



TOPEX/Poseidon MGRD Quality Assessment Report

Cycle 439

14-08-2004 24-08-2004

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SALP-RP-P2-EX-21120-CLS439

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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 6.35 cm rms, and the standard deviation of Sea Level Anomalies (SLA) relative to a Mean Sea Surface is 9.25 cm.

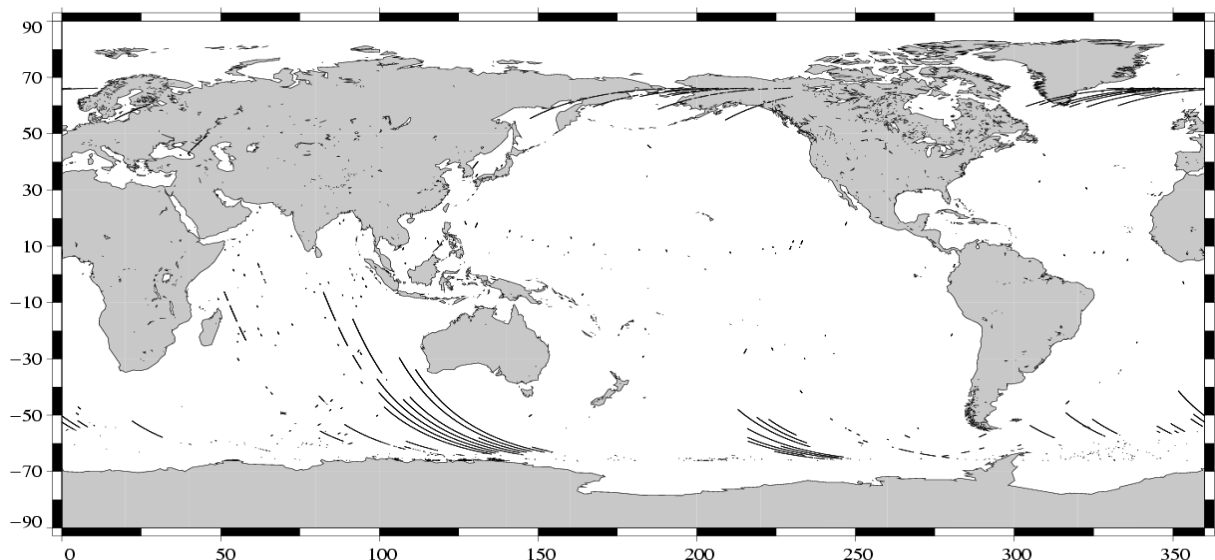
2.2 Warnings and recommendations

- 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 69 is missing probably due to recorder anomalies.
- 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 :

 - 3.20% of the measurements are removed by the TMR correction criterion (see the following figure).
 - Pass 75 is totally removed by the radiometer earth flag.
 - 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 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)



3 CALVAL main results

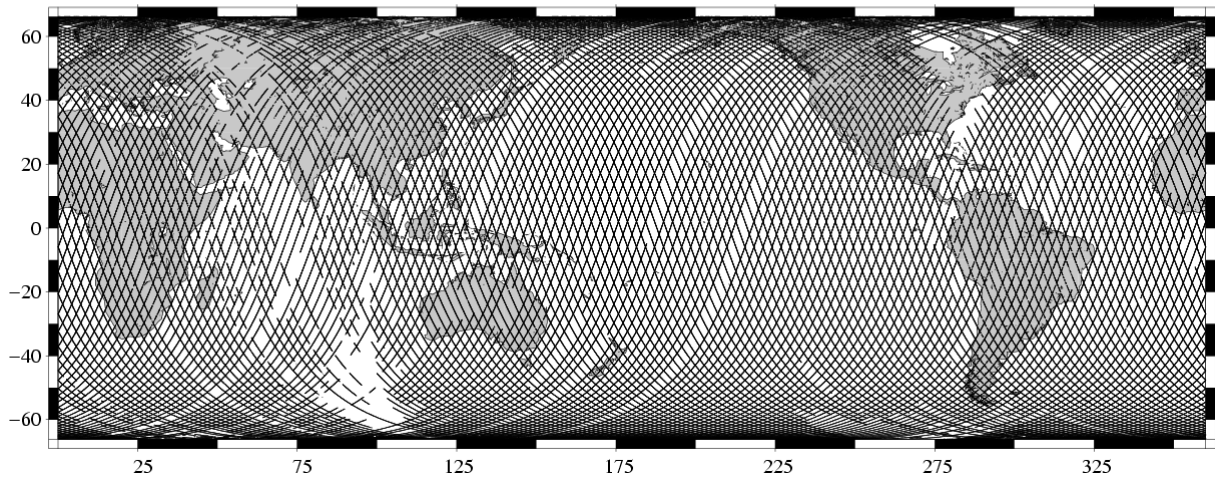
This section presents results that illustrate data quality during this cycle. These verification products are produced operationally so that they allow systematic monitoring of the main relevant parameters.

3.1 Missing measurements

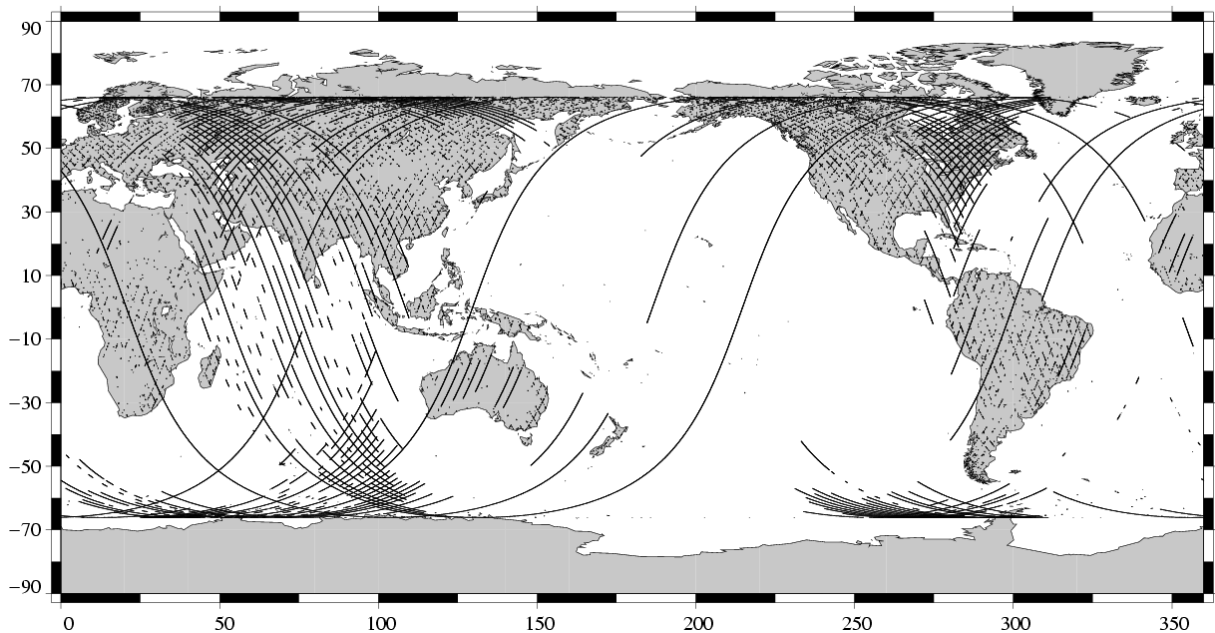
667445 altimeter measurements are present, and 127156 are missing.

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 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)



Missing measurements
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)



