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# International Laser Ranging Service Data Formats & Procedures Working Group

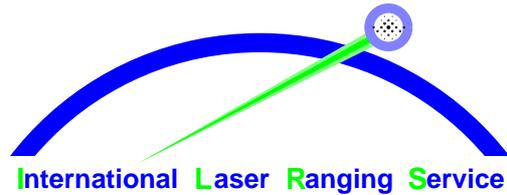
## Agenda

Monday, April 20, 2009, 19:30-21:00, Vienna, Austria

Room: Seminarraum (SEM 124), Vienna University of Technology, Gusshausstr.27-29

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Introduction  | Wolfgang Seemüller |
| 2. Membership  | Wolfgang Seemüller |
| 3. Refraction Study Group  | Erricos Pavlis     |
| 4. Formats Study Group - CRD format status<br>- tracking restrictions<br>- leap seconds in CPF files | Randy Ricklefs     |
| 5. Quarantining of data from new stations  | Mike Pearlman      |
| 6. Acceptance/test of CRD at ILRS Data Centres   | Werner Gurtner     |
| 7. Other Business, next meeting  | All                |





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# International Laser Ranging Service

## Data Formats & Procedures Working Group

### Participants

Monday, April 20, 2009, 19:30-21:30  
Vienna, Austria  
Seminarraum SEM 124

Name	Institution	e-mail address
Wolfgang Seemüller	DGFI	seemueller@dgfi.badw.de
Werner Gurtner	Univ. of Berne	gurtner@aiub.unibe.ch
Julie Horvath	NASA SLR/HTSI	Julie.Horvath@honeywell.com
Randy Ricklefs	CSR/UT	ricklefs@csr.utexas.edu
Graham Appleby	NERC/SGF	graham.appleby@nerc.ac.uk
Carey Noll	NASA GSFC	carey.noll@nasa.gov
Mike Pearlman	CfA	mpearlman@cfa.harvard.edu
Erricos C. Pavlis	JCET/Goddard	epavlis@umbc.edu
Scott Wetzel	NASA SLR/HTSI	scott.wetzel@honeywell.com



# CRD format status

- All stations should now be producing CRD-formatted normal points!
- 1 station has passed OC tests and is awaiting analysts' validation (MLRS)
- Six stations (Matera, Herstmonceux, Zimmerwald, Mt. Stromlo, Changchun, Wetzell) are awaiting OC (EDC) format validation before being sent to NASA OC for short arc validation and then to the analysts
- ~7 stations are submitting CRD full rate data to T2L2 experiment, and validation is an issue
- Validation flowchart and errata page now on ILRS website

# CRD format implementation questions

- 1)What is status of EDC format validation?
- 2)How soon will validated EDC data flow to NASA OC for short arc validation?
- 3)How soon will analysts be ready to validate data?
- 4)How will NASA OC contract change effect the timetable?
- 5)How should we change the timetable?
- 6)How do we handle day wrap around?

# Satellite tracking restrictions

- Mission tracking request form now includes tracking restrictions section
- Power restriction added to ILRS web page
- Missions using restrictions:
  - Elevation: ICESat
  - Go/no-go: ICESat, ALOS, LRO, LLR (new)
  - Pass segments: GP-B, ALOS
  - Power: LRO
- Survey was sent by CB to all ranging stations in January; there have been at least 2 reminders

# Satellite tracking restrictions status

- 25 ILRS stations responded (plus Mark Davis for Stafford)
  - 13 have elevation restrictions implemented;
  - 9 plan to implement: from 1 month to end of 2009 or undefined
- 14 have go/no-go implemented
  - 9 plan to implement: from 1 month to end of 2009
- 13 have pass segments implemented
  - 9 plan to implement: from 1 month to end of 2009
- 1 has power restrictions implemented in automation
  - 11 plan to implement: from 1 month to end of 2009
  - 11 have some level of manual control of laser power and beam divergence.
- Some have promised to implement certain restriction when it becomes necessary.

