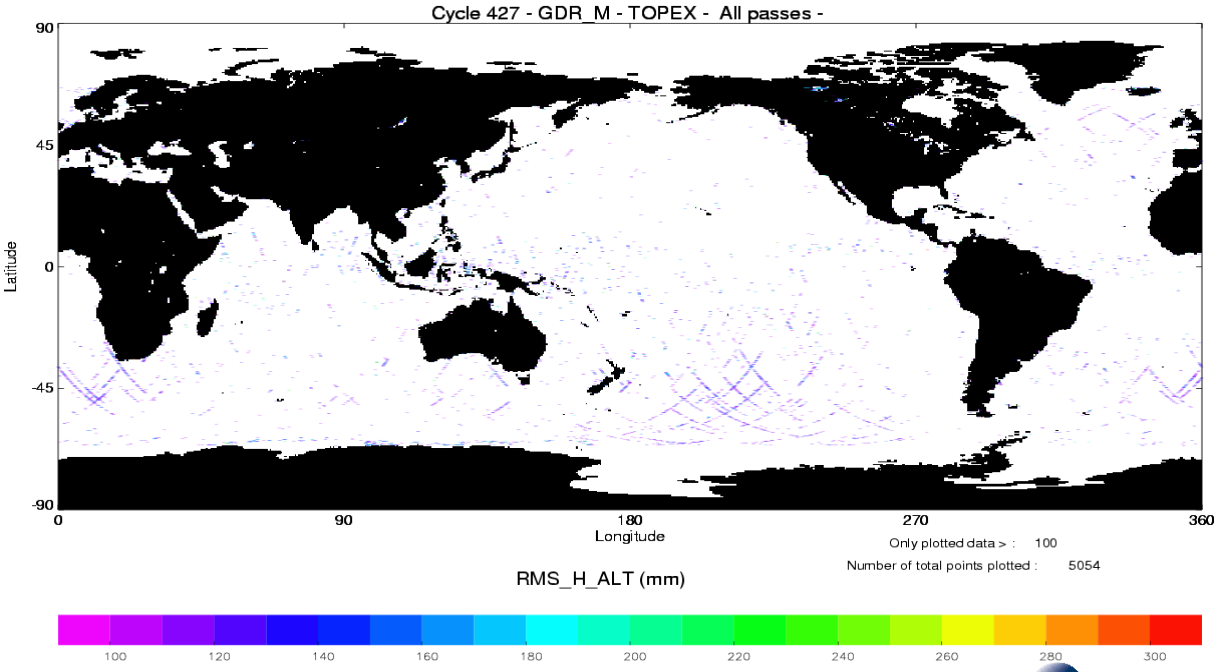

Cycle 427 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –
Tb_18(0.01 K)
Tb_21 (0.01 K)
Tb_37 (0.01 K)
Lat_Err
Lon_Err
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE

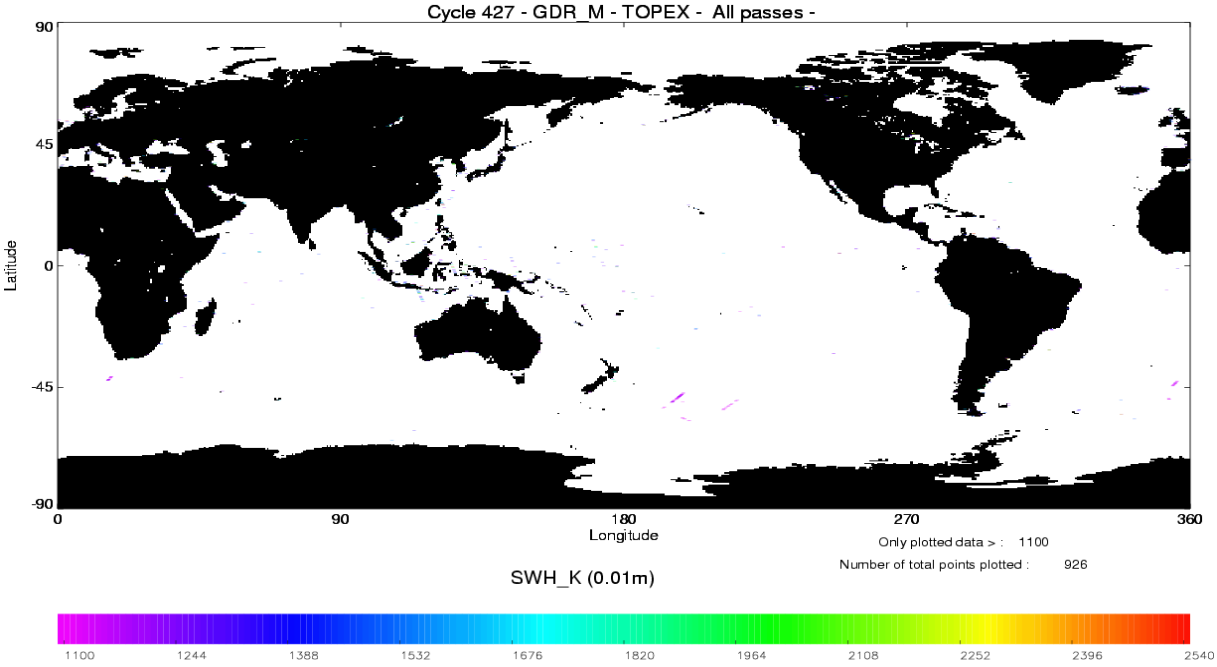

Cycle 427 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –
Dry_Err
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 9.00 max: 9.00
Wet_Flag
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 0.00 max: 1.00
Wet_H_Err
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 2.00 max: 7.00
Iono_Dor_Bad
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 0.00 max: 6.00

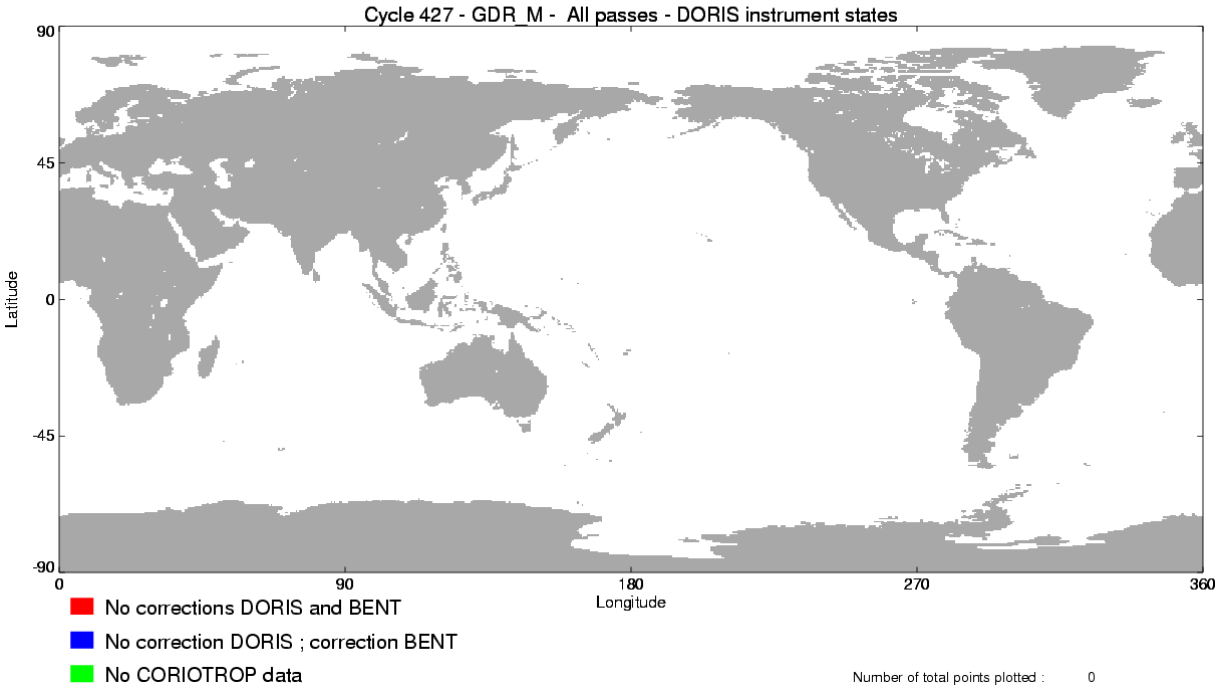

Cycle 427 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –
IMANV
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 0.00 max: 0.00
Val_Att_P1f
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 0.00 max: 0.00
Ind_Pha
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 0.00 max: 0.00
Fl_Att
MOYENNES
NUMERO DE 1/2 ORBITE min: 1.00 max: 1.00


Cycle 427 - GDR_M - ALT_BAD_1 : TOPEX Measurement conditions on
90
45
0
-45
-90
Latitude
0
90
180
270
360
Longitude
Only plotted data > : 0
Number of total points plotted : 21221
1
25
49
73
97
121
145
169
193
217
241


Cycle 427 - GDR_M - ALT_BAD_2 : TOPEX Measurement conditions on
90
45
0
-45
-90
Latitude
0
90
180
270
360
Longitude
Only plotted data > : 0
Number of total points plotted : 20638
1
25
49
73
97
121
145
169
193
217
241


Cycle 427 - GDR_M - TOPEX - All passes -
90
45
0
-45
-90
Latitude
0
90
180
270
360
Longitude
Only plotted data > : 100
Number of total points plotted : 5054
RMS_H_ALT (mm)
100
120
140
160
180
200
220
240
260
280
300


Cycle 427 - GDR_M - TOPEX - All passes -
90
45
0
-45
-90
Latitude
0
90
180
270
360
Longitude
Only plotted data > : 1100
Number of total points plotted : 926
SWH_K (0.01m)
1100
1244
1388
1532
1676
1820
1964
2108
2252
2396
2540


Cycle 427 - GDR_M - All passes - DORIS instrument states
90
45
0
-45
-90
Latitude
0
90
180
270
360
Longitude
No corrections DORIS and BENT
No correction DORIS ; correction BENT
No CORIOTROP data
Number of total points plotted : 0

3.4 Editing

The following table gives for each tested parameter, minimum and maximum thresholds, the number and the percentage of points removed. As a comparison, the mean percentage over one year (1997) is also given.