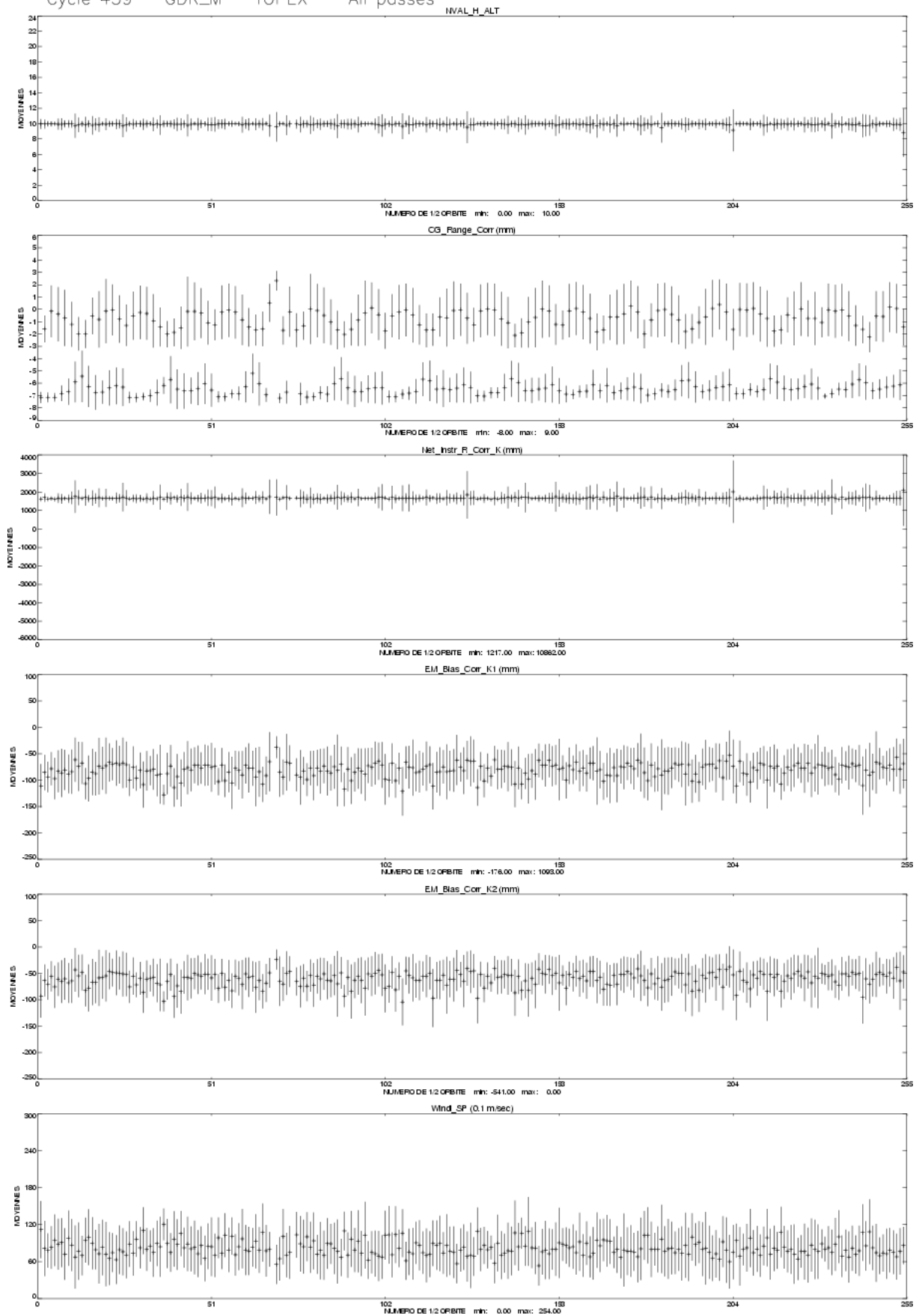
3.2 M-GDR quality flags

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

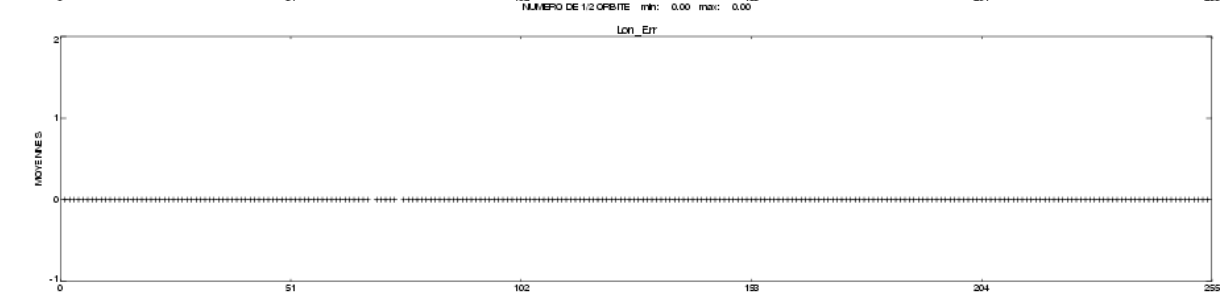
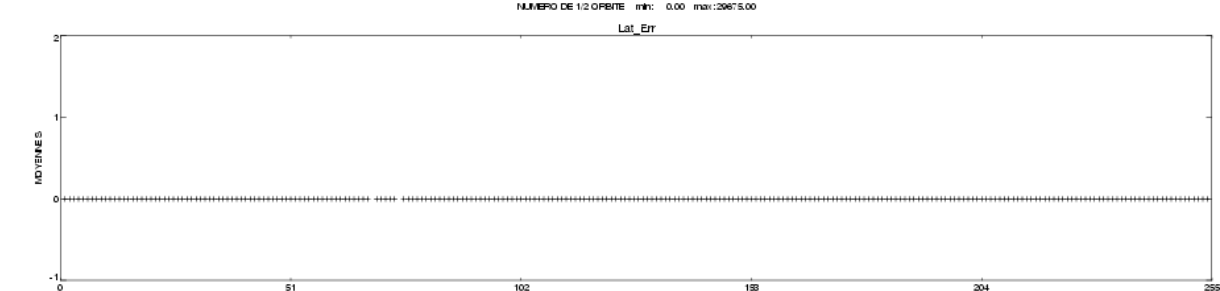
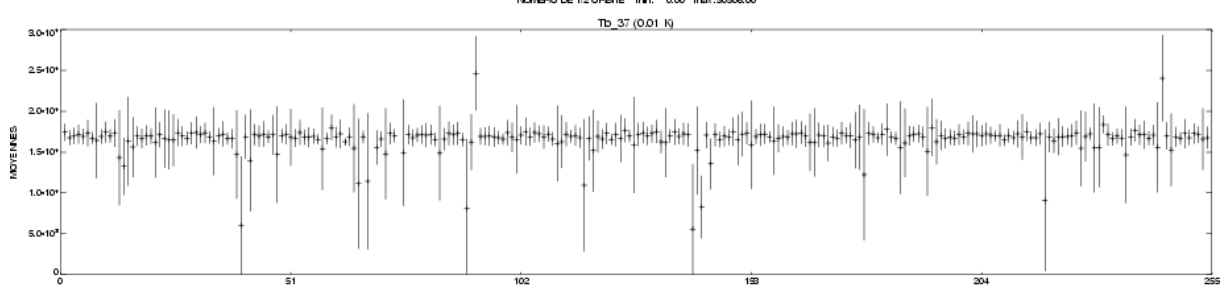
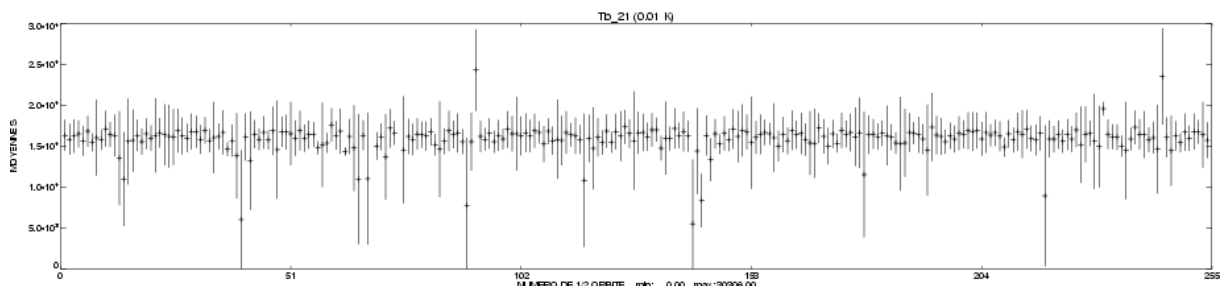
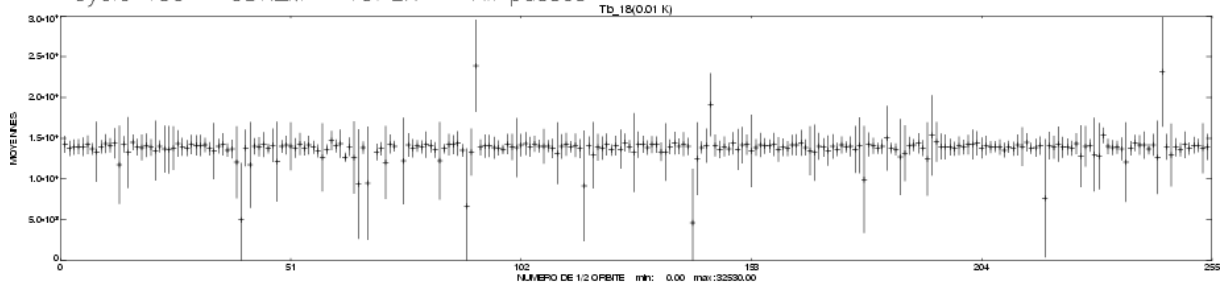
Name	Description	% bad
Geo_Bad_1	altimeter land flag	24.91
Geo_Bad_1	ice flag	8.33
Geo_Bad_1	radiometer land flag	27.15
Alt_Bad_1	conditions 1 altimeter	5.17
Alt_Bad_2	conditions 2 altimeter	4.99
Geo_Bad_2	rain (liquid water in excess)	6.48
Geo_Bad_2	less than 4 points for CSR3.0 tide calculation	0.44
Geo_Bad_2	less than 4 points for FES95.2.1 tide calculation	3.00
TOPEX	TOPEX not valid	0.00
TMR	TMR not valid	0.00
TMR_Bad	Brightness temperatures not valid	6.06
DORIS	DORIS not valid	0.00

3.3 M-GDR parameter plots

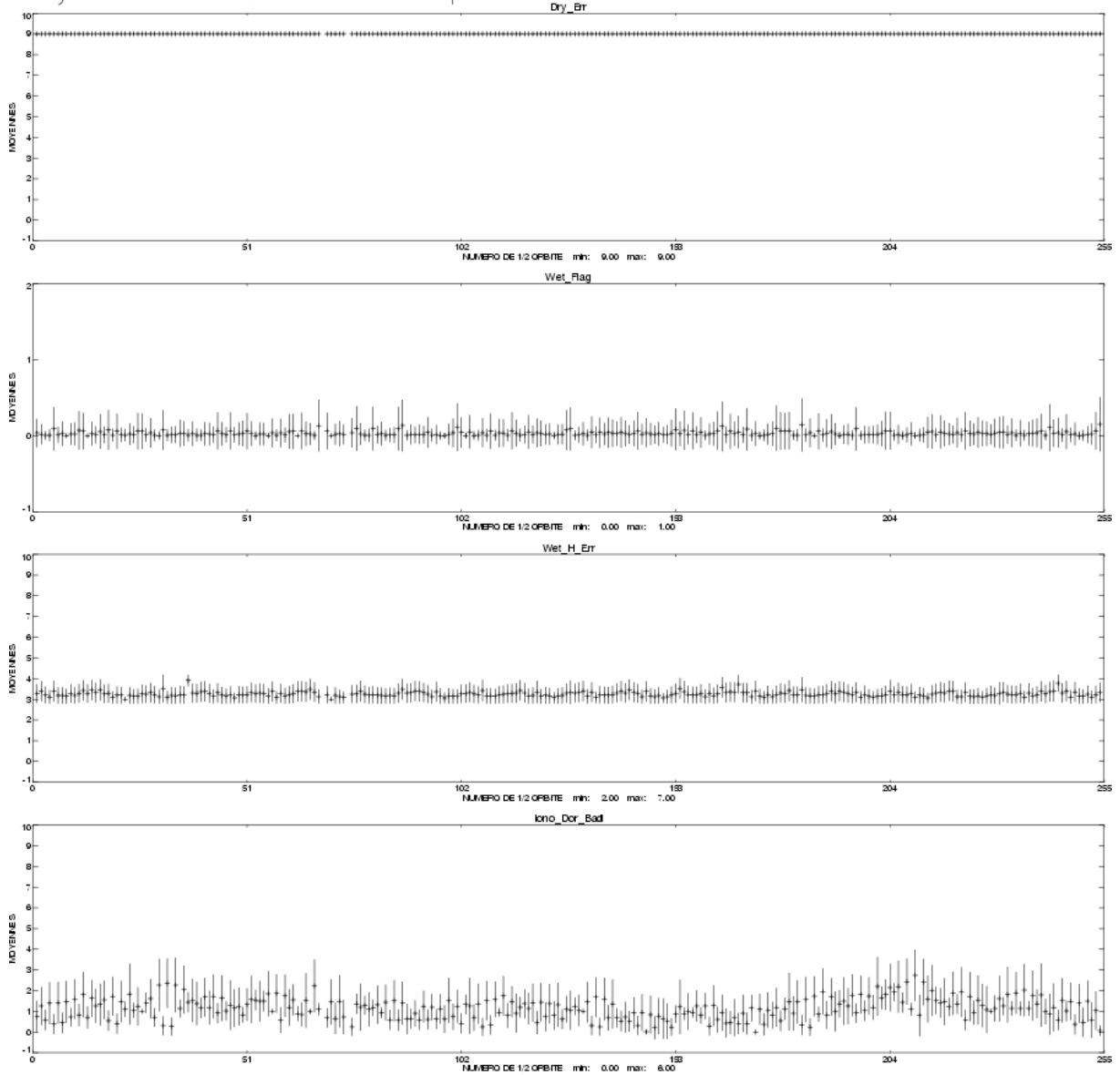
Cycle 439 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –



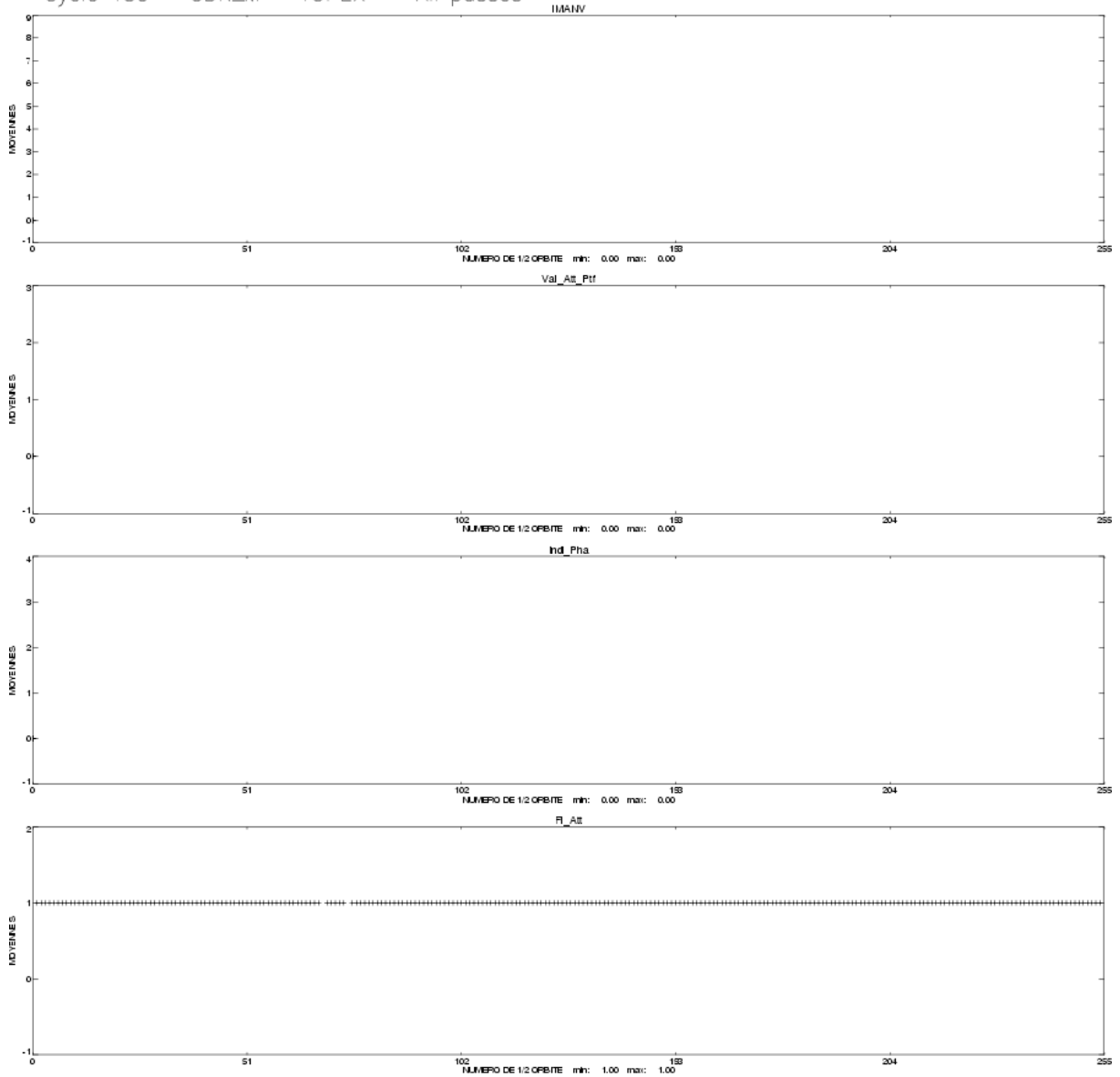
Cycle 439 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –

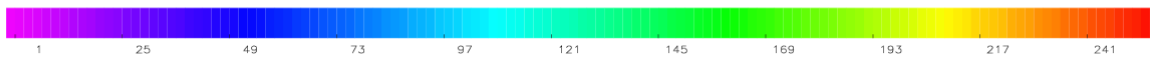
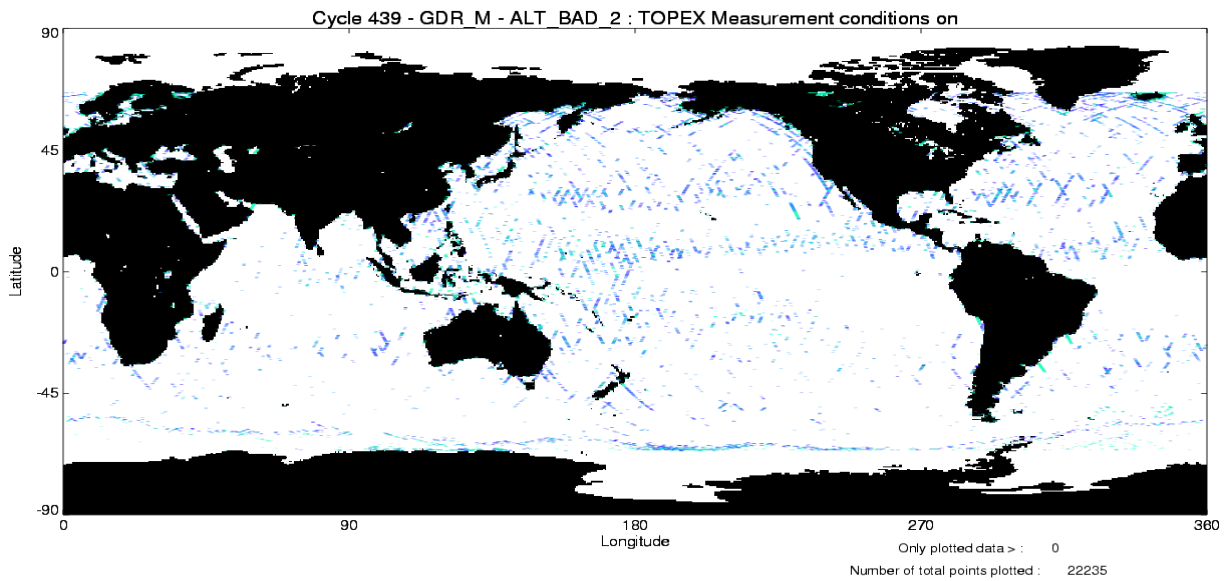
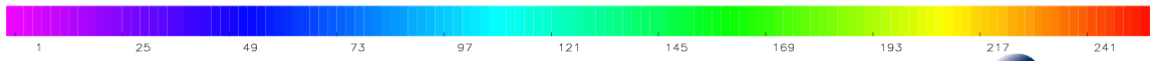
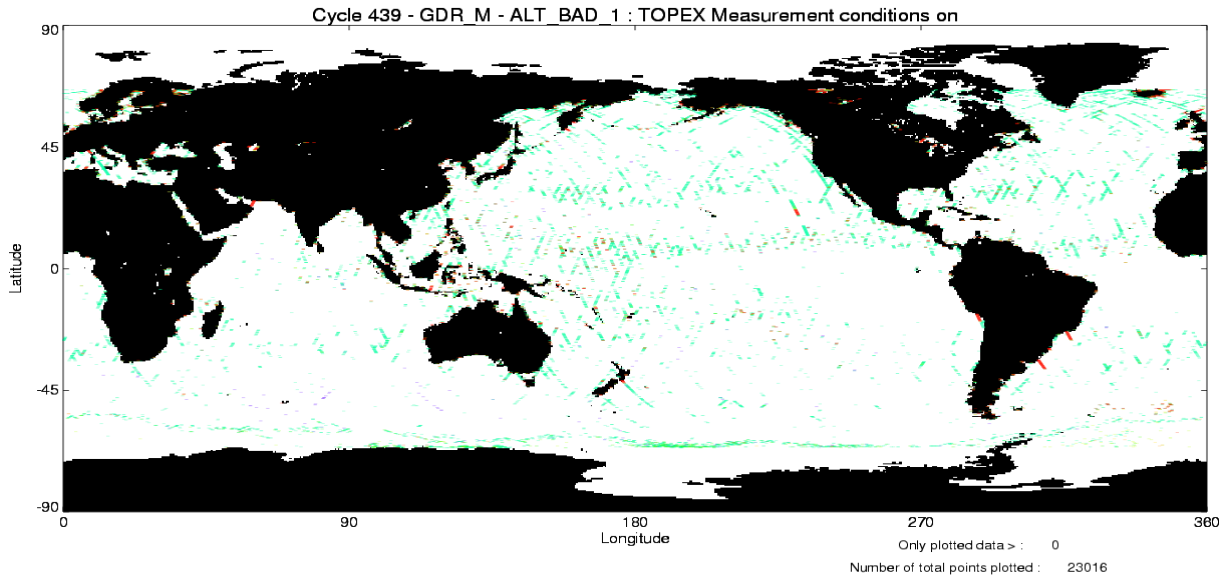


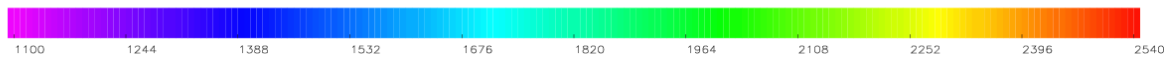
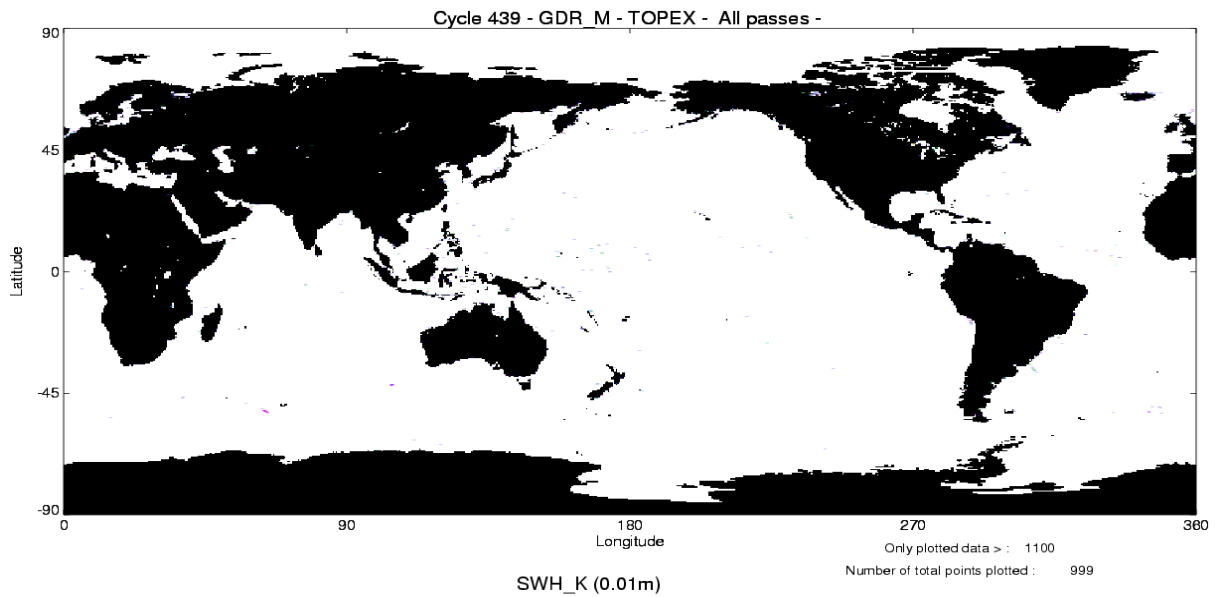
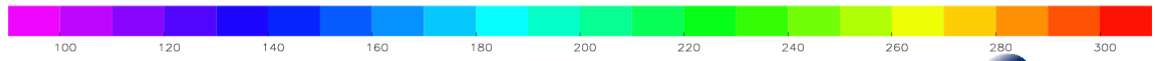
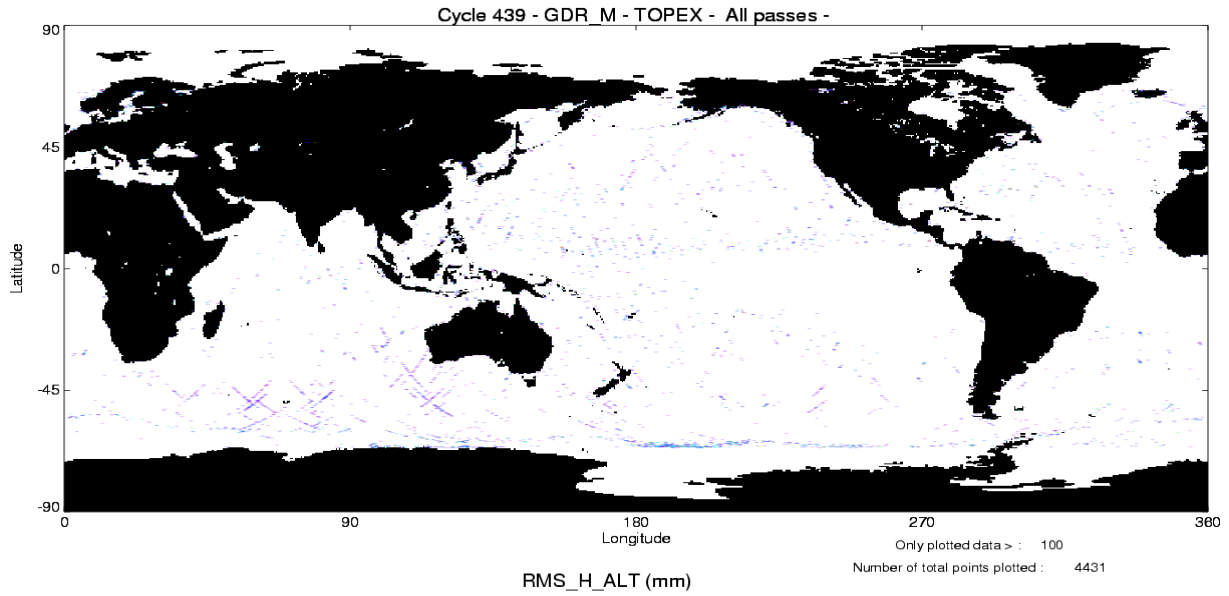
Cycle 439 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –

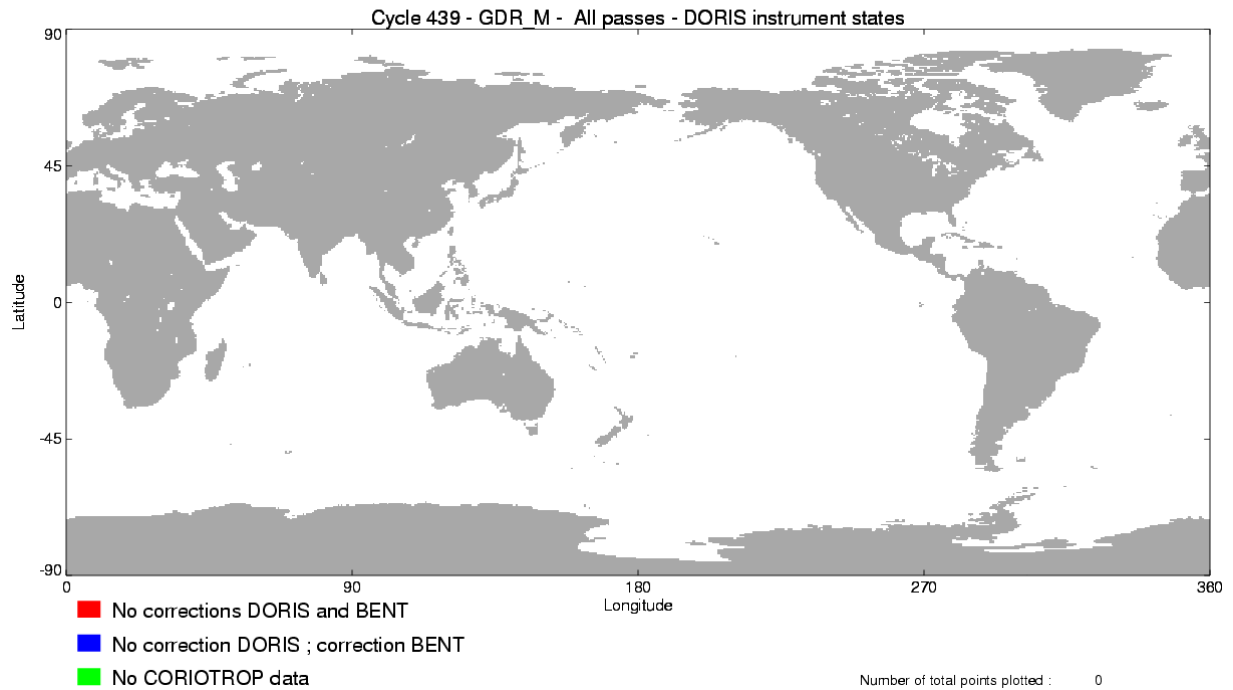


Cycle 439 – GDR_M – TOPEX – All passes –









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 measurements where the absolute value of the difference between the TMR correction and the ECMWF model wet tropospheric correction is greater than 20 cm.