## SLR Tracking Restriction by Station

Site	ID	Code	Type of restriction								Comments
			Elevation		Go/No-go Flag		Pass Segment		Power		
			Y/N*	Plans?	Y/N*	Plans?	Y/N*	Plans?	Y/N*	Plans?	
Golosiv	1824	GLSL	Y		N	Y: months	N	Y: months	N	N: >year	
Lviv	1831	LVIV	N	Y: 2-3 mon	N	Y: 6 mon	N	Y: 2-3 mon	N	N	Power restrictions "impossible"
Maidanak 1	1863	MAID									
Maidanak 2	1864	MAIL									
Komomolsk	1868	KOML									
Mendeleevo	1870	MDVL									
Simeiz	1873	\$IML	N	Y: 1 mon	N	Y: 1 mon	N	Y: 1 mon	N	N	03/18/09
Riga	1884	RIGL	N	N	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Elevation and Power restrictions possible to add
Katively	1893	KTZL									
McDonald	7080	MDOL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	M	Y	
Yaragadee	7090	YARL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Greenbelt	7105	GODL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Momument Peak	7110	MONL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Haleakala, HI	7119	HA46	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Tahiti	7124	THTL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Wuhan	7231	WUHL									
Changchun	7237	CHAL									
Beijing	7249	BEIL									
Koganei	7308	KOGC	N		M		M		N	N	Restriction implemented for ALOS only; no automated restriction
Tanegashima	7358	GMSL	M	Y	Y	-	M	Y	M	Y	Manual control over power and divergence
Arequipa	7403	AREL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	two manual power settings; no plans for other implementation
Concepcion	7405	CONL	Y		N	Y: 3-6 mon	N	Y: 3-6 mon	N	mon	
San Juan	7406	\$JUL									
Hartebeesthoek	7501	HARL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	Manual control over power and divergence
Metshovil2	7806	METL									
Zimmerwald	7810	ZIML	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	Y		Software-controller attenuator in laser beam
Borowiec	7811	BORL	N	Y end 2009	N	Y end 2009	N	Y end 2009	N	2009	Manual control currently; station undergoing modernization
Kunming	7820	KUNL									
Shanghai	7821	\$HA2									
San Fernando	7824	\$FEL									
Mt. Stromlo	7825	\$TL3	N	Y; undefined	Y	-	Y	-	N	planned	
Hehwan	7831	HLWL									
Riyadh	7832	RIYL									
Potsdam	7836	POTL									
Simosato	7838	\$ISL	N	Y-week	N	Y-week	Y	-	N	Y-soon	made when resources are available
Graz	7839	GRZL	Y	-	Y	-	N	N	N	needed	
Hertzmonceux	7840	HERL	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	N		Power controlled by choice of laser and beam divergence
Potsdam	7841	POT3	N	tb d	N	tb d	N	tb d	N	tb d	starting mid-2009
Grasse	7845	GRSM	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	To implement in "some months"
Matera	7941	MATM	N	Y-043009	N	Y-043009	N	Y-053109	N	Y-TDB	
Wetzell	8834	WETL									
FTLRS	--	--	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	To implement in "some months"
TROS	--	--									
Stafford			Y	-	N	unknown	N	unknown	N		DoD clearinghouse certification; manual go/no-go possible;

\*: Y(es), N(o), or (M)annual

# Leap Seconds and the CPF files

- Several CPF producers improperly set the leap second flag last December/January
- Stations could not track certain targets until predictions were corrected
- Is this a producer problem or a format problem?
  - i.e., Is station implementation a problem?
  - If it is a format issue, rewording/reworking CPF leap second flag has been suggested

# Backup Slides...

Dear all,

the introduction of the leap second turned prediction computation into a disaster.

That's what was available to us (without being complete) on January 1st, 2009 during the day:

Center	Sat	Start day	Leap sec	flag	Leap sec	flag
		of set	before		after	January 1, 00:00
HTS	all	Dec 30	0		0	No returns
ESA	ERS-1	Dec 31	1		0	OK on Jan 1
	Envisat					
	Giove-A					
SGF	Ajisai	Jan 1	-		1	No returns
COD	GNSS	Jan 1	-		0	OK on Jan 1
GFZ	GraceA/B	Dec 31	0		0	Probably not OK
GFZ	TerrasarX	Dec 29	0		1	No returns
JAX	Oicets	Dec 30	0		1	OK on Jan 1
UTX	Icesat	Dec 20	0		0	unknown

HTS: When changing the leap second flag to 1 after Jan 1 00:00 everything was OK, Zimmerwald got returns on all tracked satellites

ESA: Obviously leap second applied after Jan 1, 00:00, so tracking and flag was OK. Flag 1 before Jan 1 is against format definition, I don't know how to interpret that

SGF: No returns on Ajisai (only one satellite tested).

GFZ: No leap second flag after Jan 1, 00:00 for Grace A/. Unsure (tracked Grace B for one minute, no returns)<200f>

GFZ: Leap sec flag was set after Jan 1, 00:00. However, no tracking success

UTX: Leap sec flag not set after Jan 1, 00:00. No tracking attempt done.

--> Only COD and JAX managed to correctly deal with the leap second.

The CPF format description clearly states what to do with the leap seconds:

- CPF files spanning the leap second epoch do not take into account the effect of the leap second but flag all subsequent epochs after the leap second epoch.
- CPF files starting after the leap second introduction take the leap second into account, flag set to zero for all epochs.

I ask the prediction centers to check their procedures while the iron is still hot.

Best regards and all the best for the new year to all of you.

