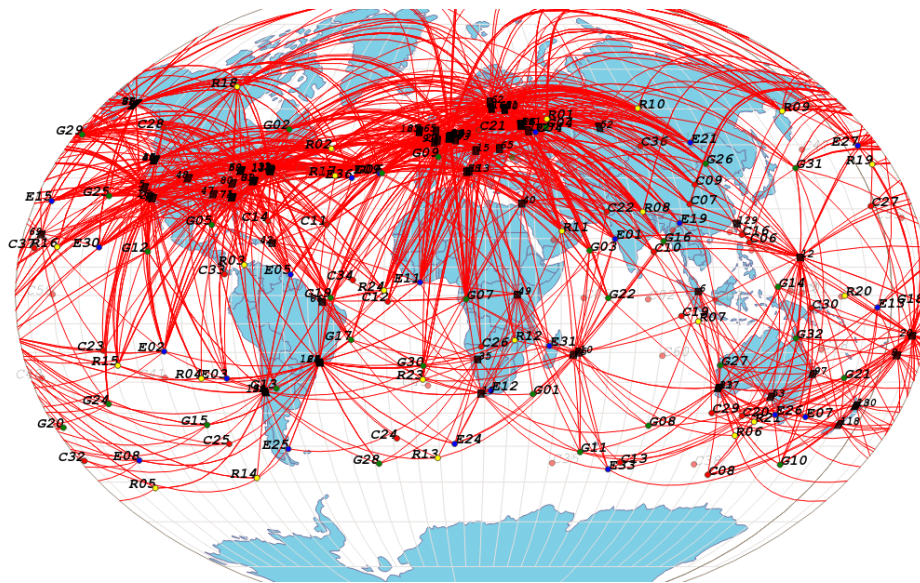


## The **galmon.eu** project



**contact:** [bert@hubertnet.nl](mailto:bert@hubertnet.nl)

## Abstract

The [galmon.eu](http://galmon.eu) site suffered some downtime this week. As somewhat of a joke, Perry Lorier and I wrote up a report of this outage, describing what went wrong, where we were lucky, what could be improved etc. You can read [this report here](#). But it is not entirely a joke - technical people inside and outside organizations love reading such honest reports. For one, it shows that operators take their work seriously. But secondly, there is always something to learn from a failure. Writing up what happened and releasing it promptly is very educational.

This stands in stark contrast to the culture observed over at Galileo. A few weeks ago [satellite E33 became "not healthy" for most of a day](#), but no notice was filed, not even one containing only the barest of details. Not reporting this outage was possible by cleverly defining the satellite to be "not healthy" but also not "unhealthy". And only unhealthy satellites must be reported.

In any case, during our outage, the website was unavailable for a bit, but no data was lost because of our dual site recording infrastructure.

This week saw E08 go to the third batch ephemeris, which means it did not receive fresh updates for more than six hours. Luckily both E08's orbit and clock cooperated, and there was limited operational impact.

During the week, one uplink station dish appears to have been regained, and we ended the week with 18 simultaneous updates. It may be good to know four or more Galileo satellites are awaiting launch, which would stretch the uplink station capacity even further.

E14 went "NAPA" briefly, but this does not matter since E14 is not a production satellite. It does remind us that the NAPA problems have not gone away entirely. But perhaps eccentric orbit satellites are more sensitive in this respect.

This week, on average 0.0% of the earth's surface violated the PDOP performance level for 5 degree elevation satellites, while 0.6% was violated for 10 degree elevation. See [1.2](#) for finer definitions of these metrics.

See [chapter 2](#) for further details.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Intended use . . . . .	3
1.2	Performance levels . . . . .	3
1.3	Data sources, acknowledgments . . . . .	4
1.4	About us . . . . .	4
<b>2</b>	<b>Weekly summary &amp; open items</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Ongoing oscillatory oddity . . . . .	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	The galmon.eu network . . . . .	8
3.2	Percentage observed . . . . .	8
3.3	Healthy satellites . . . . .	11
3.4	Signal In Space Accuracy (SISA) and NAPA . . . . .	13
<b>4</b>	<b>OSNMA</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Ephemerides and ground segment capacity</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1	Ephemeris age . . . . .	15
5.2	Ground station capacity and non-prime batches . . . . .	15
<b>6</b>	<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1	Radial error . . . . .	17
6.2	Clock error . . . . .	19
6.3	Clock stability . . . . .	21
<b>7</b>	<b>Global performance</b>	<b>23</b>
7.1	PDOP and coverage . . . . .	23
7.2	Signal In Space Error (SISE) . . . . .	25
<b>8</b>	<b>UTC offset, GPS offset (GGTO)</b>	<b>27</b>

8.1 Broadcast offset parameters . . . . .	27
8.2 Measured time offsets between constellations . . . . .	28
<b>9 Ionosphere</b>	<b>30</b>
9.1 NeQuick G analysis . . . . .	32
<b>10 COSPAS-SARSAT Return Link Messages</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>11 Other parameters</b>	<b>37</b>
11.1 BGD E1E5a, E1E5b . . . . .	37
<b>12 Per SV</b>	<b>38</b>

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The [galmon.eu](https://galmon.eu) project strives to publish a weekly unofficial Galileo Performance Report every week. In good weeks, this report will have been processed manually, removing measurement anomalies and other oddities. If we are too busy, there will be an automated report that might for example show bad behaviour of satellites undergoing planned maintenance.

Automated reports will clearly be flagged as such.

Despite this, it should be noted that even manually processed reports only show what we can see. If we report on a problem, it is entirely possible we are misunderstanding a situation.

In addition, even when we show problems for individual Galileo satellites, this in no way means Galileo performance was impaired. We have separate graphs for that.

Finally, we do report on global metrics such as " $x\%$  of the Earth's surface not having Galileo coverage, as defined by being able to see 4 satellites more than 5 degrees above the horizon".

These metrics are defined in the [Galileo Service Definition Document](#), but the SDD also states that the defined Minimum Performance Level is not breaching such a metric for more than 7 days in a row.

Our reports only talk about instantaneous breaches of such performance levels. Readers can determine for themselves if a 6 day breach of a performance level also constitutes a breach of the Minimum Performance Levels.

Official Galileo Performance Reports are published [on the site of the Galileo Service Centre](#).

### 1.1 Intended use

These reports are provided in the hope that these will be useful for the Galileo project. The same goes for [our live dashboard](#) on <https://galmon.eu>.

If anything in these reports is found to be incorrect, or in need of explanation, feedback is most welcome ([bert@hubertnet.nl](mailto:bert@hubertnet.nl)). Similarly, suggestions for additional graphs or metrics are much appreciated.

### 1.2 Performance levels

As noted, the [Galileo SDD](#) contains many performance definitions. We try to align to metrics also present in the SDD, but also provide additional numbers that may be more operationally relevant on a per-week basis.

The SDD defines a Positional Dilution of Precision (PDOP) of more than 6.0 as a performance level threshold, measured for a receiver able to see satellites more than 5 degrees above the horizon.

In addition, the SDD requires visibility of 4 or more satellites more than 5 degrees above the horizon.

Beyond the SDD's 5 degree limit, we also report on a more realistic 10 degree limit (which is closer to what users would encounter).

Galileo currently has a constellation of 22 healthy satellites. This is two less than the design, but for reporting purposes, we consider 22 to be the nominal constellation size.

## 1.3 Data sources, acknowledgments

This report is based on many data sources, and we are very grateful for all the data that is being made public. Such transparency enables great reporting.

We specifically acknowledge the following great data sources:

- DLR and Spaceopal provide a realtime RTCM State Space Representation feed, which we use to plot orbit errors
- CNES provides a similar but independent feed, which makes it possible to separate measurement problems from Galileo problems
- GFZ Potsdam provides excellent post-processed orbit data (SP3) which provide even more authoritative orbit data
- ESA/ESOC provides similar data, calculated independently
- The International GNSS Service (IGS) who distribute and coordinate a vast network of files and realtime streams
- The galmon.eu volunteer receiver network, using over 80 stations around the world to receive each and every Galileo (and BeiDou, GLONASS and GPS) message

Galmon.eu would not be possible without the many many volunteer station operators around the world.

In addition, we thank the Galileo Service Centre and the Spaceopal NAVCAST helpdesks for patiently answering our many questions.

We also thank the European Commission's Joint Research Centre for authoring the NeQuick G model used in this report.

Finally, a large cast of mostly anonymous engineers, researchers, scientists, operators and Galileo customers have provided very valuable insights that made this report possible, and hopefully useful.

## 1.4 About us

We are an independent project, not affiliated with any Galileo vendor or organization.

The galmon.eu network is described in [this post by Bert Hubert](#).

A presentation about our technologies [is here](#).

The source code to our project can be found [on GitHub](#).

## Chapter 2

# Weekly summary & open items

The [galmon.eu](http://galmon.eu) site suffered some downtime this week. As somewhat of a joke, Perry Lorier and I wrote up a report of this outage, describing what went wrong, where we were lucky, what could be improved etc. You can read [this report here](#). But it is not entirely a joke - technical people inside and outside organizations love reading such honest reports. For one, it shows that operators take their work seriously. But secondly, there is always something to learn from a failure. Writing up what happened and releasing it promptly is very educational.

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This week saw E08 go to the third batch ephemeris, which means it did not receive fresh updates for more than six hours. Luckily both E08's orbit and clock cooperated, and there was limited operational impact.

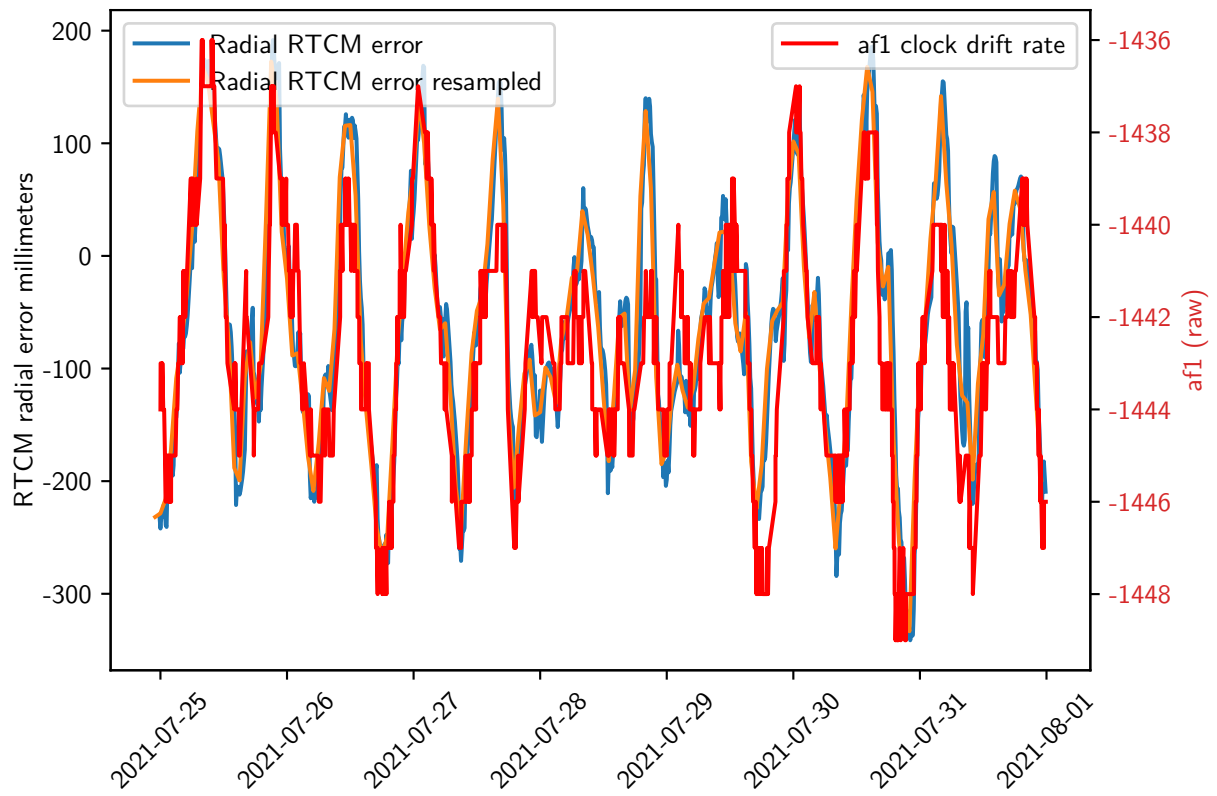
During the week, one uplink station dish appears to have been regained, and we ended the week with 18 simultaneous updates. It may be good to know four or more Galileo satellites are awaiting launch, which would stretch the uplink station capacity even further.

E14 went "NAPA" briefly, but this does not matter since E14 is not a production satellite. It does remind us that the NAPA problems have not gone away entirely. But perhaps eccentric orbit satellites are more sensitive in this respect. This week, on average 0.0% of the earth's surface violated the PDOP performance level for 5 degree elevation satellites, while 0.6% was violated for 10 degree elevation. See [1.2](#) for finer definitions of these metrics.

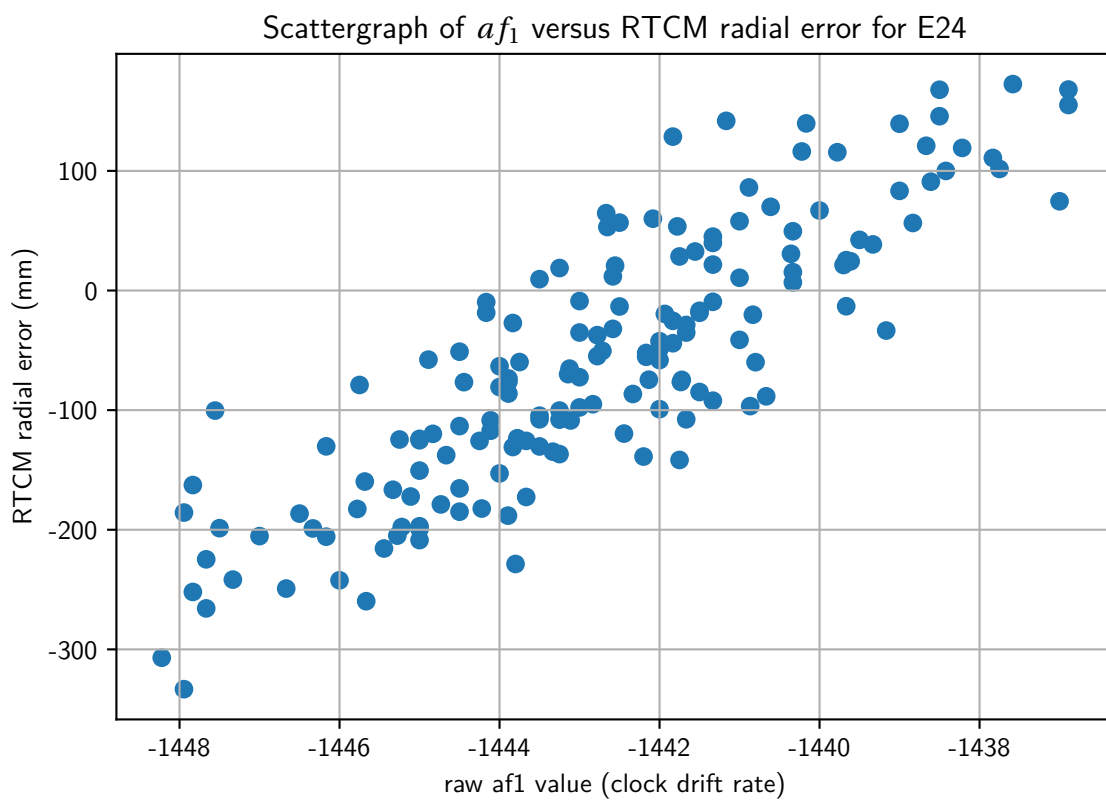
### 2.1 Ongoing oscillatory oddity

As observed in the rest of this report, most measured errors show an oscillation with a period that seems similar to the Galileo orbital period.

Here is a graph of the E24 RTCM radial error (left axis) and the raw  $af_1$  clock drift parameter (right axis).



There appears to be a strong correlation between these two metrics:



This correlation is strong enough that Galileo orbit errors can meaningfully be improved by applying a correction based on



the reported  $af_1$ . We also observe however that there is a corresponding and inverse signal in the clock error. As such the impact on the SISE (see below) is not as pronounced.

The oscillation may indicate a transfer of uncertainty from the space to the time component.

