

# 41 ár við GPS – menning og avbjóðingar á høgum breiddarstigum

Gethin Wyn Roberts ph.d.

# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)



GPS (USA)



GLONASS  
(RUSSIA)



BeiDou  
(CHINA)



GALILEO  
(EUROPE)



AÐRAR  
ÓKISSKIPANIR

# GPS

Owned and operated by USA – *USA eigur og rekur*

First satellite launched February 1978 – *Fyrsti fylgisveinur útsendur í februar 1978*

Initially a military system with some civilian functionality (100m civilian accuracy) – *í fyrstani ein hernaðarskipan, sum í ávísan mun kundi brúkast av almenninginum (100 m neyvleiki)*

Civilian growth in applications is dramatic – *umfatandi øking av vanligari nýtslu*

New signals and architecture to be more civilian friendly – *nýggj signal og bygnaður fyri at gera skipanina meira brúkaravinarliga*

Possible to obtain mm precision using specialist equipment – *gjørligt at røkka mm-neyvleika við serútgerð*

# Originally - *upprunaliga*

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24 GPS-  
FYLGISVEINAR



100M NEYVLEIKI  
FYRI VANLIGA  
BRÚKARAN OG  
10M FYRI  
AMERIKANSKA  
HERIN



VERRI SIGNAL OG  
NEYVLEIKI FYRI  
VANLIGA  
BRÚKARAN



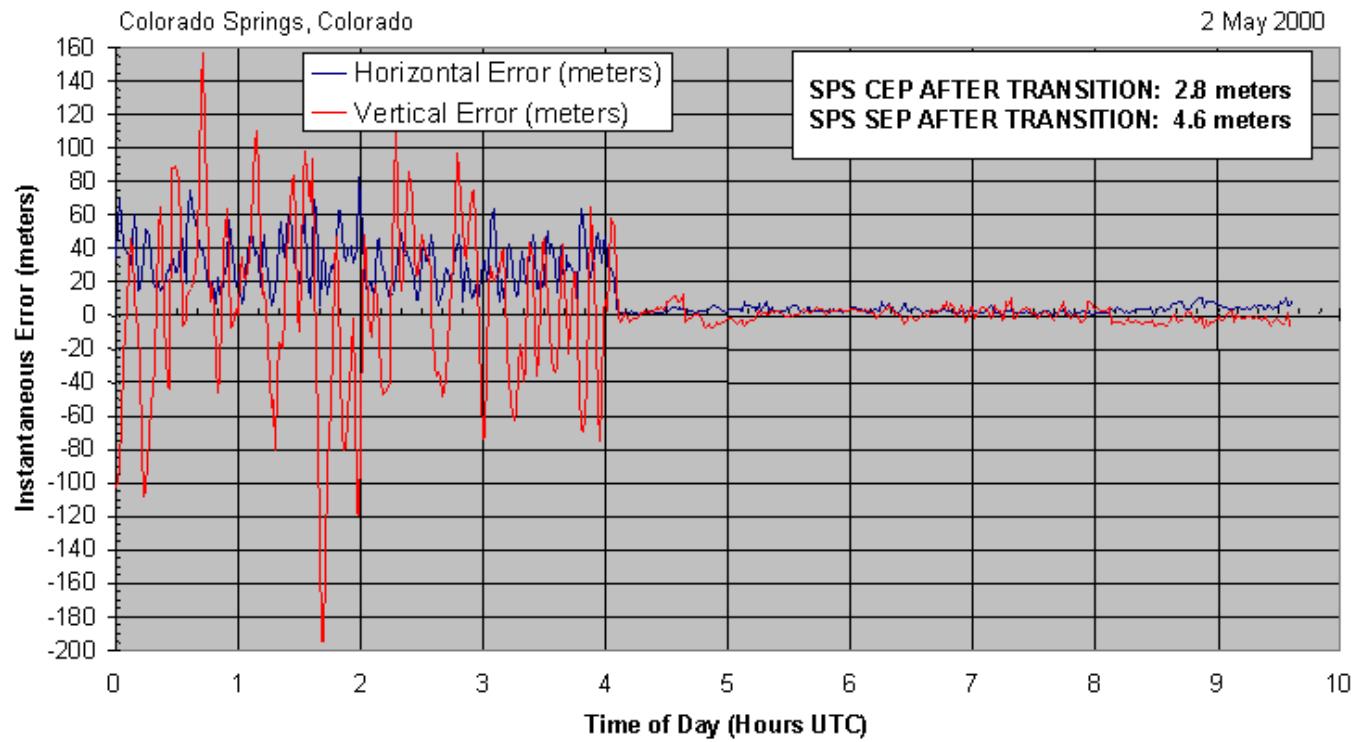
MENT LUTFALSLIG  
STØÐUSETING-  
TØKNI

Selective  
Availability  
switched  
off

Source: [gps.gov](http://gps.gov)



