DORIS / Jason-2 : less than 10 cm orbits (soon) available for Near Real-Time Altimetry

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New DORIS functions

- New DORIS DGXX receivers (please refer to A. Auriol presentation)
  - First flight on-board Jason-2, future flights: CryoSat-2, Pléiades, Saral/Altika and HY-2
  - Number of channels increased to 7
  - New spectral analysis mode (improving cold start)

- A LOT OF SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, including:
  - DORIS is now able to “program the altimeter” by delivering the expected height of the sea surface in real-time, allowing reduction of tracking loops,
  - DORIS measurements are now available under a clear RINEX format,
  - New EGSE now allow ground-demonstration of the DORIS receiver centimeter capability before the launch,
  - ...

- First results: the very first Jason-2 Precise Orbit Ephemeris already show a near-one-centimeter accuracy.
Real-time Orbit Determination software that processes DORIS measurements on-board, as soon as they are performed.


- accurate products: e.g. positions and velocities, (less than 1 m RMS in 3D, radial component depending on the mission),
- availability : all sats more than 99.7%, Jason-2 100%,
- robustness w.r.t orbital manoeuvres,
- allowing advanced automation of the receivers.
more than 30 years in space …

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DIODE navigation cumulated time in orbit
Overall design: given a
- reference orbit,
- beacon network,
- attitude quaternions, …
the L.S.D. Simulation Software
processes numerical quantities
(in a « scenario » file) every 10 s:
- received power on each channel,
- beacon message including synchro bit,
- propagation delay, …

The DORIS Beacon Simulator (DBS) uses these numerical data (and also the Broadcasts uploads and/or attitude quaternions) to generate a RF analogic signal.

Then the DORIS receiver is fully managed by the DORIS Interface Satellite Simulator (DISS) …
RF signals are injected through this wire via the antenna connection, and the Navigation is activated;

Results are gathered through this wire and then compared to the true original source orbit

This test shows BEFORE THE LAUNCH how close the navigation software is to the hardware inside the receiver:

Orbit $\Rightarrow$ RF signals $\Rightarrow$ Doppler $\Rightarrow$ Orbit + $\varepsilon$
Comparison between restituted and original orbit

( statistics on the routine phase )

RMS = 0.178 m
MOY = 0.002 m

RMS = 0.045 m
MOY = 0.021 m

RMS = 0.009 m
MOY = 0.002 m

Radial RMS < 1 cm !!! …
• Before the flight, proof that the navigation tool was compliant with 1 cm instrumental errors. Of course 1 cm was not expected in-flight (because of all that is not in the model: ocean tides, RF perturbations, ...).

• On Jason-2, the specifications were “below 10 cm RMS on the Radial component” when compared to the the Precise Orbit Ephemeris (POE).

• The real-time DIODE orbits are delivered in the OGDR products and their accuracy is being improved as tunings of the on-board software progress.

• 100% availability, even during large manoeuvres = a very robust function.
ITRF positions compared with DORIS M.O.E.

Effects of large orbit acquisition manoeuvres

Attitude transitions : an error in our software

Pole covariance changed (and attitude model used)

(larger thresholds because Cross-Track is less observable)

slow secular degradation understood and fixed = pole

(4 months of true on-board bulletins)
October on-board results

STATISTICS

- RMS = 0.217 m
- MAX = 1.034 m

- RMS = 0.136 m
- MAX = 0.615 m

- RMS = 0.055 m
- MAX = 0.171 m

=> Accuracy will fit NRT Altimetry requirements
Attitude transitions now properly handled.

Use of the attitude model instead of the quaternions has allowed by-pass of the “error”: Radial component is almost not perturbed anymore by attitude transitions.

YAW RAMP

FLIP

YAW RAMP
In the mean time, the “error” has been identified in the attitude routines of DIODE. A fixed version is currently being checked on ground. If the results are correct, it will be proposed for uploading (in a few months ?).

A dedicated radiation pressure model is currently being processed using four months of Jason-2 DORIS measurements. It will then be evaluated on-ground.
DORIS datation results

One microsecond “jitter” of the GPS 1 PPS

Errors = a few microseconds, some are due to DORIS, some are due to the LABEN receiver

- Acceptance thresholds for time-tagging measurements have been raised to more filtering values => perturbations reduced
- Additional Time Beacon in the System = YellowKnife (Canada, NWT) = more points available
- 1 microsecond bias still to be reduced

OSTST/GODAE/IDS Meetings, November, 2008, Nice
Conclusions, perspectives

A few tunings are still to be performed:

- 1 microsecond time bias (TBC)
- Quaternion routines corrected (and validated) => new software to upload (TBC)
- Optimised radiation pressure efficient => new tunings to upload (TBC)
- ...

OGDR ALTITUDE IS WITHIN SPECIFICATIONS NOW:
accuracy < 10 cm RMS, rather 5 or 6 cms today

This will hopefully open the door to a fairly precise Near Real-Time Altimetry.