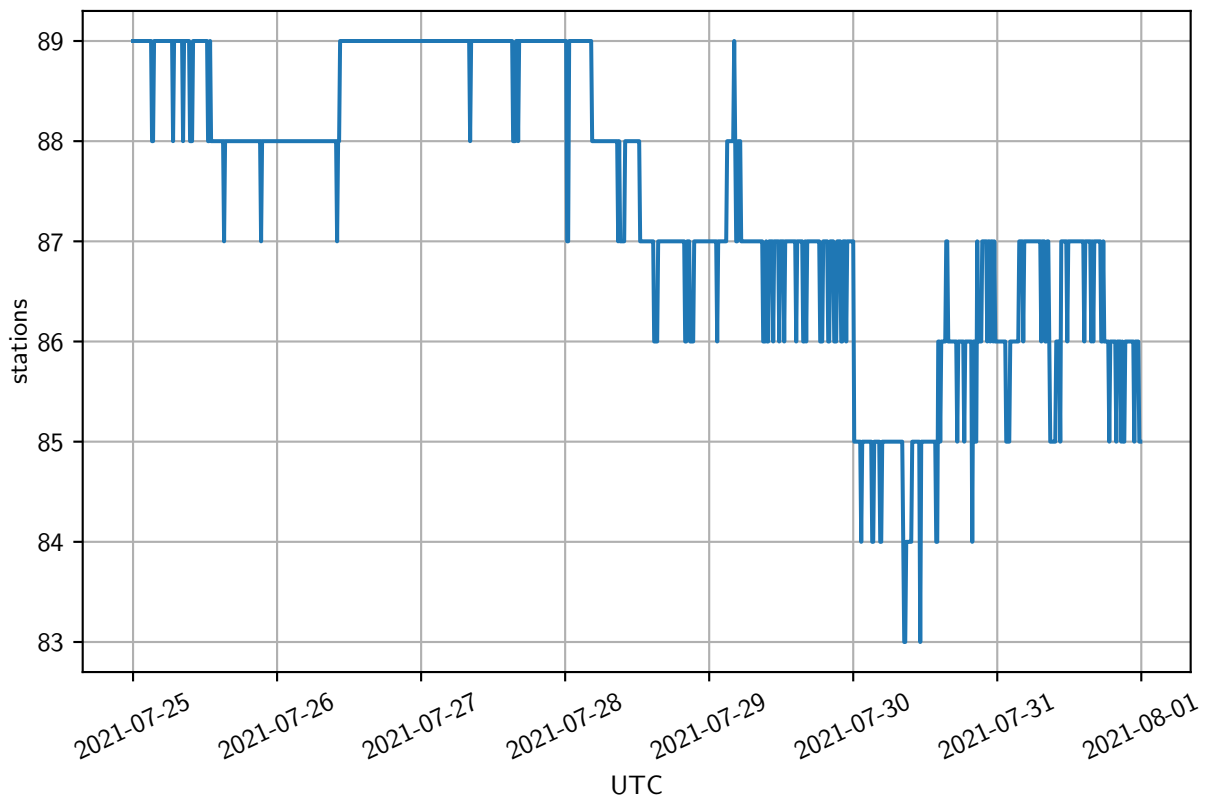
## Chapter 3

# Availability

### 3.1 The galmon.eu network

Nominally there are around 85 stations active in the galmon.eu network. Because many of our stations are in faraway places, connectivity and power sometimes suffer. This graph shows if we had any problems over the reporting period.

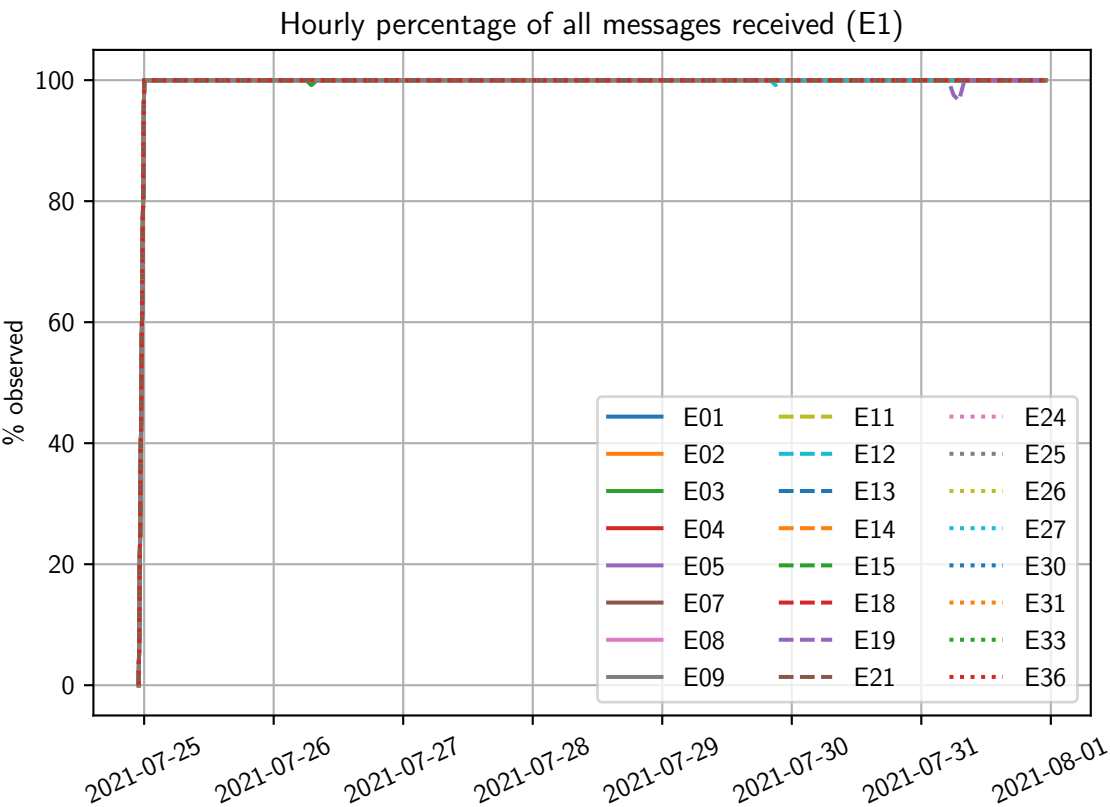
Note that most stations only see the E1 band, some see E5b and one sees E5a and E6. We're working on expanding this coverage.



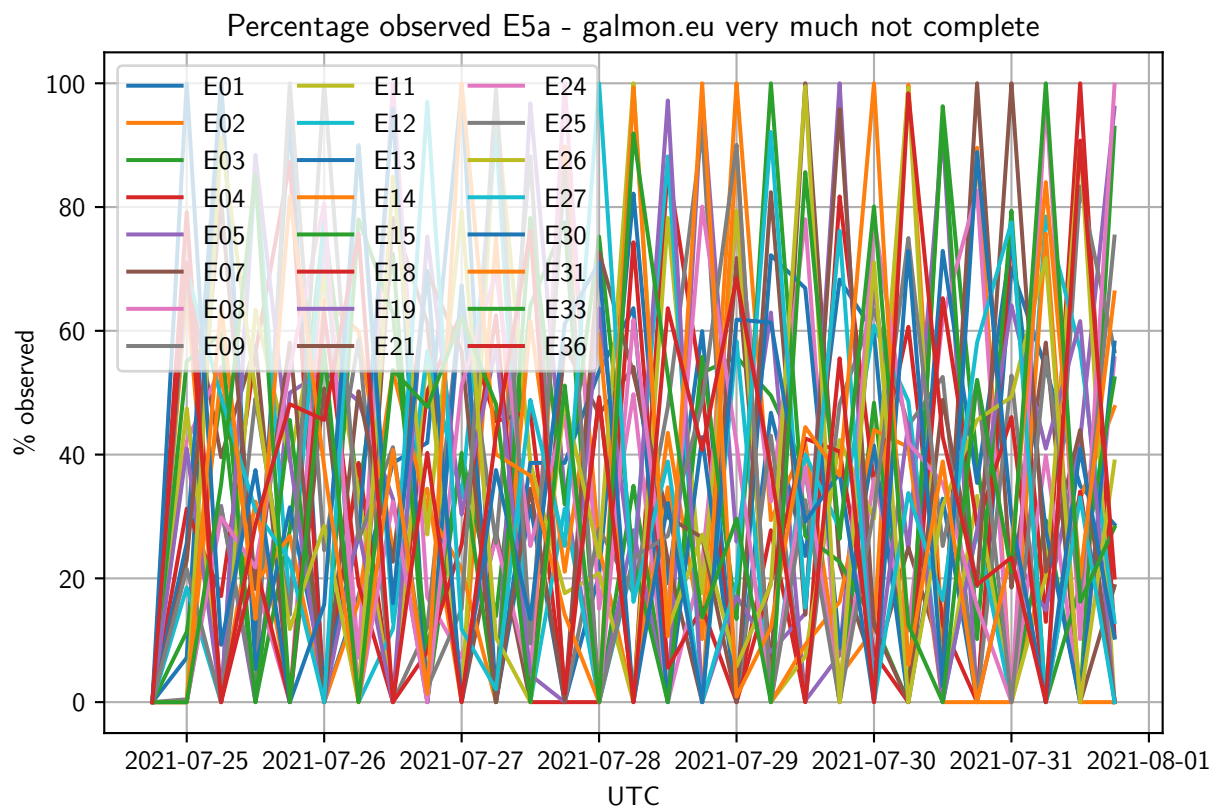
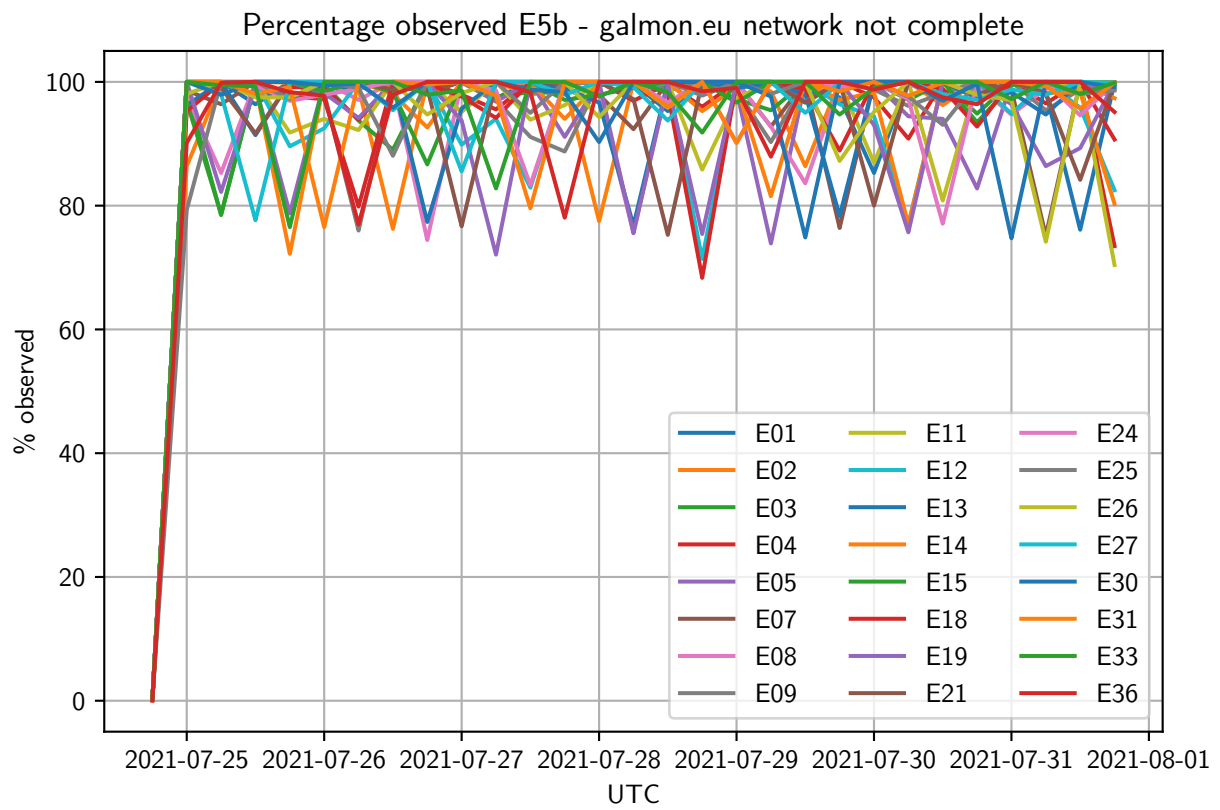
### 3.2 Percentage observed

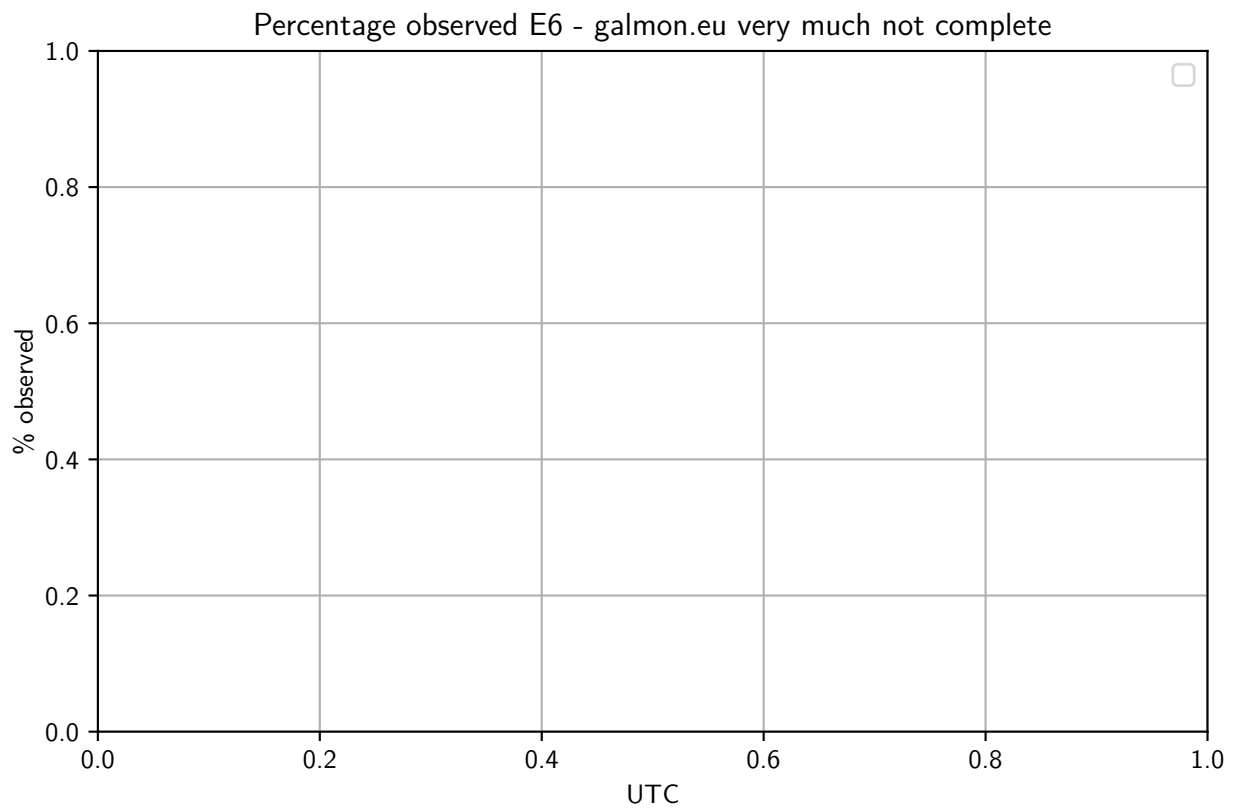
The galmon.eu network strives for 100% coverage of all Galileo transmissions. This is not an easy bar to reach since many receivers will miss double percentage fractions of transmissions. We compensate for this by having a large number of receivers.

Despite this, some messages are not received. If some messages are missed briefly, this likely indicates a deficiency of the galmon.eu network. If there is a more prominent dip, this likely indicates a problem with the satellite. Note that it is normal for this graph to go to zero at the end or beginning of the reporting period.



Our network also covers the E5b, E5a and even the E6 bands, but our coverage is far less complete:

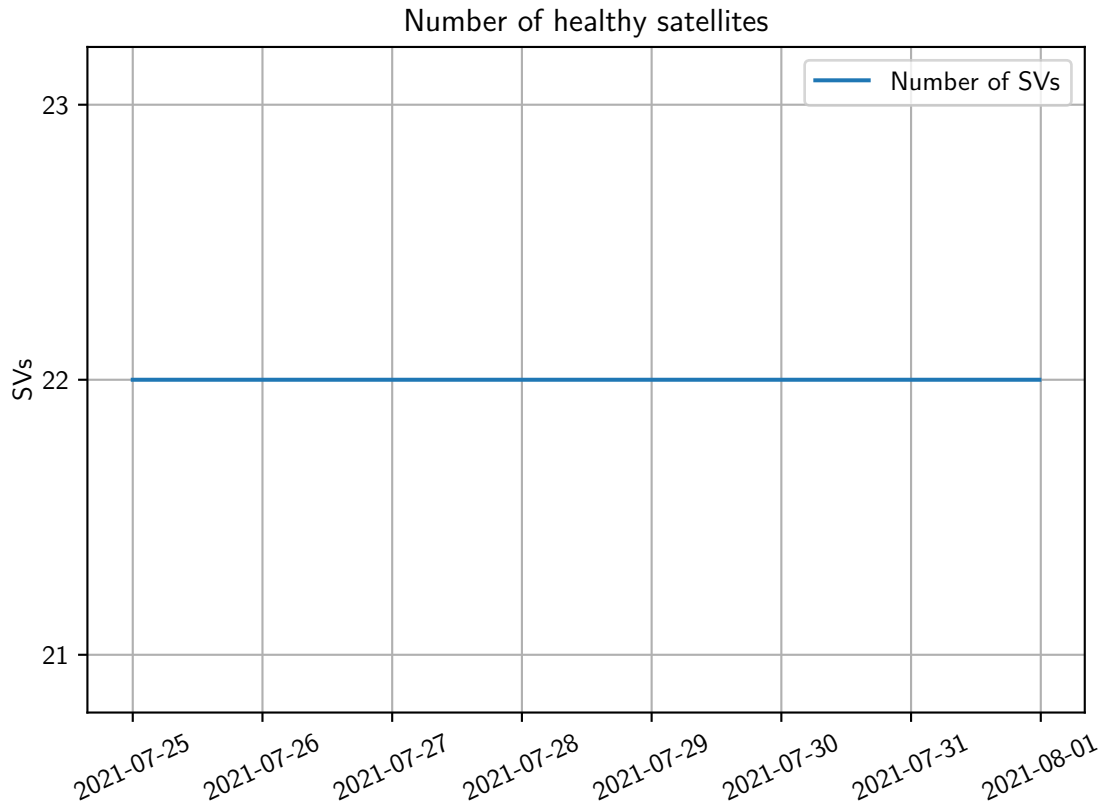




If you can spare us an SBF feed from your Septentrio device, this would be most helpful!