Werner Gurtner

20 April 2009

ILRS Vienna

8

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Best regards and all the best for the new year to all of you.

Werner Gurtner

From CPF Manual v1.01

#### 4. Leap second

Application of leap seconds has always been a source of some confusion. In the new format, each ephemeris record contains a leap second value. In prediction files spanning the date of a leap second, those records after the leap second will have this flag set to the number of leap seconds (always '1' so far, but standards allow for -1). In other words, a 3-day file starting the day before a leap second is introduced will have the leap second flag set to '0' for the first 24 hour segment and '1' in the last 48 hours.

Even though the flag is non-zero, the leap second is not applied to the CPF times or positions. The station software needs to detect the leap second flag and handle the time argument to the interpolator appropriately.

Prediction files could still have the leap second flag set to non-zero for several days after the leap second has been introduced.

Once the leap second flag returns to '0' after introduction of the leap second, stations still running on the old time system have to take into account the leap second.

Normally, the leap second field will be set to '0'.

From Mark Davis:

here is the text of cpf format.... Its not practical to do paragraph2  
... that would involve folks setting and unsetting in the sw - and every  
day in and around it would have to be specially handled.

2 options...

A) change the wording to be - the epoch of the records should always  
be UTC.

Define "sum of the leap second flag and epoch" should be UTC.

B) must write a special reader/ re-writer to convform to this procedure

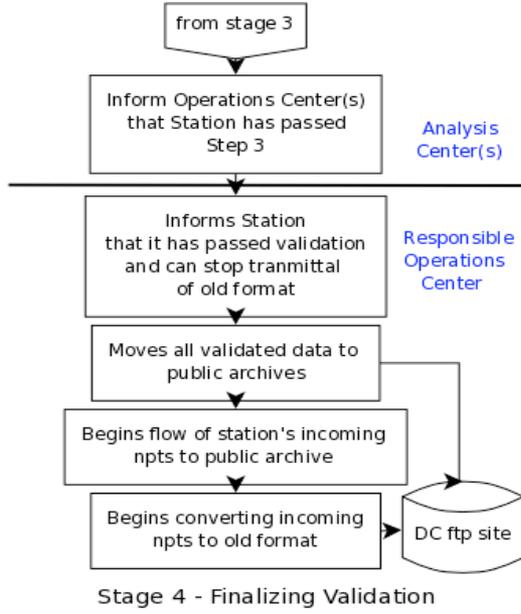
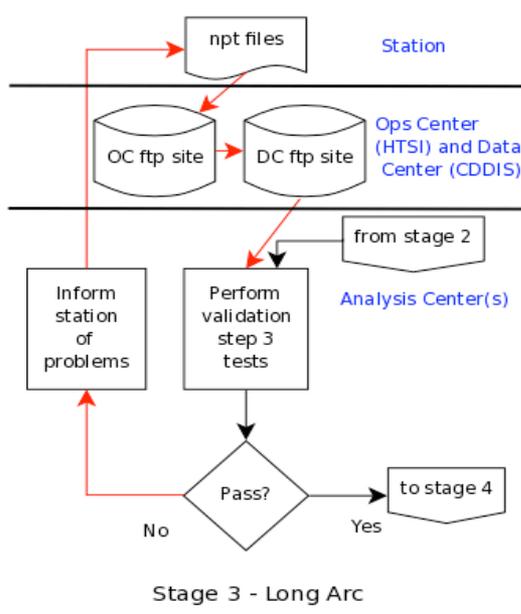
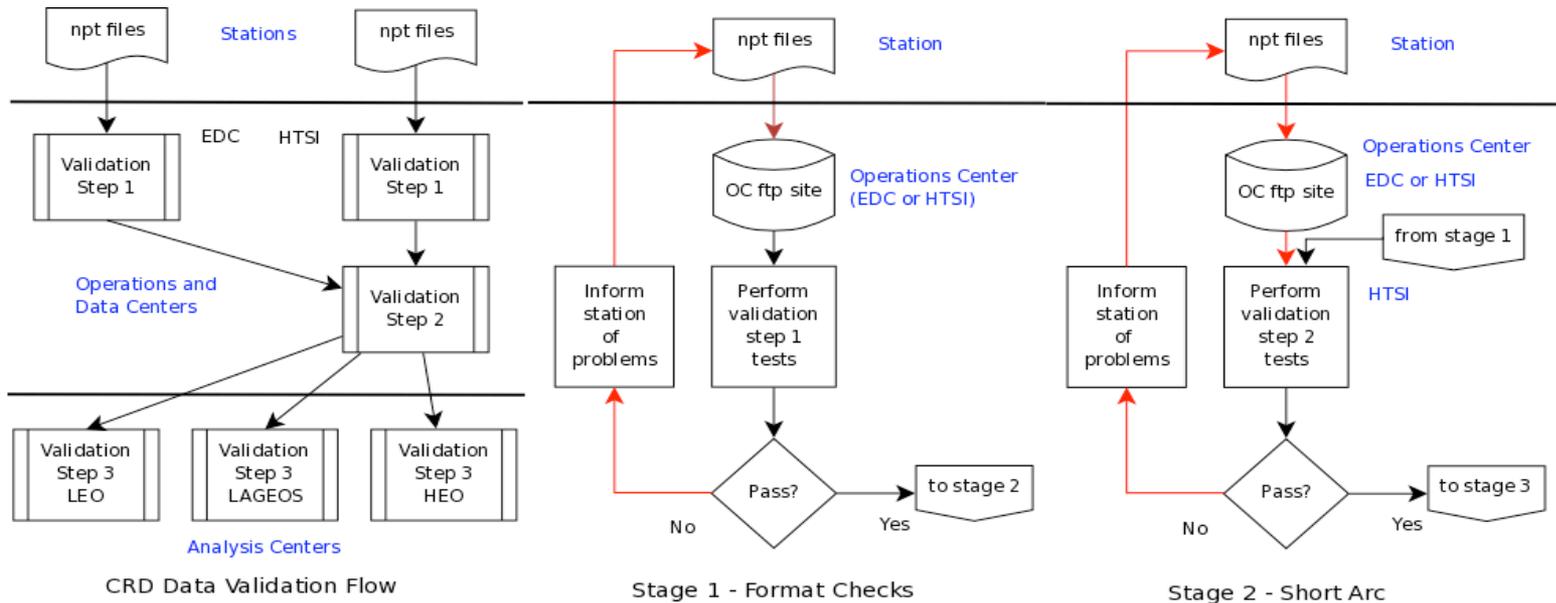
Option A is the cleanest as all sites should have introduced it and their  
local clock is utc.

