



GNSS data and ionospheric studies

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UNIVERSITY OF WARMIA AND MAZURY IN OLSZTYN

International Reference Ionosphere A COSPAR Capacity - Building Workshop 2023

Improved Real-Time Ionospheric Predictions with Data from Spaceborne Sensors and GNSS

8 – 19 May 2023

Training session: 8-12 May 2023

Agenda

Outline

- Introduction. GNSS networks as data for the ionosphere monitoring
- IGS/UWM Ionosphre Combination Centre
 - VTEC maps and the IONEX format
- Monitoring of the TEC fluctuations using GNSS data
- LOFAR
- GNSS monitoring of the ionosphere
- Conclusions

GNSS networks as data for the ionosphere monitoring

The IGS and other permanent GNSS networks collects, archives, and distributes GPS observation data sets of sufficient accuracy to satisfy the objectives of a wide range of applications and experimentation. The GNSS observations provided by IGS and other permanent station networks, with a 30 s sampling RINEX data.



IGS polar stations

EUREF Permanent Tracking Network



(EUREF Permanent Tracking Network)



International GNSS Service - IGS



PBO Network – Plate Boundary Observatory POLENET - The Polar Earth Observing Network

Overview of the lonoWG



The IGS Ionosphere Working group started its activities in June 1998 with the main goal of a routinely producing IGS Global TEC maps.

This is being done now with a latency of 11 days (final product) and with a latency of less than 24 hours (rapid product).

This has been done under the direct responsibility of the Iono-WG chairmans:

- 1. Dr Joachim Feltens, ESA 1998–2002,
- 2. Prof. Manuel Hernández-Pajares, UPC, 2002–2007
- 3. Prof. Andrzej Krankowski, UWM, 2008-

The IGS ionosphere product is a result of the combination of TEC maps derived by different Analysis Centers by using weights computed by Validation Center, in order to get a more accurate product.



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2022 IGS Virtual Workshop Recommendations



Name of Working Group and Chair: Ionosphere Working Group, Andrzej Krankowski



- Continuation of work on IGS real-time service for global ionospheric total electron content modeling.
- Preparation of final version of IGS ROTI maps extension towards low latitudes and Southern Hemisphere.
- Continuation of cooperation with IRI and ILT communities.
- Close cooperation with the Real-Time Working Group in order to elaborate full real-time VTEC and ROTI products.





Example of IGS Final GIM: 2010-141 DOY





RMS map RMS MAP (height= 450.0 km) at 2010/05/21,00:00:00 IONEX file containing the COMBINED ISS TEC MAPS and DOBS



8 Analysis Centers: CODE, ESA, JPL, UPC, WHU, CAS, NRCan, DGFI-TUM (since 2019) and a Validation Center (UWM) have been providing maps (at 2 hours x 5 deg. x 2.5 deg in UT x Lon. x Lat.), weights and external (altimetry-derived) TEC data.

From such maps and weights the Combination Center (at first ESA, then UPC, and since 2008 -UWM) has produced the IGS TEC maps in IONEX format.

Example of IGS RAPID GIM: 2010-141 DOY

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Example of IGS PREDICTED GIM

June 20, 2010



November 20, 2010



IGS Predicted GIM

IGS Final GIM

Looking for optimal ways to combine IGS global ionospheric maps in real-time



Data description paper

The cooperative IGS RT-GIMs: a reliable estimation of the global ionospheric electron content distribution in real time

Qi Liu¹, Manuel Hernández-Pajares^{1,2}, Heng Yang^{3,1}, Enric Monte-Moreno⁴, David Roma-Dollase², Alberto García-Rigo^{1,2}, Zishen Li⁵, Ningbo Wang⁵, Denis Laurichesse⁶, Alexis Blot⁶, Qile Zhao^{7,8}, Qiang Zhang⁷, André Hauschild⁹, Loukis Agrotis¹⁰, Martin Schmitz¹¹, Gerhard Wübbena¹¹, Andrea Stürze¹², Andrzej Krankowski¹³, Stefan Schaer^{14,15}, Joachim Feltens¹⁶, Attila Komjathy¹⁷, and Reza Ghoddousi-Fard¹⁸

Original Article Published: 18 February 2020

IGS real-time service for global ionospheric total electron content modeling

Zishen Li [™], <u>Ningbo Wang</u>, <u>Manuel Hernández-Pajares</u>, <u>Yunbin Yuan</u>, <u>Andrzej Krankowski</u>, <u>Ang Liu</u>, Jiuping Zha, <u>Alberto García-Rigo</u>, <u>David Roma-Dollase</u>, <u>Heng Yang</u>, <u>Denis Laurichesse</u> & <u>Alexis</u>



23 Sep 2021

Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 13, 4567-4582, 2021 https://essd.copernicus.org/article s/13/4567/2021/essd-13-4567-2021.html