### 3.3 Healthy satellites

Satellites can be healthy, unhealthy or marginal. The difference between the last two categories is academic since no marginal satellites should be used.



In the following table, the distribution of status of all non-testing SVs can be observed:

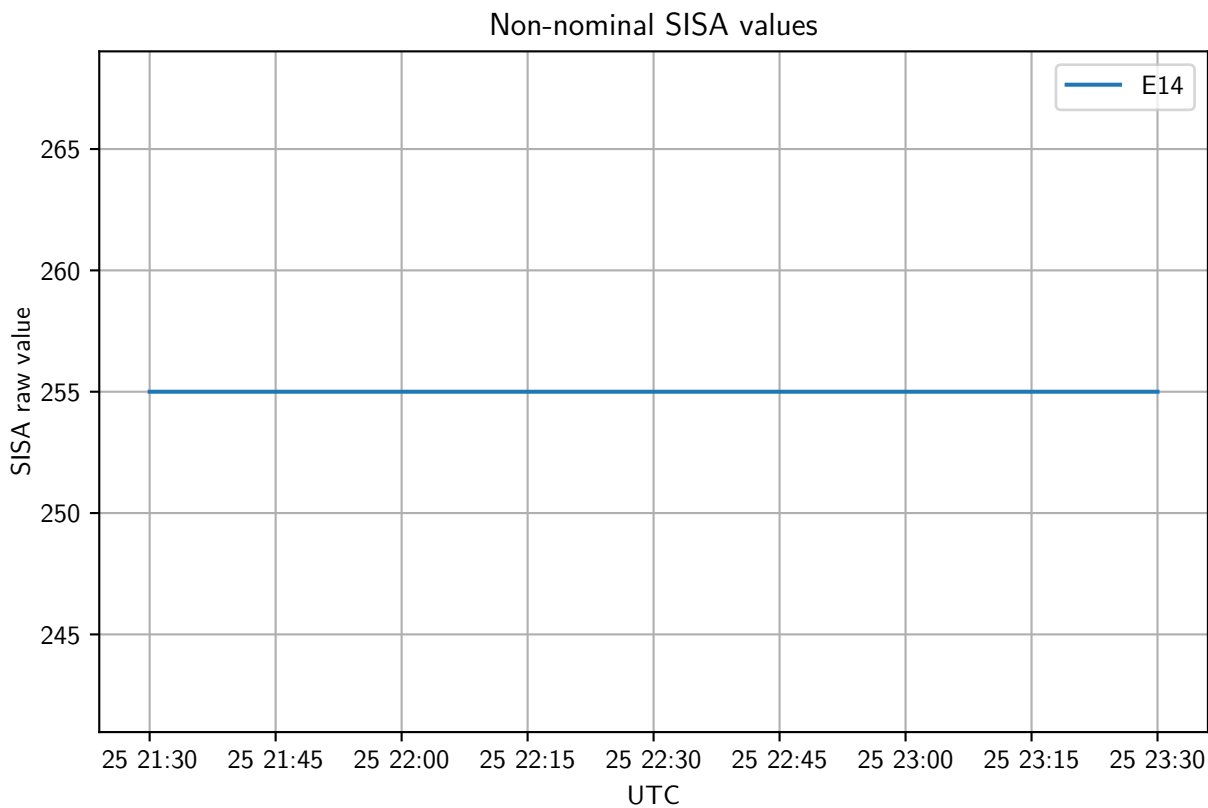
SV	unobserved	unhealthy	healthy	testing	napa	ripe	expired
E01	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E02	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E03	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E04	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E05	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E07	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E08	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.19%	0.00%
E09	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E11	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E12	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E13	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E14	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E15	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E18	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E19	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E21	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.30%	0.00%
E24	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E25	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E26	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E27	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E30	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E31	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E33	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
E36	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tot	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%	0.00%

Table 3.1: Satellite status table for E1/E5b I/NAV

This table defines a "ripe" ephemeris as one older than 100 minutes, and an expired one as older than 4 hours (in accordance with the Galileo Service Definition document).

### 3.4 Signal In Space Accuracy (SISA) and NAPA

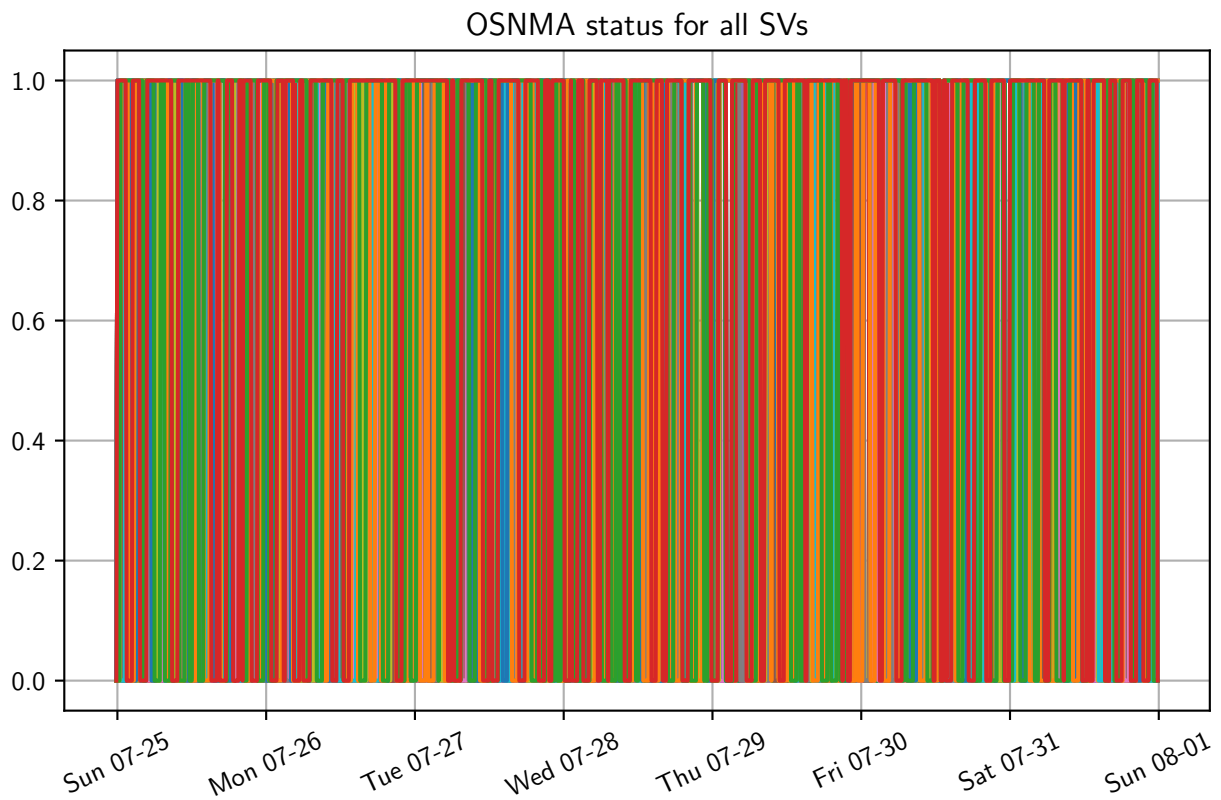
The nominal Signal In Space Accuracy value for Galileo is currently 312 centimeters. This graph shows occasions where Galileo satellites broadcast a different SISA value. If everything is operating as planned, this graph is empty.



## Chapter 4

# OSNMA

Open Service Network Message Authentication (OSNMA) is a new protocol to add digital signatures to Galileo navigation messages. OSNMA is currently in testing, but we're already keeping track of it. To learn more about OSMA, please turn to [this series of posts](#) that attempt to explain this clever and novel protocol.



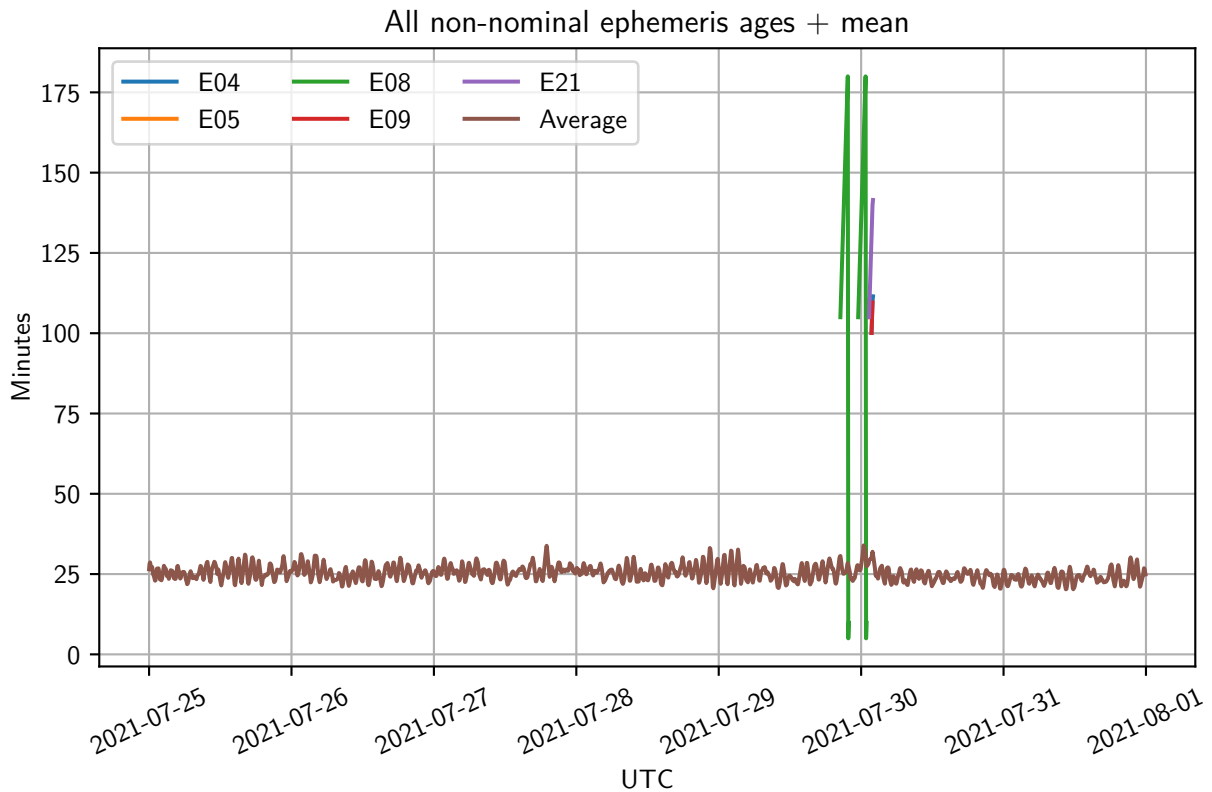


## Chapter 5

# Ephemerides and ground segment capacity

### 5.1 Ephemeris age

This graph shows the average ephemeris age, defined as time passed since  $t_{0e}$ . In addition, any non-nominal ephemerides ages, defined as more than 100 minutes old, will also be shown.



Note that this graph reports the time from  $t_{0e}$  for an ephemeris. A “second batch” ephemeris, which is transmitted by Galileo satellites that haven’t received an update in three hours, will look “fresh” on this graph. The next section plots which ephemerides were actually second or later batches.

### 5.2 Ground station capacity and non-prime batches

The Galileo Ground Segment has five uplink stations: Papeete, Kourou, Svalbard, Réunion and Noumea. Nominally, each of these station has four dishes to uplink data to the Galileo satellites. In practice, this nominal capacity is not available.

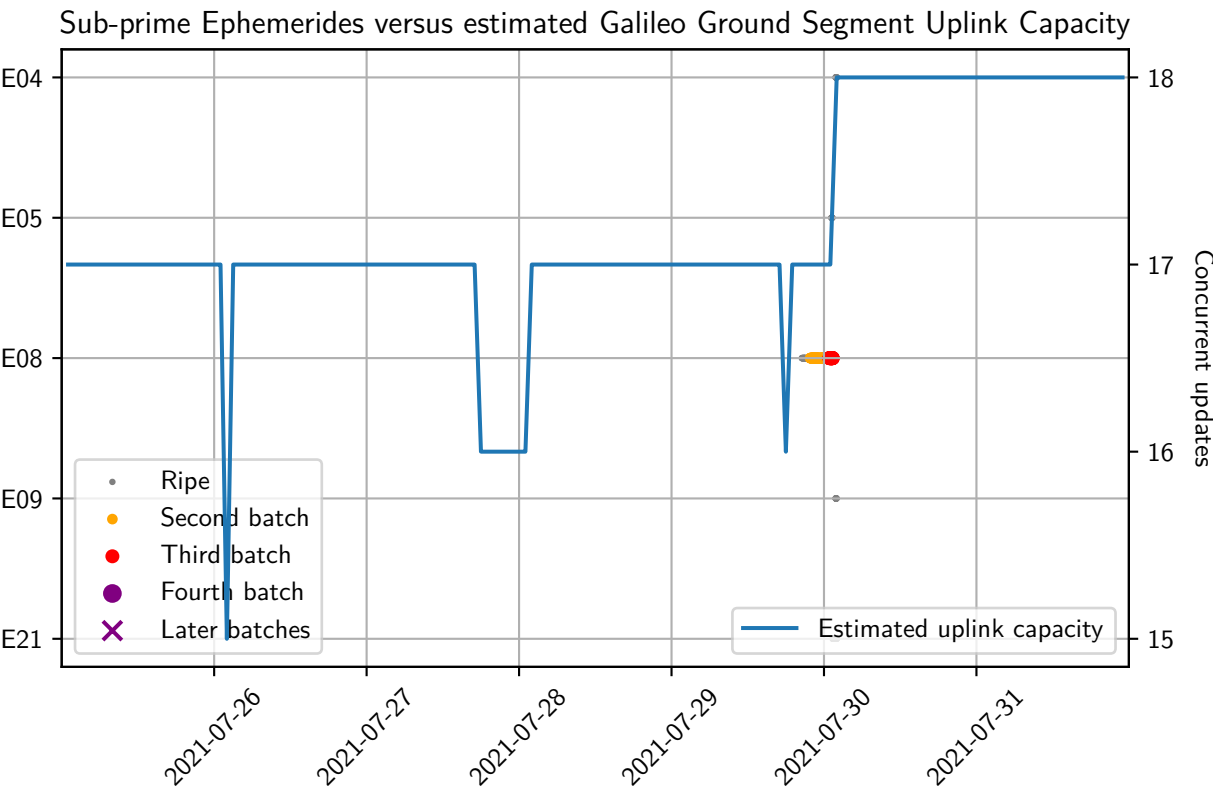
Galileo satellites are nominally updated at least once an hour, and during normal operations, no ephemerides older than 100 minutes are observed.

Frequently however, the uplink capacity is not enough to maintain this update cadence. Usually, 14 dishes are active, and this suffices. If one of these dishes fails for too long, or if multiple dishes are not operational, Galileo satellites continue providing service based on pre-uploaded 'batches' of data.

The second batch is fielded after 3 hours, and the third one after 6 hours. There are 8 batches on board, which provide for 24 hours of autonomous service.

It should be noted however that these later batches contain no new information. If an on-board clock has an anomaly, the pre-uploaded data doesn't know about this, and this can lead to problems and reduced accuracy.

The following graph shows the estimated number of operational dishes, plus for each Galileo satellite if it was serving second, third, fourth or later batch information. In addition, first-batch ephemerides older than 100 minutes get shown as 'ripe'.



In a nominal week, this graph shows a straight blue line denoting 14 active dishes.

The number of operational dishes can only be estimated. The galmon.eu network observes how many Galileo satellites receive updates in unison. The maximum number of simultaneous updates over an hour is taken as an estimate of the number of dishes operational during that hour.