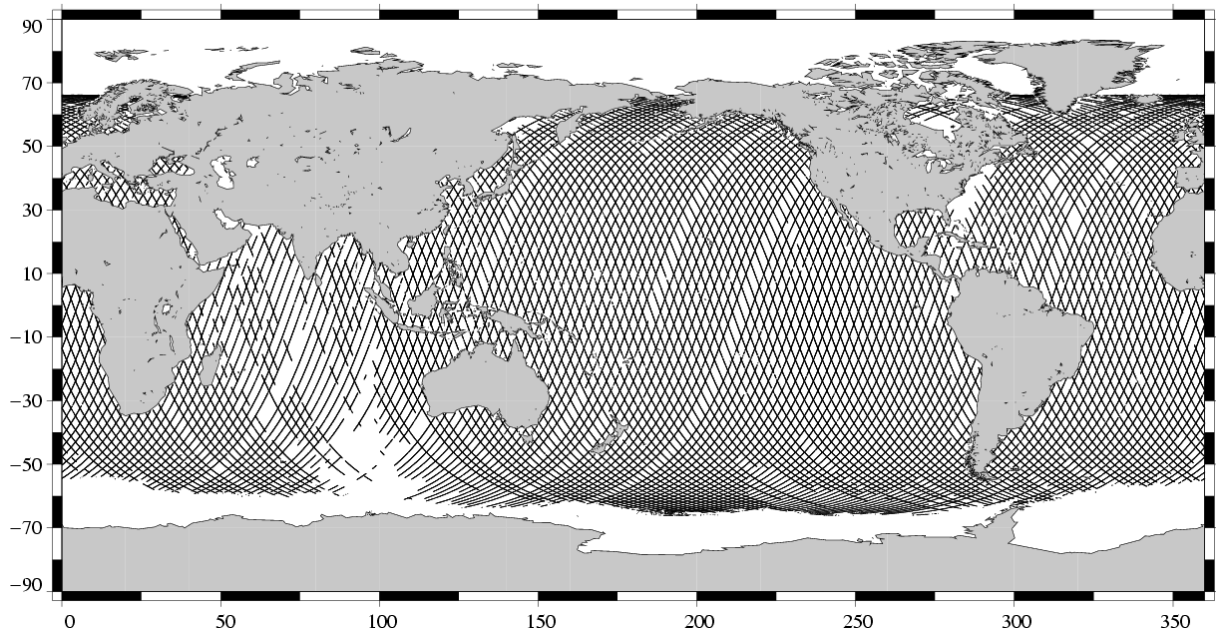
Probably due to the interpolation problem with the TMR, some measurements have radiometer land flag unset over land. This has no impact on the valid data because these measurements have been edited by the altimetric parameter criteria. Nevertheless, this anomaly leads to wrong statistics of the edited 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 (27.14 % of points removed) and ice flag (8.34 % of points removed).

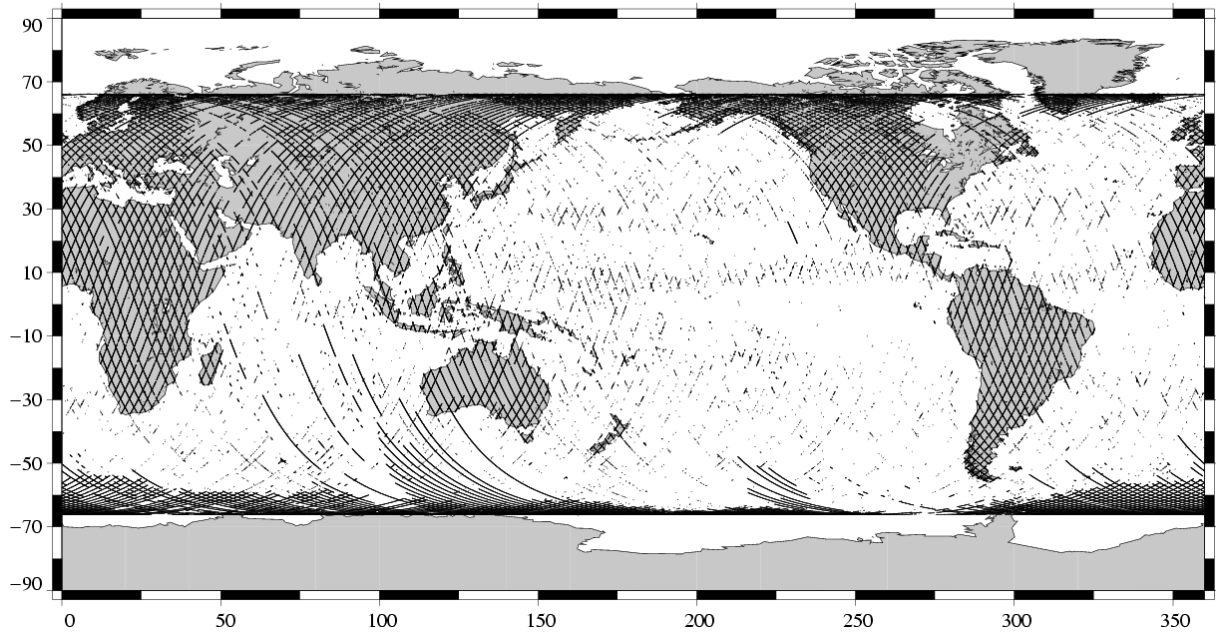
Parameters	Min Thres.	Max Thres.	Unit	Mean % removed in 1997	% removed
Sea surface height	-130.000	100.000	m	1.37	0.19
Number of 20/10Hz valid points Poseidon/TOPEX	5.000	-		1.37	0.31
Std. deviation of range	0.000	0.100	m	1.85	1.07
Off nadir angle from waveform	0.000	0.400	deg	1.36	3.41
Dry tropospheric 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	3.20
Ionospheric correction (Poseidon:Doris, TOPEX: Dual)	-0.400	0.040	m	0.00	0.33
Significant wave height	0.000	11.000	m	1.46	0.10
Sea state Bias	-0.500	0.000	m	1.39	0.28
Backscatter coefficient	7.000	30.000	dB	1.44	0.30
Ocean tide height	-5.000	5.000	m	0.01	0.13
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	0.29
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.

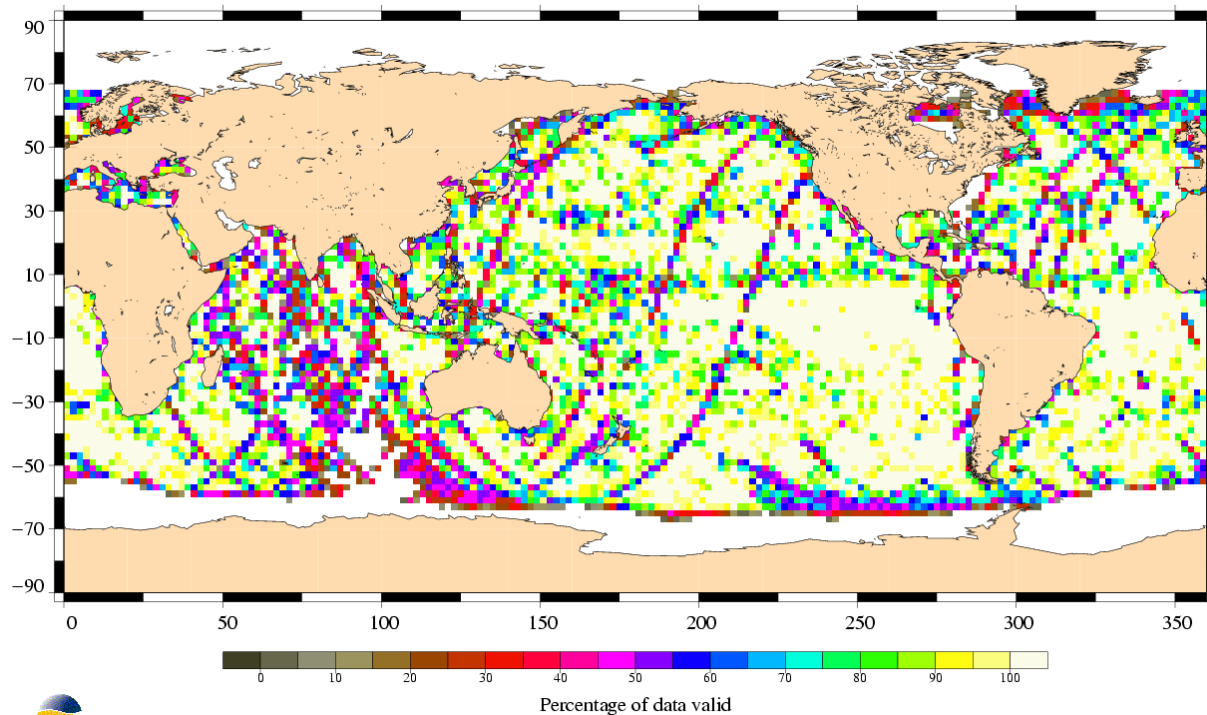
Valid data
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)



Edited measurements
TOPEX Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)

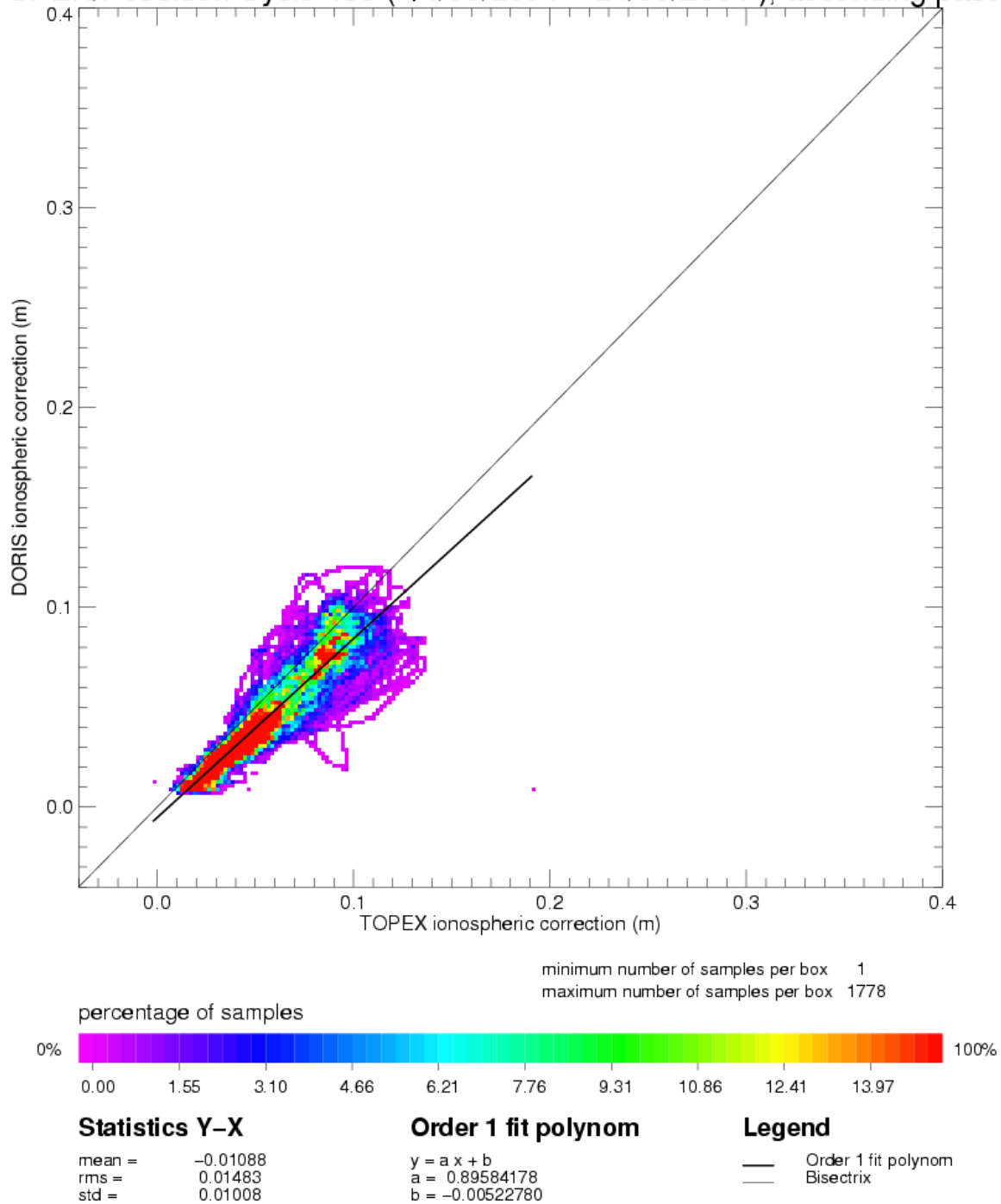


Percentage of valid data relative to the nominal pass
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)