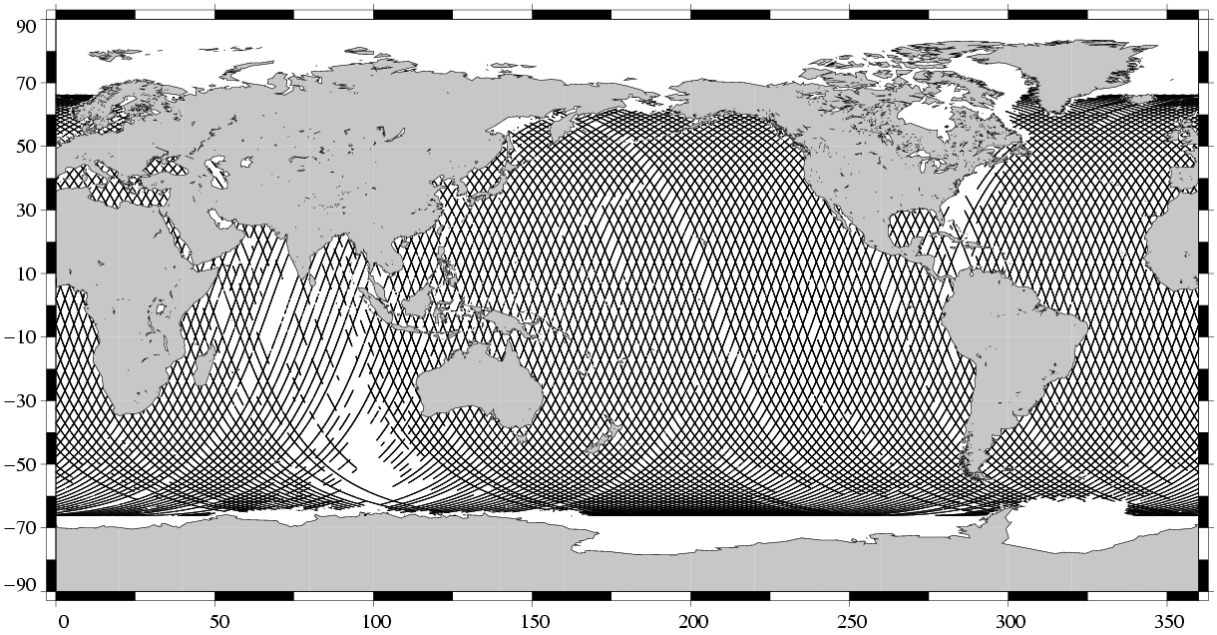
There are problems in the interpolation of the TMR parameters since cycle 371 when there are missing measurements (tape recorder failures). These bad measurements are removed by the TMR correction criterion but some of them have been kept. Thus a new criterion has been added to the editing procedure since the cycle 376 to remove all the mesurements where the absolute value of the difference between the TMR correction and the ECMWF model wet tropospheric correction is greater than 20 cm.

Probably due to the interpolation problem with the TMR, some measurements have radiometer land flag unset over land. This has no impact on the valid data because these measurements have been edited by the altimetric parameter criteria. Nevertheless, this anomaly leads to wrong statistics of the edited measurements. Therefore a new criterion has been added in the editing procedure to remove all the measurements for which the radiometer land flag is set to ocean and the altimeter land flag is set to land.
The number and percentage of points removed by each criterion is given on the following table. Note that these statistics are obtained with measurements already edited for radiometer land flag (28.14 % of points removed) and ice flag (3.91 % of points removed).

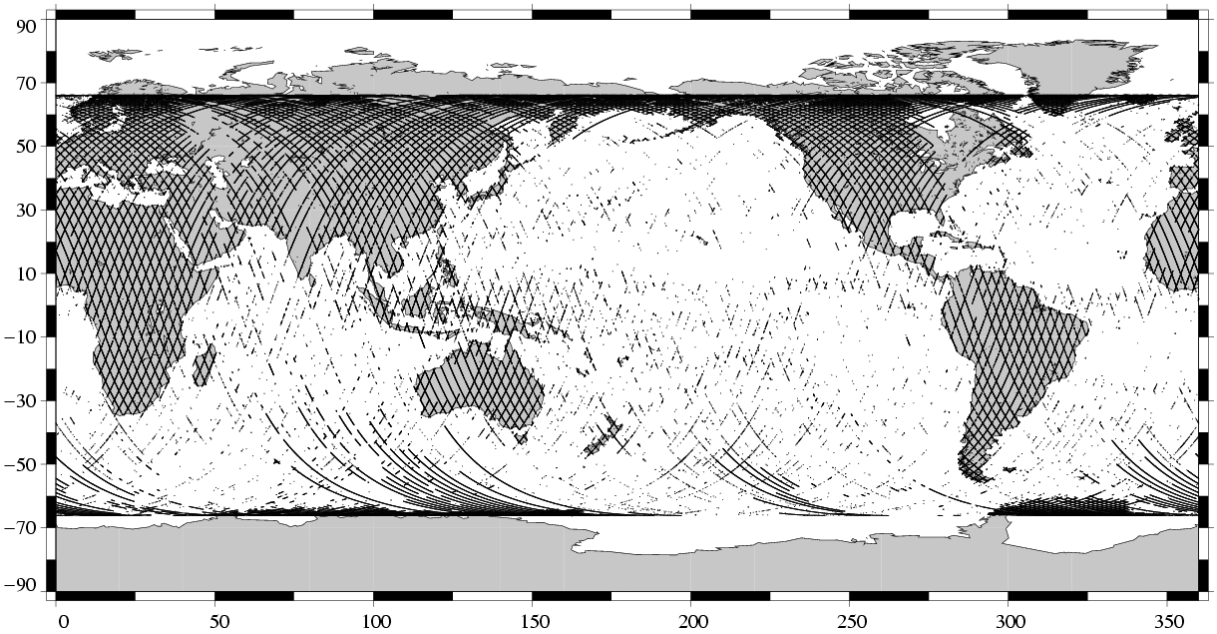
Parameters	Min Thres.	Max Thres.	Unit	Mean % removed in 1997	% removed
Sea surface height	-130.000	100.000	m	1.37	0.18
Number of 20/10Hz valid points Poseidon/TOPEX	5.000	-		1.37	0.25
Std. deviation of range	0.000	0.100	m	1.85	1.11
Off nadir angle from waveform	0.000	0.400	deg	1.36	3.09
Dry tropospheric correction	-2.500	-1.900	m	0.00	0.00
Invert barometer correction	-2.000	2.000	m	0.00	0.00
TMR wet tropospheric correction	-0.500	-0.001	m	0.34	4.02
Ionospheric correction (Poseidon:Doris, TOPEX:Dual)	-0.400	0.040	m	0.00	0.26
Significant wave height	0.000	11.000	m	1.46	0.10
Sea state Bias	-0.500	0.000	m	1.39	0.16
Backscatter coefficient	7.000	30.000	dB	1.44	0.19
Ocean tide height	-5.000	5.000	m	0.01	0.11
Earth tide	-1.000	1.000	m	0.00	0.00
Pole tide	-15.000	15.000	m	0.00	0.00
TMR and ECMWF tropospheric differences	-0.200	0.200	m	NaN	0.41
Spline fitting					0.01

The following three maps are complementary: they show respectively the removed, the selected measurements and the percentage of selected measurements in the editing procedure.

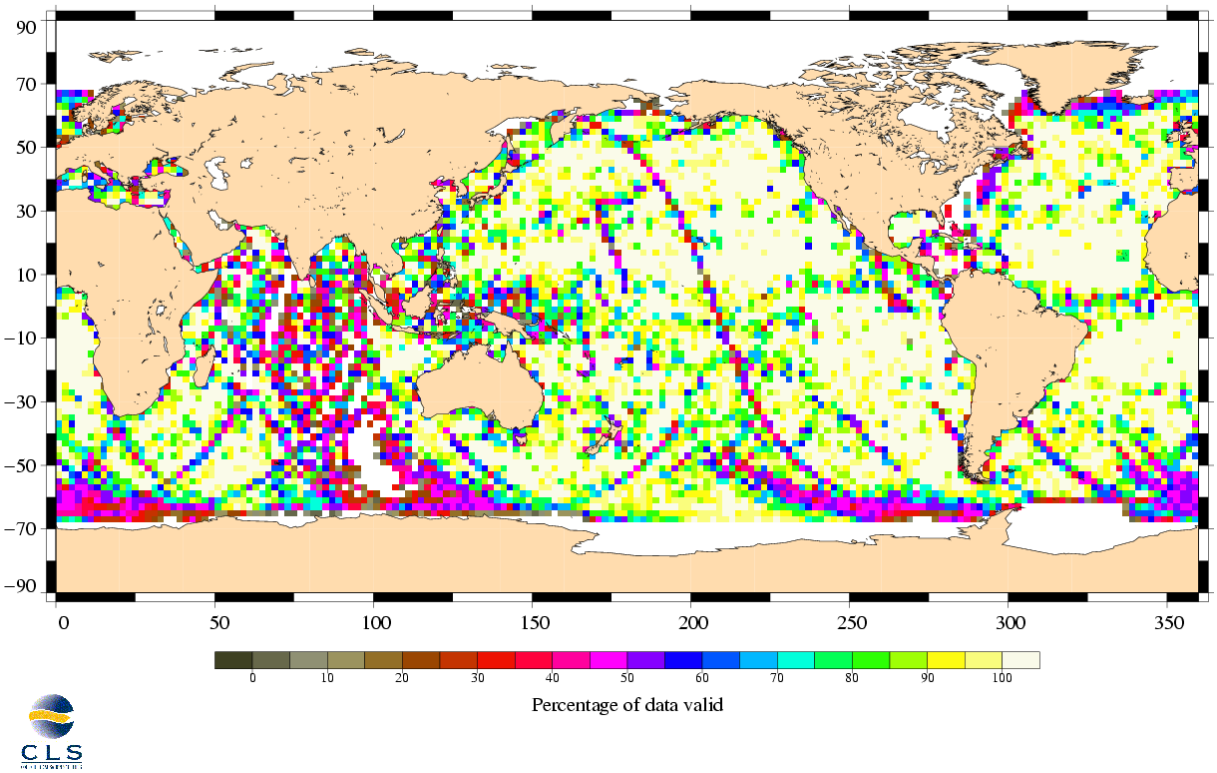
Valid data
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)