## Chapter 6

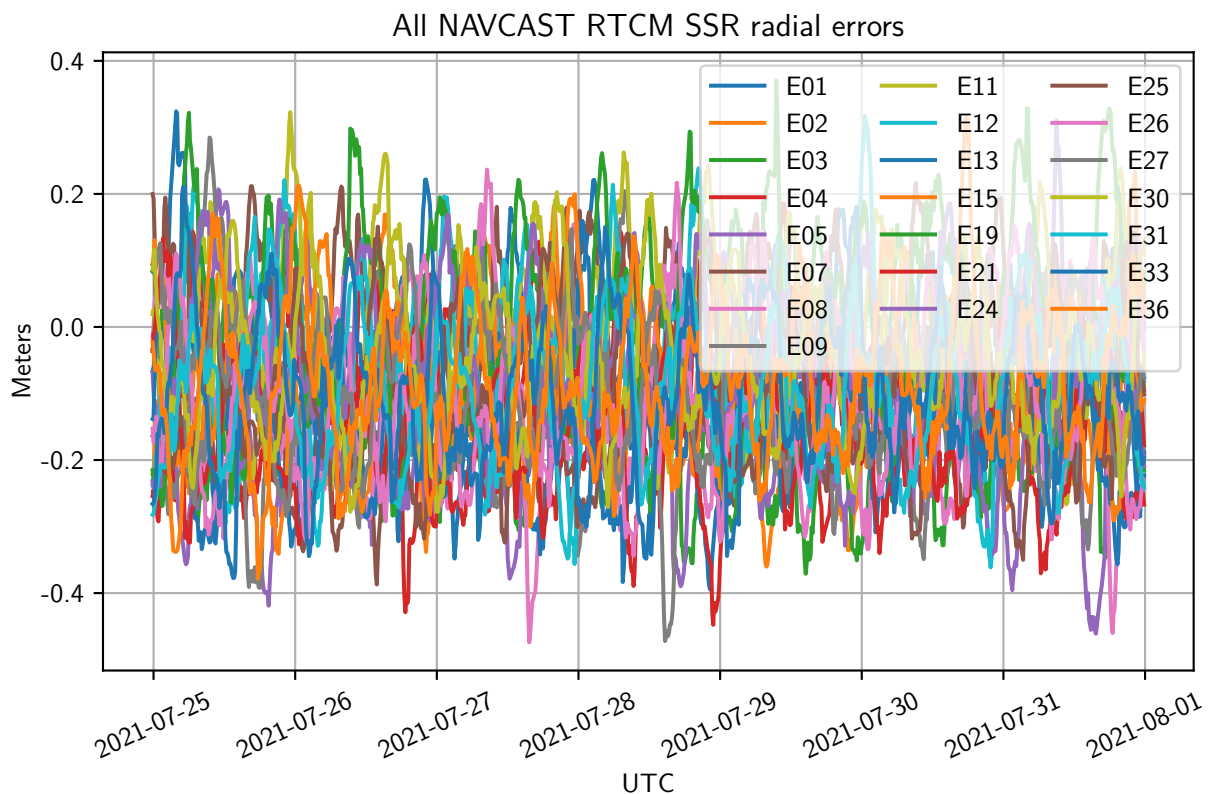
# Accuracy

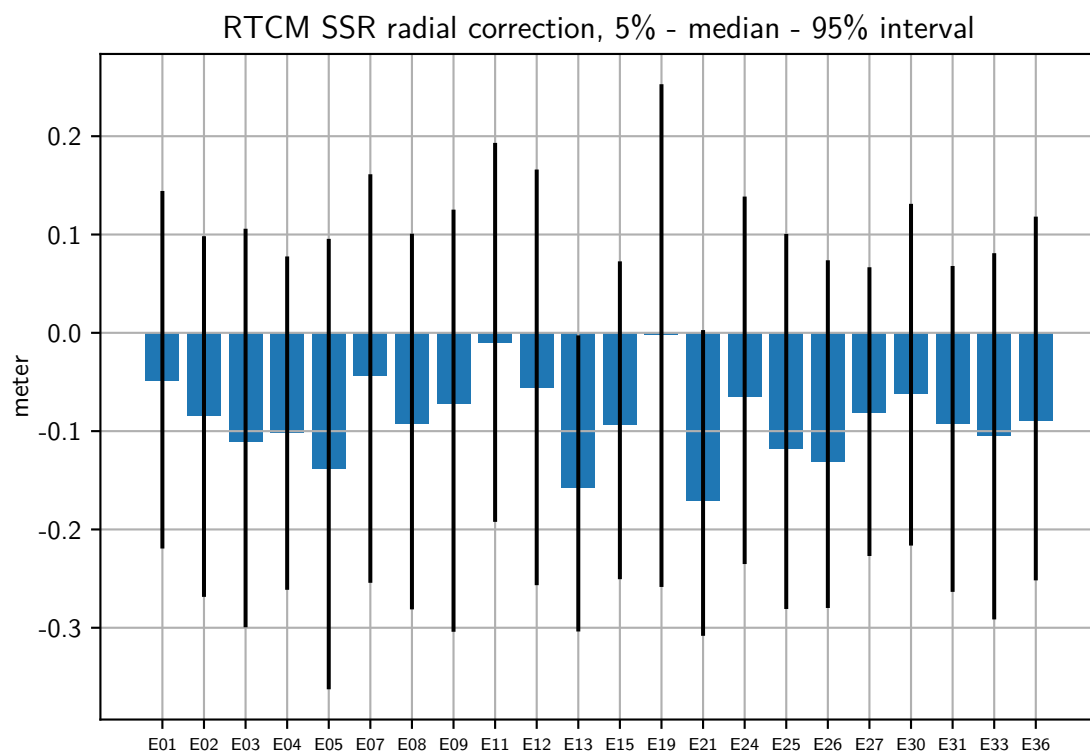
### 6.1 Radial error

In a nominal situation, this graph shows many overlapping lines all clustered around 0 meters error. If any SV deviates significantly, this shows up in subsequent graphs.

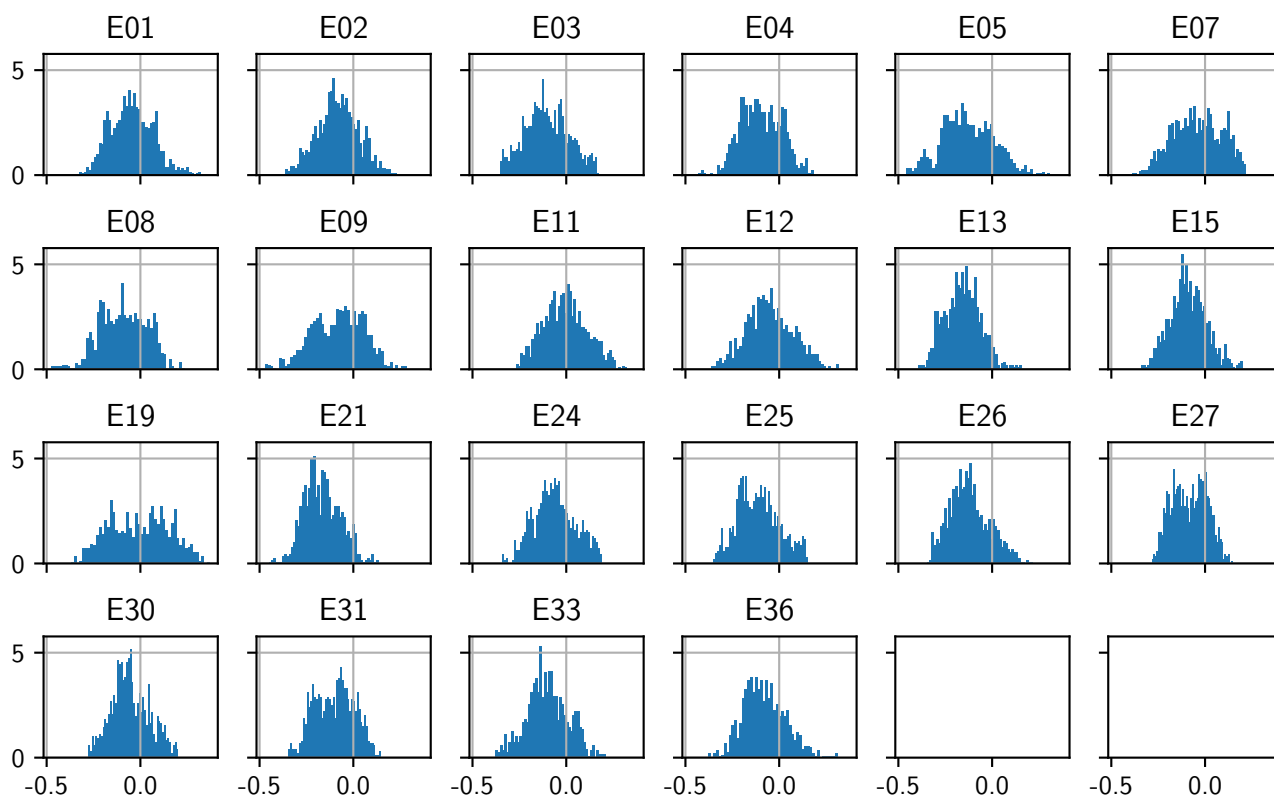
Details for individual satellites can be found at the end of this report.

Note that the RTCM radial data appears to have a 5 centimeter bias. This may reflect a transposition to a different coordinate system.



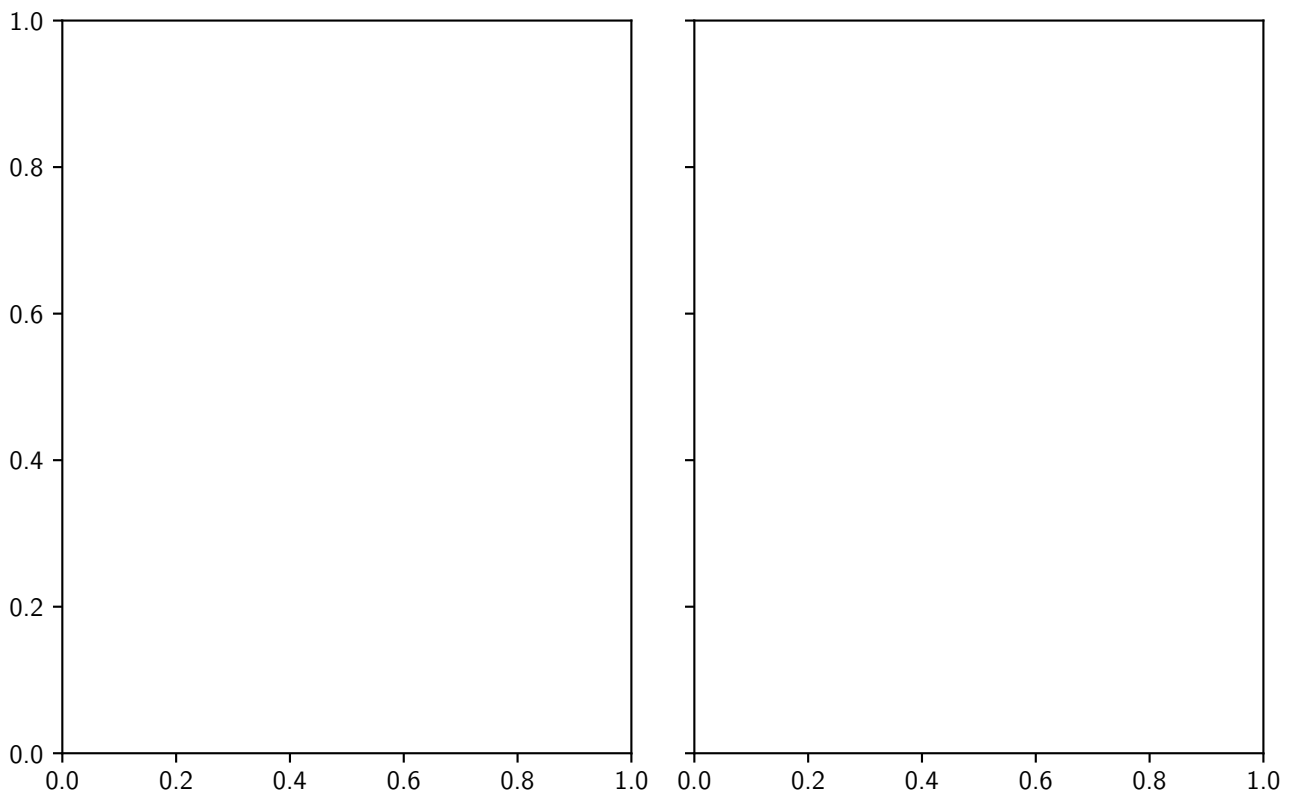


Histogram of RTCM SSR Galileo radial deviations (meters)



Separately, a plot for the auxiliary satellites E14 and E18, which often have far larger excursions:

Histogram of RTCM SSR Galileo radial deviations (meters)



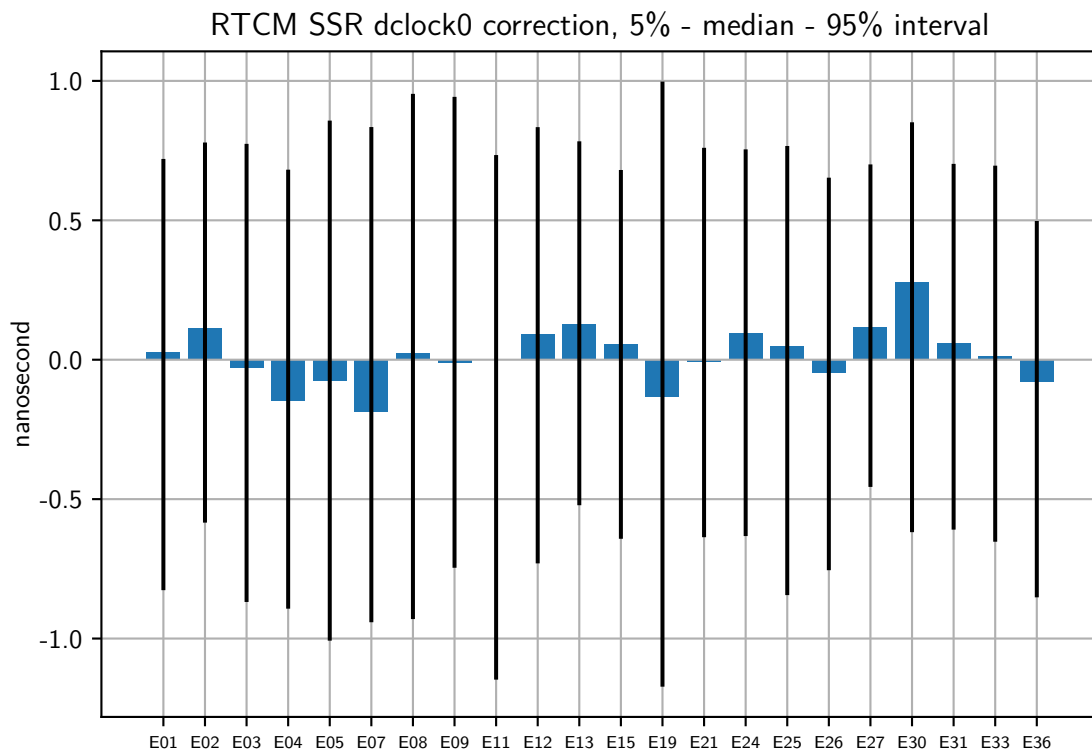
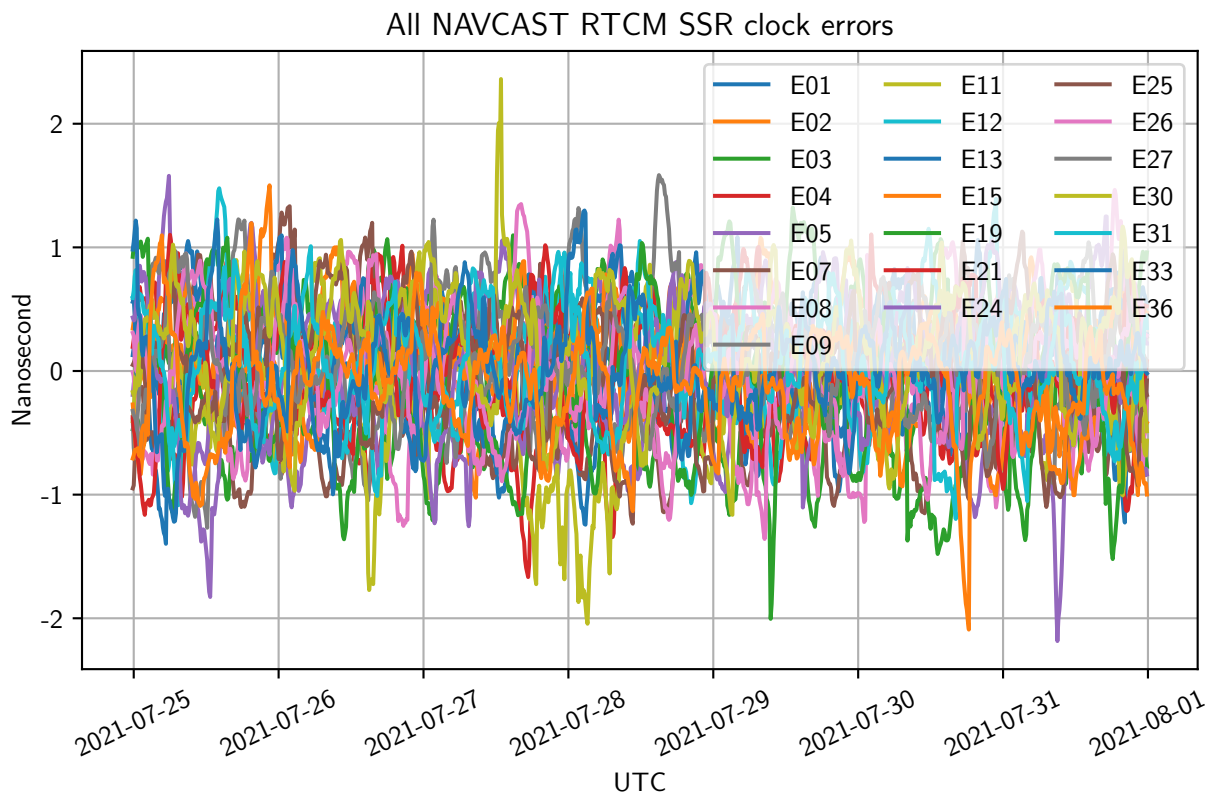
(note the likely different scale on the x-axis)

