Discussion Topics

Regional and Global CAL/VAL for Assembling a Climate Data Record

Questions from Plenary

1) Are our cal/val methods sufficient to verify the Jason-CS/Sentinel-6 global and regional mean sea level stability requirements?
2) Considering the possibility of switching on the redundant altimeter on JCS/S6 during the cal/val phase with Jason-3. If feasible, what is the number of cycles that the redundant altimeter should operate?
3) Alternative processing approaches such as fully-focused SAR processing are emerging. Will the current Sentinel-3 and Jason-CS/Sentinel-6 systems allow for novel processing approaches to be fully exploited?
4) What would be the impact of de-scoping MLE3 fields in the baseline for JCS/S6 products (except for sigma0)?
5) Would increasing the frequency of the Jason-3 AMR cold sky calibrations to improve the long term stability?
6) What are the open issues that affect the continuity between LRM and SAR modes from SWH, roughness, swell and their impacts on SSH?
7) What areas should S6/JCS RAW SAR data (non-RMC) be collected (acquisition mask)?

Further Questions

1) How do we better better understand discrepancies of the SSH bias between sites? Can we separate/quantify the origin?
   - Systematic errors in the local datum?
   - Local behavior of corrections (or orbit, or range)
2) How do we improve the reach, coverage and accuracy of the dedicated sites? (e.g., extend and densify observations)
   - …to make better connections between coast and open ocean.
   - …to support emerging SAR-like and swath (SWOT) measurements.
3) Swell is impacting SAR data quality, is there any effect on the LRM data ? What kind of external information (e.g., models, in-situ…) is required to address this? What about the roughness heterogeneities (internal tides, coastal zone, …) ?
4) Given the improved accuracy (~few mm) of Jason-CS range values, are current tools (statistical, network, dedicated sites) adequate?
5) SWOT is using an envelope spectra for the error characterization: should this approach be applied to current along-track nadir altimeters ?
6) New retracking solutions are proposed (ALES, Adaptive, LR-RMC, …). Are current tools (statistical, network, dedicated sites) adequate to quantify the advantages/drawbacks of those solutions ?
7) Global CalVal analysis has been focused on ocean – what can/should be developed over inland water surfaces ?