*SA Transition -- 2 May 2000*



# Current and Future GPS Satellite Generations

Source: [gps.gov](http://gps.gov)

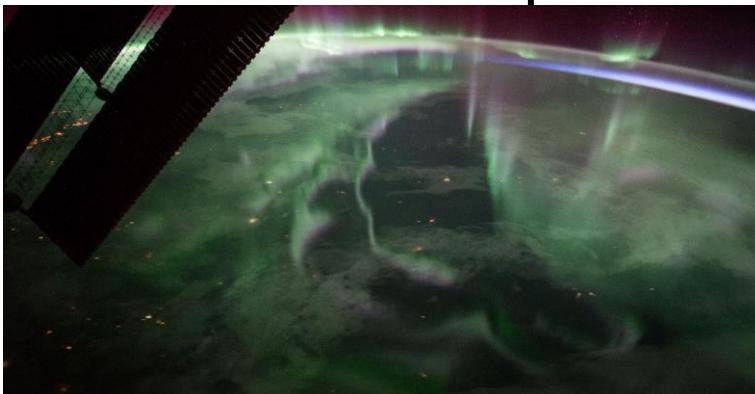
LEGACY SATELLITES		MODERNIZED SATELLITES		
BLOCK IIA	BLOCK IIR	BLOCK IIR-M	BLOCK IIF	GPS III/IIIF
1 operational	11 operational	7 operational	12 operational	1 in checkout
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Coarse Acquisition (C/A) code on L1 frequency for civil users</li><li>▪ Precise P(Y) code on L1 &amp; L2 frequencies for military users</li><li>▪ 7.5-year design lifespan</li><li>▪ Launched in 1990-1997</li></ul> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE ABOUT GPS IIR AT AF.MIL ➔</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ C/A code on L1</li><li>▪ P(Y) code on L1 &amp; L2</li><li>▪ On-board clock monitoring</li><li>▪ 7.5-year design lifespan</li><li>▪ Launched in 1997-2004</li></ul> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE ABOUT GPS IIR-M AT AF.MIL ➔</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All legacy signals</li><li>▪ 2nd civil signal on L2 (L2C) <a href="#">LEARN MORE ➔</a></li><li>▪ New military M code signals for enhanced jam resistance</li><li>▪ Flexible power levels for military signals</li><li>▪ 7.5-year design lifespan</li><li>▪ Launched in 2005-2009</li></ul> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE ABOUT GPS IIF AT AF.MIL ➔</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All Block IIR-M signals</li><li>▪ 3rd civil signal on L5 frequency (L5) <a href="#">LEARN MORE ➔</a></li><li>▪ Advanced atomic clocks</li><li>▪ Improved accuracy, signal strength, and quality</li><li>▪ 12-year design lifespan</li><li>▪ Launched in 2010-2016</li></ul> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE ABOUT GPS III AT AF.MIL ➔</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All Block IIF signals</li><li>▪ 4th civil signal on L1 (L1C) <a href="#">LEARN MORE ➔</a></li><li>▪ Enhanced signal reliability, accuracy, and integrity</li><li>▪ No Selective Availability <a href="#">LEARN MORE ➔</a></li><li>▪ 15-year design lifespan</li><li>▪ IIIF: laser reflectors; search &amp; rescue payload</li><li>▪ First launch in 2018</li></ul> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE ABOUT GPS III/IIIF AT AF.MIL ➔</a></p>