Journal of Geodesy 94, 32, 2020

https://link.springer.com/article/10 .1007/s00190-020-01360-0

Blot



The performance of GIMs versus Jason3-VTEC





The current status of broadcasting IGS RT-GIMs



Agency	Temporal resolution	Broadcast frequency	Spherical harmonic degree	Mountpoints in NTRIP caster (in SSR format)	Real-Time IONEX files saved at FTP/HTTP			
CAS	5 minutes	1 minute	15	59.110.42.14:2101/SSRA00CAS1 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRA00CAS0 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRC00CAS1 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRC00CAS0 182.92.166.182:2101/IONO00CAS1 182.92.166.182:2101/IONO00CAS0	<u>ftp://ftp.gipp.org.cn/produ</u> <u>ct/ionex/</u>			
CNES	2 minutes	1 minute	12	products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRA00CNE1 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRA00CNE0 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRC00CNE1 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRC00CNE0	No			
UPC- IonSAT	15 minutes	15 seconds	15	products.igs-ip.net:2101/IONO00UPC1	http://chapman.upc.es/tom ion/real-time/quick/			
WHU	5 minutes	1 minute	15	58.49.58.150:2106/IONO00WHU0	<u>ftp://igs.gnsswhu.cn/pub/</u> whu/MGEX/realtime- ionex/			
IRTG (IGS)	20 minutes	15 seconds	15	products.igs-ip.net:2101/IONO00IGS1	<u>http://chapman.upc.es/irtg</u> /			



RT-GIMs provided by different ACs



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Largest errors are associated with biases of the order of 3-5 TECU.

IGS Validation process



"Consistency of seven different GNSS global ionospheric mapping techniques during one solar cycle", David Roma-Dollase, Manuel Hernández-Pajares, Andrzej Krankowski, Kacper Kotulak, Reza Ghoddousi-Fard, Yunbin Yuan, Zishen Li, Hongping Zhang, Chuang Shi, Cheng Wang, Joachim Feltens, Panagiotis Vergados, Attila Komjathy, Stefan Schaer, Alberto García-Rigo & José M. Gómez-Cama, Journal of Geodesy, vol. 92, 2018, pp. 691–706



Example of IGS ROTI Maps Product

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- The ROTI Maps processor operates routinely since January, 1, 2015
- It was processed and collected data and resulted product from 2010 up to now since the test service established
- ROTI Maps product available on NASA CDDIS
- Representative stations database have been actualised for 2020-2022 on base data avaliability and latancy
- Finished reprocessing of ROTI Maps for 2020-2022 on base updated stations database

The activity has signifficant group of geophyical users interrested in.



Ionospheric irregularities intensification and extension captured by IGS ROTI Maps. Moderate geomagnetic storm, August 2021

Detailed description of the ROTI Maps Product available in the papers:

lurii Cherniak, Andrzej Krankowski, Irina Zakharenkova, Observation of the ionospheric irregularities over the Northern Hemisphere: Methodology and service, Radio Science 49, 8 pp. 653-662, 2014, doi.: 10.1002/2014RS005433

lurii Cherniak, Andrzej Krankowski, Irina Zakharenkova, ROTI Maps: a new IGS ionospheric product characterizing the ionospheric irregularities occurrence, **GPS Solutions**, 22, 69, **2018**, doi.: 10.1007/s10291-018-0730-1



As a measure of ionospheric activity we used also the Rate of TEC Index (ROTI) based on standard deviation of ROT (for 5 minut intervals)(Pi et all, 1997):

 $ROTI = \sqrt{\left\langle ROT^2 \right\rangle - \left\langle ROT \right\rangle^2}$

Methodology

Basic approach:

- The Rate of TEC Index mapping
- **Ionospheric plasma variability drivers:**
- Solar radiation
- Geomagnetic field

The coordinates system: corrected magnetic latitude (MI





Fig. The grid of ROTI maps in polar coordinates with grid 2 degree (magnetic local time) and 2 degree (geomagnetic latitude).

Magnetic local time (MLT) and

ROTI data were binned and averaged in cells of 2° magnetic latitude by 8 min MLT

Methodology

In the updated version, more than 700 permanent stations (available both from UNAVCO and EUREF databases) have been involved into analysis of the ionosphere fluctuation service.



Data sources:



Fig. The locations of the stations around the North Geomagnetic Pole.