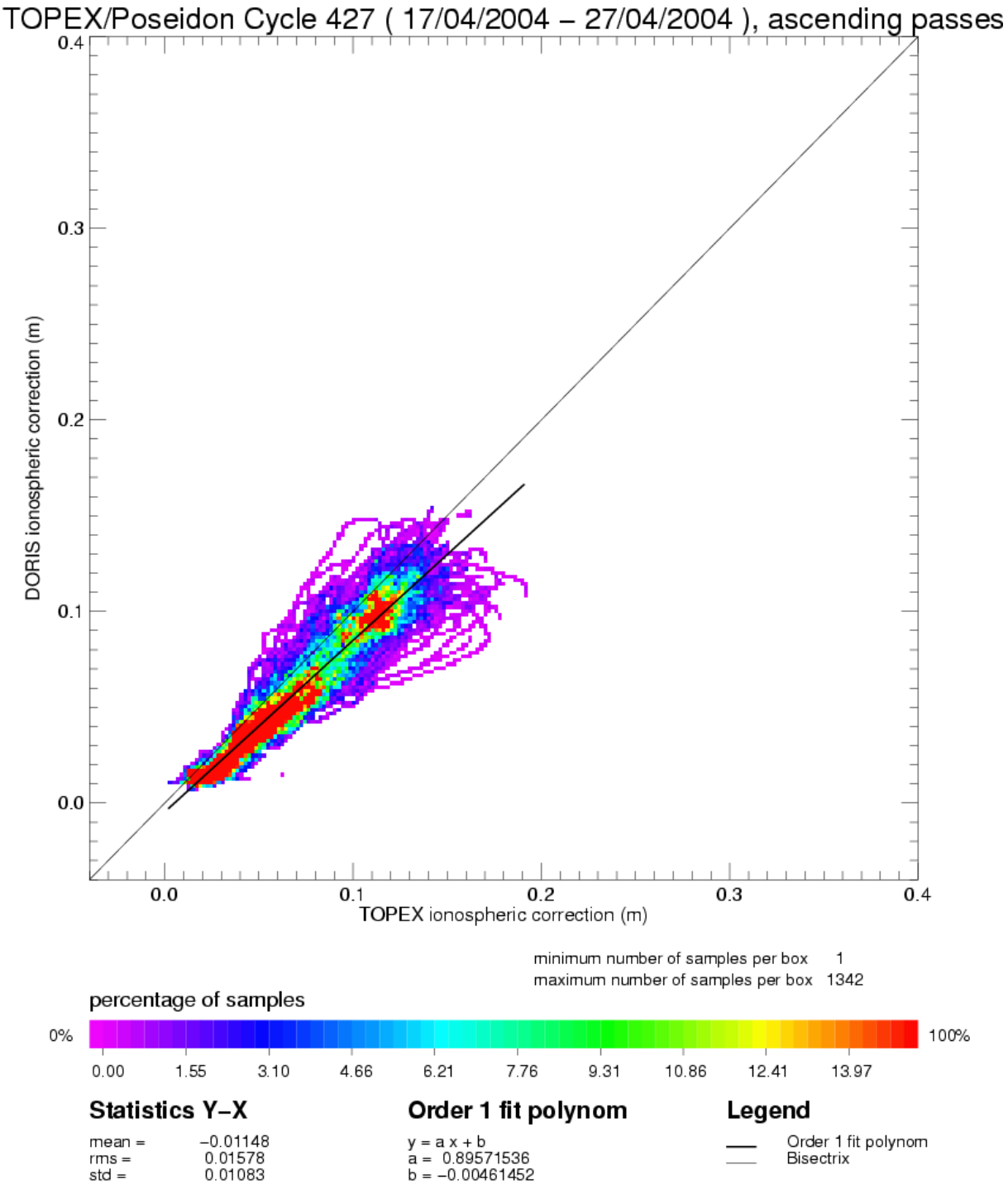
Edited measurements
TOPEX Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)

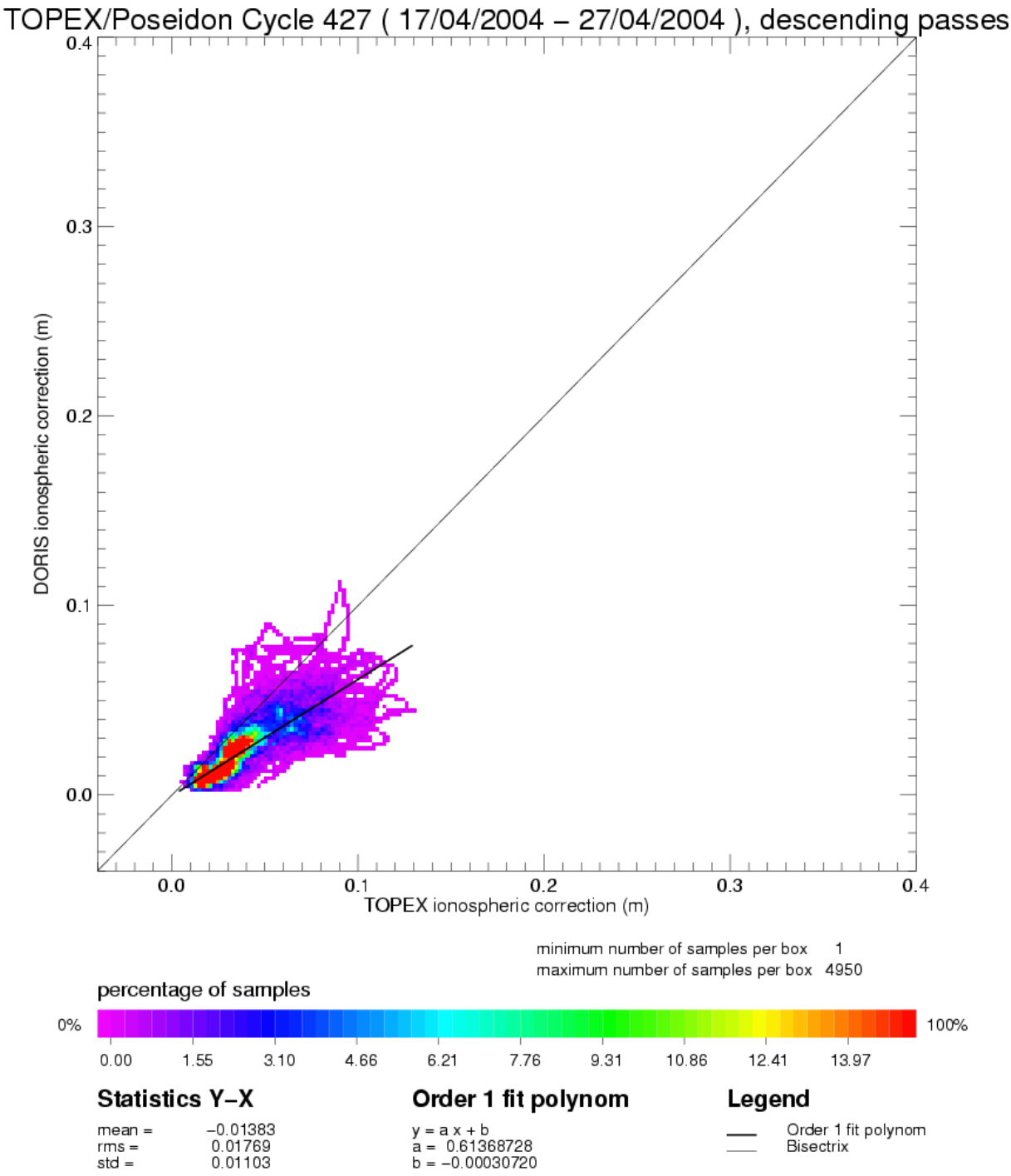


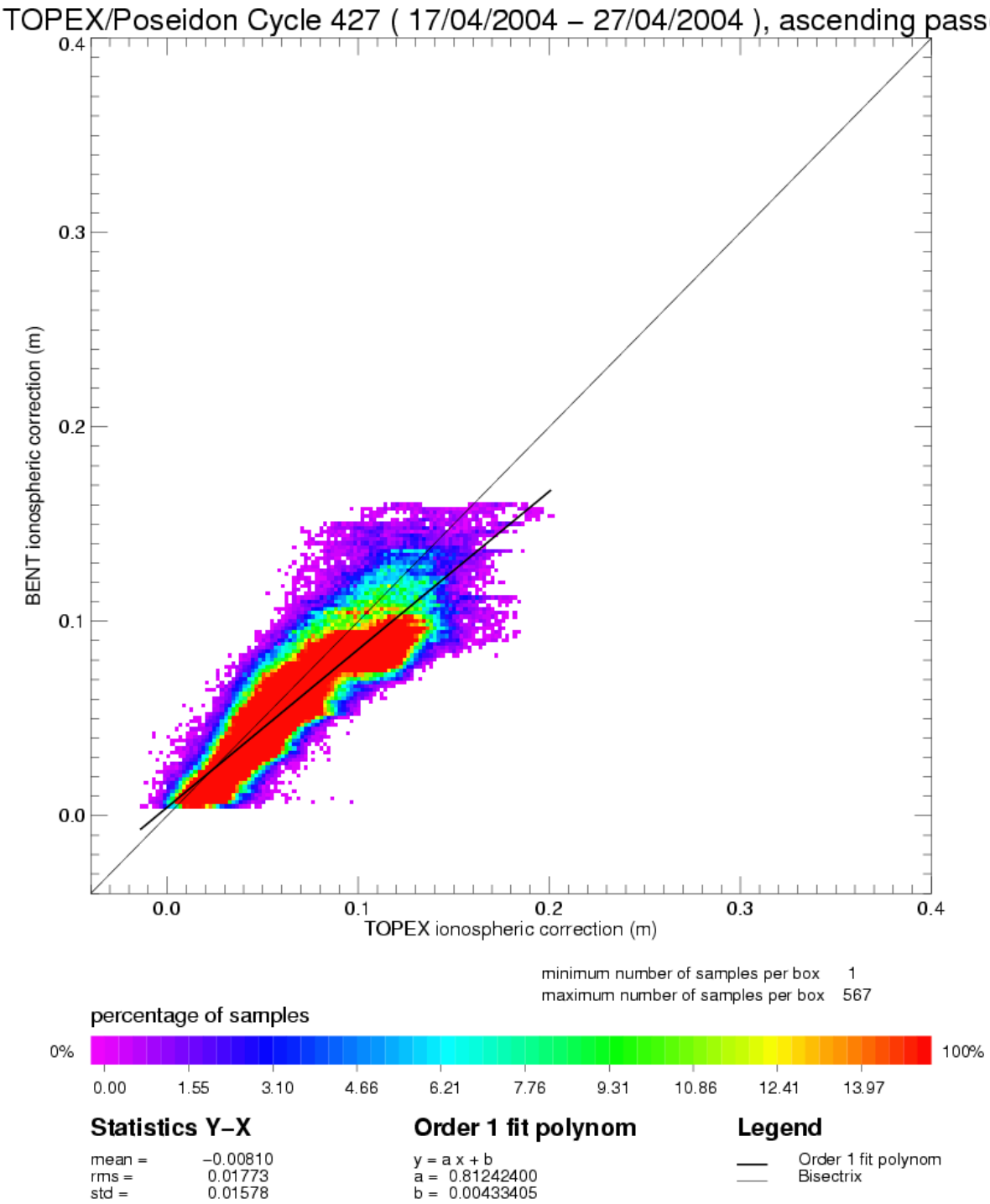
Percentage of valid data relative to the nominal pass
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 / 27/04/2004)