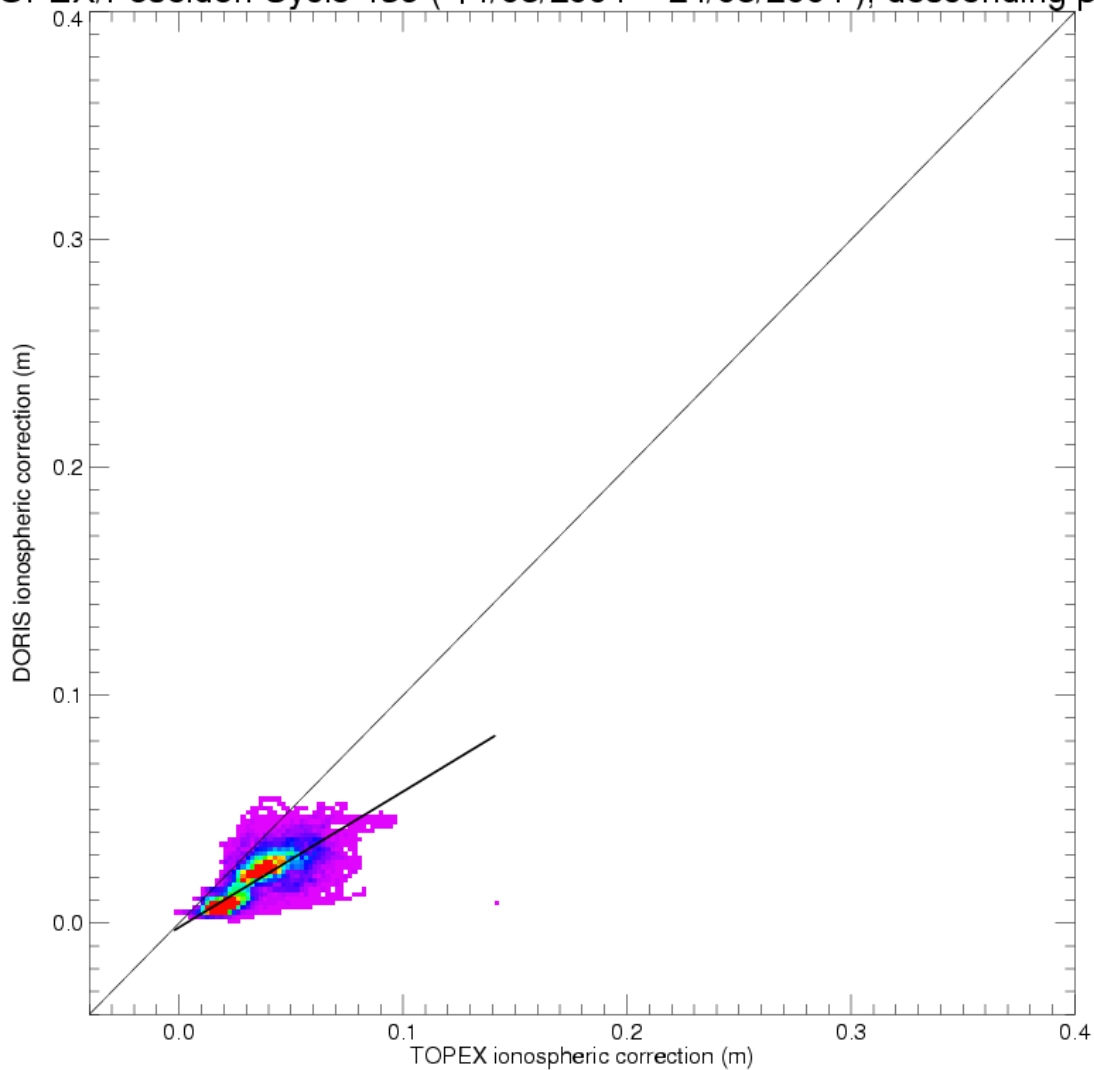


3.5 Ionospheric correction

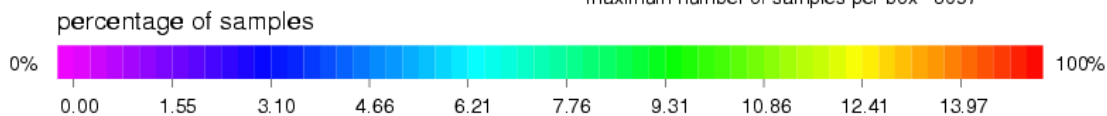
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), ascending passes



TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), descending passes



minimum number of samples per box 1
 maximum number of samples per box 8097



Statistics Y-X

mean = -0.01409
 rms = 0.01618
 std = 0.00796

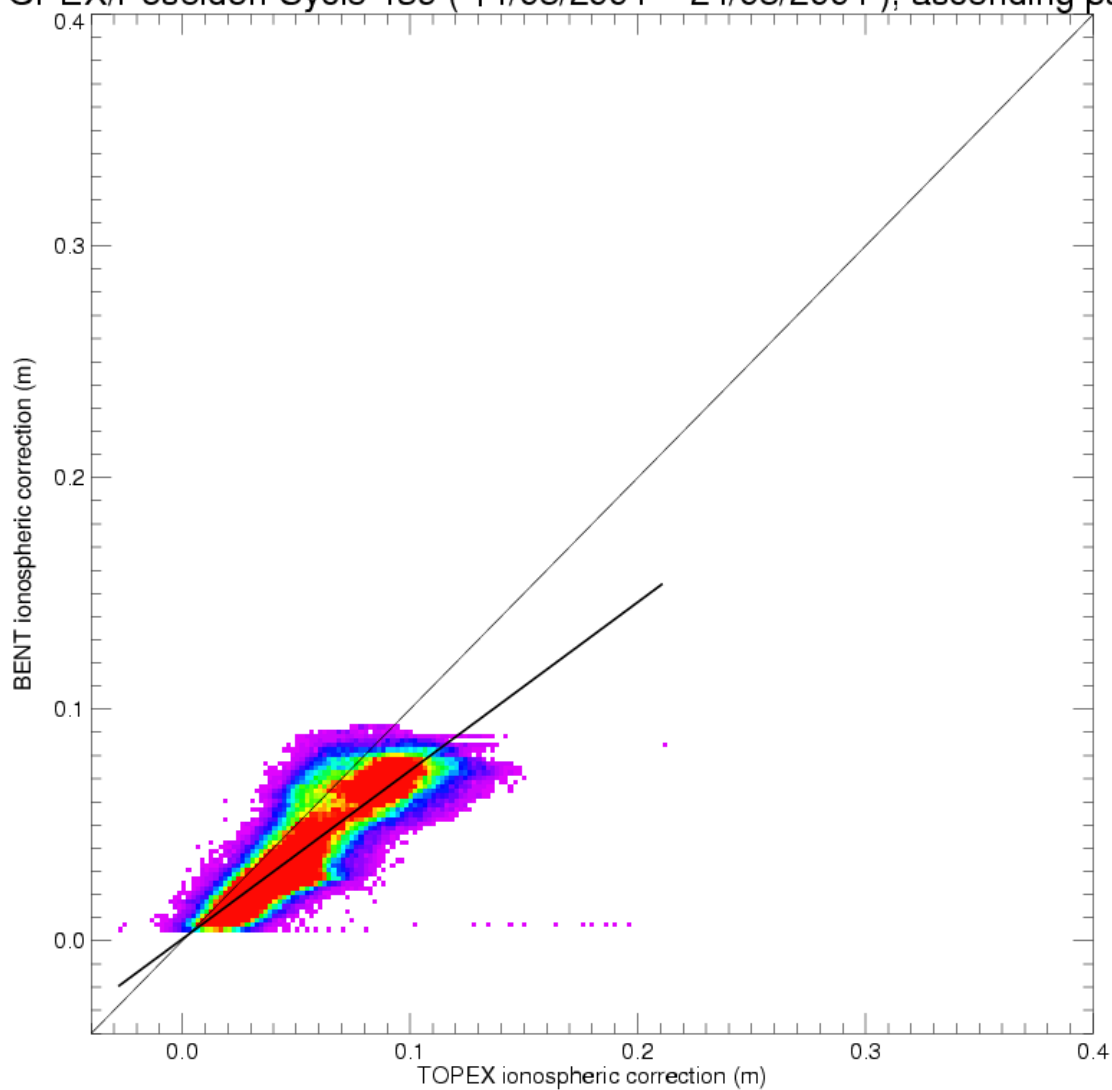
Order 1 fit polynom

$y = a x + b$
 $a = 0.59647137$
 $b = -0.00184357$

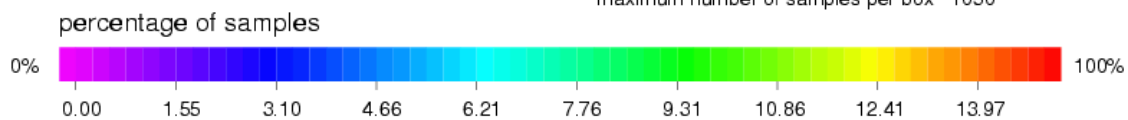
Legend

— Order 1 fit polynom
 — Bisectrix

TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), ascending passes



minimum number of samples per box 1
 maximum number of samples per box 1050



Statistics Y-X

mean = -0.01416
 rms = 0.01902
 std = 0.01270

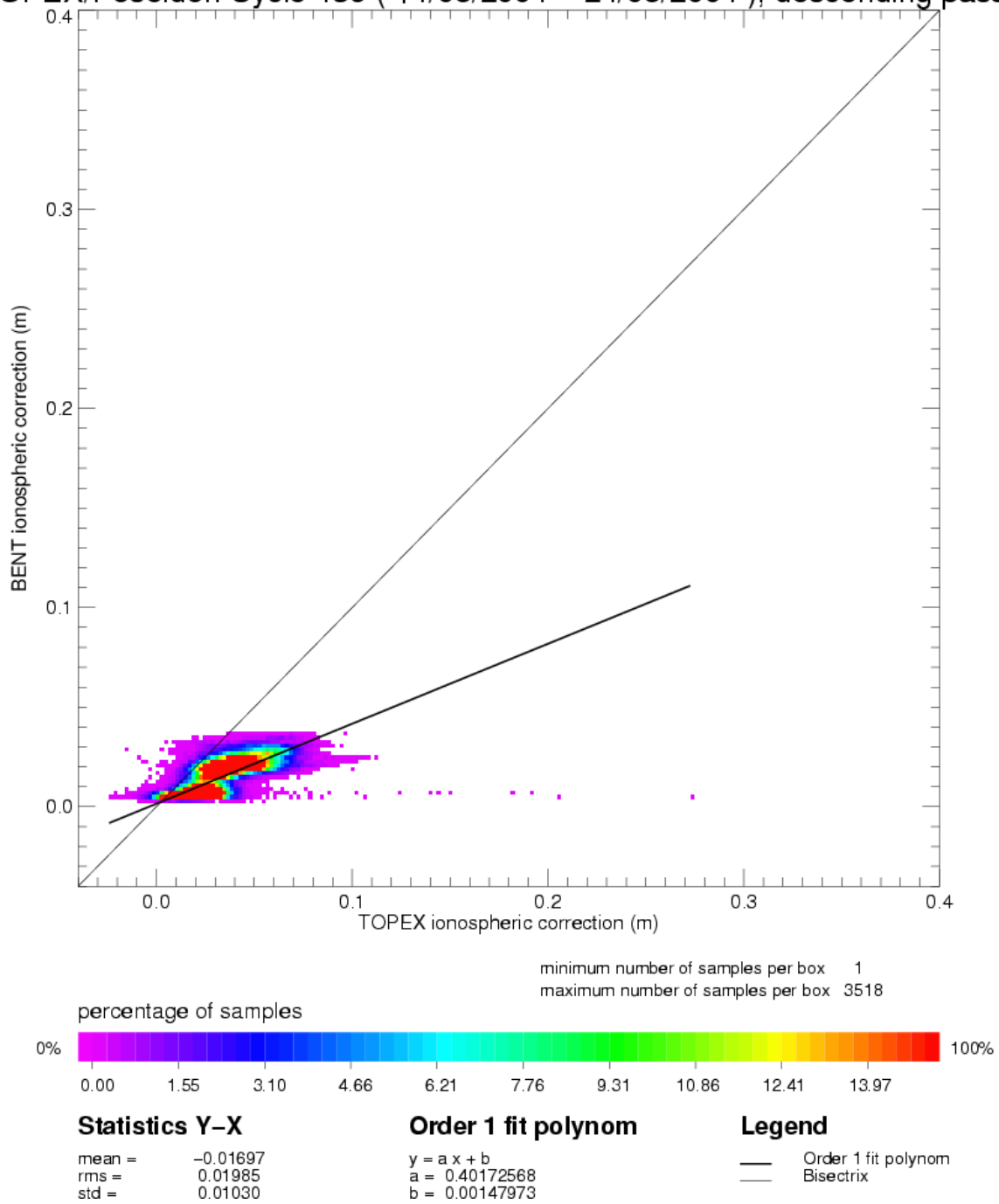
Order 1 fit polynom

$y = a x + b$
 $a = 0.72718763$
 $b = 0.00078258$

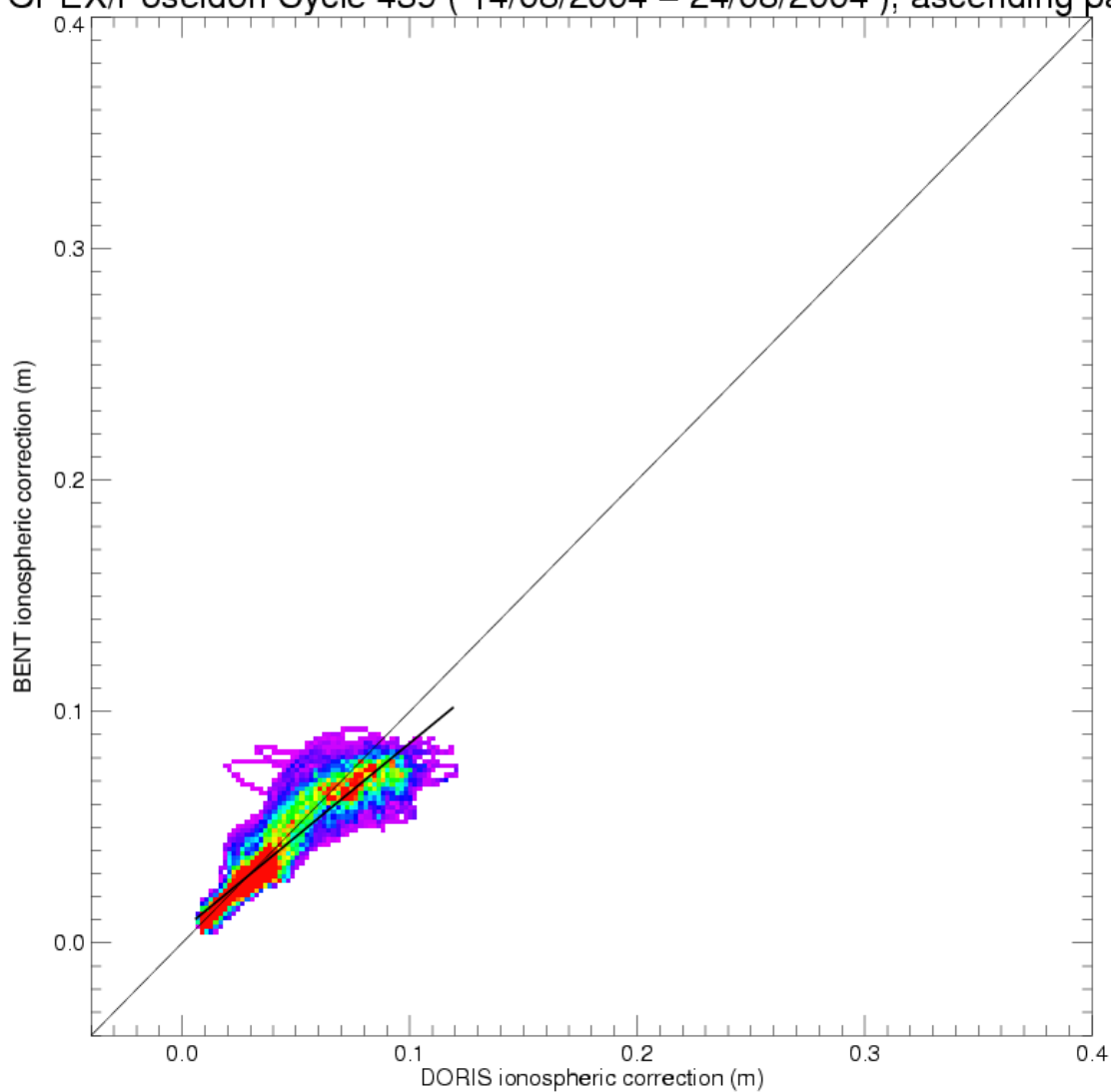
Legend

— Order 1 fit polynom
 — Bisectrix

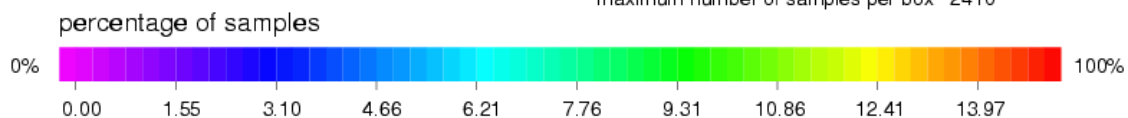
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), descending passes



TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), ascending passes



minimum number of samples per box 1
 maximum number of samples per box 2410



Statistics Y-X

mean = -0.00279
 rms = 0.01013
 std = 0.00974

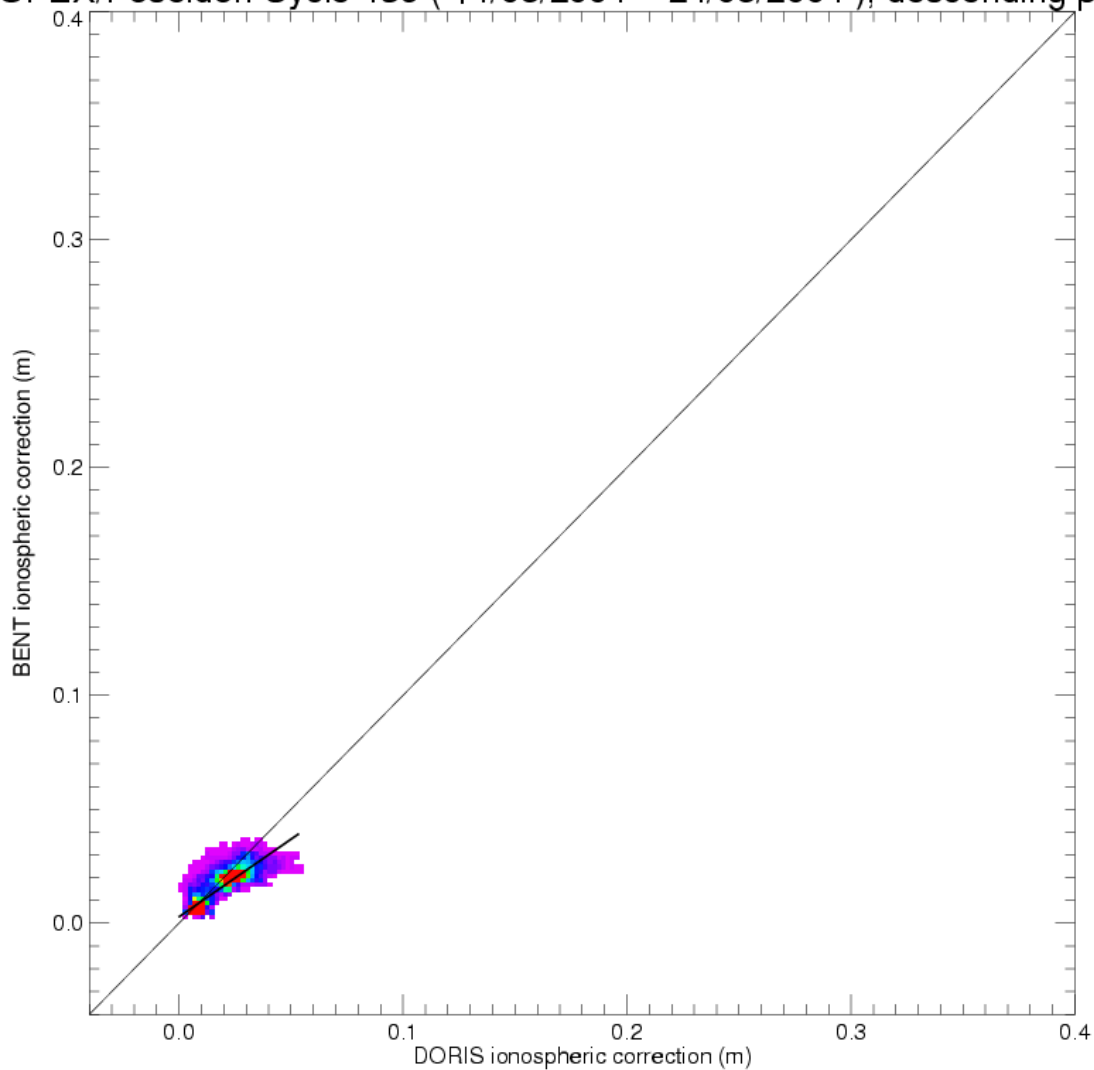
Order 1 fit polynom

$y = a x + b$
 $a = 0.80717736$
 $b = 0.00557859$

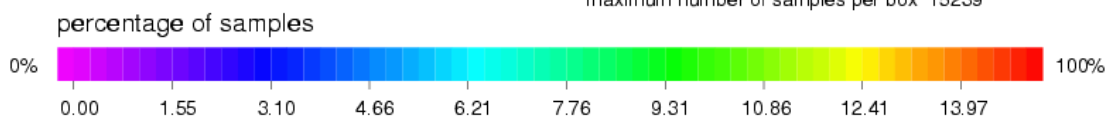
Legend

— Order 1 fit polynom
 — Bisectrix

TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004), descending passes



minimum number of samples per box 1
 maximum number of samples per box 15239



Statistics Y-X

mean = -0.00239
 rms = 0.00569
 std = 0.00516

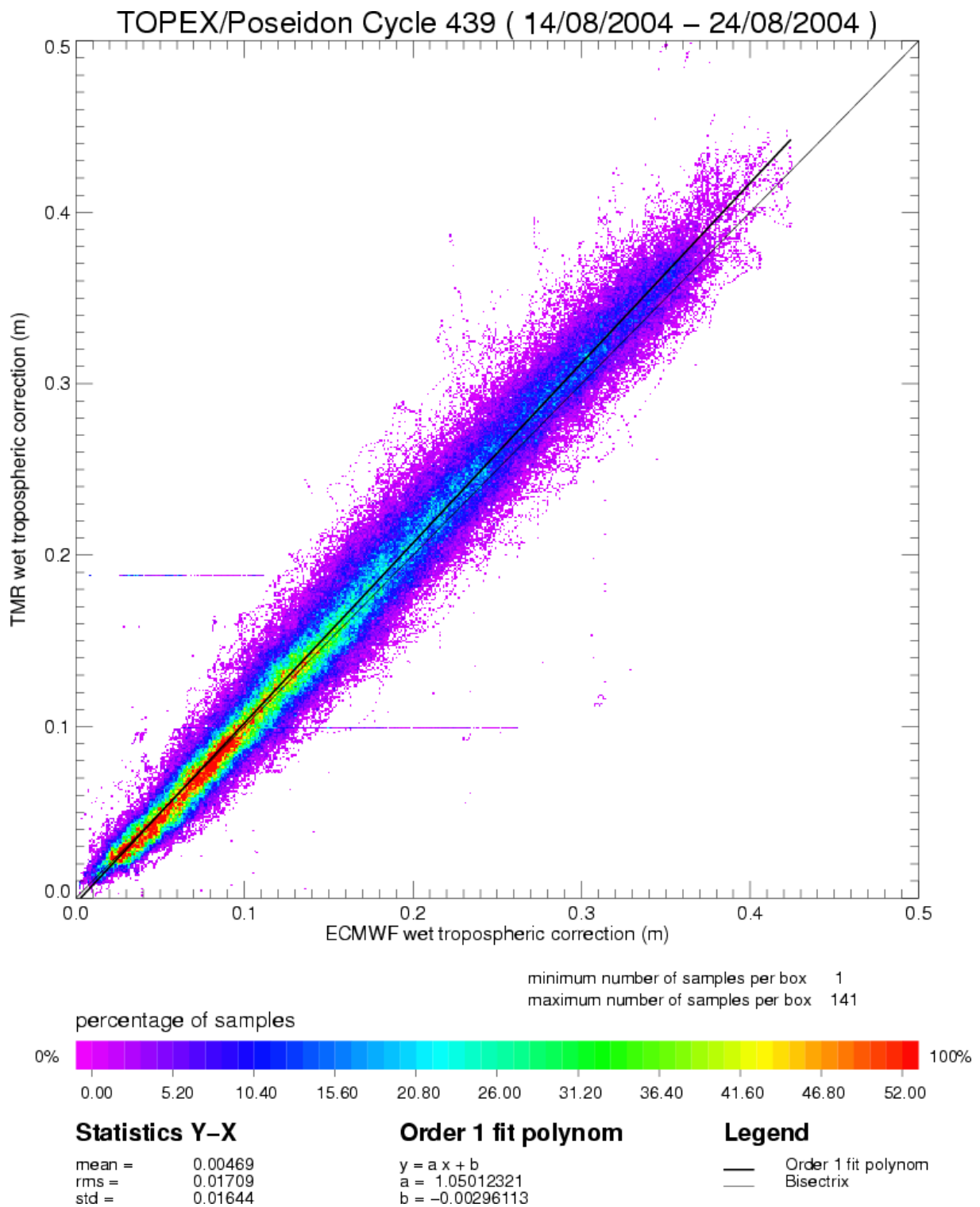
Order 1 fit polynom

$y = a x + b$
 $a = 0.68150771$
 $b = 0.00279157$

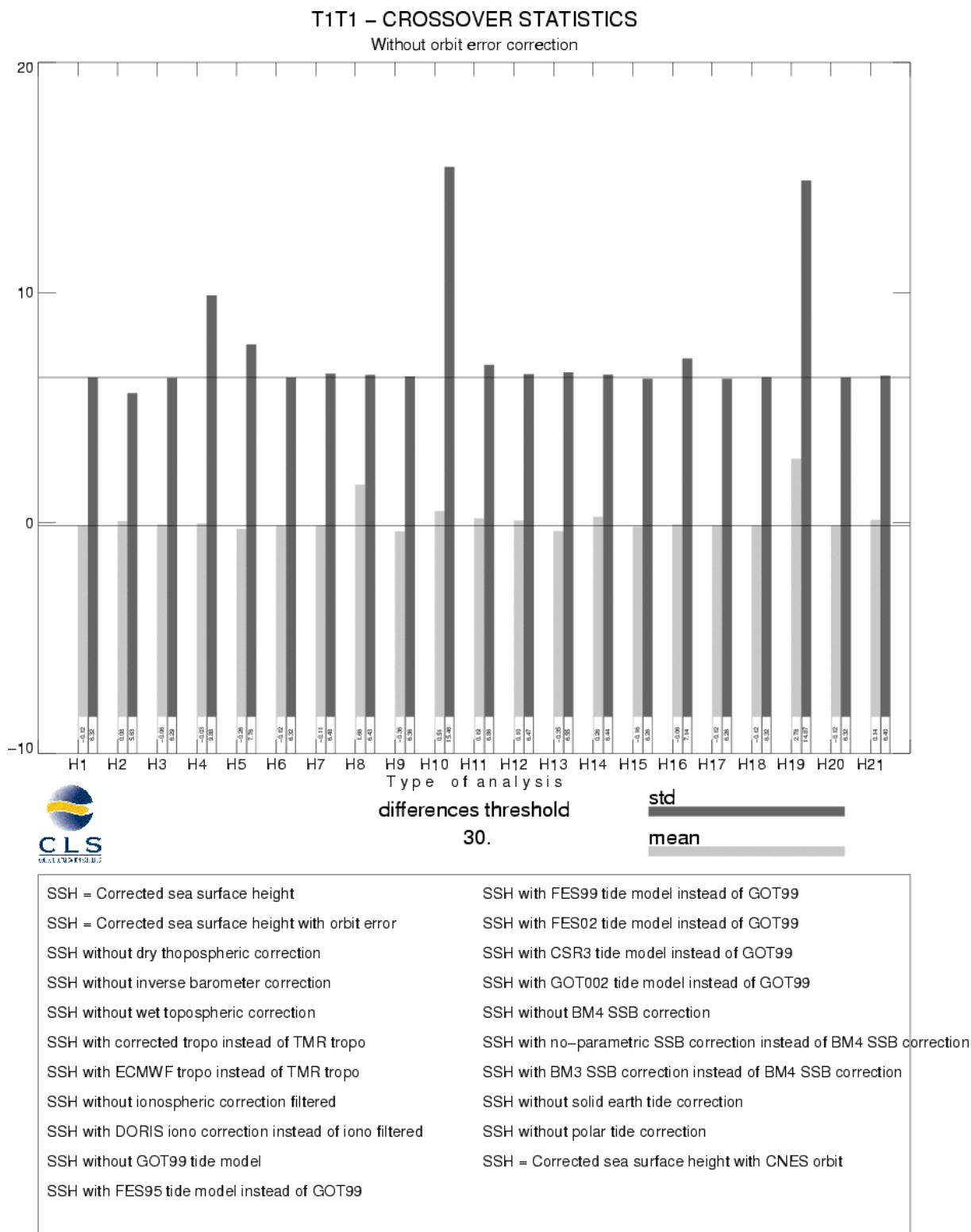
Legend

— Order 1 fit polynom
 — Bisectrix

3.6 Wet tropospheric corection



3.7 Crossover statistics



T1T1 – CROSSOVER STATISTICS
Without orbit error correction

SSH = Corrected sea surface height

RAPPEL DES SELECTIONS

Type de points de croisement: T1T1
 Zone géographique (deg): -90 / 90 , 0 / 360
 Seuil sur les écarts d'analyse DV (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 écarts :
 Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : -29.5000
 Valeur maximale : 29.4600
 Différence Max – Min: 58.9600
 Nombre de points lus: 4295
 Nombre de points sélectionnées: 4198
 Moyenne : -0.120672
 Ecart-type : 6.31642
 Moyenne Quadratique : -0.120672

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T1T1 – CROSSOVER STATISTICS
With orbit error correction

SSH = Corrected sea surface height

RAPPEL DES SELECTIONS

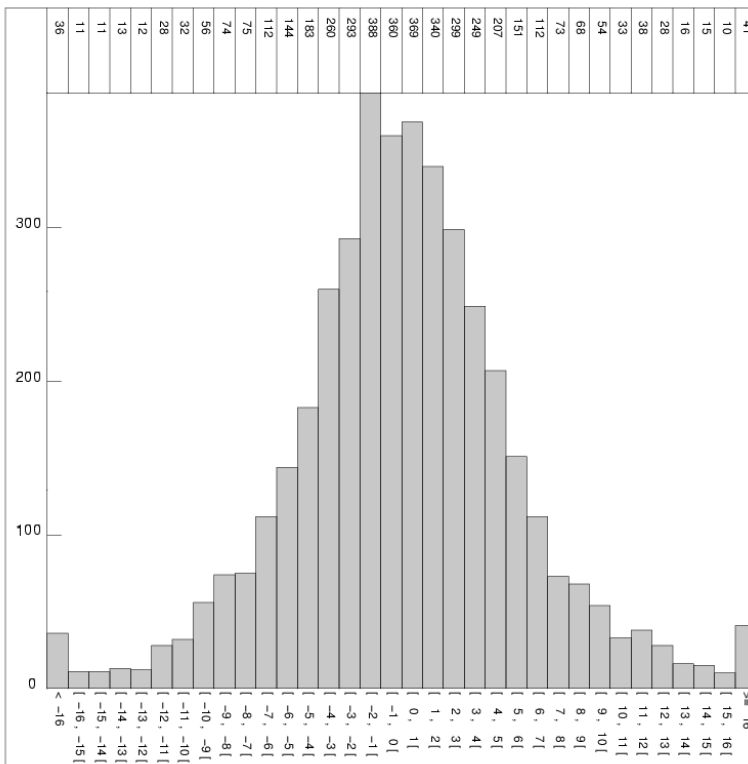
Type de points de croisement: T1T1
 Zone géographique (deg): -90 / 90 , 0 / 360
 Seuil sur les écarts d'analyse DV (moy) 30.00 (seuil)
 Selection(s) sur les champs :
 CL Arc 1 : =INTERP_SPLN
 CL Arc 2 : =INTERP_SPLN
 Seuil Min +: 0.0000000
 Seuil Max : 0.0000000

Selection(s) sur les écarts :
 Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : -27.7500
 Valeur maximale : 29.0700
 Différence Max – Min: 56.8200
 Nombre de points lus: 4295
 Nombre de points sélectionnées: 4183
 Moyenne : 0.0805761
 Ecart-type : 5.63471
 Moyenne Quadratique : 5.63528

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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

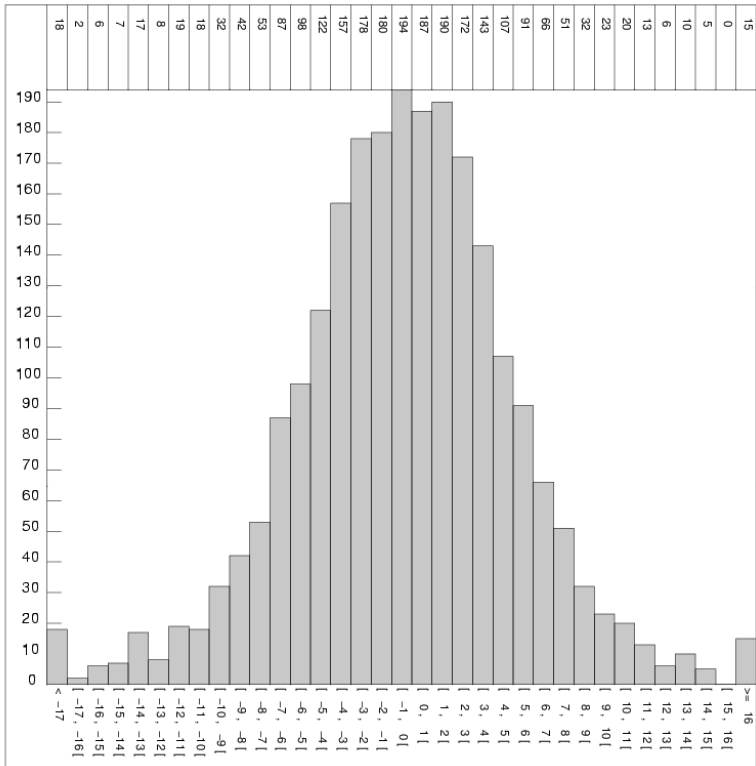
Type de points de croisement: T1T1
 Zone géographique (deg): -50 / 50 , 0 / 360
 Seuil sur les écarts d'analyse : aucun
 Selection(s) sur les champs :
 CL Arc 1 : =BATHY
 CL Arc 2 : =BATHY
 Seuil Min : aucun
 Seuil Max : -100000.00
 CL Arc 1 : =VAR_OCE
 CL Arc 2 : =VAR_OCE
 Seuil Min : aucun
 Seuil Max : 20.000000
 [...]

 Selection(s) sur les écarts :
 Aucune

RESULTATS STATISTIQUES

Valeur minimale : -43.8800
 Valeur maximale : 39.1100
 Différence Max – Min: 82.9900
 Nombre de points lus: 3040
 Nombre de points sélectionnés: 2369
 Moyenne : -0.365141
 Écart-type : 5.62684
 Moyenne Quadratique : 5.63867

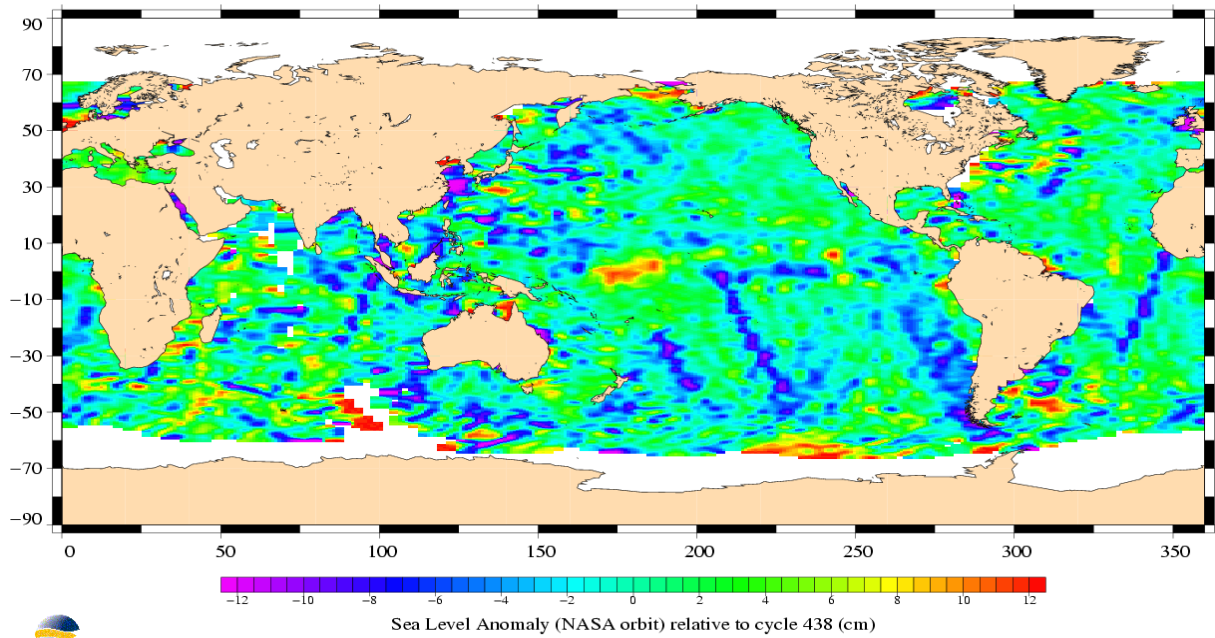
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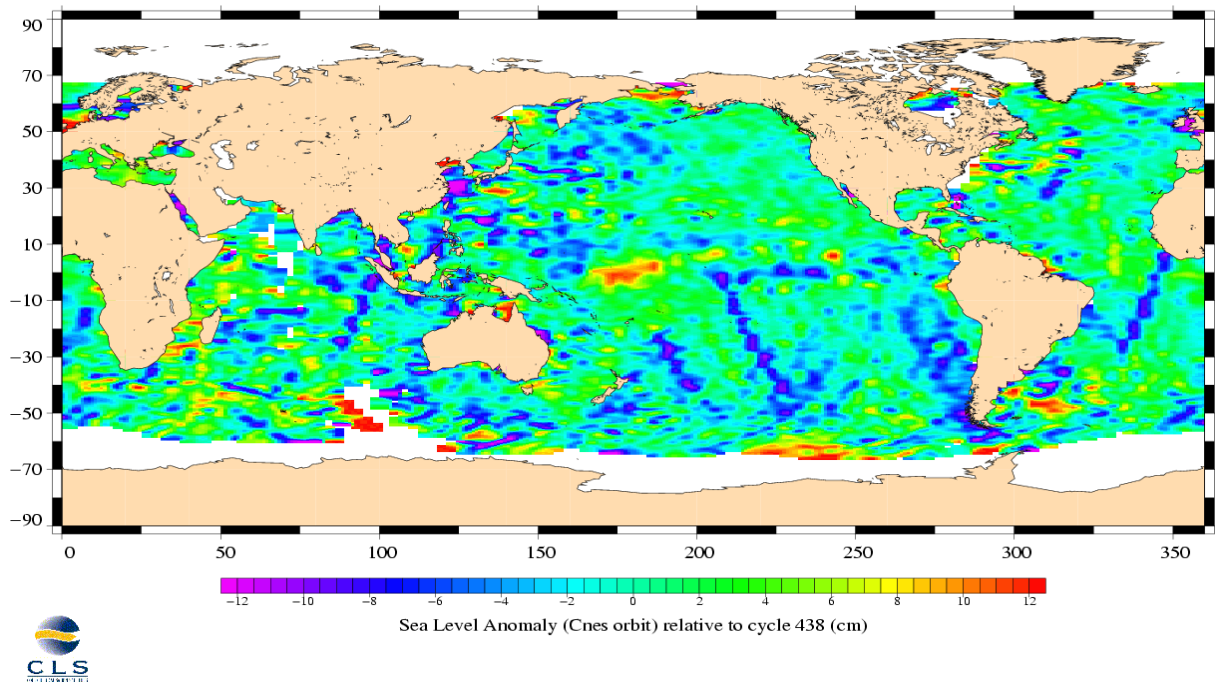
3.8 SSH variability

