Ionospheric gravity waves observed using radio-occultation: climatology and detection of tsunami-driven event

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 When elevation is positive, GPS signal crosses only the topside ionosphere above satellite height



Occultation starts when elevation of GPS=0



Perigee position represents the lowest point reached by the GPS ray.



- Gravity wave can be detected if signal crosses the wave relatively near its perigee
- In general the orientation of gravity wave fronts is in a different plane than the occultation



Data processing

200

0

-1

-0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2

- Sampling at 1 s
- Occultation tangent point height • variation is not linear
- Filtering between 50-100 mHz
- Selection of data with lowest • tangent point < 200 km
- Rejection of data with jumps in TEC
- Interpolation of (few) missing points

100 95

75

50

0.4 0.6 0.8

0.2

0 TEC [TECU]

Example 1: quiet

Example 2: High latitudes

Example 3: Gravity wave

March 2011

COSMIC/FORMOSAT-3

Occultation signal

400

TEC between COSMIC 1 and GPS 21 satellites

- Filtered TEC
- Comparison with the statistical TEC fluctuations of the same day
- Tsunami signal vertical wavelength ~ 50 km, maximum amplitude ~ 200 km

[Coïsson et al. EA, 2015]

Synthetic modeling

- Normal modes of 1-D Earth+Ocean+Atmosphere
- Transfer of moment from neutrals to ions: $\mathbf{v}_i = (\mathbf{u}.\mathbf{1}_b)\mathbf{1}_b$
- Electron density perturbation (background IRI), integrated along the line of sight COSMIC-GPS

[Coïsson et al. EA, 2015]

2012 Haida Gwaii Tsunami

 No close encounter of occultation measurement with tsunami wave front

Conclusions

- Space platforms provide data from regions not observable from the ground
- A small number of satellites makes the probability to cross the tsunami-generated gravity wave extremely small. Future missions, with receivers for multiple GNSS constellations, could provide better coverage.
- Difficulty of detection: isolated samples, no control of measurement geometry.
- Signals similar to the one observed during the 2011 Japan tsunami can occur, generated by other causes.