ROTI Maps Product



Steps of ROTI Maps product generation at UWM:



ROTI Maps Product



ROTI Maps visualization



Output ROTI visualized in polar coordinates from 0 to 359



IGS ROTI Maps extension toward Southern Hemisphere and low latitudes

Preliminary results – ROTI maps on validation stage



ROTI Maps for Southern Hemisphere



ROTI Maps for Low Latitudional region



Iurii Cherniak, Irina Zakharenkova, Andrzej Krankowski, ROTI Maps: Current Status and Its Extension towards Equatorial Region and Southern Hemisphere, Sensors 2022, 22(10), 3748; doi.: 10.3390/s22103748



IGS ROTI Maps: extension towards Equatorial region and Southern Hemisphere



START OF ROTIMAPNH												
0.1554 0.1926	$0.1369 \\ 0.1956$	0.2199 0.2260	0.2078 0.1824	0.1856 0.1539	0.1696 0.2112	0.1808 0.2243	0.1448 0.1729	0.1517 0.2084	0.3349 0.1959			
DATA BODY												
0.0424 0.0720 END OF RO	0.0431 0.0502 TIMAPNH	0.0405 0.0480	0.0421 0.0497	0.0413 0.0514	0.0417 0.0525	0.0445 0.0501	0.0444 0.0561	0.0467 0.0600	0.0516 0.0430			
START OF ROTIMAPSH 2022 2 2 2												
0.3291 0.7406	0.5783	0.3803	0.7124 0.2880	0.6214 0.5949	0.5290 0.3570	0.4734 0.4312	0.4188 0.9443	0.3309 0.3914	0.7778 0.6383			
DATA BODY												
0.8987 0.2306 END OF RO	0.3856 0.3553 TIMAPSH	0.3857 0.1972	0.2378 0.2064	0.5682 0.1809	0.5277 0.2381	0.3823 0.1336	0.2237 0.1976	0.1719 0.1278	0.2157 0.1913			
START OF ROTIMAPEQ												
0.0000 1.0998	1.1358 1.1241	0.5843	1.1218 0.4973	1.0786 0.9472	0.8937 0.5555	0.7156 0.6395	0.6557 1.7643	0.4342 0.7220	$1.2170 \\ 1.1368$			
DATA BODY												
1.5253 0.3123 END OF RO END OF FI	0.7748 0.6409 TIMAPEQ LE	0.5331 0.3089	0.0000 0.3500	1.1766 0.2261	0.8116 0.3673	0.6269 0.1671	0.4027 0.2592	0.2281 0.1565	0.3921 0.2664			

Proposed format of the extended version of the IGS ROTI map product:

- three sections (NH, SH, EQ)
- no changes for Northern hemisphere map
- section separation keywords
- rotiexDDD0.YYf filename

Iurii Cherniak, Irina Zakharenkova, Andrzej Krankowski, ROTI Maps: Current Status and Its Extension towards Equatorial Region and Southern Hemisphere, **Sensors 2022, 22(10)**, 3748; doi.: 10.3390/s22103748



Towards cooperative global mapping of the ionosphere. Fusion feasibility for IGS and IRI with global climate VTEC maps



- **The climate VTEC maps introduced in 2020** aimed for establishment of an ionosphere mapping service fusing measurements from two independent sensor networks:
 - IGS permanent GNSS receivers providing the vertical total electron content (VTEC) measurements
 - ionosondes of the Global Ionosphere Radio Observatory (GIRO) that compute the bottom-side vertical profiles of the ionospheric plasma density.
- That research established data sources and fusion methodology for the joined purpose of thorough ionosphere mapping. It has been achieved with inclusion of over 10 years of IGS climate VTEC maps to GAMBIT Database and Explorer, allowing the fusion with the IRI model and GIRO products.



Adam Froń, Ivan Galkin, Andrzej Krankowski, Dieter Bilitza, Manuel Hernández-Pajares, Bodo Reinisch, Zishen Li, Kacper Kotulak, Irina Zakharenkova, Iurii Cherniak, David Roma Dollase, Ningbo Wang, Paweł Flisek and Alberto García-Rigo, **Towards Cooperative Global Mapping of the Ionosphere: Fusion Feasibility for IGS and IRI with Global Climate VTEC Maps, Remote Sensing. 2020, 12(21), 3531**; doi.: 10.3390/rs12213531



- The **system is now expanded** with inclusion of weather VTEC based on **real-time and rapid products of IGS** IONO IAACS.
- The real time archive spans back to doy 251/2017. The combined file, aggregating all the real-time data for each day, is published with 1-2 hour latency.
- At UWM, the real-time IGS VTEC data from IGS/UWM/CAS is gathered every 15 minutes and then averaged to maintain the conformity with GAMBIT 15-minutes temporal resolution and resampled over the 8 deg (LON) x 4 deg (LAT) resolution of NASA WorldWind convention.
- Produced maps are stored at the same time in separate one-epoch IONEX files and appended IONEX file containing all the maps produced since 0:00 UT. The aggregated IONEX file is then valid in the GAMBIT database until IGS rapid file for the selected day is published at CDDIS.
- The presented data delivery scheme is meant to create an elastic system, that will allow including additional products in order to improve the GAMBIT VTEC products provided by IGS. The climate and rapid maps are both based on IGS rapid UQRG maps, hence their conformity should be on a satisfying level, well depicting any unforeseen disturbances of the ionosphere.