# Today – Nú

- Over 100 GNSS satellites in operation, typically 30-40 at any time – *fleiri enn 100 GNSS-fylgisveinar virknir, vanliga 30-40 í senn*
- Numerous frequencies being transmitted upon – *verður sent á fleiri frekvensum*
- Improved accuracies – *betri neyvleiki*
- Interoperable GNSS – *samvirkandi GNSS*
- More and more positioning and timing applications – *fleiri og fleiri nýtsluskipanir í mun til støðu- og tíðarseting*
- 10m to 1mm accuracies possible – *10m til 1mm neyvleiki möguligur*
- 3D positioning, up to 100Hz data rates – *3D-støðuseting, upp til 100Hz dátu-ferð*
- But all rely on low powered radio signals travelling 20,000km through space and the atmosphere – *men alt er treytað av, at veik radiosignal ferðast í gjøgnum rúmdina og lofthavið*

# Ionospheric Scintillation over the Faroe Islands – *Glitran í ionosferuni yvir Føroyum*

- 7 October 2018: aurora borealis event witnessed for 30 mins –  
*7. oktober 2018: norðlýsi yvir Føroyum í 30 min.*
- GNSS data analysed from Umhvøvisstovan – *GNSS-dátur frá Umhvørvisstovuni verða greinaðar*
- Data gathered at 1Hz on all GNSS – *dátur innsavnaðar á 1Hz fyrir alt GNSS*
- Results compared for 6, 7, 8 October - *úrslitini samanborin*