All that will happen is the epoch's will shift from 60 to 59 for one  
minute - but there is already a provision for variable records.

It also allows folks that don't put it in and flag the records so that when  
added things end up right.

In practice I can see where someone's pass is crossing the day and  
the fitting would be goof'd up on the processing side in either solution.

I vote for A.



## TRACKING RESTRICTIONS:

Several types of tracking restrictions have been required during some satellite missions. See [http://ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov/satellite\\_missions/restricted.html](http://ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov/satellite_missions/restricted.html) for a complete discussion.

- 1) Elevation restrictions: Certain satellites have a risk of possible damage when ranged near the zenith. Therefore a mission may want to set an elevation (in degrees) above which a station may not range to the satellite.
- 2) Go/No-go restrictions: There are situations when on-board detectors on certain satellites are vulnerable to damage by inter-laser irradiation. These situations could include safe hold position or maneuvers. A small ASCII file is kept on a computer controlled by the satellite's mission which includes various information and the literal "go" or "nogo" to indicate whether it is safe to range to the spacecraft. Stations access this file by ftp every 5-15 minutes (as specified by the mission) and do not range when the flag file is set to "nogo" or when the internet connection prevents reading the file.
- 3) Segment restrictions: Certain satellites can allow ranging only during certain parts of the pass as seen from the ground. These missions provide station-dependent files with lists of start and stop times for ranging during each pass.
- 4) Power limits: There are certain missions for which the laser transmit power must always be restricted to prevent detect damage. This requires setting laser power and beam divergence at the ranging station before and after each pass. While the above restrictions are controlled by software, this restriction is often controlled manually.

Many ILRS stations support some or all of these tracking restrictions. See xxx for the current list. You may wish to work through the ILRS with the stations to test their compliance with your restrictions or to encourage additional stations that are critical to your mission to implement them.

The following information gives the ILRS a better idea of the mission's restrictions. Be aware that once predictions are provided to stations, there is no guarantee that forgotten restrictions can be immediately enforced.

- 1) Can detector(s) or other equipment on the spacecraft be damaged or confused by excessive irradiation, particularly in any one of these wavelengths (532nm, 1064nm, 846nm, or 423nm)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Are there times when the LRAs will not be accessible from the ground?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (If so, go/ files might be used to avoid ranging an LRA that is not accessible.)

\_\_\_\_ (If so, go/nogo or segmentati on fi les might be used to avoid ranging an LRA that is not accessible.)

3) Is there a need for an altitude tracking restriction? \_\_\_\_\_What altitude (degrees)?

4) Is there a need for a go/no-go tracking restriction? \_\_\_\_\_  
For what reason(s)?

5) Is there a need for a pass segmentati on restriction? \_\_\_\_\_  
For what reason(s)?

6) Is there a need for a laser power restriction? \_\_\_\_\_  
Under what circumstances?