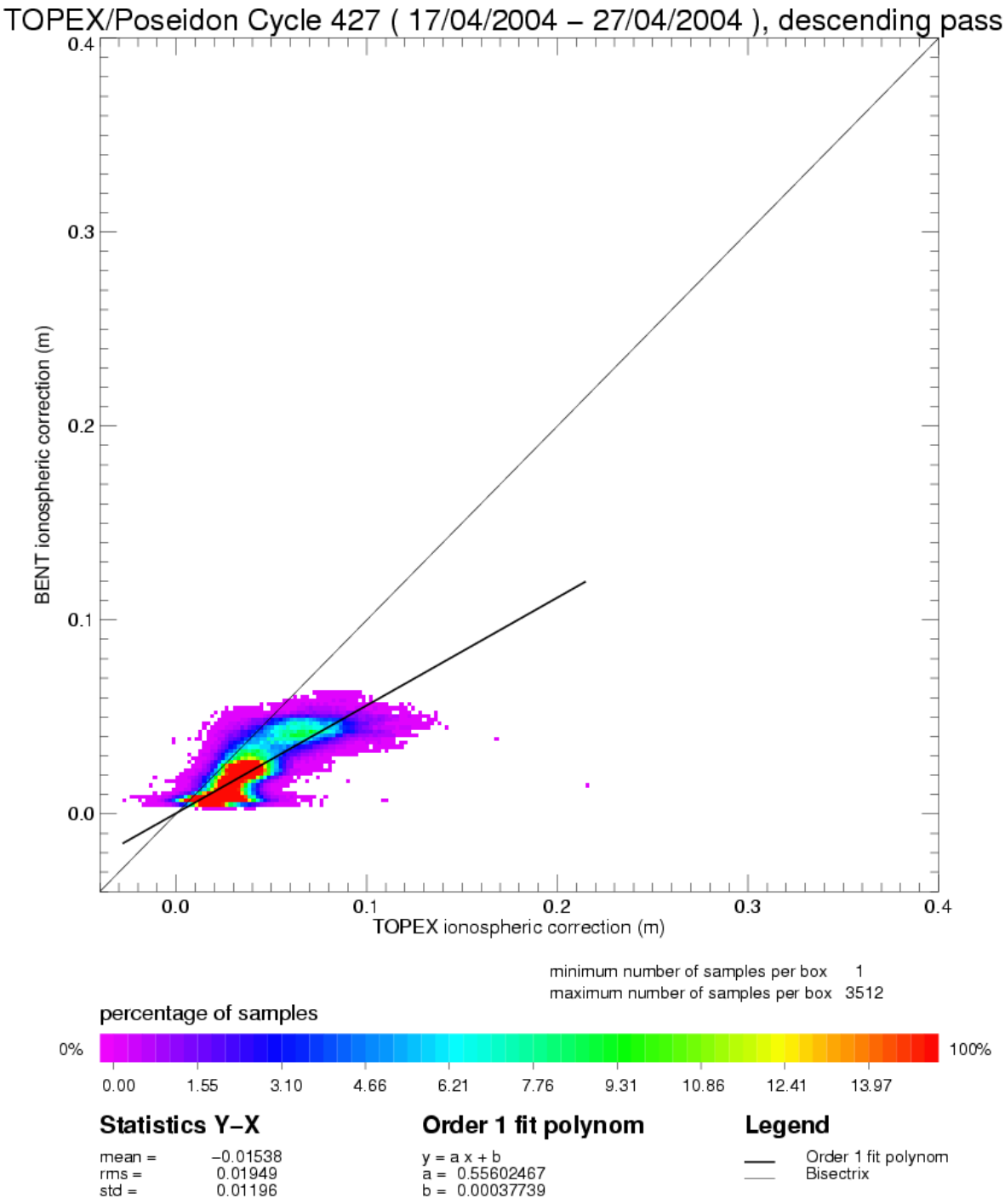


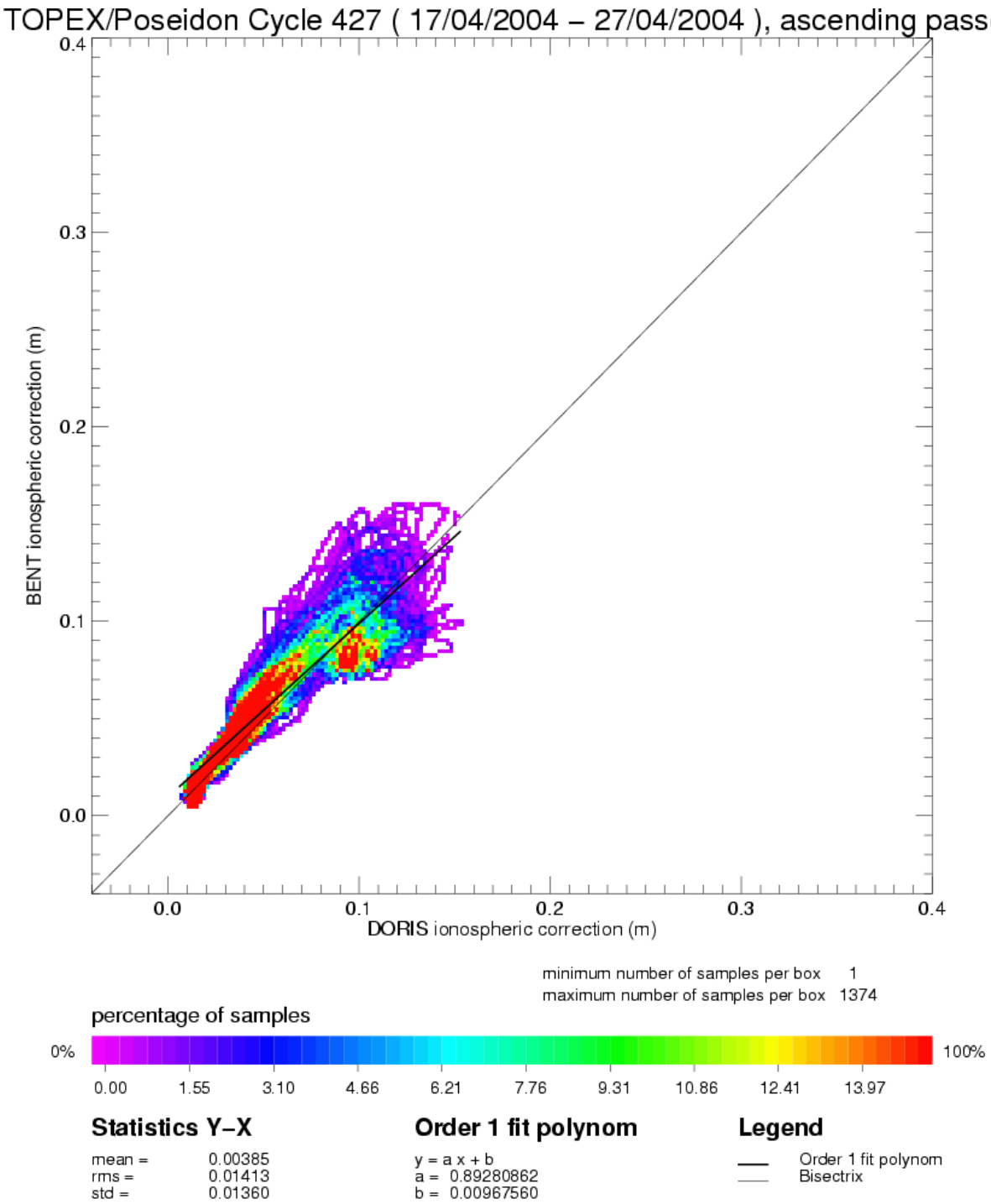
3.5 Ionospheric correction

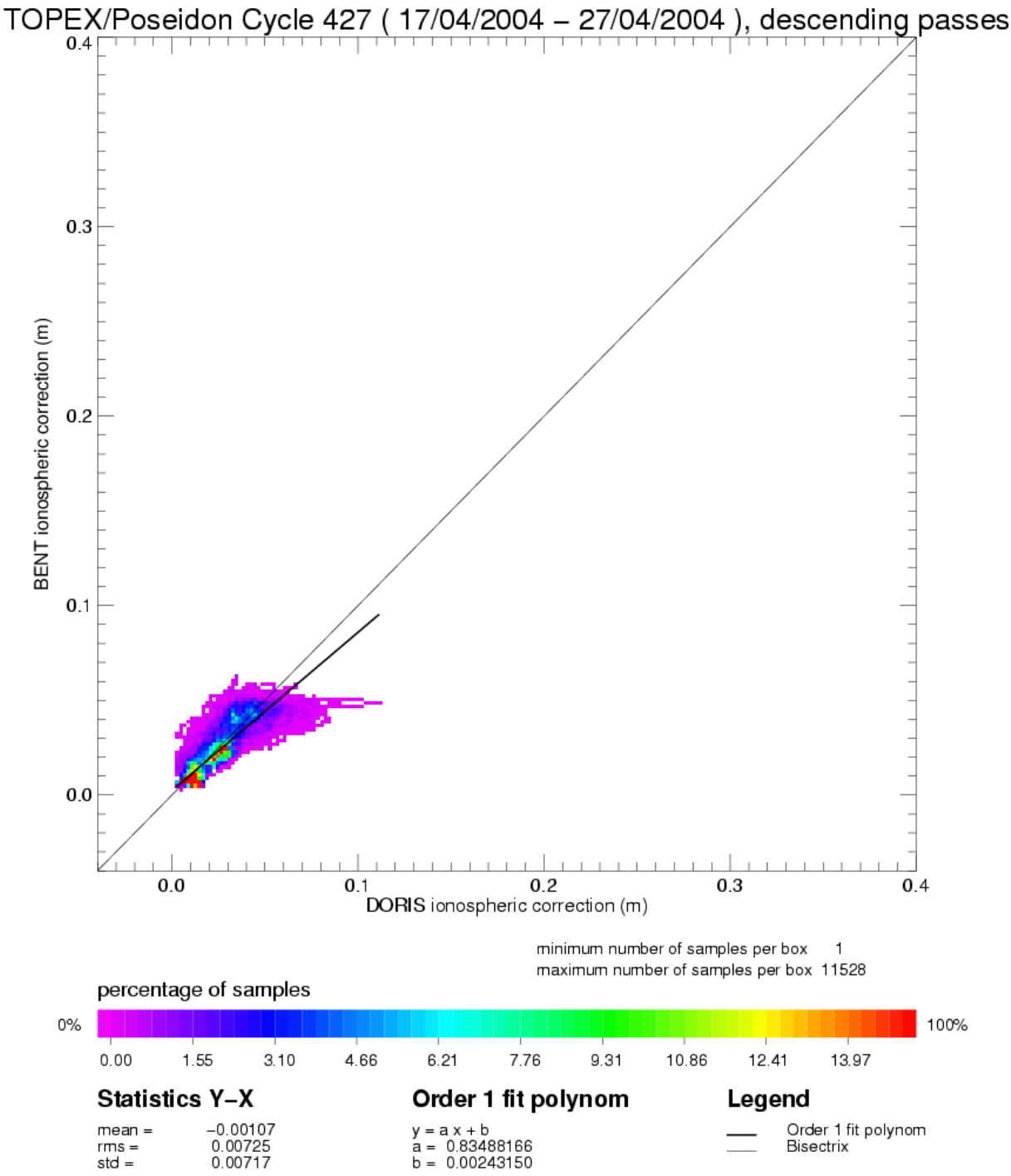



TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004), descending passes
DORIS ionospheric correction (m)
TOPEX ionospheric correction (m)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
minimum number of samples per box 1
maximum number of samples per box 4950
percentage of samples
0%
100%
0.00
1.55
3.10
4.66
6.21
7.76
9.31
10.86
12.41
13.97
Statistics Y–X
mean = −0.01383
rms = 0.01769
std = 0.01103
Order 1 fit polynom
y = a x + b
a = 0.61368728
b = −0.00030720
Legend
Order 1 fit polynom
Bisectrix