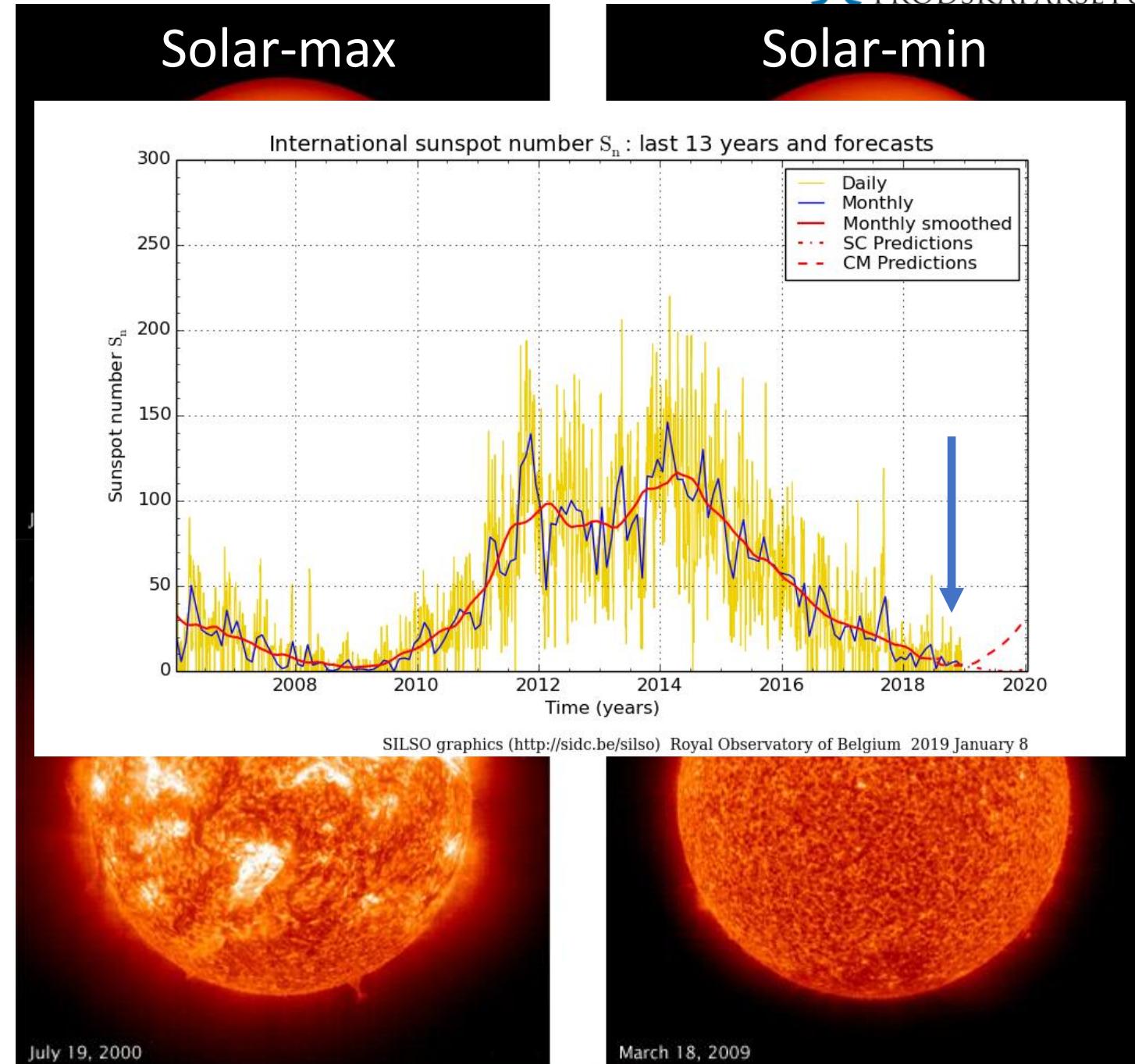


Northern lights over Canada  
courtesy NASA.gov



# Sunspot cycle – *sólblettaringrás*

- 11 year cycle – 11 ára-  
*ringrás*
- Solar-max & solar-min
- Currently in a solar-min –  
*í lötuni á solar-min*
- Solar-max will affect the  
ionsphere – *solar-max*  
*ávirkar ionosferuna*
- Introduce more noise –  
*hevur við sær meira órógv*