## 6.2 Clock error

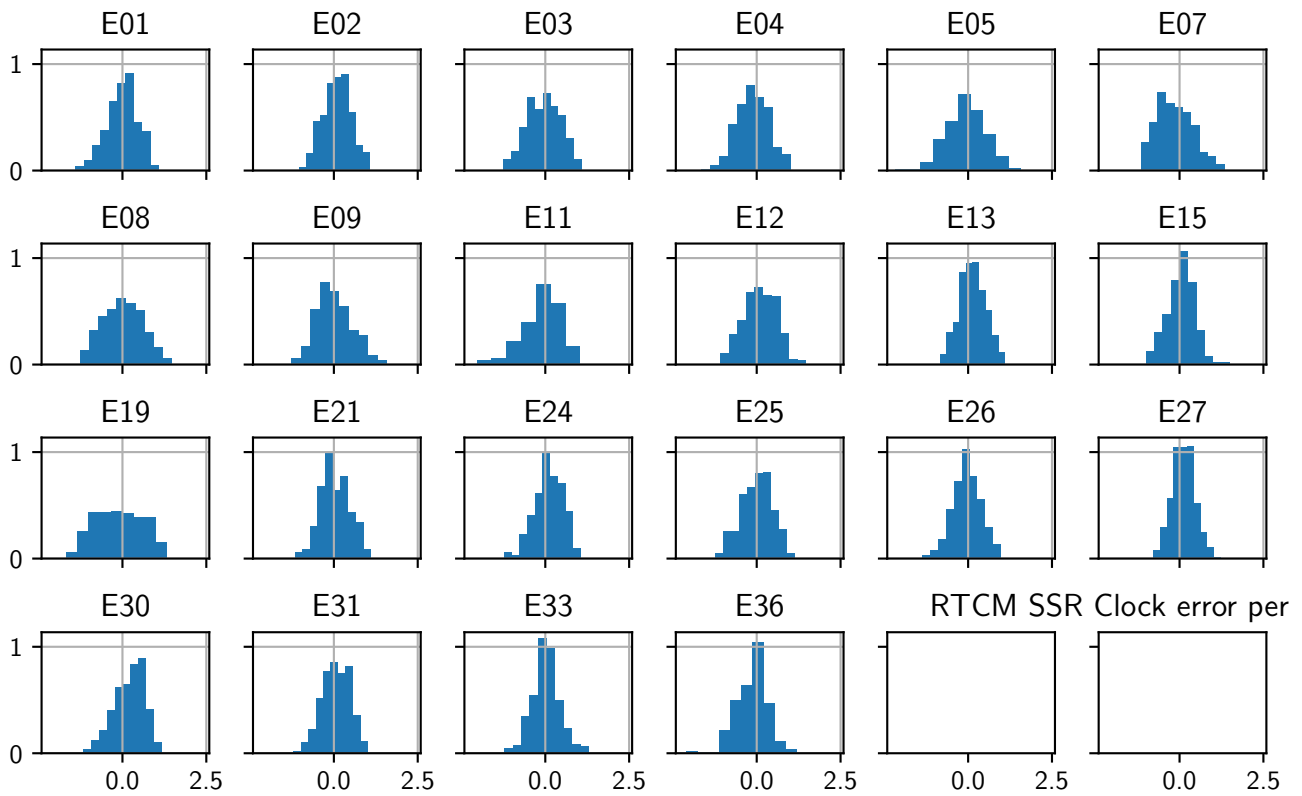
In a nominal situation, this graph shows many overlapping lines all clustered around 0 nanosecond error. If any SV deviates significantly, this shows up in subsequent graphs.

Details for individual satellites can be found at the end of this report.

Note that the RTCM clock error data as provided by DLR/NAVCAST and CNES is expressed in terms of a metric which corrects the F/NAV clock to the I/NAV clock. This creates non-physical corrections. To compensate, the data as presented in this report undoes the I/NAV-F/NAV transition. Further details on this situation can be found in two blogposts by independent researcher [Daniel Estévez](#), "[About Galileo BGDs](#)" and "[RTCM clock corrections for Galileo E24](#)".



Histogram of Galileo clock deviations (nanoseconds)

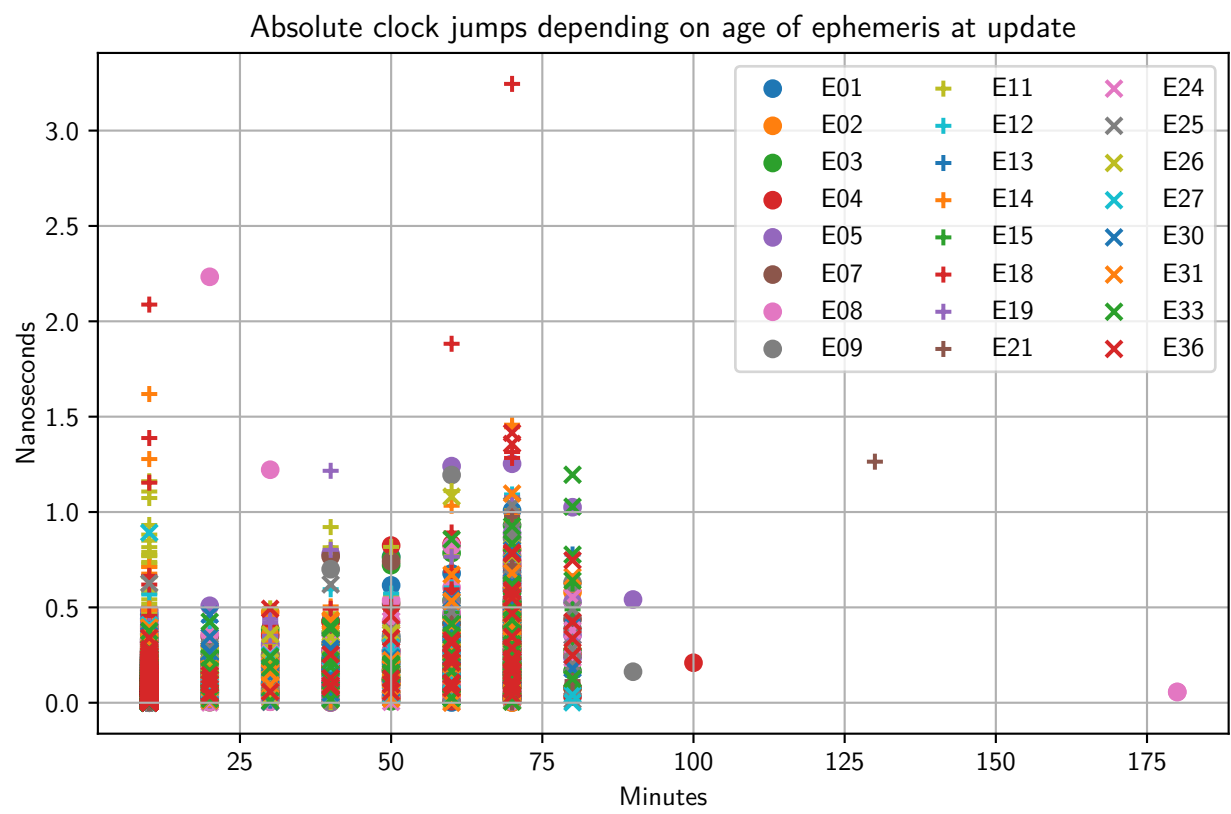


### 6.3 Clock stability

The Galileo clocks are monitored from the ground to determine their offset from Galileo System Time (GST), as well as their drift rate. Periodically, mostly every ten minutes, new parameters are uplinked. Occasionally however updates may appear only after 90 minutes. This is all nominal behaviour.

However, such delayed updates can lead to larger shifts in clock corrections, which are indicative of clock behaviour not being modeled well (enough).

The scatterplot below shows update latency versus absolute clock jumps for all Galileo satellites.





## Chapter 7

# Global performance

The performance for average and worst user locations features large in the Galileo Service Definition Document. Of specific note is availability (coverage, visibility of 4 or more satellites) with an elevation more than 5 degrees above the horizon.

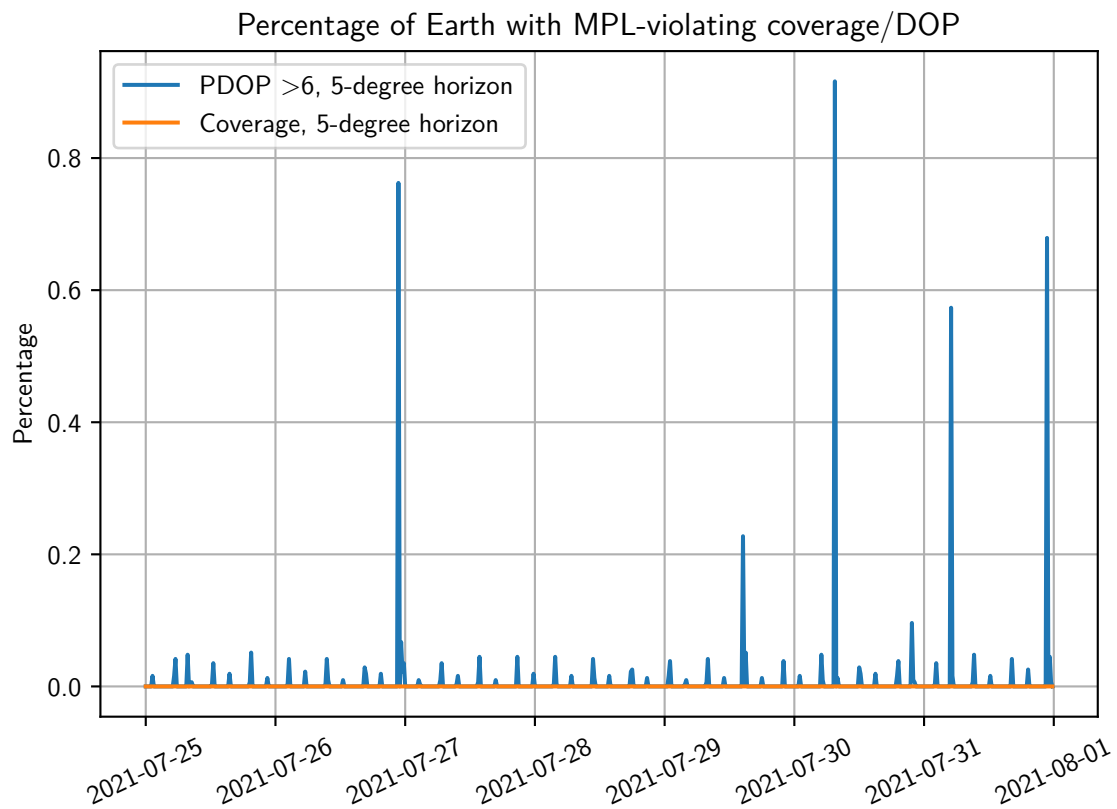
In addition, we plot the perhaps more meaningful similar measure with a view of more than 10 degrees above the horizon.

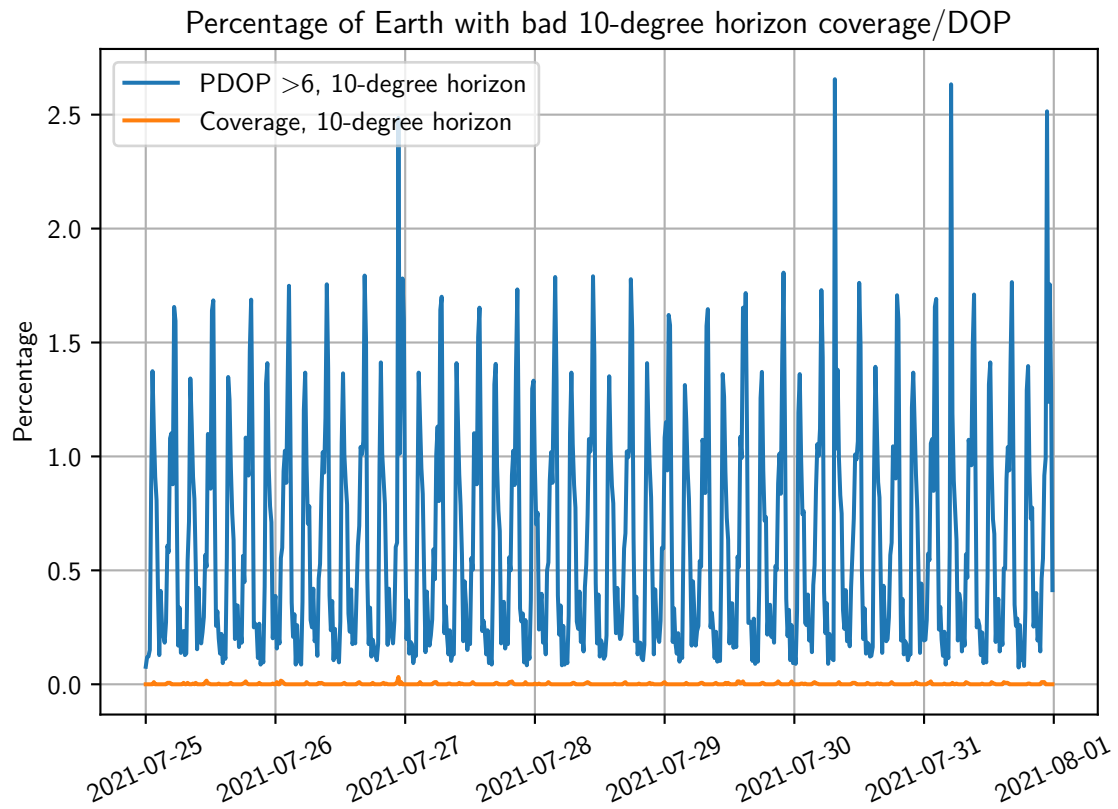
Note that these graphs show minute variations, where sometimes only tiny fractions of the Earth's surface are impacted.

### 7.1 PDOP and coverage

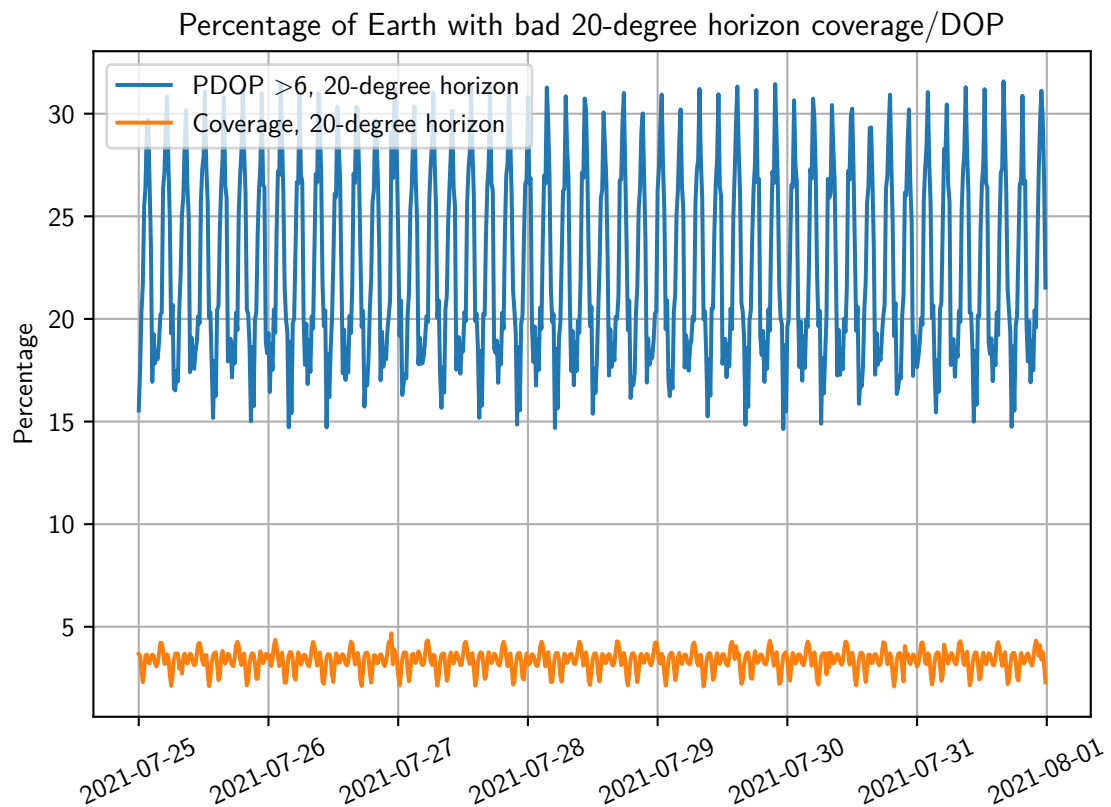
This week, on average 0.0% of the earth's surface violated the PDOP performance level for 5 degree elevation satellites, while 0.6% was violated for 10 degree elevation.

In addition, 0.0% did not see at least 4 satellites more than 5 degrees above the horizon, while 0.0% did not do so for more than 10 degrees above the horizon.