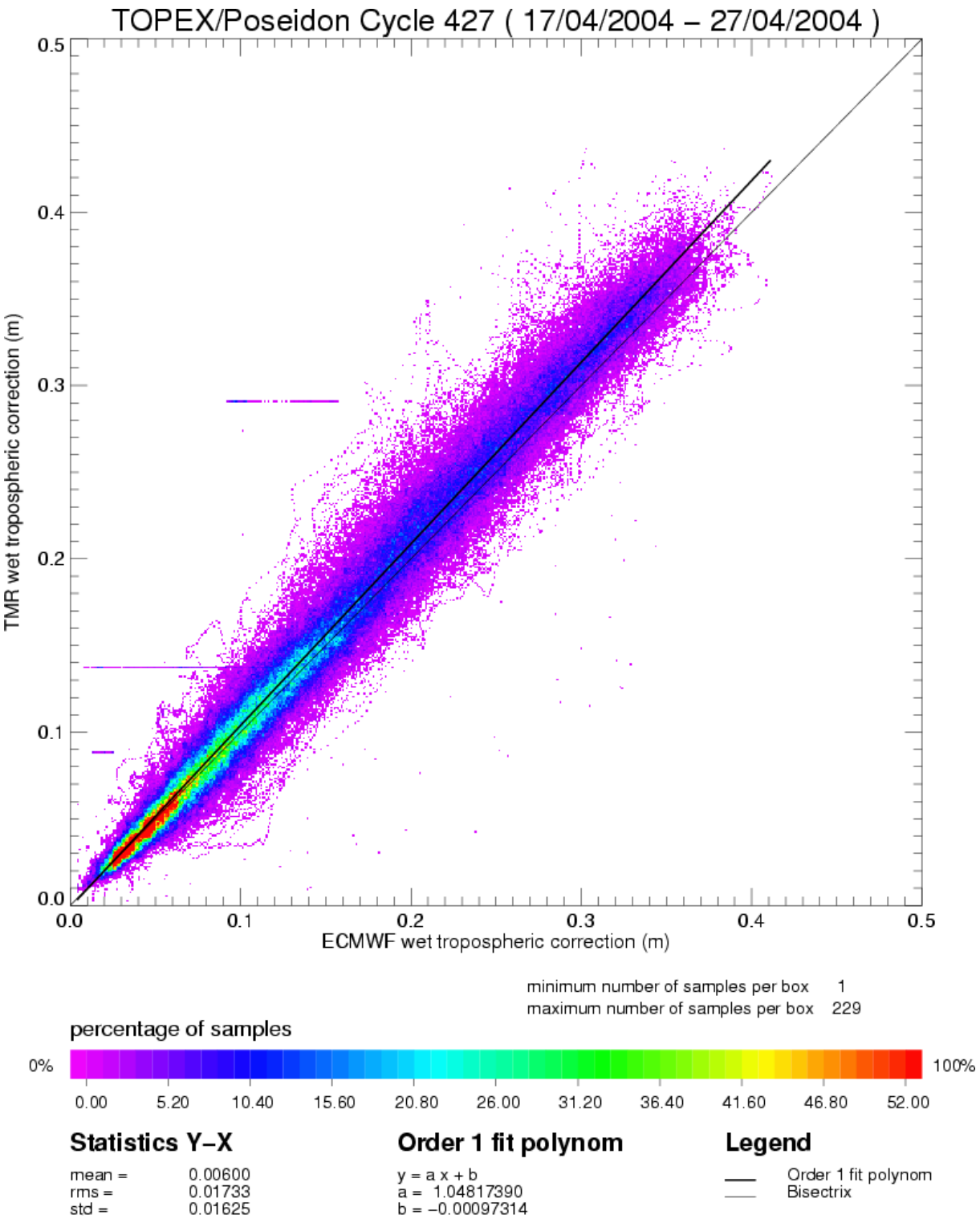

TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004), ascending passes
BENT ionospheric correction (m)
TOPEX ionospheric correction (m)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
minimum number of samples per box 1
maximum number of samples per box 567
percentage of samples
0%
100%
0.00
1.55
3.10
4.66
6.21
7.76
9.31
10.86
12.41
13.97
Statistics Y–X
mean = −0.00810
rms = 0.01773
std = 0.01578
Order 1 fit polynom
y = a x + b
a = 0.81242400
b = 0.00433405
Legend
Order 1 fit polynom
Bisectrix


TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004), descending passes
BENT ionospheric correction (m)
TOPEX ionospheric correction (m)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
minimum number of samples per box 1
maximum number of samples per box 3512
percentage of samples
0%
100%
0.00
1.55
3.10
4.66
6.21
7.76
9.31
10.86
12.41
13.97
Statistics Y–X
mean = −0.01538
rms = 0.01949
std = 0.01196
Order 1 fit polynom
y = a x + b
a = 0.55602467
b = 0.00037739
Legend
Order 1 fit polynom
Bisectrix

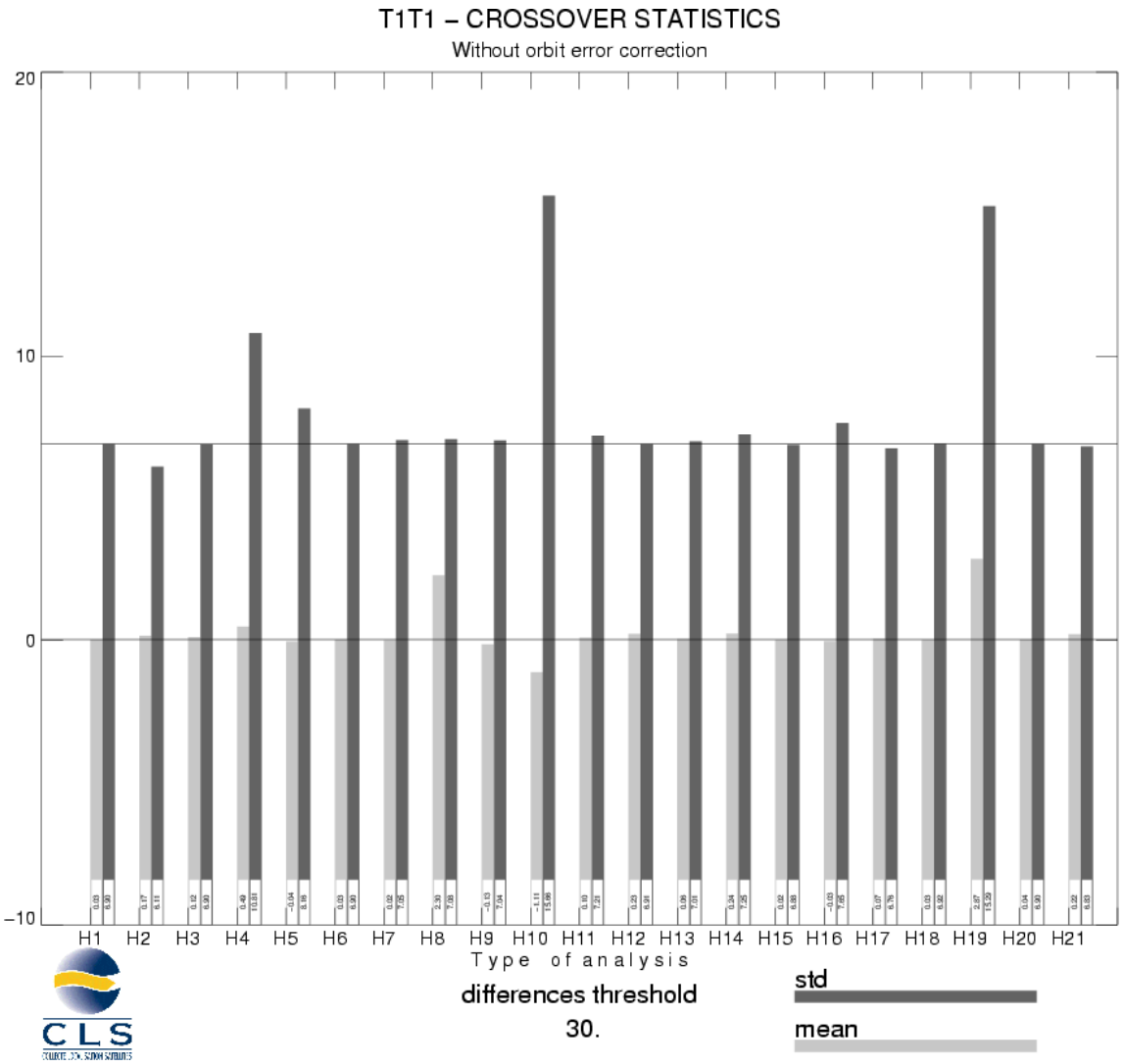

TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004), ascending passes
BENT ionospheric correction (m)
DORIS ionospheric correction (m)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
minimum number of samples per box 1
maximum number of samples per box 1374
percentage of samples
0%
100%
0.00
1.55
3.10
4.66
6.21
7.76
9.31
10.86
12.41
13.97
Statistics Y–X
mean = 0.00385
rms = 0.01413
std = 0.01360
Order 1 fit polynom
y = a x + b
a = 0.89280862
b = 0.00967560
Legend
Order 1 fit polynom
Bisectrix


TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 427 (17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004), descending passes
BENT ionospheric correction (m)
DORIS ionospheric correction (m)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
minimum number of samples per box 1
maximum number of samples per box 11528
percentage of samples
0%
100%
0.00
1.55
3.10
4.66
6.21
7.76
9.31
10.86
12.41
13.97
Statistics Y–X
mean = −0.00107
rms = 0.00725
std = 0.00717
Order 1 fit polynom
y = a x + b
a = 0.83488166
b = 0.00243150
Legend
Order 1 fit polynom
Bisectrix