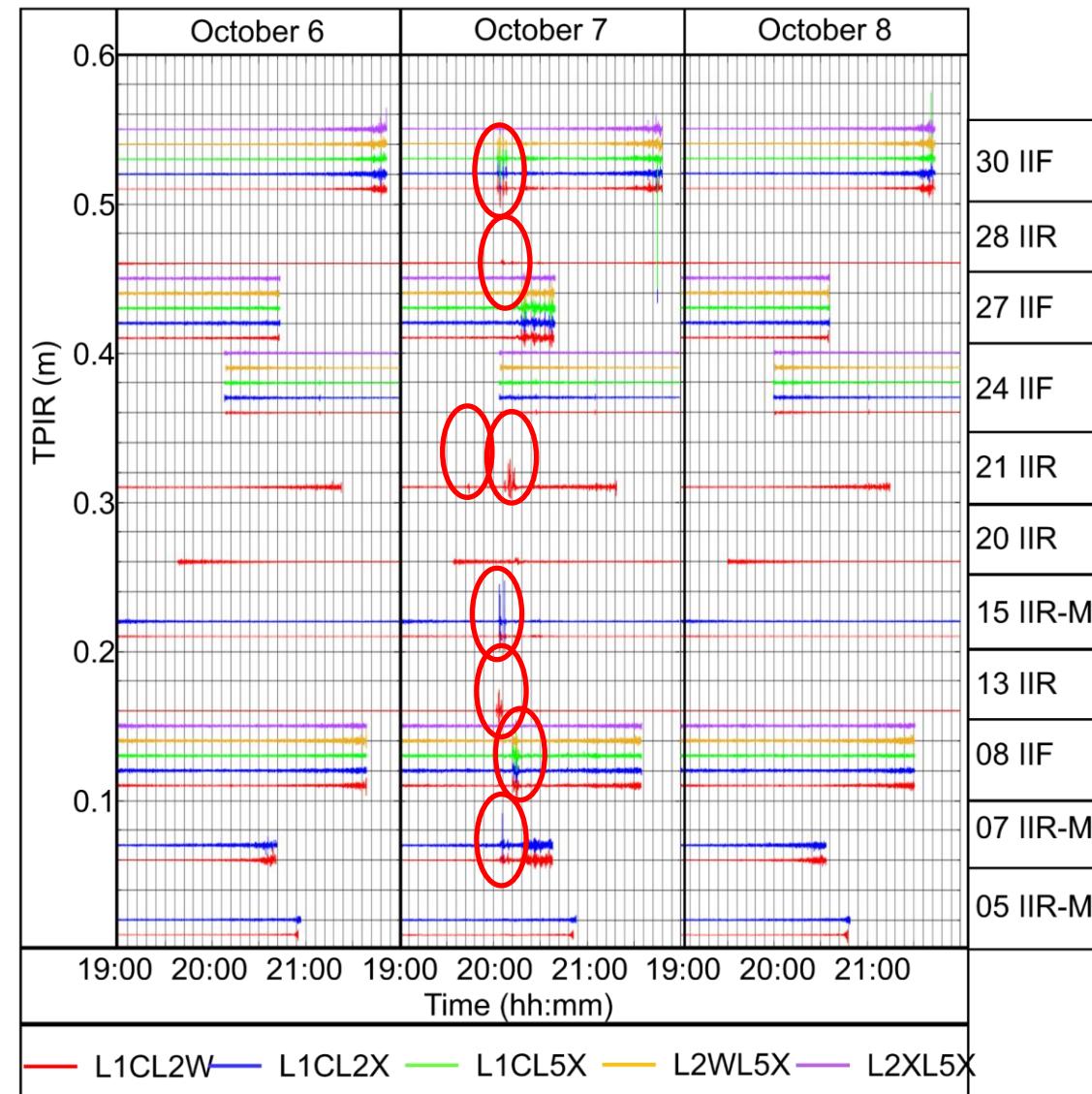
# GPS data noise – GPS *dátu-órógv*

- Clean data before and after – *reinar dátur áðrenn og aftaná*
- Noise around the aurora borealis event – *órógv rundan um norðlýsi*
- Offset from each other – *órógvíð er forskotið*
- Noise not present on all satellites – *órógv er ikki á öllum fylgisveinum*
- Similar results for all GNSS – *líknandi úrslit fyri alt GNSS*

## GPS data

FRÓÐSKAPARSETUR  
FØROYA

# Time Differenced Phase Ionospheric Residual



October 7, 2018

20:00:00 to 20:30:00

33 Satellites

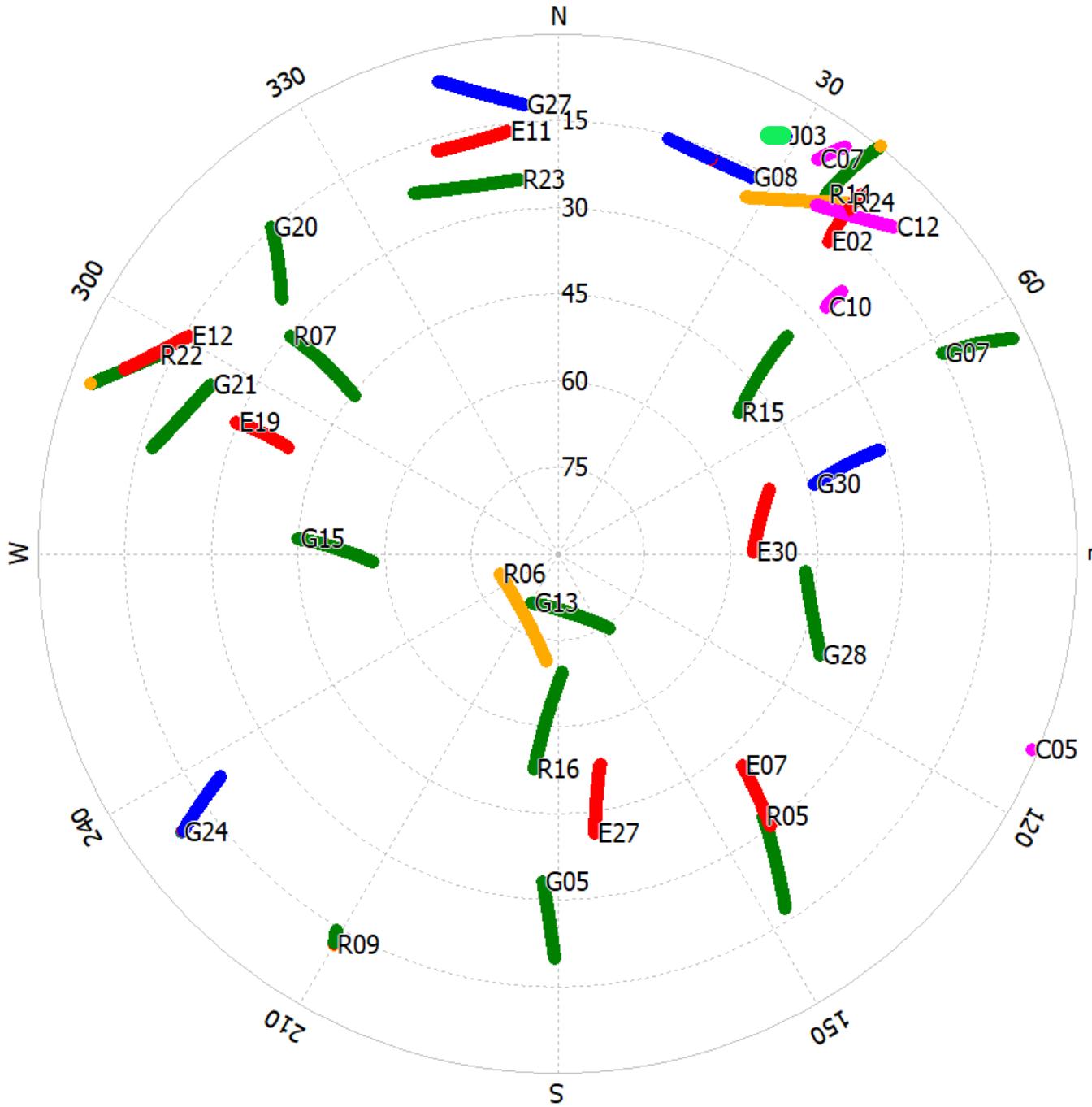
11 GPS (USA)