Note that a 20 degree horizon is not part of any minimum performance level definition, it does correspond to what users experience in cities:

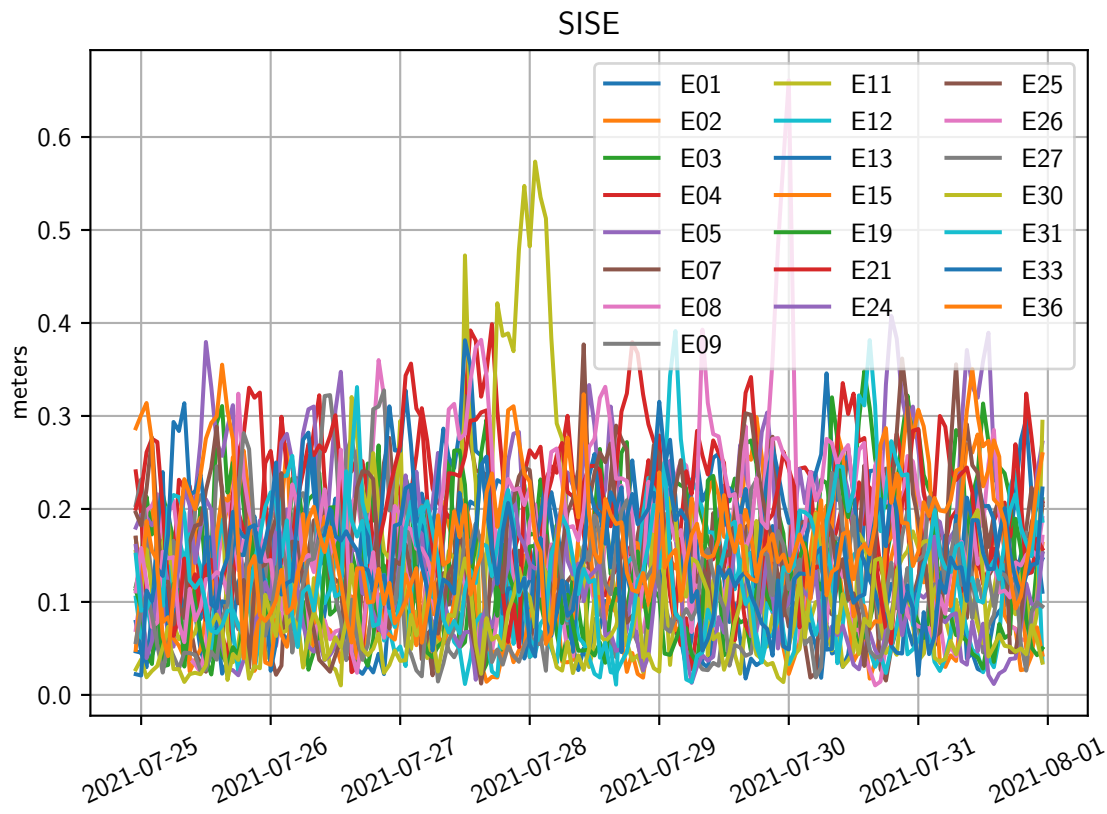


## 7.2 Signal In Space Error (SISE)

The data in this section is based on the approximation formula from section C.4.3.2 from the [Galileo Service Definition Document](#).

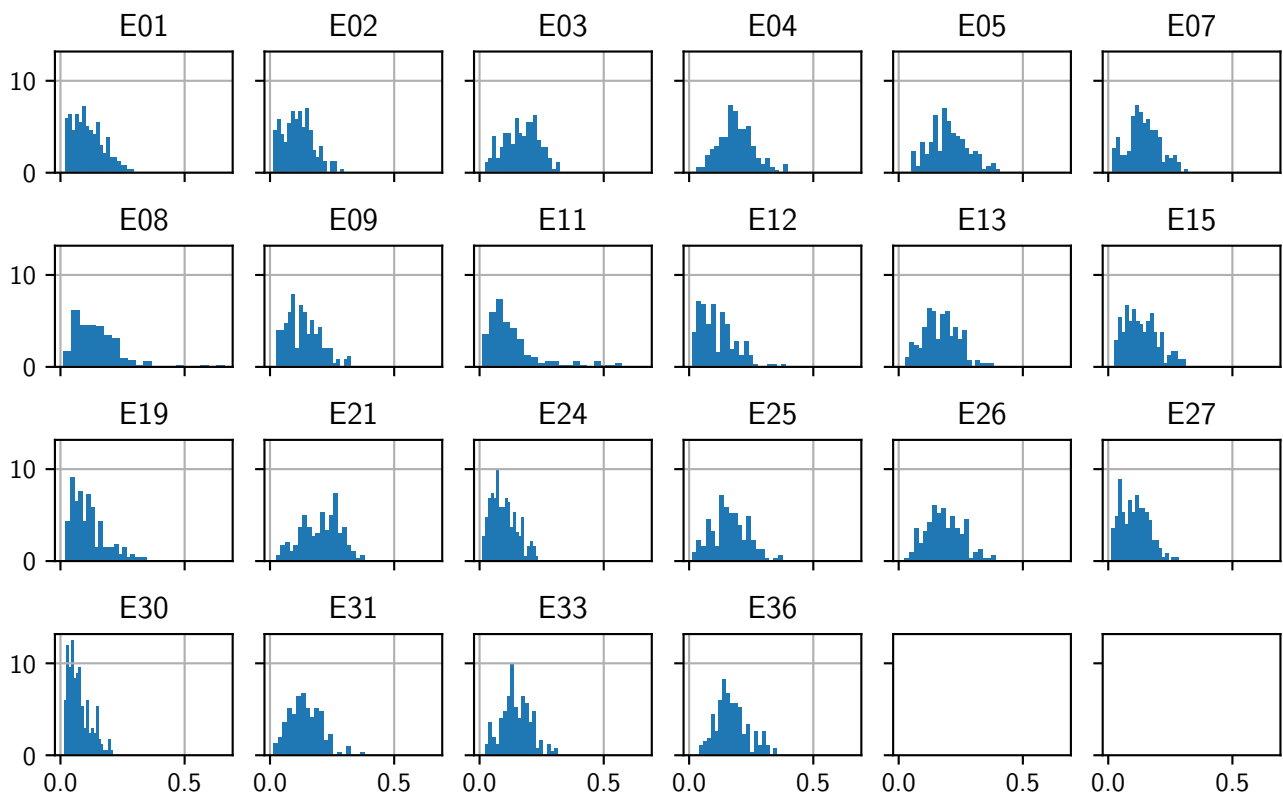
The source of the corrections is the realtime NAVCAST data from Spaceopal/DLR. This data has, as usual, been adjusted for the F/NAV-I/NAV clock situation. In addition, an observed bias of around 5 centimeters has been deducted from the radial error.

The first graph shows all SISE values for all SVs, and should show a lot of data quite close to 0 meters (usually 10 centimeters).



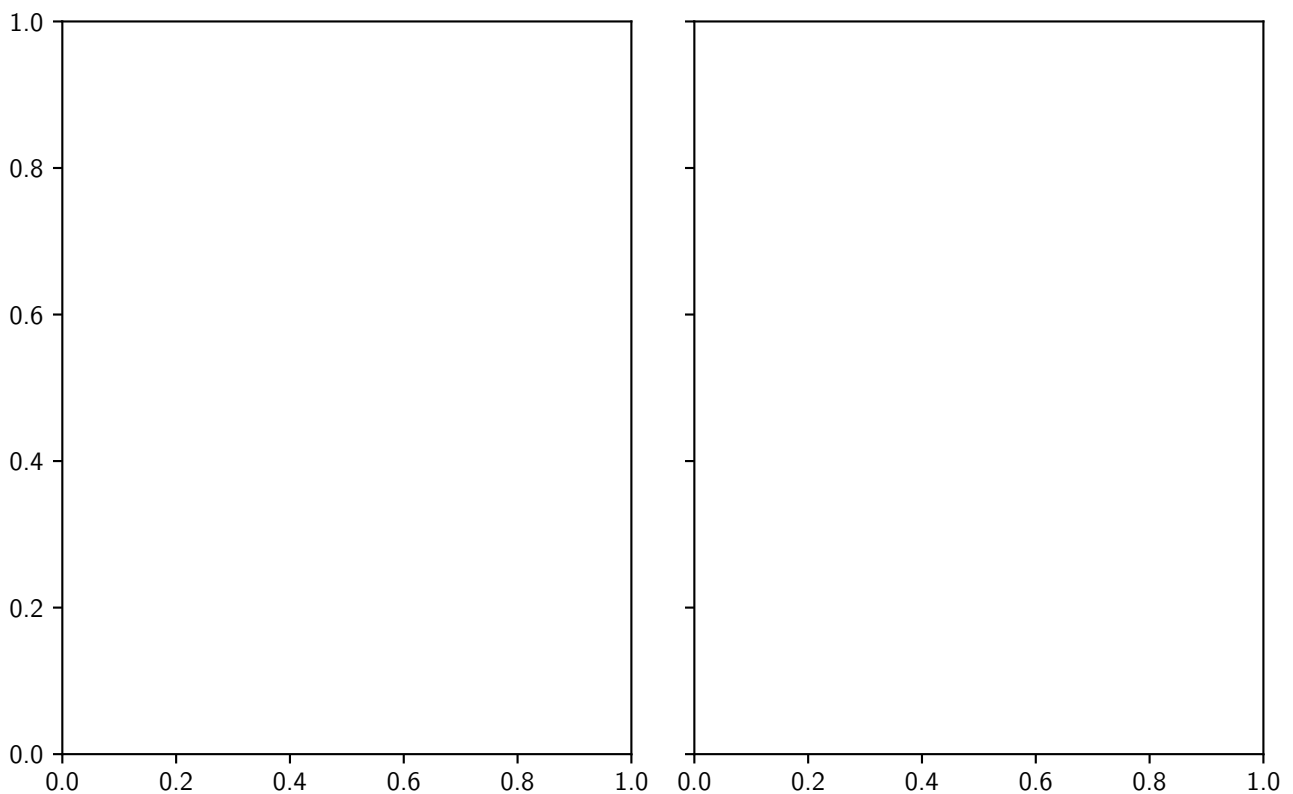
This second graph shows a histogram of Signal In Space Errors for all Galileo SVs:

Histogram of Galileo SISE (meters)



And finally a dedicated graph for the two auxiliary satellites E14 and E18, which often have larger excursions. Note the possibly different x-axis scale:

Histogram of Galileo SISE (meters)

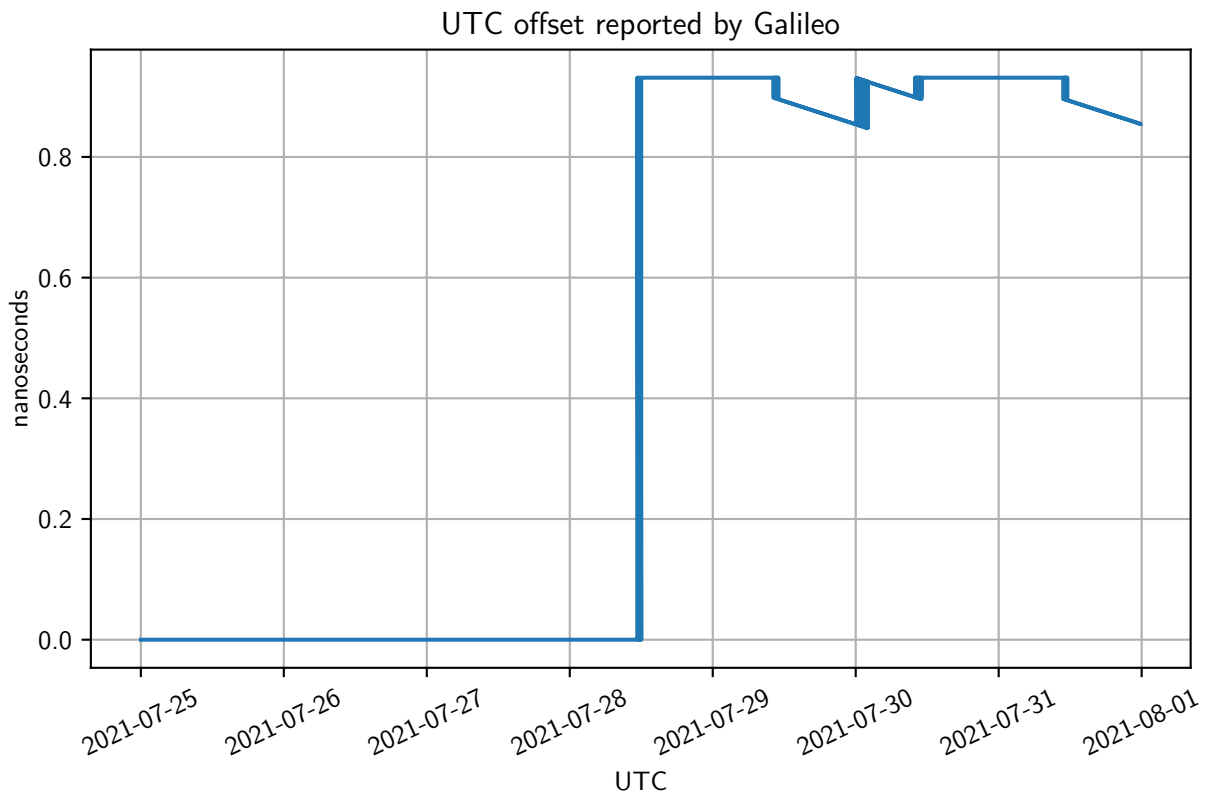


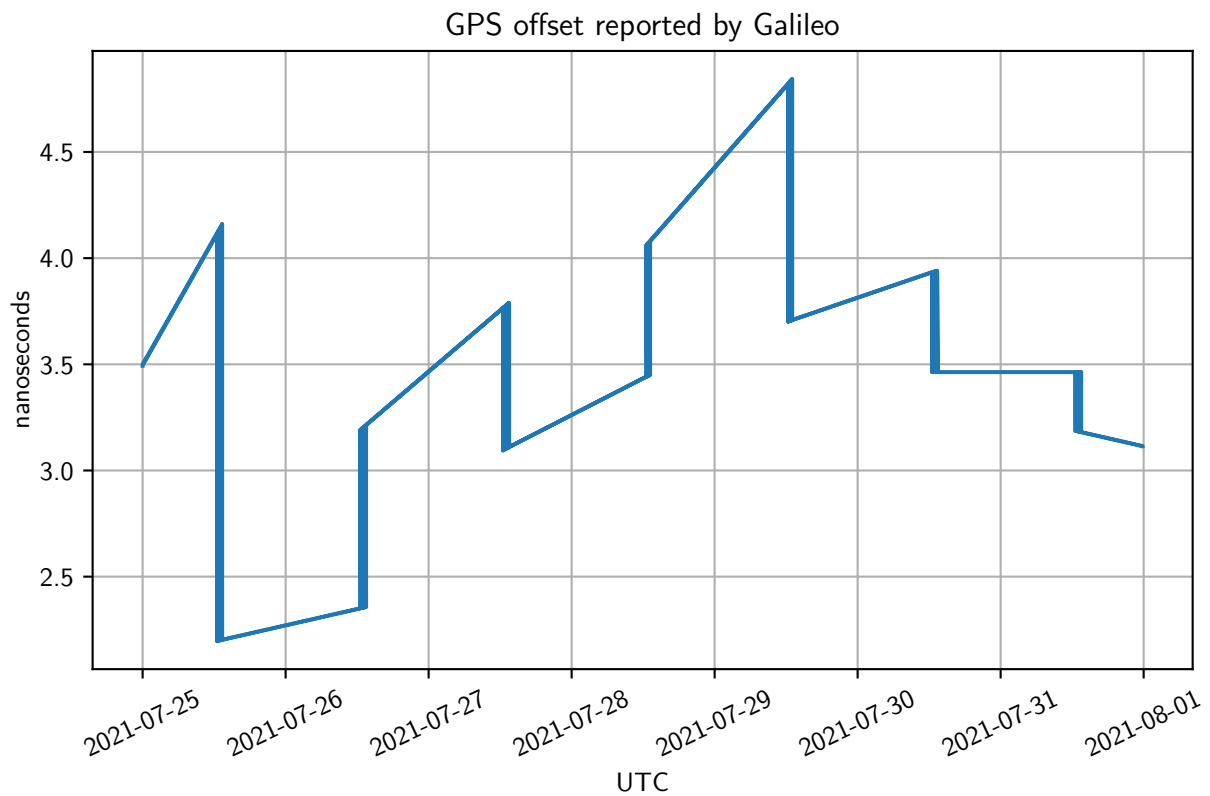
## Chapter 8

# UTC offset, GPS offset (GGTO)

### 8.1 Broadcast offset parameters

Galileo satellites broadcast their offset between "Galileo Time" (GST), UTC and GPS Time. These graphs show what offsets are transmitted.





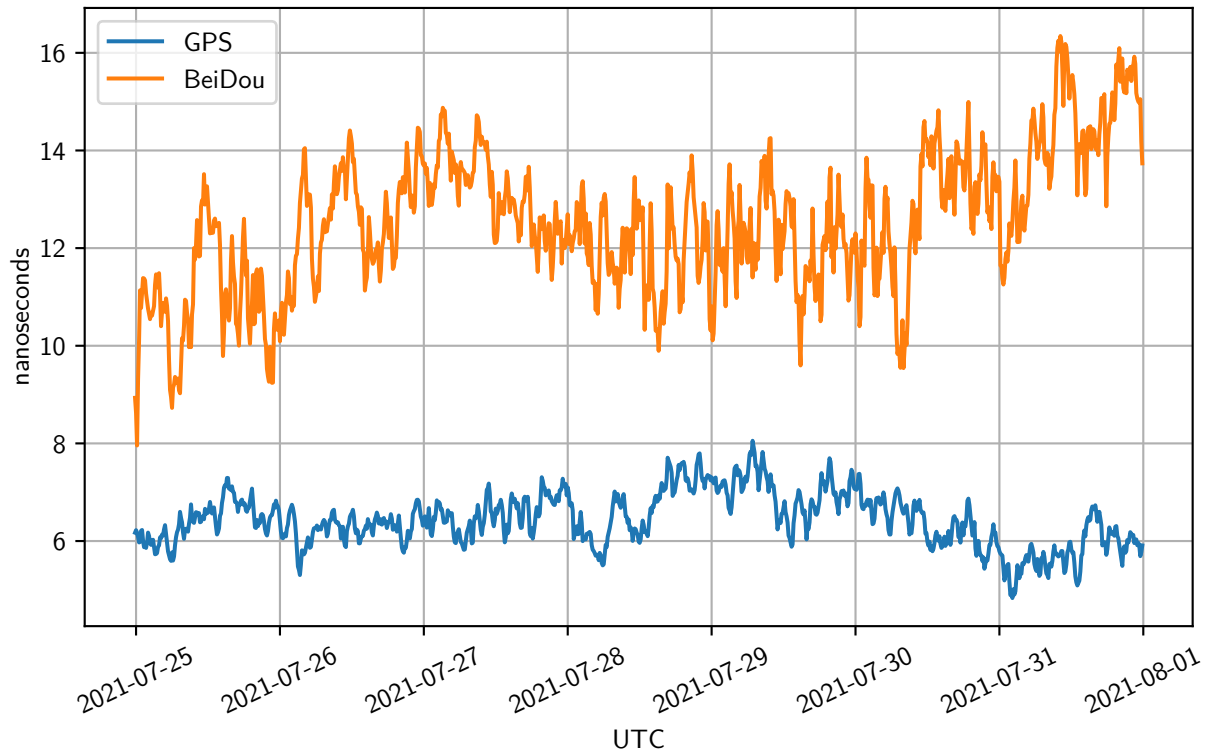
## 8.2 Measured time offsets between constellations

Since early July, the Galmon.eu networks attempts to measure the offset between the system times of Galileo, GPS, BeiDou and GLONASS.