3.6 Wet tropospheric corection



3.7 Crossover statistics



SSH = Corrected sea surface height	SSH with FES99 tide model instead of GOT99
SSH = Corrected sea surface height with orbit error	SSH with FES02 tide model instead of GOT99
SSH without dry thopospheric correction	SSH with CSR3 tide model instead of GOT99
SSH without inverse barometer correction	SSH with GOT002 tide model instead of GOT99
SSH without wet topospheric correction	SSH without BM4 SSB correction
SSH with corrected tropo instead of TMR tropo	SSH with no–parametric SSB correction instead of BM4 SSB correction
SSH with ECMWF tropo instead of TMR tropo	SSH with BM3 SSB correction instead of BM4 SSB correction
SSH without ionospheric correction filtered	SSH without solid earth tide correction
SSH with DORIS iono correction instead of iono filtered	SSH without polar tide correction
SSH without GOT99 tide model	SSH = Corrected sea surface height with CNES orbit
SSH with FES95 tide model instead of GOT99	

T1T1 – CROSSOVER STATISTICS

Without orbit error correction

SSH = Corrected sea surface height

RAPPEL DES SELECTIONS

Type de points de croisement: T1T1

Zone geographique (deg): –90 / 90 , 0 / 360

Seuil sur les ecarts d'analyse 0.00 (moy) 30.00 (seuil)

Selection(s) sur les champs :

CL Arc 1 : =INTERP_SPLN
CL Arc 2 : =INTERP_SPLN
Seuil Min +: 0.0000000
Seuil Max : 0.0000000

Selection(s) sur les ecarts :

Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : –29.2900

Valeur maximale : 28.8500

Difference Max – Min: 58.1400

Nombre de points lus: 5015

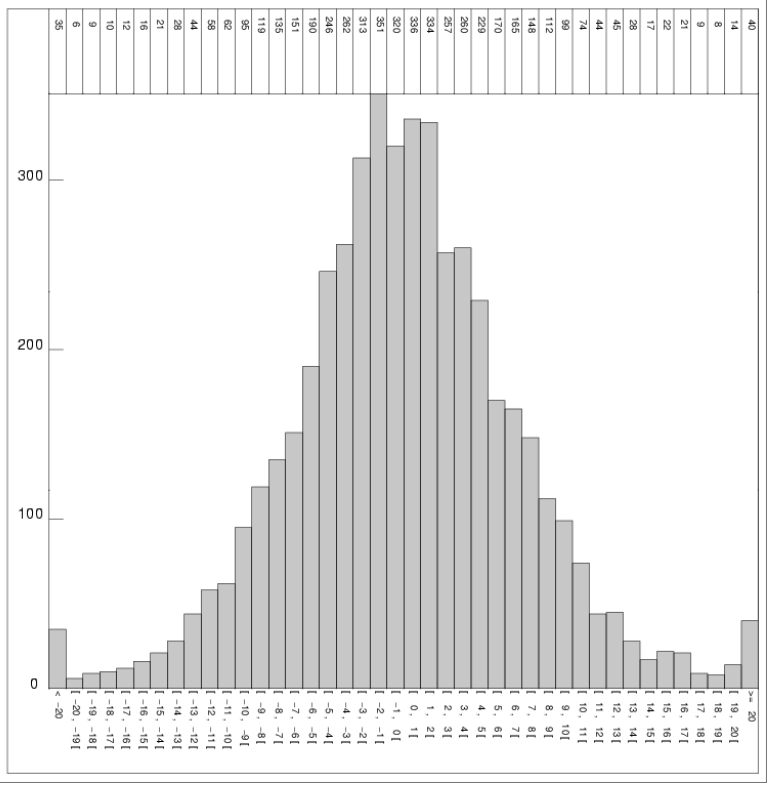
Nombre de points selectionnes: 4915

Moyenne : 0.0347510

Ecart–type : 6.90446

Moyenne Quadratique : 6.90455

CLS Space Oceanography Division



T1T1 – CROSSOVER STATISTICS

With orbit error correction

SSH = Corrected sea surface height

RAPPEL DES SELECTIONS

Type de points de croisement: T1T1

Zone geographique (deg): –90 / 90 , 0 / 360

Seuil sur les ecarts d'analyse 0.00 (moy) 30.00 (seuil)

Selection(s) sur les champs :

CL Arc 1 : =INTERP_SPLN
CL Arc 2 : =INTERP_SPLN
Seuil Min +: 0.0000000
Seuil Max : 0.0000000

Selection(s) sur les ecarts :

Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : –29.6800

Valeur maximale : 28.9000

Difference Max – Min: 58.5800

Nombre de points lus: 5015

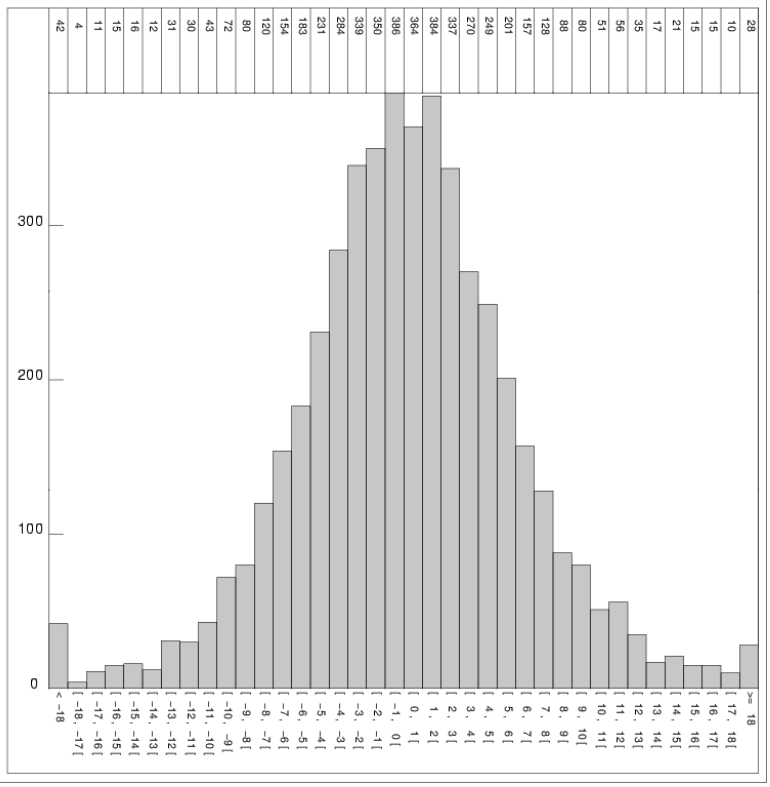
Nombre de points selectionnes: 4909

Moyenne : 0.169747

Ecart–type : 6.11212

Moyenne Quadratique : 6.11448

CLS Space Oceanography Division



T1T1 – CROSSOVER STATISTICS

SSH, BATHY < –1000 m, VAR_OCE < 20 cm, LAT [–50°,+50]

SSH = Corrected sea surface height before orbit error

RAPPEL DES SELECTIONS

Type de points de croisement: T1T1

Zone geographique (deg): –50 / 50 , 0 / 360

Seuil sur les ecarts d'analyse : aucun

Selection(s) sur les champs :

CL Arc 1 : =BATHY
CL Arc 2 : =BATHY
Seuil Min : aucun
Seuil Max : –100000.00

CL Arc 1 : =VAR_OCE
CL Arc 2 : =VAR_OCE
Seuil Min : aucun
Seuil Max : 20.000000

[...]

Selection(s) sur les ecarts :

Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : –51.7600

Valeur maximale : 28.5500

Difference Max – Min: 80.3100

Nombre de points lus: 2619

Nombre de points selectionnes: 2393

Moyenne : –0.380978

Ecart–type : 6.02795

Moyenne Quadratique : 6.03998

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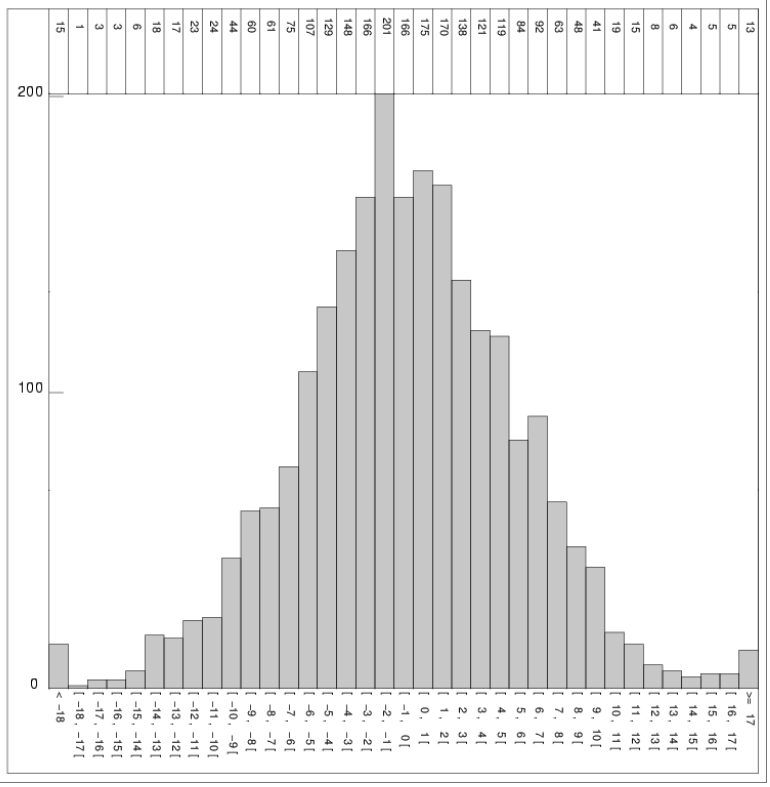
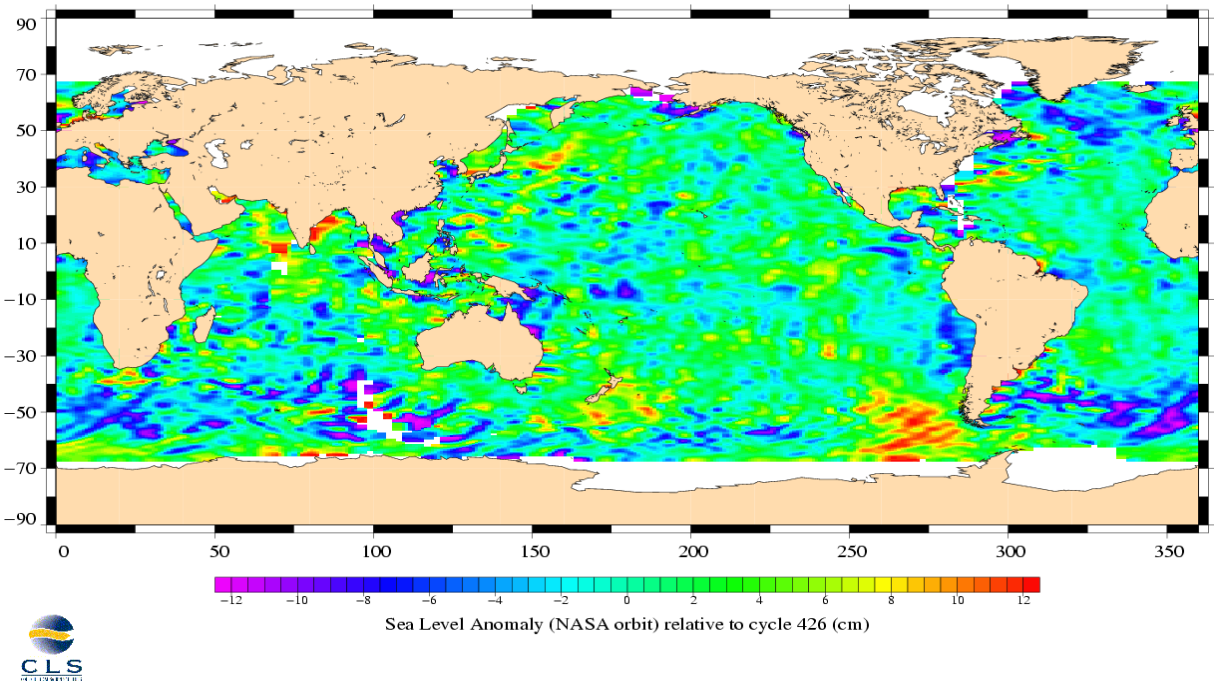