\_\_\_\_What power level (mW/cm<sup>2</sup>)? \_\_\_\_\_

Is manual control of transmit power acceptable? \_\_\_\_\_

7) For ILRS stations to range to satellites with restrictions, the following statement must be accepted.

“The mission sponsor agrees not to make any claims against the station or station contractors or subcontractors, or their respective employees for any damage arising from these ranging activities, whether such damage is caused by negligence or otherwise, except in the case of willful misconduct.”

Please initial here to express agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Other comments on restrictions:

CRD Errata - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov/products\_formats\_procedures/crd\_errata.html

Red Hat Network Support Shop Products Training

ILRS Home > Data & Products > CRD Errata

## CRD Errata

(as of 12-Mar-2009)

This page is used to accumulate errata/changes to the CRD documents and source code. It will be updated when needed.

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**Issue #: 2009-6**

**Date:** 12 March 2009  
**Component:** manual  
**Version:** 1.00  
**Section:** Introduction  
**Problem:** The manual suggests filling a numeric field with "-1" and a string field with "na" the when value is not known or not applicable when converting from old format. These should be the fallback values in all cases, not just when converting old data.  
**Change:** Replace

When data is converted from an old format to the CRD format, there will be fields (such as skew and kurtosis) that do not exist in the old format.

with

There will often be cases where the value of a data record field is either unknown or not applicable. This is especially true when data is converted from an old format to the CRD format, since there will be fields (such as skew and kurtosis) that do not exist in the old format.

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**Issue #: 2009-5**

**Date:** 11 March 2009  
**Component:** sample source code  
**Version:** 1.00  
**Routine:** common\_c/write\_crd.c  
**Problem:** Satellites launched between 2000 and 2009 have 1 or 2 leading zeros in their ILRS ID. The write routine for the H3 record prints spaces instead of leading zeros.  
**Change:** Replace

On line 55, replace

```
h3          %8d %4d %8d %1d %1d", header.ilrs_id, header.sic,
```

with

```
h3          %07d %4d %8d %1d %1d", header.ilrs_id, header.sic,
```

---

**Date:** 11 March 2009  
**Component:** sample source code  
**Version:** 1.00  
**Routine:** common\_f/write\_crd.f  
**Problem:** Satellites launched between 2000 and 2009 have 1 or 2 leading zeros in their ILRS ID. The write routine for the H3 record prints spaces instead of leading zeros.  
**Change:** Replace

On line 64, replace

```
1000 FORMAT ('h3", 1x, a10, 1x, i8, 1x, i4, 1x, i8, 1x, i1, 1x, i1)
```

with

```
1000 FORMAT ('h3", 1x, a10, 1x, i8.7, 1x, i4, 1x, i8, 1x, i1, 1x, i1)
```

Done

# CRD Format Status

## Stations providing CRD format

General remarks: check by crd\_chk programme provided by Randy Ricklefs, npt check of EDC for meteorological data, etc., check of SOD, SIC, NORAD-No., npt window indicator, npt data integrity compliance, npt bin compliance (next week)

# CDR Format Status (cont'd)

CRD npt-data delivered to EDC:

- Simeiz (1873): error in satellite record, solved
- Changchun (7237): error in meteorological, npt and calibration record, station informed, solved
- Zimmerwald (7810): error in npt record and others, station informed (older version?)
- Mount Stromlo (7825): error in npt record, sometimes in c2, station informed, start time > 86400 sec., in discussion, file name different from file naming convention of version v1.00

# CRD Format Status (cont'd)

- Wettzell (8834): errors detected, solved, file naming not correct, station will be informed
- Concepcion (7405): CRD npt data since beginning of April 2009, error in station record, solved, (wavelength?)
- Herstmonceux (7840): O.K.
- Grasse (7845): O.K., Jason-2 only
- Matera (7941): O.K., some weeks, JASON-2 only

# CRD Format Status (cont'd)

CRD fr-data delivered to EDC (T2L2):

- Simeiz (1873): npt window indicator correct?, station informed, seems to be O.K.
- Changchun (7237): O.K.
- Zimmerwald (7810): for JASON-2 and AJISAI only, gunzip → unexpected end of file, errors in H3, calibration and detector records (older version?)