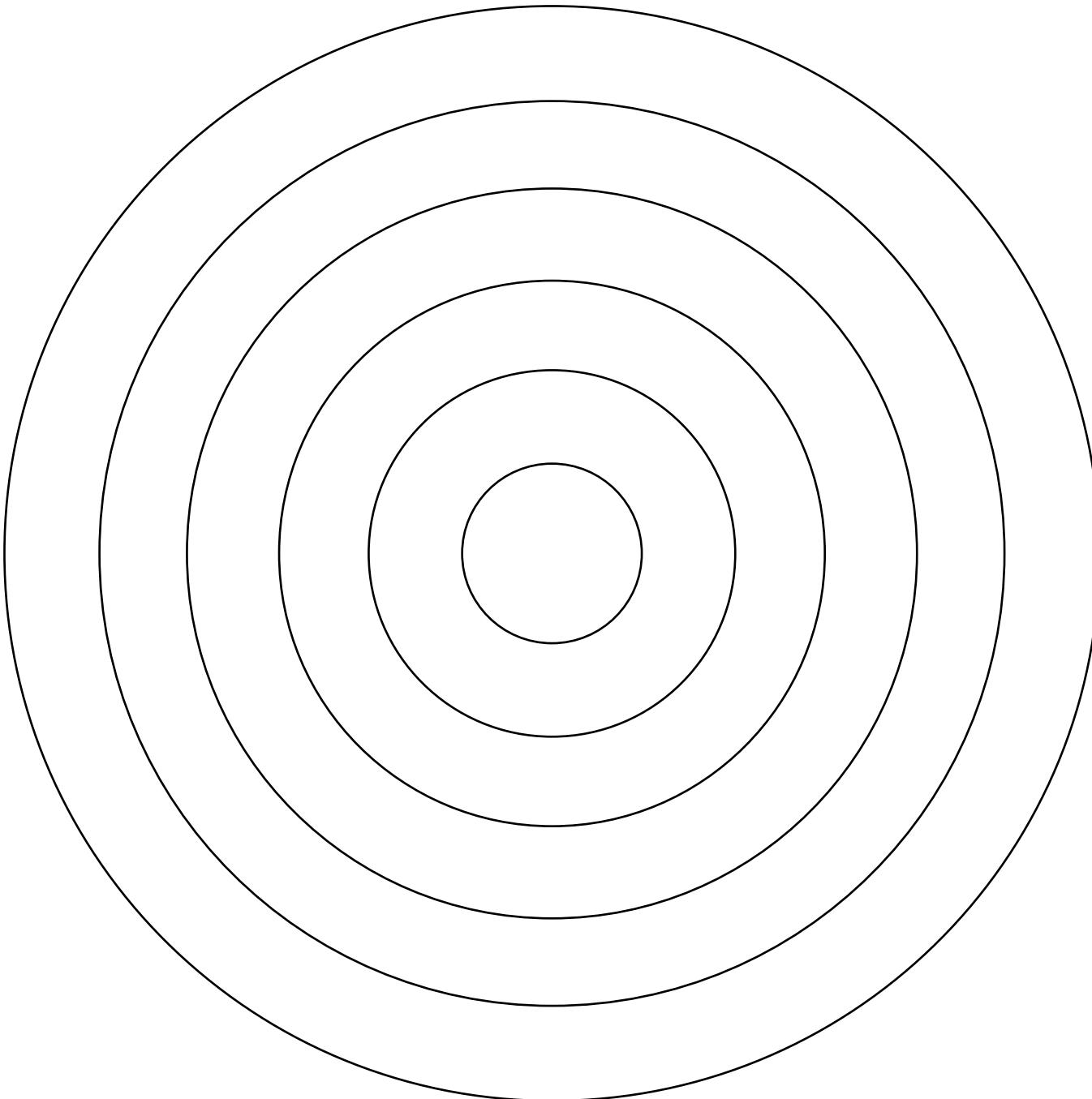
10 GLONASS (Russia)