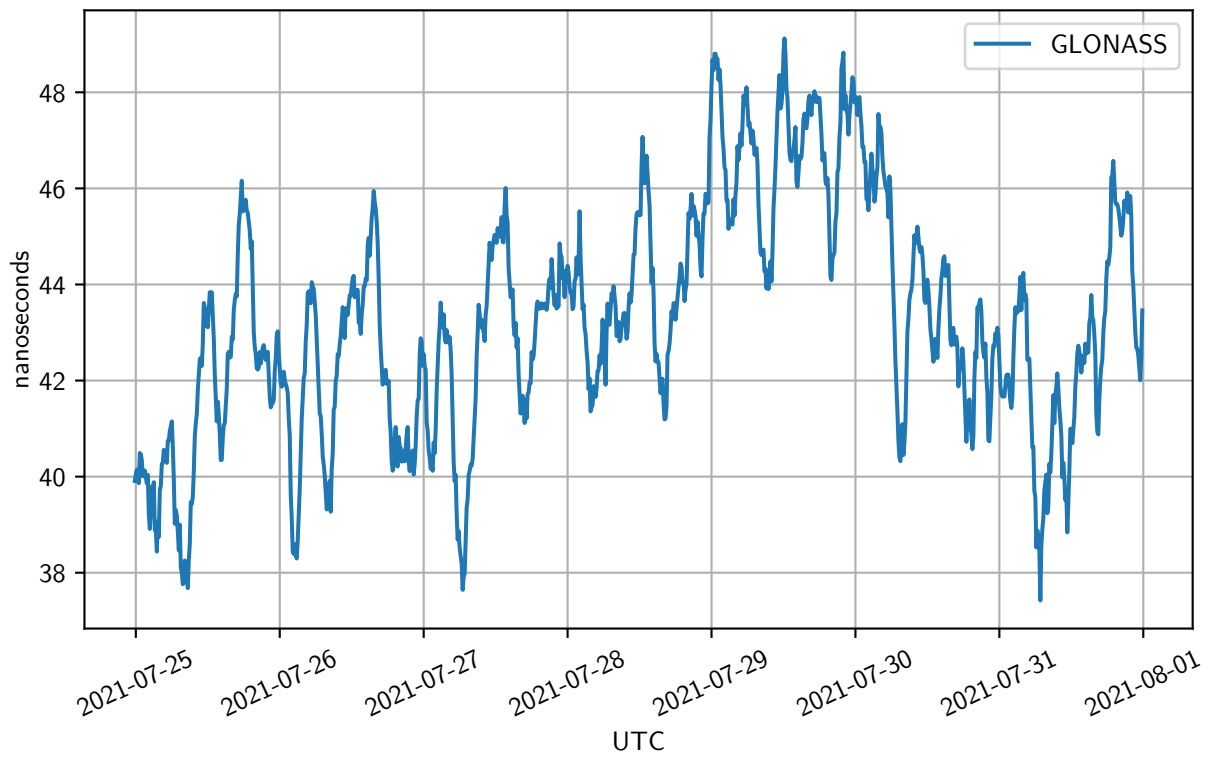
Our individual receivers report offsets that appear to be distributed normally around the "actual" offset.

From UTC midnight of the 10th of July and onwards, sufficient receivers are participating that the offsets average out to something that might be real.

EXPERIMENTAL: Mean observed time offset between Galileo, GPS and BeiDou



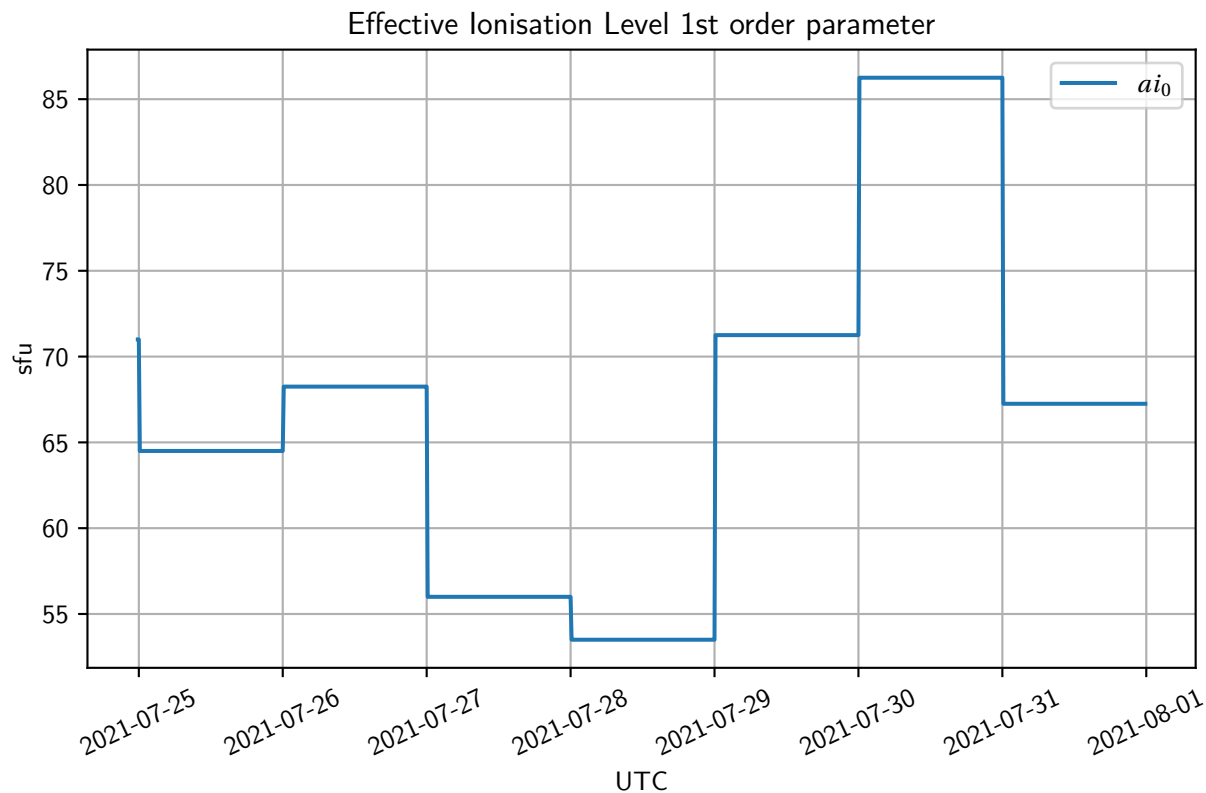
EXPERIMENTAL: Mean observed time offset between Galileo and GLONASS



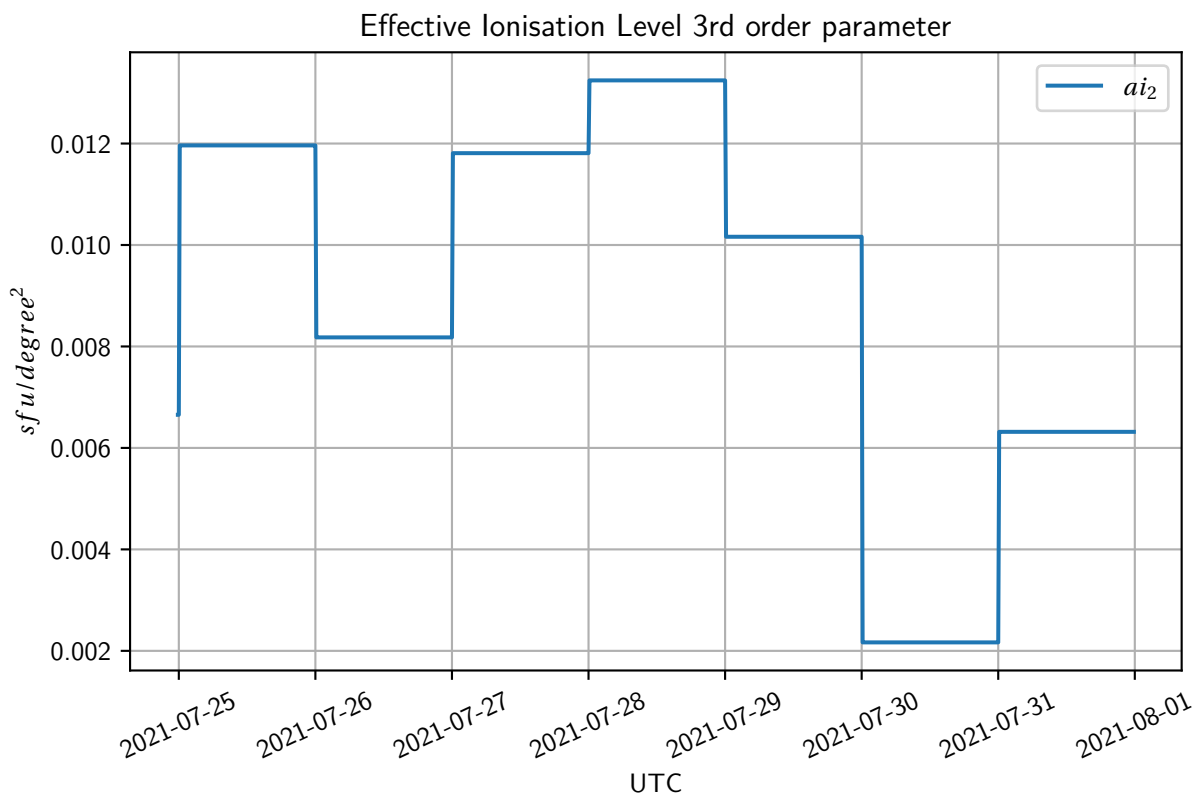
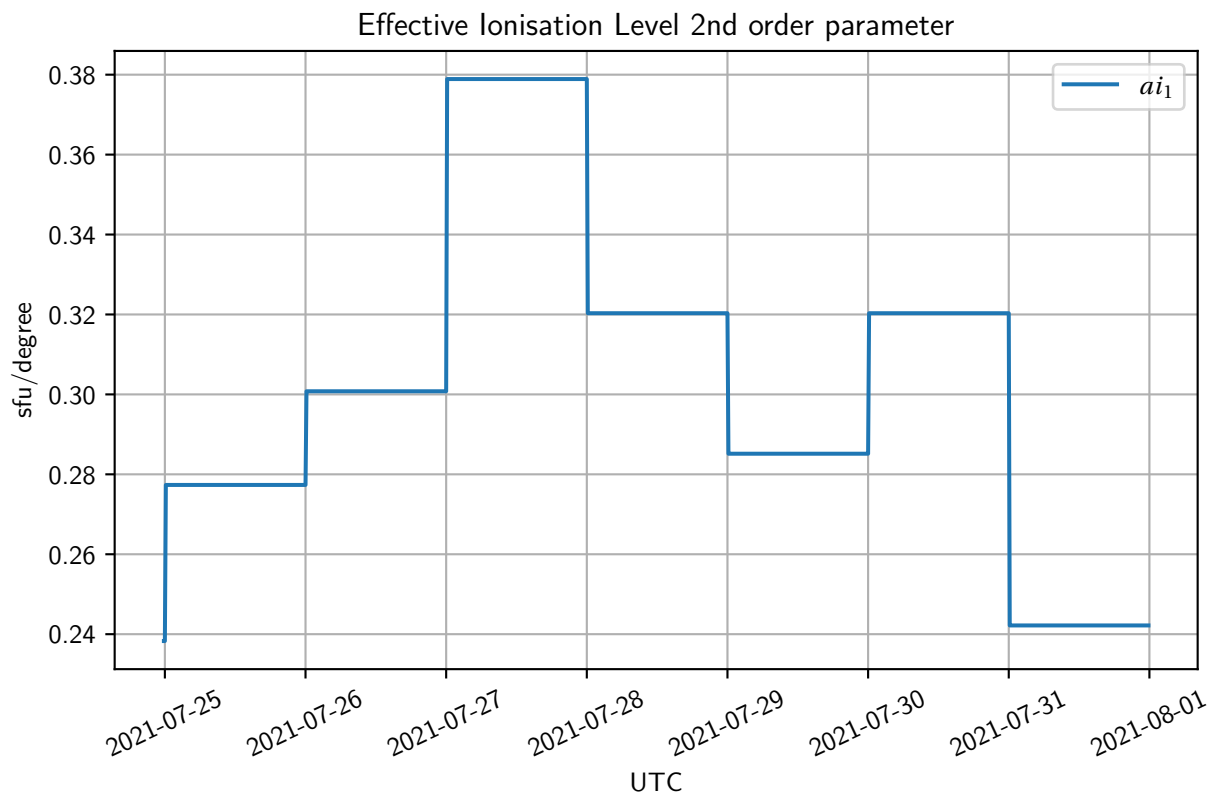
# Chapter 9

## Ionosphere

For the benefit of single-frequency receivers, Galileo transmits parameters for an ionospheric delay model called "NeQuick G". The  $ai_0$ ,  $ai_1$  and  $ai_2$  parameters describe the solar flux inputs for this model.







In these three graphs, a "thick" transition from one parameter level to another shows the time needed to propagate the new value to the entire constellation.

Dual-frequency receivers have no need for an ionospheric model since they can eliminate the ionosphere by combining

multiple signals.

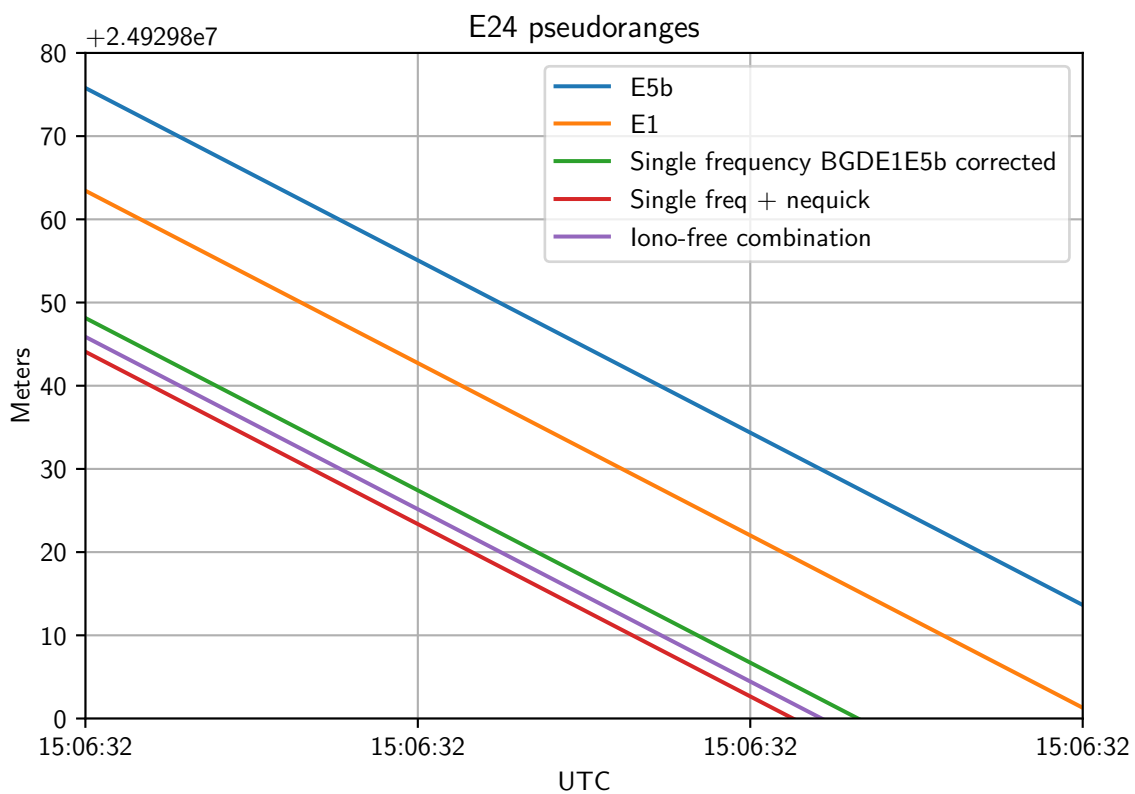
Future editions of this report will contain a graph that compares the the NeQuick G ionospheric delay model and the actual delays observed by our multi-frequency receivers.

## 9.1 NeQuick G analysis

This analysis is very preliminary and mostly shown to gather feedback, some of which has arrived already.