# CRD Format Status (cont'd)

- Mount Stromlo (7825): fr-data, npt data, and both together, file naming not correct (for merging important), error in range (crossing midnight) and elevation record
- Herstmonceux (7840): O.K., JASON-2 only
- Grasse (7845): O.K., JASON-2 only
- Matera (7941): O.K., some weeks only
- Wettzell (8834): multi-path files with H4, H8 records, now O.K., file naming not correct, station will be informed
- Grasse/FTLRS (7829): O.K., JASON-2 only

# CRD Format Status (cont'd)

## Additional remarks:

- The crd check will be continued, especially with respect to the correct SOD, SIC, Norad No., the npt window indicator, and npt generation violation
- The stations will be informed about incorrect crd format and/or incorrect parameters detected by the quality check

# CRD Format Status (cont'd)

- Proposal: we should start with the daily crd data exchange next month before the transition to the hourly delivery
- Another proposal if requested by SLR stations: we would install a web page where the stations can put their crd data, and will receive the outputs of the crd check and the quality check before sending them to the data centre to avoid additional more work

# Validating the new CRD data format

**Magdalena Kuzmicz-Cieslak**  
JCET/Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County

Erricos C. Pavlis  
JCET/Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County, and  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

[epavlis@UMBC.edu](mailto:epavlis@UMBC.edu)

- Tested data submitted by MLRS in CRD and ILRS NP format for the past few months
- We convert the CRD data back to a quasi-ILRS FR format, which is directly readable by our analysis s/w (GEODYN)
  - All quantities were converted using the CRD precision
  - Met data are used without interpolation

```

h1 CRD 0 2007 9 5 13
h2 MDOL      7080 24 19 4
h3 LAGEOS1   7603901 1155      8820 0 0|
h4 1 2007 5 11 23 53 33 2007 5 11 0 2 14 0 0 0 0 1 0 2
c0 0 532.000 std mll mcp mt1
c1 0 mll Nd-Yag 1064.00 10.00 -1.00 200.0 -1.00 1
c2 0 mcp mcp 532.000 -1.00 3800.0 0.0 unknown -1.0 3.00 -1.0 35.0 none
c3 0 mt1 TAC TAC MLRS_CMOS_TMRB_TD811 na 467300000.0
60 std 5 2
40 86013.4523810 0 std 47 46 -1.000 -831.7 0.0 59.4 0.118 -0.837 203.4 3 3
20 86023.457 803.09 296.26 32. > MET RECORD for next 2 data
11 86023.456666973740 0.045600077128 std 2 120 22 92.5 1.503 -0.308 -47.9 1.83
11 86090.485491141153 0.044884749423 std 2 120 89 109.7 1.519 -0.342 17.3 7.42
20 86338.192 803.09 296.06 32. > MET RECORD for 1 data
11 86338.192059406327 0.042824226301 std 2 120 99 85.0 1.588 -0.002 -60.8 8.25
20 71.549 803.09 296.26 33. > MET RECORD for next 2 data
11 71.549406949766 0.042137743997 std 2 120 47 84.2 1.551 -0.110 -73.2 3.92
11 131.175048712525 0.041934327881 std 2 120 2 46.1 0.354 -2.750 -29.3 0.17
50 std 94.1 1.616 0.060 22.9 0
h8
h9

```

MERIT from CRD file:

760390107131	860234566670	70802419	0	00456000771280000	092	53200	80312962032	0	0	0
760390107131	860904854911	70802419	0	00448847494230000	109	53200	80312962032	0	0	0
760390107131	863381920594	70802419	0	00428242263010000	085	53200	80312960032	0	0	0
760390107132	000715494070	70802419	0	00421377439970000	084	53200	80312962033	0	0	0
760390107132	001311750487	70802419	0	00419343278810000	046	53200	80312962033	0	0	0



# ILRS NP to ILRS FR-X



## FR from ILRS QL NP file below:

76039010815123363562398470802419	05166975787700000795320080092929042	-000092700000000477001124011165210
76039010815123429390708870802419	05093552953200000915320080092929042	-000092700000000477001224011165210
76039010815123628676498670802419	04899772996800001035320080092929042	-000092700000000477000624011165210
76039010815123649985661270802419	04881811221900000825320080092929042	-000092700000000477001224011165210
76039010815123848570794970802419	04742912087700000755320080092929042	-000092700000000477002524011165210

