

VALIDATION OF THE TOPEX/POSEIDON GDR ALTIMETER DATA BY INDEPENDENT TECHNIQUES

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Satellite radar altimeter plays a critical role in the global monitoring of the oceans for scientific purposes. The extreme accuracy of the TOPEX/POSEIDON and the additional global coverage of the ESA ERS-2 satellite have created significant advances in oceanography and climate studies. The objective of this work is to perform a validation of several MGDR data as the atmospheric and geophysical corrections applied to obtain the sea surface height (SSH) and the significant wave height (SWH) along specific ground tracks. For the local validation of these MGDR a comparison with the results obtained in two calibration campaigns conducted in the NW-Mediterranean Sea, on March 1999 and July 2000, is made. A data analysis describing the methodology used and a discussion of the results is also presented.