The NeQuick G code used was supplied by the Galileo Service Desk, and authored by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. While open source, the code must be requested through [a form](#). Those in a hurry may also [find the code on GitHub](#), but it might be outdated.

For the analysis, a Ublox F9P receiver with an excellent reference center grade antenna is used, hosted in Delft, The Netherlands. This is the data we start with:



The top line represents the pseudorange of the E5b signal. The pseudorange is often close to the actual range to the satellite, but it must not be read this way. It is a measure of the relative Time of Receipt of the signal. Pseudoranges can be compared usefully, even if they are not absolute ranges.

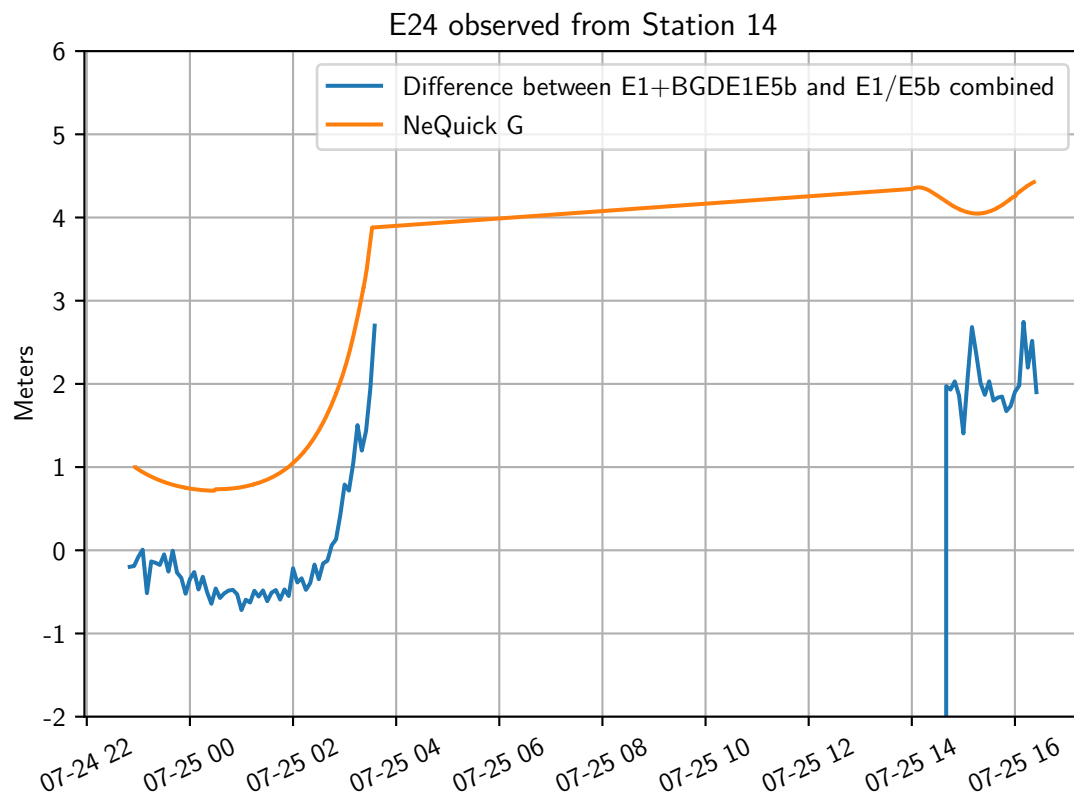
Below E5b is the E1 signal - it has a higher frequency, so it arrives earlier since it is delayed less by the ionosphere. This is explained at some length in [this blog post](#). E24 also has an unusually large transmission gap between E1 and E5b making this graph visually very useful (thanks).

The E1 and E5b delays are combined to derive the ionosphere-free arrival time, which is the purple line. This is the "official clock", the one that a single-frequency receiver hopes to derive with the NeQuick G model.

A single-frequency receiver does so by adding the BGDE1E5b delay to the E1 pseudorange, and then it ends up at the green line, which is already quite close to the purple line (which is the goal).

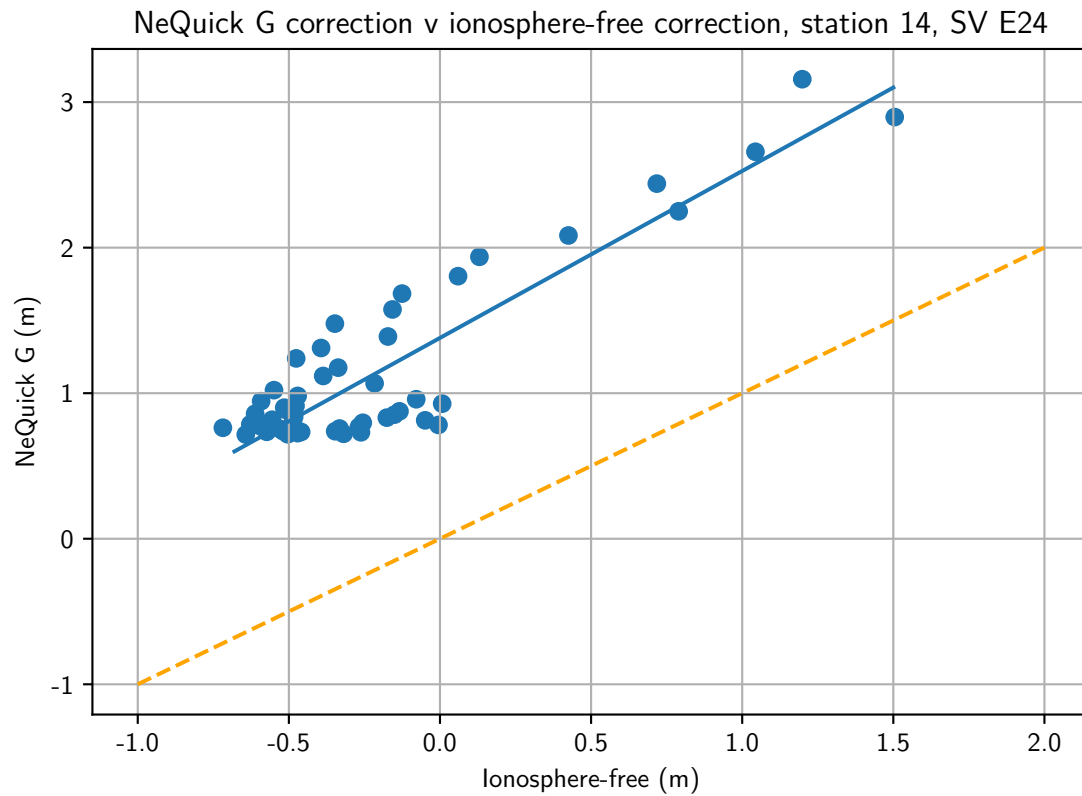
The receiver then calculates the ionospheric delay parameter using the NeQuick G model and supplied parameters, and uses that delay to end up at the red line, which is indeed quite close to the goal.

In this graph, the NeQuick G adjustment is compared to the 'calculated' ionospheric adjustment:



Note that E24 was measured during two disjoint periods. Model and "reality" clearly move in the same direction, with a gap. Note that the measured ionospheric correction is \*negative\* at times, which should not be possible.

In histogram form:



This shows great correlation between NeQuick G and the measured ionospheric correction, albeit at an offset.

Combined with our observed negative ionospheric correction, this likely means our data, measurements and processing still has errors in there.

It is however already good to see the great correlation between measurement and model.

## Chapter 10

# COSPAS-SARSAT Return Link Messages

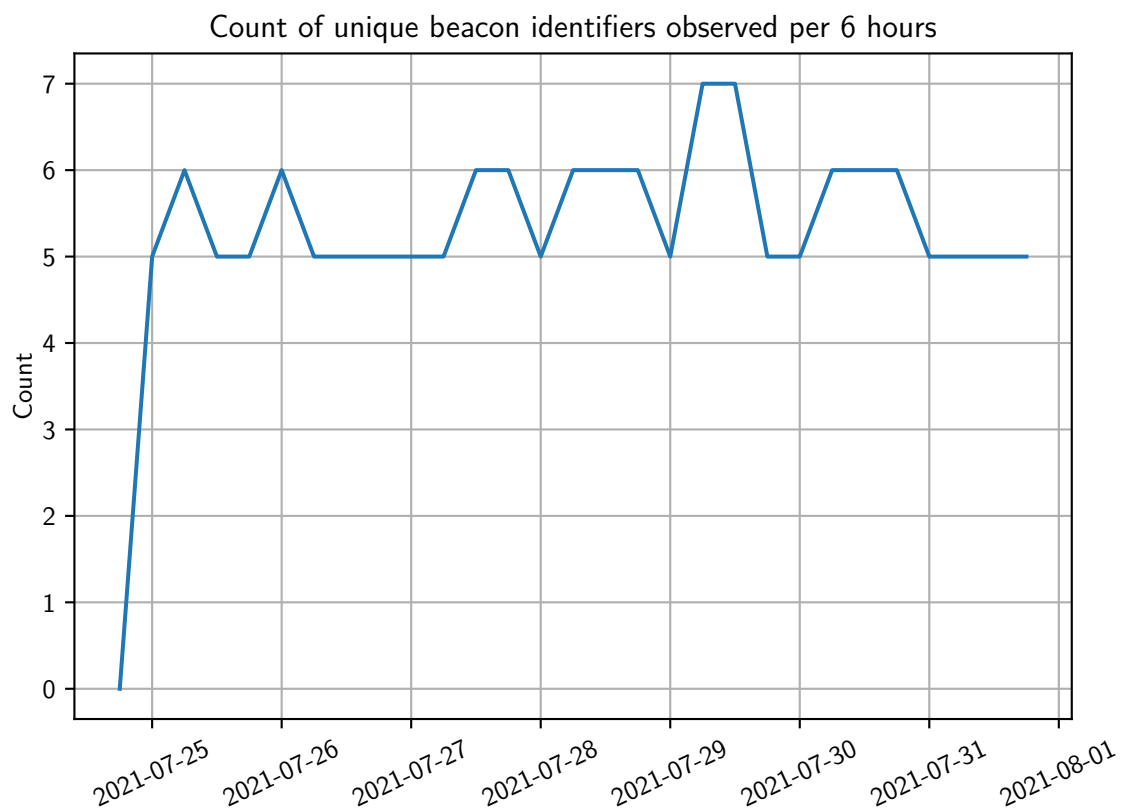
Galileo satellites carry a Search And Rescue beacon payload which can pick up distress signals and alert authorities. Uniquely, Galileo also provides a Return Link Service by which the beacon can receive confirmation its request for help has been processed.

The Galmon.eu network sees Return Link Messages (RLMs), but does not report on the associated beacon identifiers, as these identify people and vessels with actual emergencies.

We can however publish statistics of RLM traffic. It is known that five test beacons are used to verify correct operations, and these five are normally always observed.

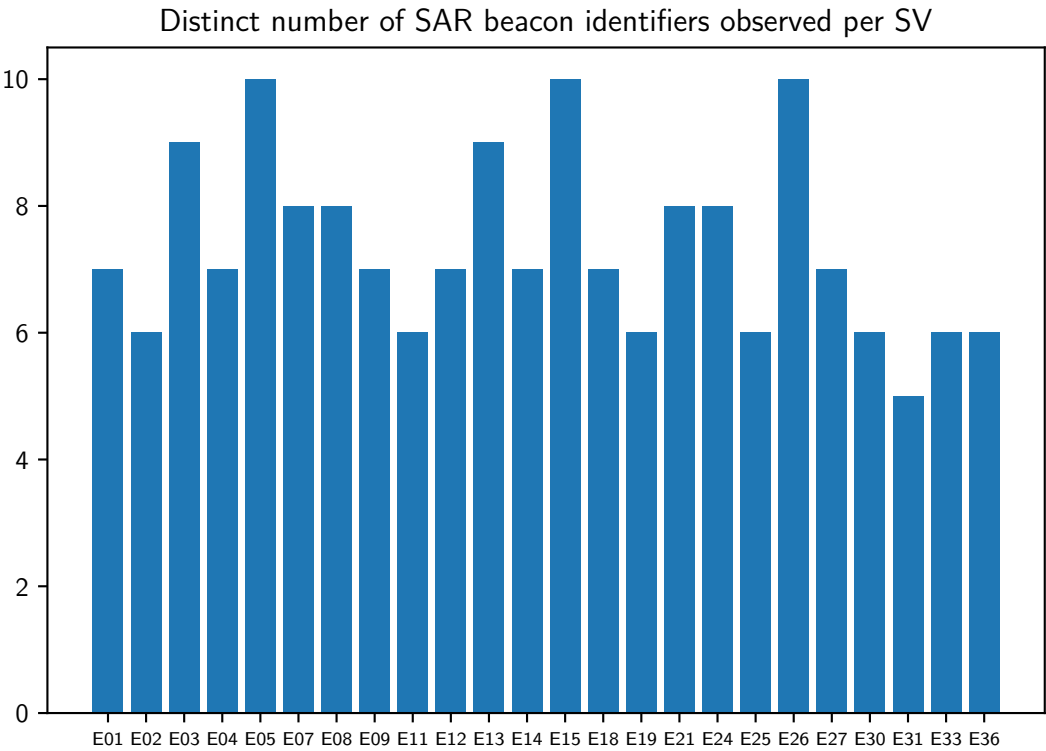
RLM frames are frequently received by dozens of our receivers, so it does not make sense to plot the raw number of received messages, since it is hard to tell which are duplicates.

This graph shows the number of unique beacon identifiers identified per six hour period, which normally always includes the five known testing beacons:



It is normal for this graph to drop off near the right, where the reporting period ends.

Not all satellites appear to have equal SAR RLM capabilities, here is a graph of number of unique beacon identifiers seen per SV over the reporting period:



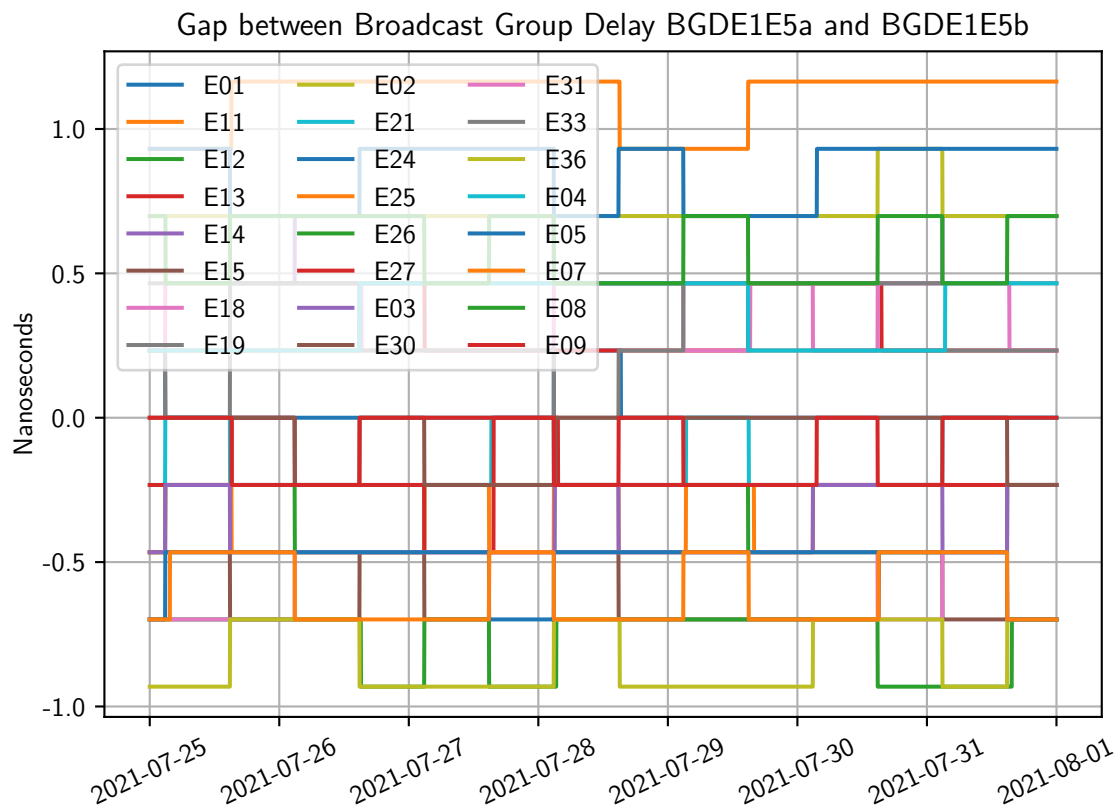
# Chapter 11

## Other parameters

### 11.1 BGD E1E5a, E1E5b

This plots the difference between the E1E5a and E1E5b parameters, which should correspond to the gap between the  $af_0$  values broadcast over E1/E5b (I/NAV) and E5a (F/NAV).

This graph incidentally also describes the correction this report applies to the NAVCAST RTCM SSR data to undo the I/NAV-F/NAV modification.



## Chapter 12

### Per SV

The SP3 data as provided by GFZ Potsdam and ESOC refers to the Center of Mass (CoM) coordinates. The broadcast ephemerides however describe the trajectory of the Antenna Phase Centre (APC).

There is a measurable distance between CoM and APC, typically of around 80 centimeters.

By using metrics provided by ESA for the Galileo satellites, it is possible to transpose the APC to the CoM via the Antenna Reference Point.

This transposition has so far proved to be too difficult for the authors of this report, but we have found the correction in the z-axis is 80 centimeters for most but not all SVs.

In future editions of this report, a more sophisticated correction will be applied. But for now, if SP3 data (GFZ or ESOC) is offset somewhat from the APC RTCM SSR data, this is why.

#### E01