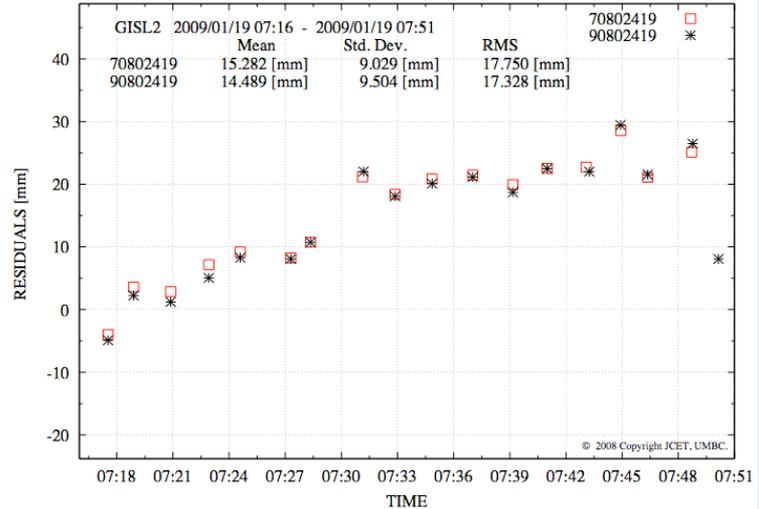
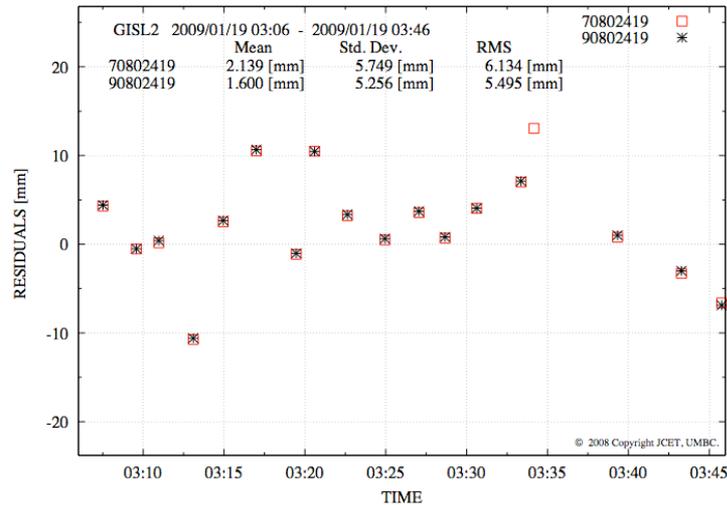
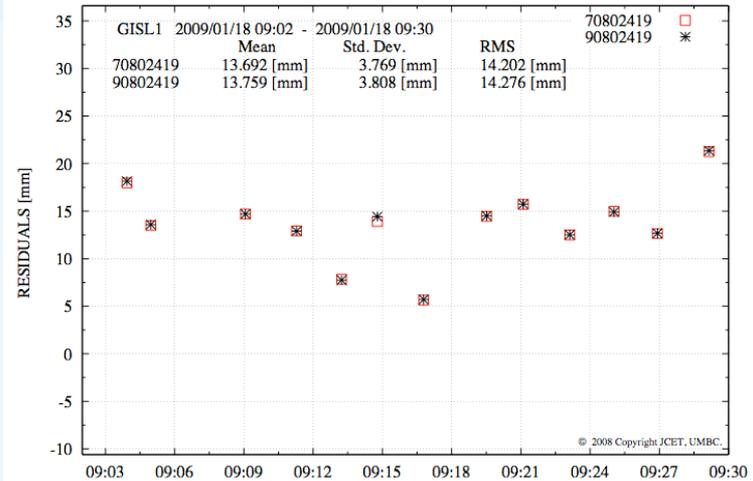
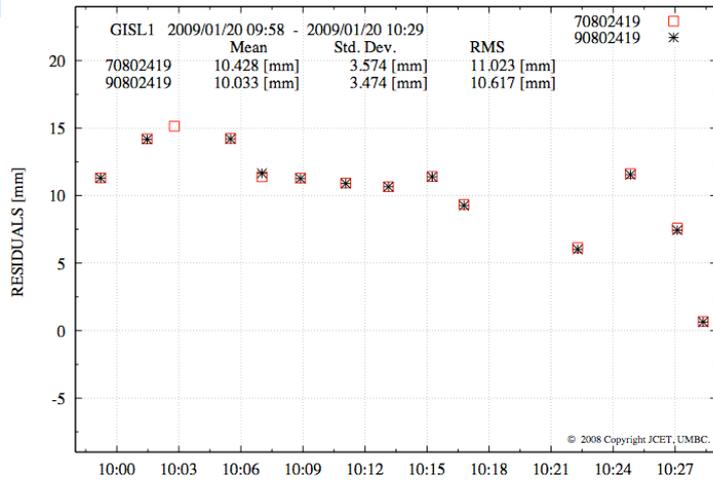
## MERIT from CRDX