3.8.1 Sea Level Anomaly

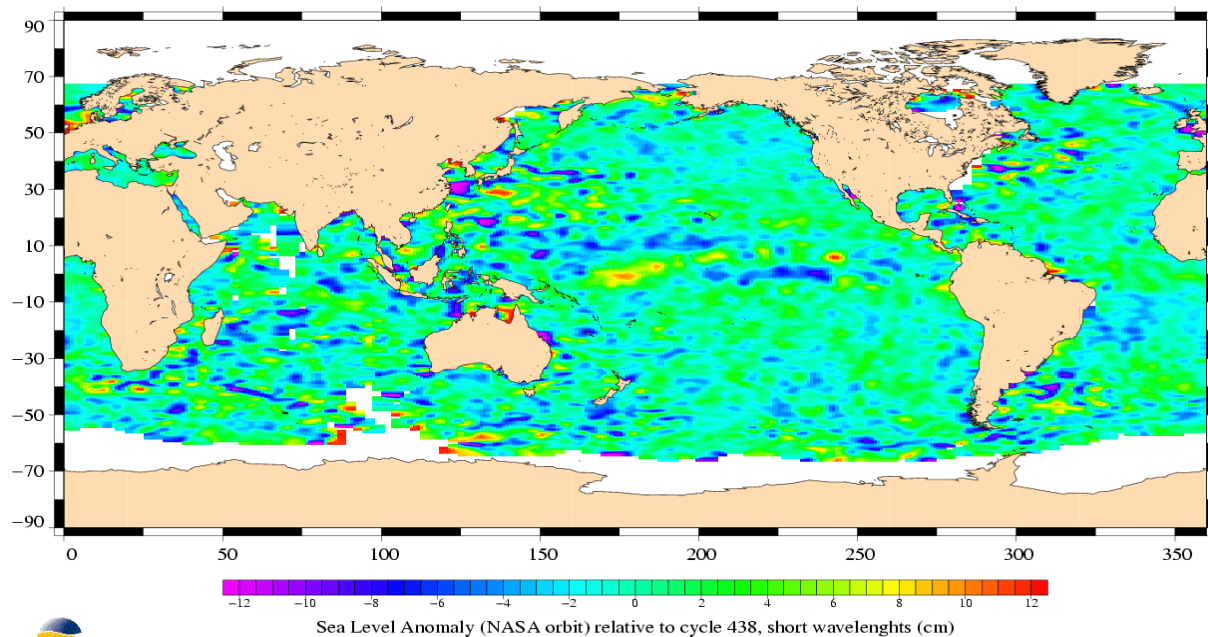
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004



TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004



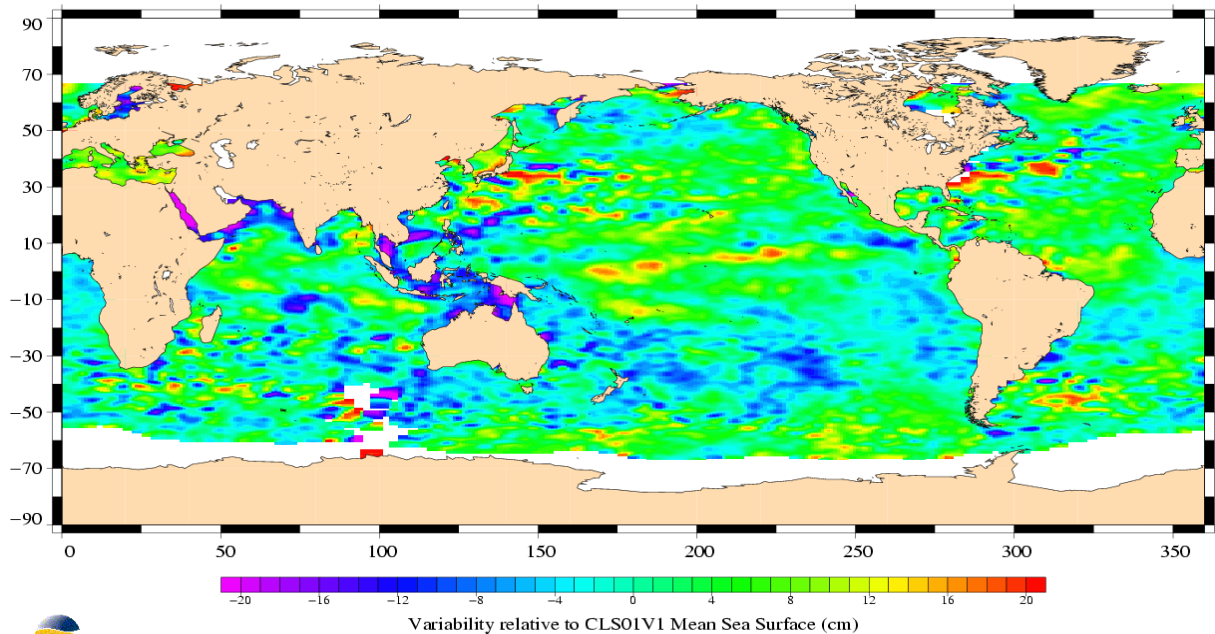
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004



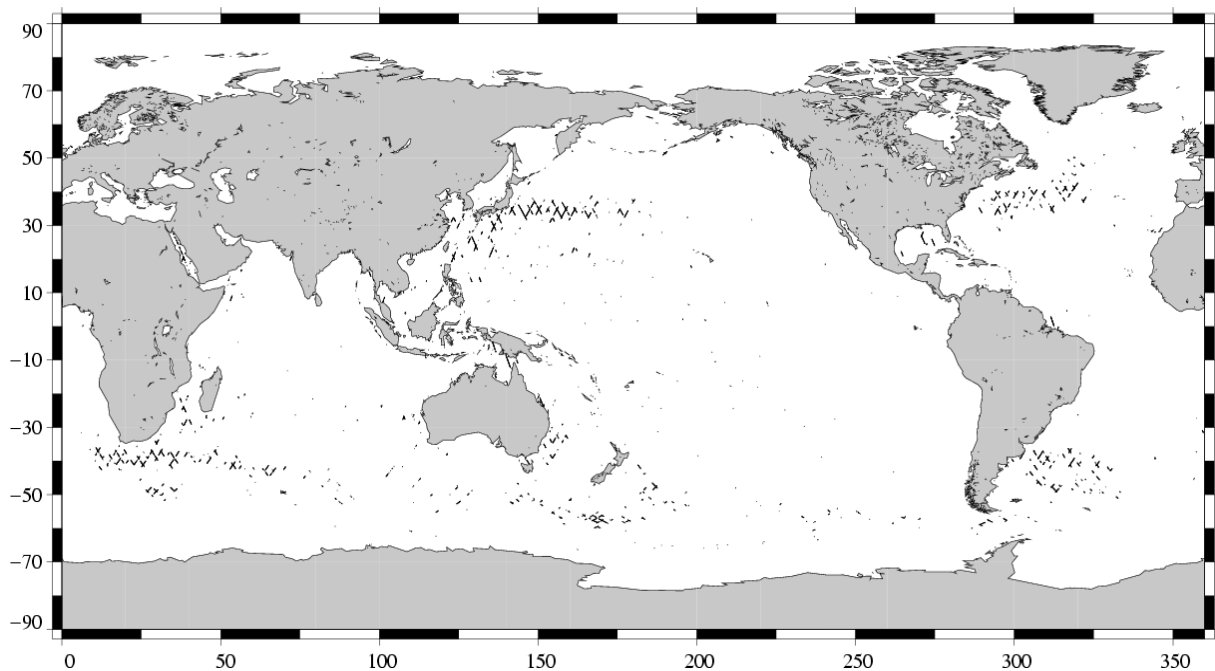
3.8.2 Comparison to a precise Mean Sea Surface

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.

TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004

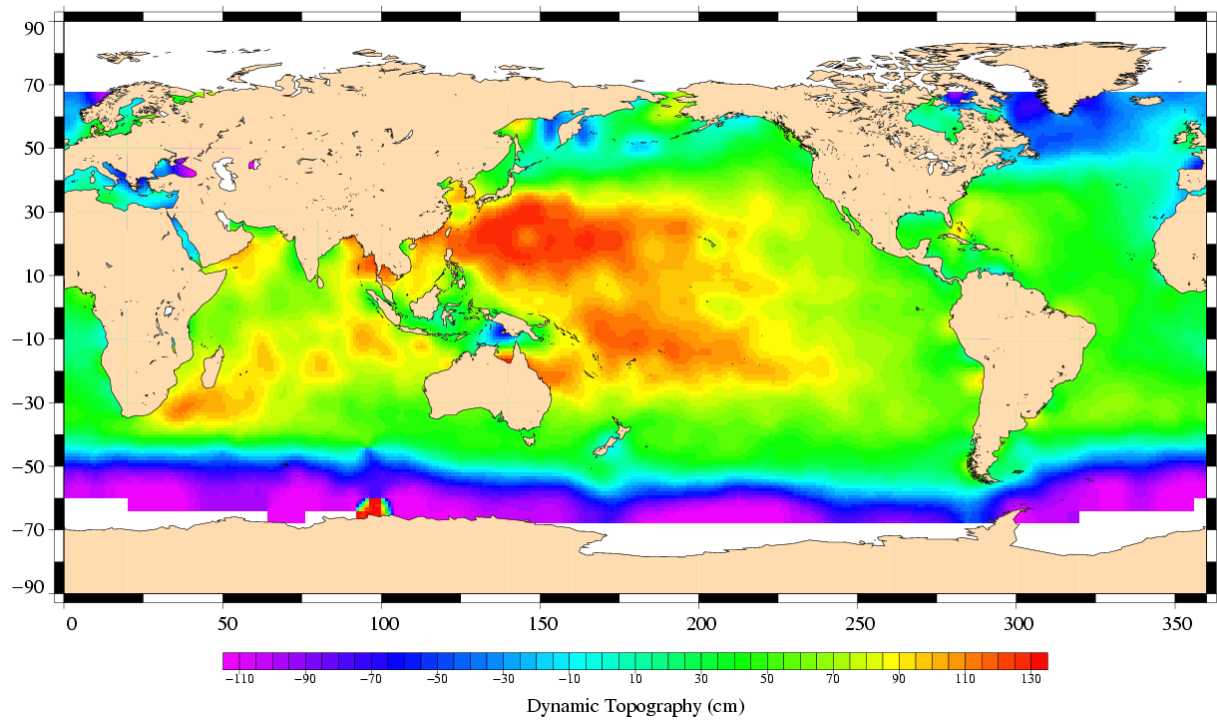


(SSH - MSS) differences greater than 0.3 m
TOPEX/Poseidon Cycle 439 (14/08/2004 / 24/08/2004)



3.9 Dynamic topography

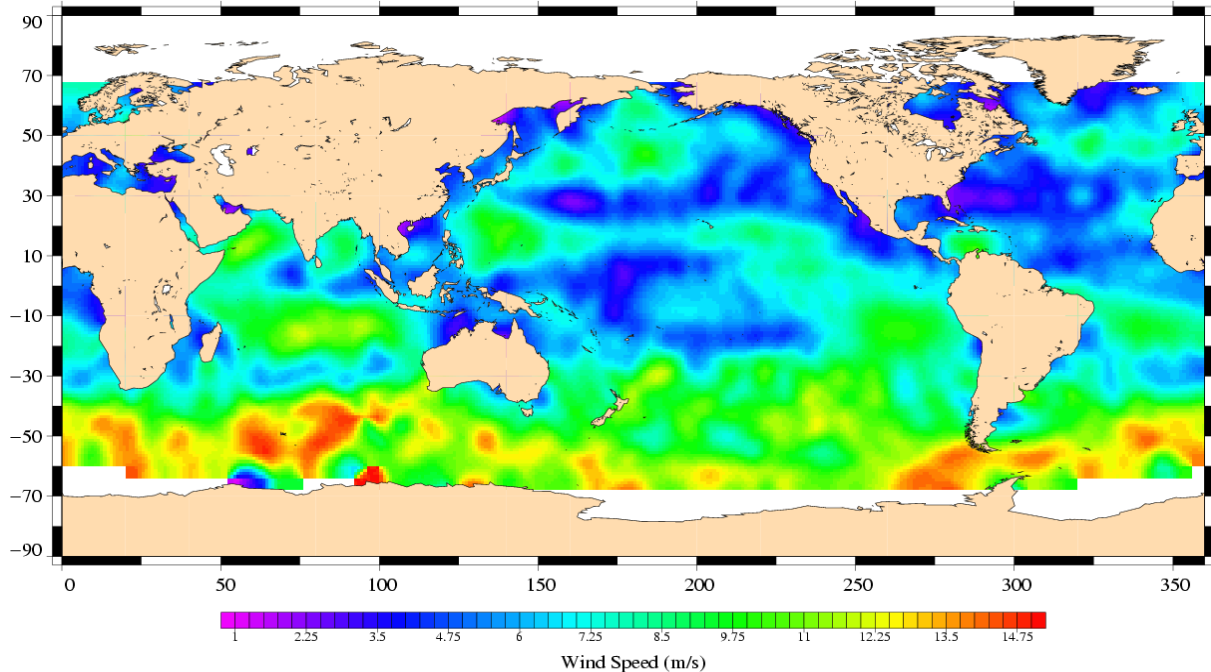
TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004



3.10 Wind and wave maps

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

TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004



TOPEX/Poseidon, cycle 439
Period : 14/08/2004 – 24/08/2004