Ivan Galkin, Adam Froń, Bodo Reinisch, Manuel Hernández-Pajares, Andrzej Krankowski, Bruno Nava, Dieter Bilitza, Kacper Kotulak, Paweł Flisek, Zishen Li, Ningbo Wang, David Roma Dollase, Alberto García-Rigo and Inez Batista, Global **Monitoring of Ionospheric Weather by GIRO and GNSS Data Fusion, Atmosphere 2022, 13(3), 371**; doi.: 10.3390/atmos13030371

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Comparison between IGS UQRG-based weather (rapid) and climate VTEC product for GAMBIT system (quiet day):



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Comparison between IGS UQRG-based weather (rapid) and climate VTEC product for GAMBIT system (disturbed day):



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Examples of IGS UWM/CAS real-time VTEC maps for GAMBIT system:

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AST(RON



Low band antenna: 30 – 80 MHz 48/96 antennas per station

38 NL + 13 EU stations of dipoles Replace big dishes by many cheap dipoles No moving parts: electronic beam steering Flexible digital beam forming

High band tiles: 120 – 240 *MHz* 48/96 *tiles/station, 4x4 antennas/tile*



Technology pathfinder for Square Kilometre Array

LOFAR - The Key Science Projects



About LOFAR

International LOFAR station in Bałdy (PL612)



What data do we get?

- 20 ms time interval;
- 0.2 Mhz frequency interval;
- Bandwidth from 30 to 240 Mhz with gap between 90 to 110 Mhz
- Simultaneous observations from three targets: Cassiopeia, Cygnus and Taurus/Perseus.

Ionospheric indices

- From GNSS stations (L1, L2 and L5):
 - ^o Rate of change of TEC estimated over 20 ms, 1 s, 60 s
 - scintillation index (based on 20 ms samples, directly output from GNSS scintillation monitor)

- From LOFAR station (VHF):
 - o scintillation index (based on 20 ms samples)

OFAR

Monitoring of Sun and scintillations







0.0" 200.0" 400.0" 600.0" 800.0"1000.0" Helioprojective Longitude (Solar-X) [arcsec]

Figure 1. (a) Dynamic spectrum with reduced time/frequency resolutions of the radio event on 2014 August 25. (b) Detail of the high-frequency component of the type II burst in the HBA observation. (c) Kinematics of the type II radio burst. (d) Comparison of LOFAR and NRH images of the high-frequency type II sources. Radio sources are overlaid using images taken the closest together in time 193 Å. (e) and (f) Images of two pairs of simultaneous sources of the high-frequency type II



Fig. 2. Dynamic spectra of normalised intensity data taken by LOFAR station CS002 during the observation of Cas A on 18-19 August 2013. The dynamic spectrum of the entire observing period is given at the top, with zooms into three different hours of observation below to illustrate the range of conditions seen. White areas within the plots indicate where RFI was identified.



band-split.

Observations and data processing

Raw scintillation data for PL612 (Bałdy) LOFAR station



How do we process data?

- Cleaning removing RFI with use of standard deviation, removing of spikes;
- Detranding using the moving average mathod;
- Calculating S₄.

Scintillation index

scintillation index:

$$S_4 = \sqrt{\frac{\langle I^2 \rangle - \langle I \rangle^2}{\langle I \rangle^2}}$$

Where:

I radio-wave intensity

angle temporal averaging in lieu of ensemble averaging

was estimated for GNSS L1 & L2 by means of a GNSS scintillation monitor (over 1 minute intervals)

was estimated for LOFAR VHF radio-wave frequencies (over 3 minute intervals, output every 1 minute by using a sliding window).

Example: DOY271 2017

LOFAR scintillation index estimated over various VHF radio-wave frequencies





Case of 2015 St. Patrick's Day storm

- ~ 5300 stations
 - ~2000 multi-GNSS stations
 - (GPS + GLONASS+GALILEO+BEIDOU)
- TEC maps with time resolution 10 min



|**∪**| |∧|∨|



IGS ROTI Maps extension toward Southern Hemisphere and low latitudes Main chalange – non uniform global distribution of permanent GNSS stations

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Global GNSS TEC maps - 22-23 June 2015 storm







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Storm-induced plasma bubbles at midlatitudes



Combined ground based GPS and GLONASS observations

Space Radio-diagnostics **Research Centre**

Storm-induced plasma bubbles at midlatitudes





-120 -90

-60 -30







Research Centre

Cherniak&Zakharenkova, GRL, 2016

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5-minute European TEC maps 2015-03-15 - 2015-03-20







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Thank You! Contact:

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