Inter-beam differences analysis

One orbit in 2013 Hsun-Ying Kao and Gary Lagerloef

The track used for interbeam difference analysis here







One of the longest tracks observed over the open ocean.

SSS along one of the tracks in one day in 2013







SSS along one of the tracks averaged whole 2013



Weekly dSSS along the track in 2013 Aquarius HYCOM

0.2

0

-0.2

-0.4

40

50

1-year median of the interbeam difference

Aquarius

HYCOM

Median of 1-year interbeam difference Zoom-in

Aquarius

HYCOM

Aquarius dSSS vs SST, wind speed and latitude

HYCOM dSSS vs SST, wind speed and latitude

Using crossover differences to remove the orbit errors

- Problem: Too much noise and variance that overwhelms the signal of the orbit errors
- Solution:

1. use low pass filter to remove the high frequency noise and small-scale variance

2. use annual mean to reduce the time variance

Cross over points

assumption: at the crossover points, the SSS from the asc and des tracks should be the same (small diurnal changes)

Cross over differences ascending - descending

Cross over differences (circles) and the polynomial fit (lines) that represent the orbit errors

Summary

- It's unclear what causes the interbeam differences, but the cross-over differences can be useful finding the orbit errors and further reduced the interbeam differences.
- Advantage of using crossover differences is to find the actual value of the orbit errors without including any reference SSS values

backup

Salinity gradients along the track psu/km

Aquarius

1-year mean of the interbeam difference