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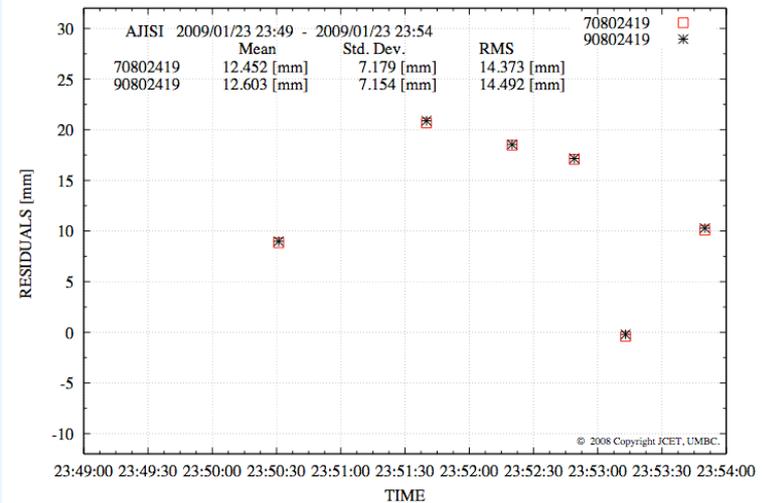
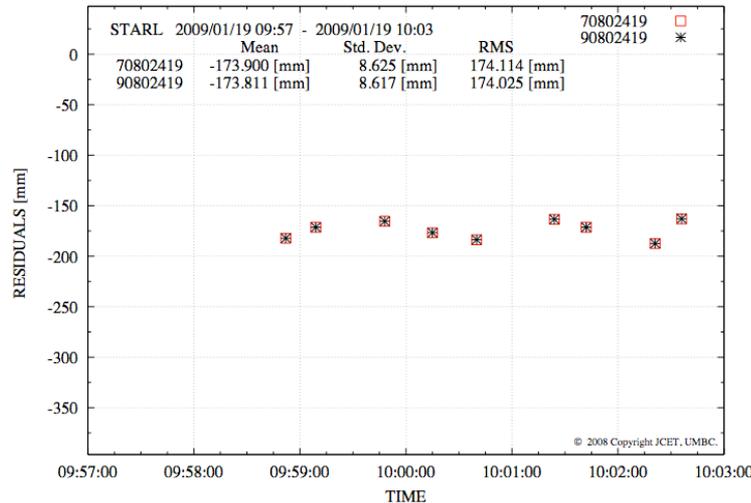
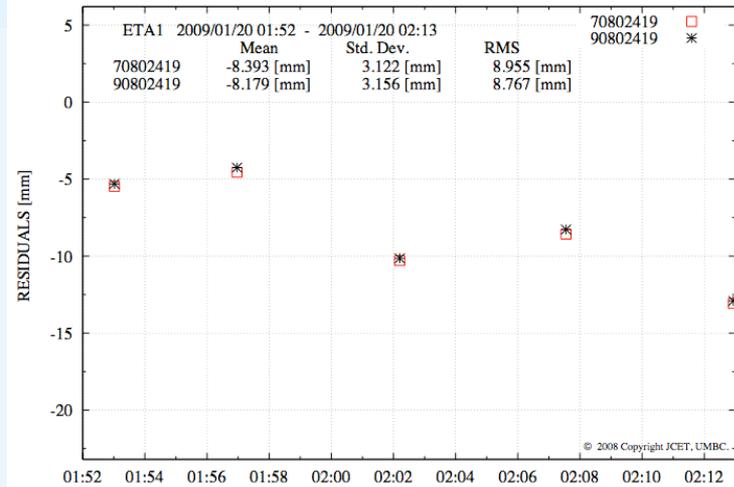
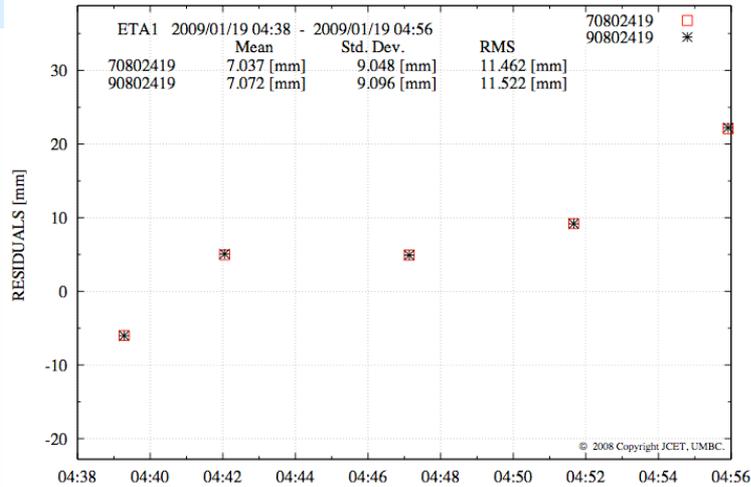
## FR-X from CRD NP file above:



# LAGEOS 1 & 2 Examples



# E-1, Starlette, & Ajisai Examples



- We successfully tested the new CRD format data from MLRS in GEODYN
- We tested only LAGEOS 1 & 2, ETALON 1 & 2, Starlette & Ajisai data only
- No major issues with the format, nearly identical results,  $|\Delta v_R| \leq 0.5 \text{ mm}$
- Questions to the WG:
  - Adopt rules of use, e.g. should met data be interpolated linearly or not?
  - Should other data types in CRD be examined? (FR, QL, engineering data)
- Procedure runs automatically once a week (Tuesday) for available sites