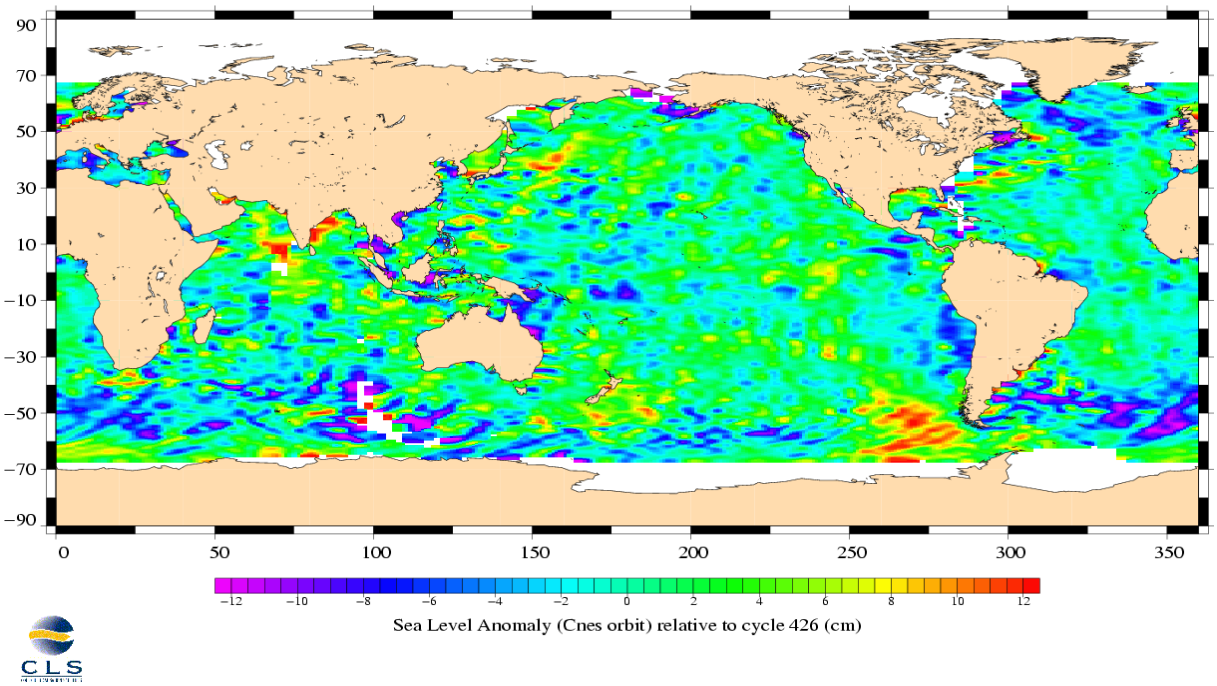
3.8 SSH variability

3.8.1 Sea Level Anomaly

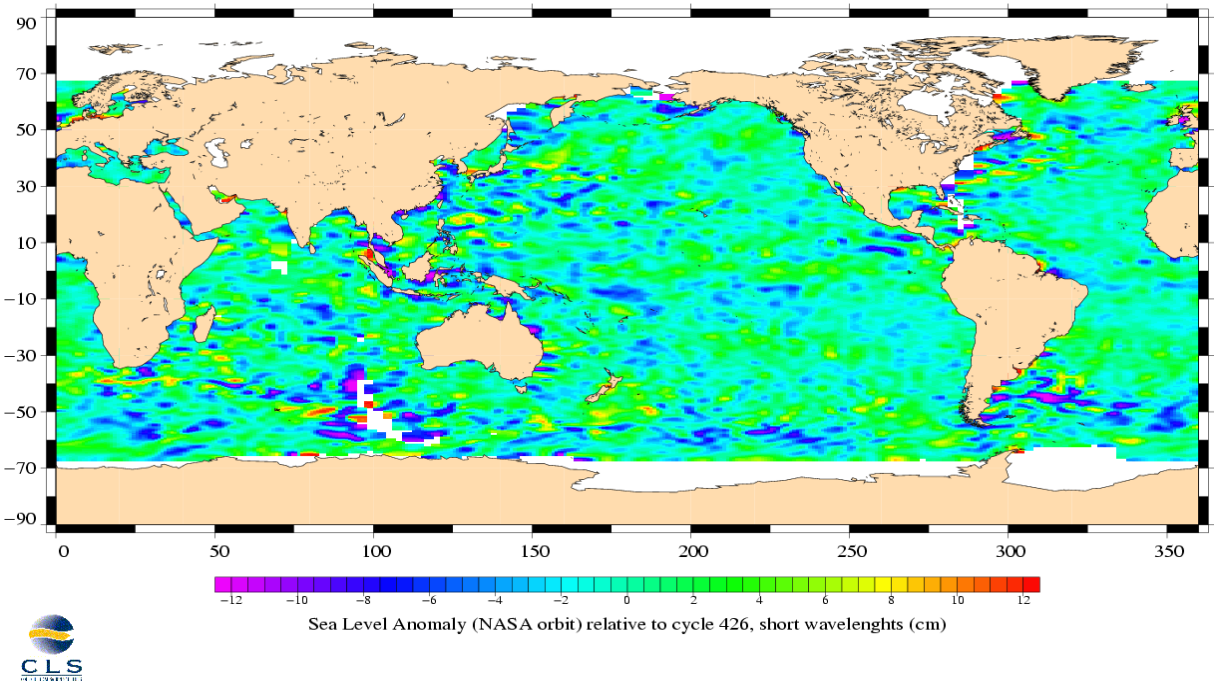
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004



TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004

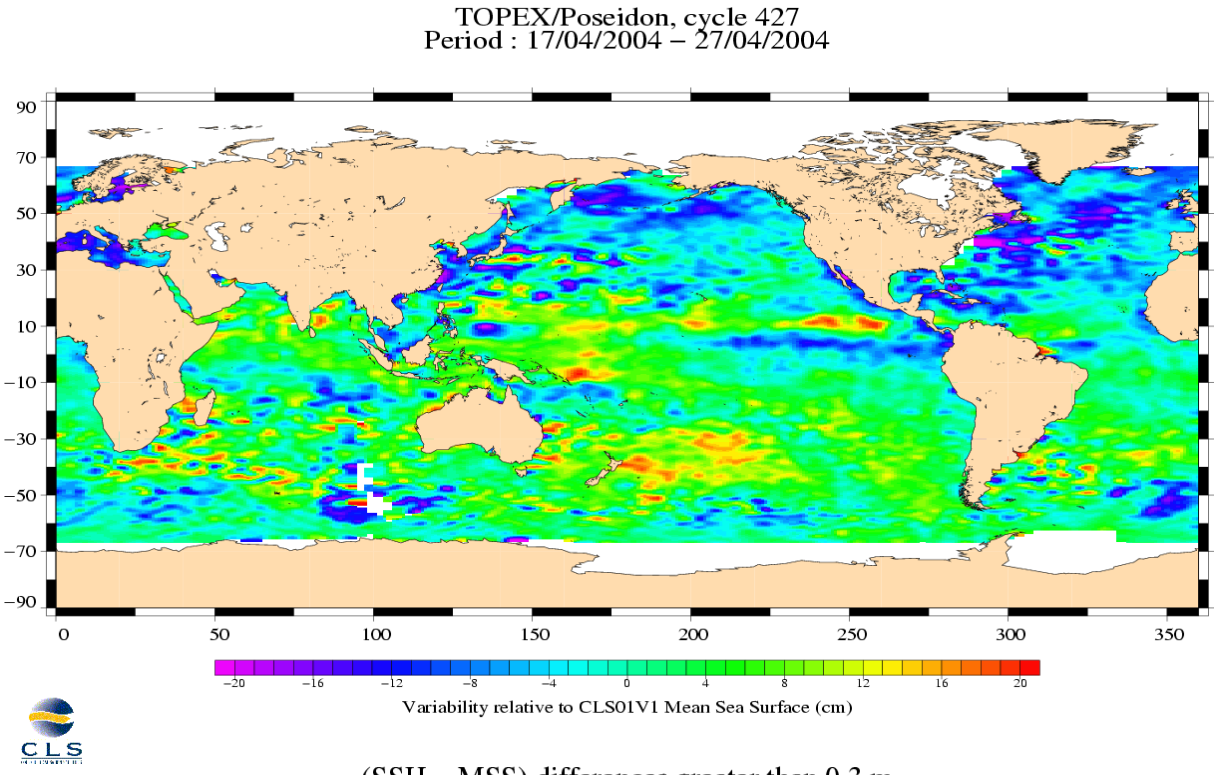


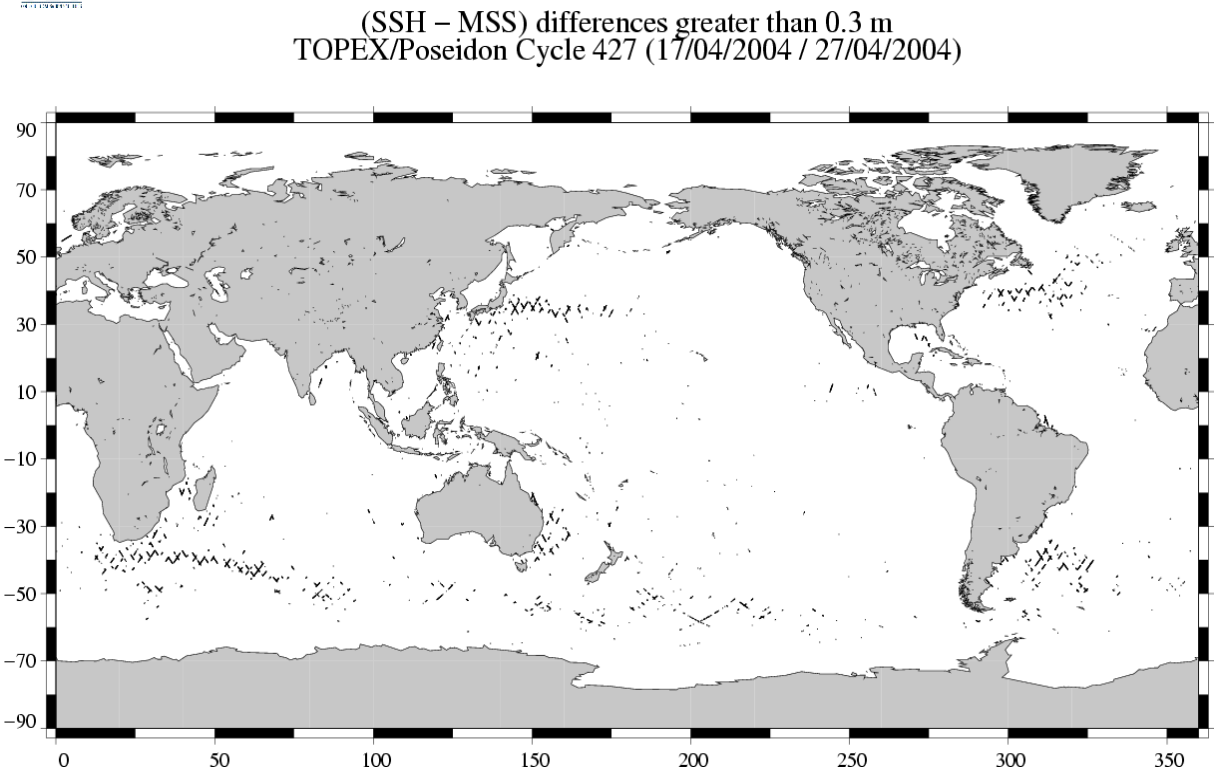
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004



3.8.2 Comparison to a precise Mean Sea Surface

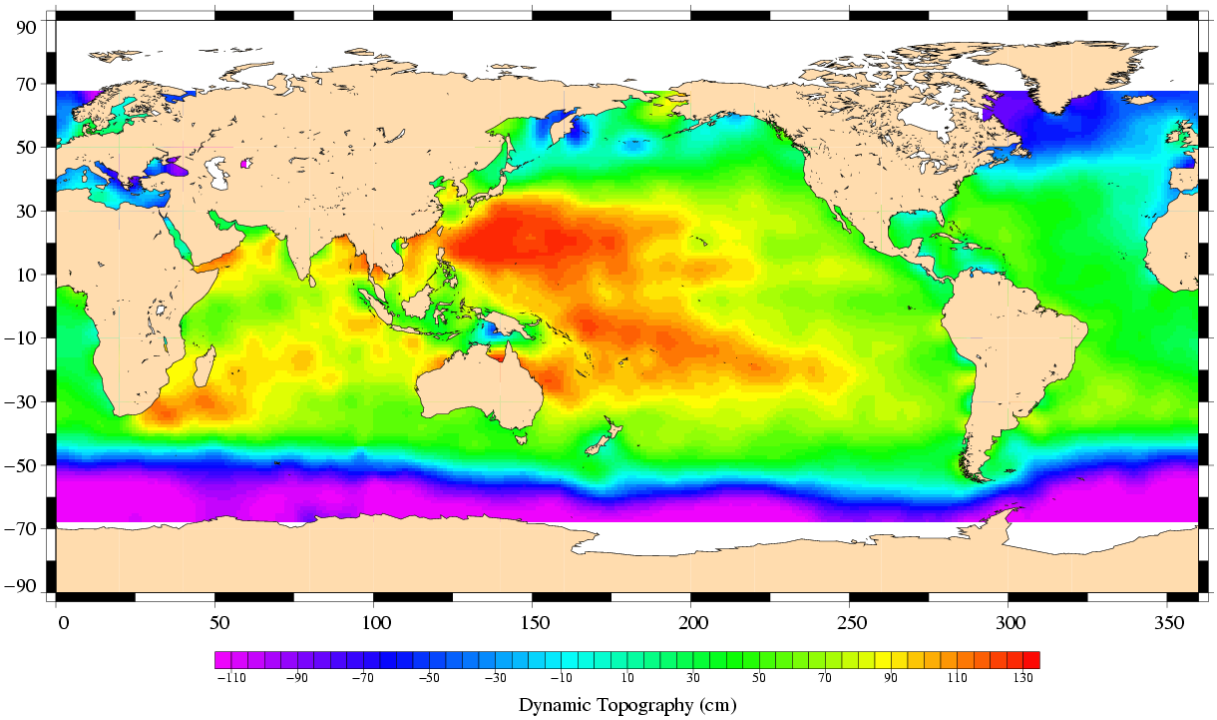
The CLS (2001) MSS model is used as a reference to compute SLA. The two following maps respectively show the map of Topex SLA relative to the MSS and differences higher than a 30 cm threshold (after centering the data). The latter figure shows that higher differences are located in high ocean variability areas, as expected.





3.9 Dynamic topography

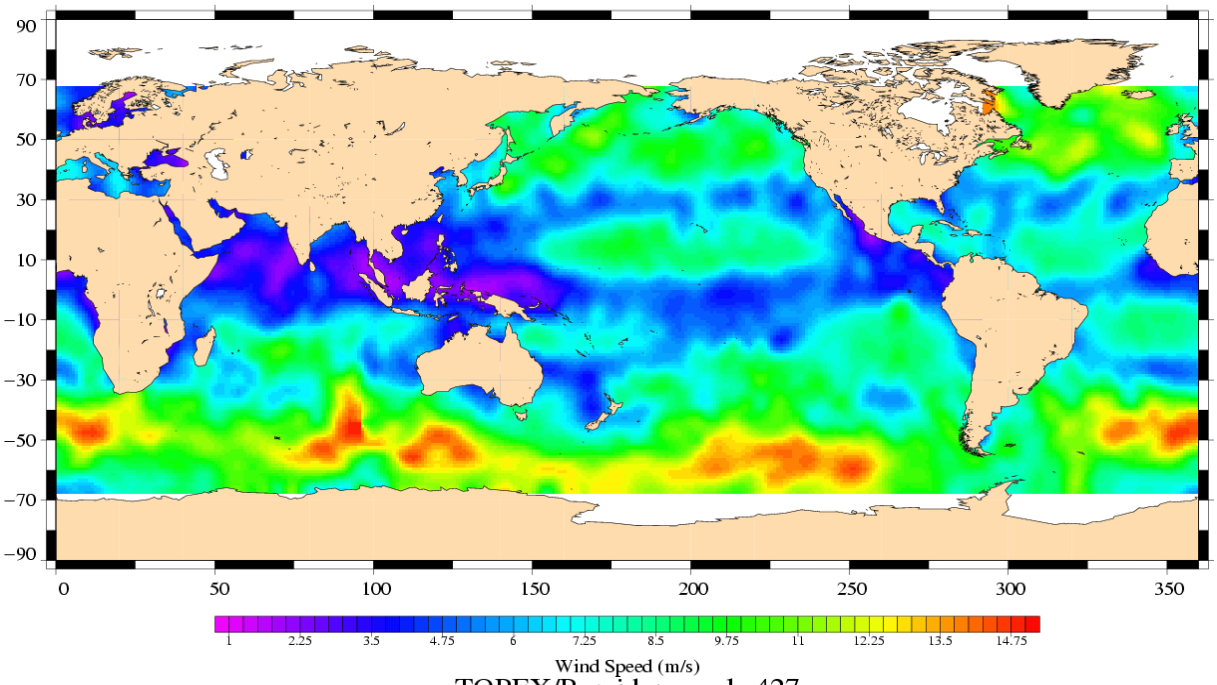
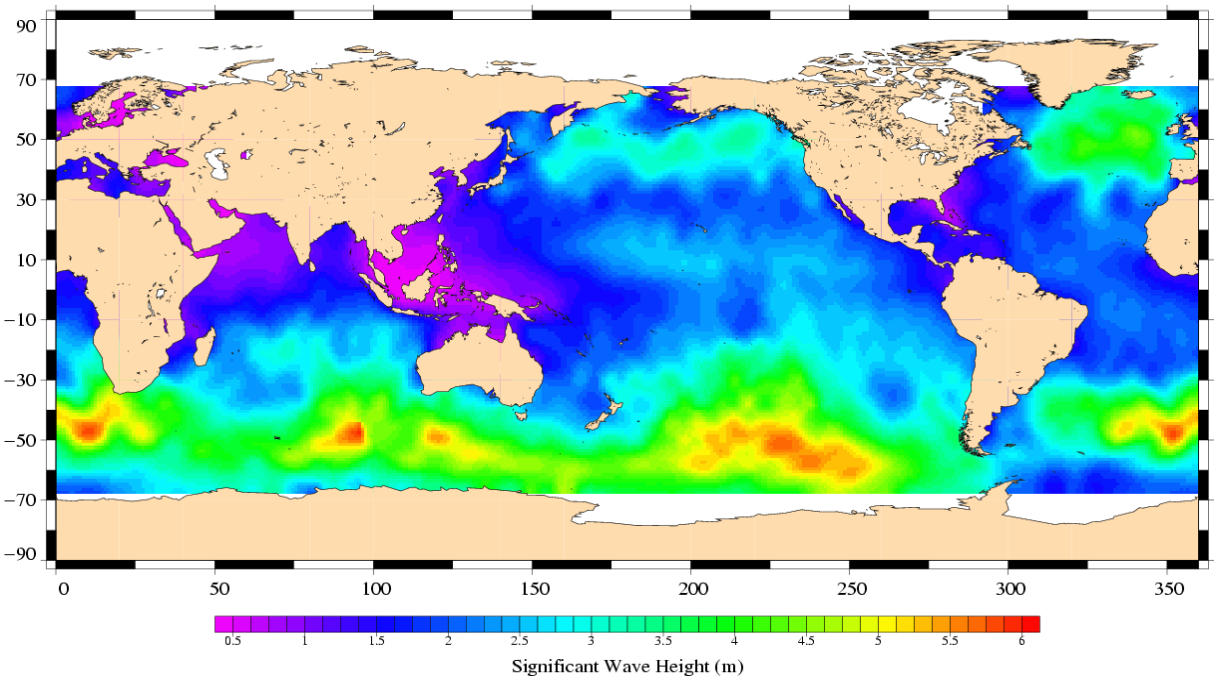
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004



3.10 Wind and wave maps

These two figures show wind and wave estimations derived from 10 days of altimeter measurements.

TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004



TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 427
Period : 17/04/2004 – 27/04/2004