7 Galileo (Europe)

4BeiDou (China)

1 QZSS (Japan)





**20:30:30**



GPS Solutions (2019) 23:89  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10291-019-0881-8>

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

Temporal characteristics of triple-frequency GNSS scintillation during a visible aurora borealis event over the Faroe Islands amid a period of very low solar activity

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**Abstract** Ionospheric scintillation causes noise in GNSS measurements and hence affects the resulting coordinates or even the ability to track signals. We investigate the characteristics of GNSS scintillation during a visible aurora borealis event over the Faroe Islands during October 7, 2018, which lasted for around 30 min. Data of 1 Hz from a typical geodetic GNSS receiver are analyzed during a 3 s window around the event, as well as during the same period the day before and after. A total of four GPS L1/L2/L3/L5 signals were used. Two methods are used to estimate the temporal characteristics of the statistical distribution of the scintillation. Two approaches are used, called the time difference code-minus-carrier and the time difference phase approach. The former is used to determine the effect on the time difference between the received signal and the signal transmitted on the carrier phase observable, resulting in successive position errors. The approaches we propose can be used in GNSS processing software to detect scintillation noise in real time on individual satellites, allowing such noisy data to be rejected.

**Keywords** GNSS · Scintillation · Ionosphere

**Introduction**

Small-scale ionospheric fluctuations in the density and movement of free electrons in the ionosphere, called ionospheric scintillation, cause rapid and random fluctuations in the GNSS signals after propagating through these plasma inconstancies. These fluctuations are often too small to be detected by the GNSS receiver not being able to acquire and track the signal, and causing cycle slips (Zhou et al. 2019), in the worst case leading to the GNSS signal being completely lost (Ito et al. 2017). Scintillation occurrences depend on many factors including solar and magnetic activity, the time of year, the time of day, as well as the geographic location and, in particular, due to solar storms (Shue 2001), and peaks in the 11-year sunspot cycle.

Studies have shown that the impact of scintillation on GNSS measurements is more complex than simple sharp fluctuations in the carrier phase observables (Myag et al. 2017). Ionospheric scintillation is usually classified into two types: phase scintillation and amplitude scintillation (Van Dierendonck et al. 1993; Guo et al. 2017). Phase scintillation is characterized by the standard deviation of the de-trended carrier phase,  $\sigma_\phi$ , received power normalized by its mean power, and  $\sigma_\phi$  is the standard deviation of the de-trended carrier phase. Amplitude scintillation is characterized by the standard deviation of the de-trended received power,  $\sigma_p$ , to distinguish scintillation noise and local multipath noise (D'Angelis et al. 2012; Romanos et al. 2013). Further work has focused on the characteristics of ionospheric scintillation for different signals, such as the L2 C-code (Mangano et al. 2016). Research has also been done on the characteristics of ionospheric scintillation during polar regions during solar min periods (Skov et al. 2001), concluding that phase scintillation occurrence levels are correlated with magnetic local time and that scintillation can be localized, such that two receivers 100 km apart may

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# Journal article published – tíðarritsgrein útgivin

- Roberts, G. W., Fossá, S., Jepsen, C. (2019) Temporal characteristics of triple-frequency GNSS scintillation during a visible aurora borealis event over the Faroe Islands amid a period of very low solar activity. *GPS Solutions*. 23(89), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10291-019-0881-8>