



LIÈGE université  
Sciences

# Precise positioning in multi-GNSS mode

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HOTEL

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## What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?



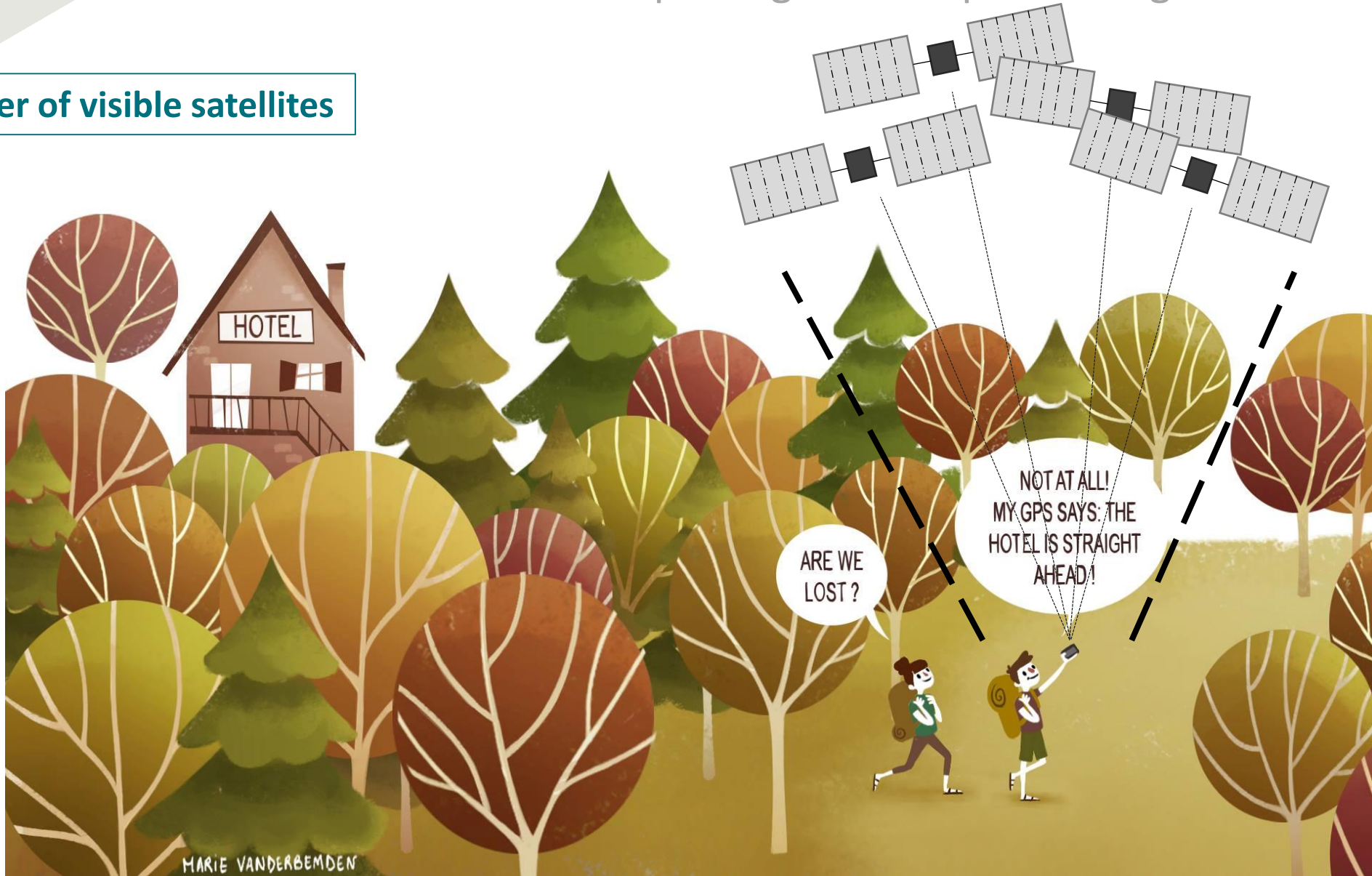
What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?



# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

## What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

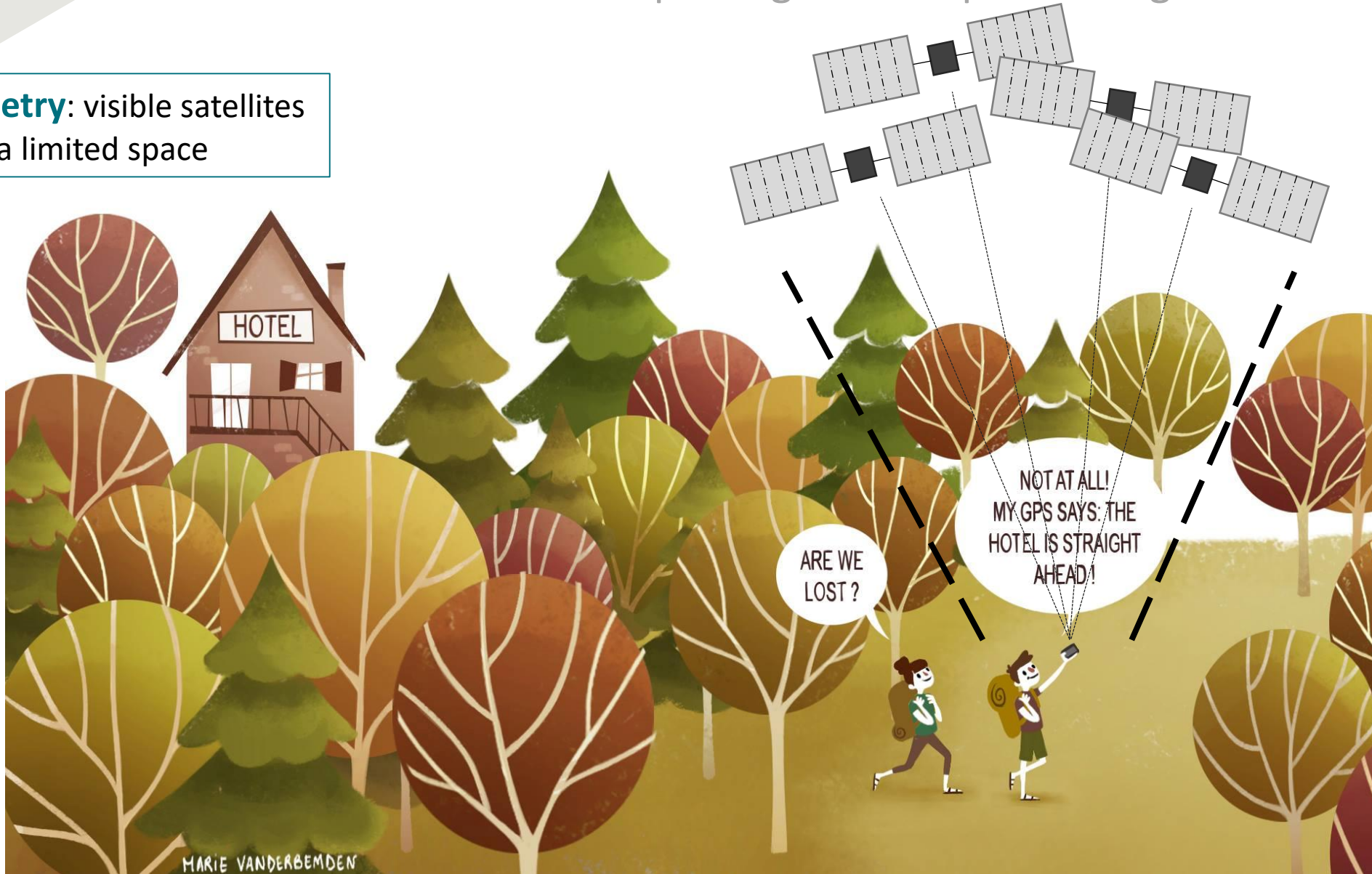
**Low number of visible satellites**

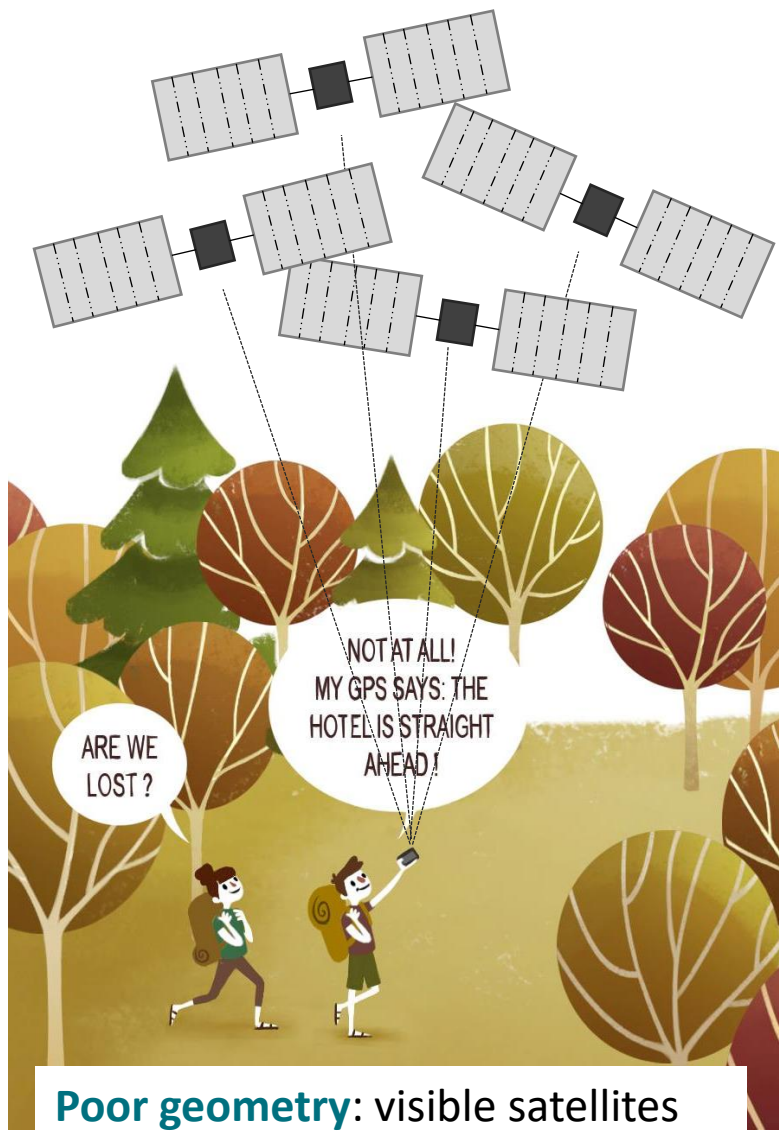


# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

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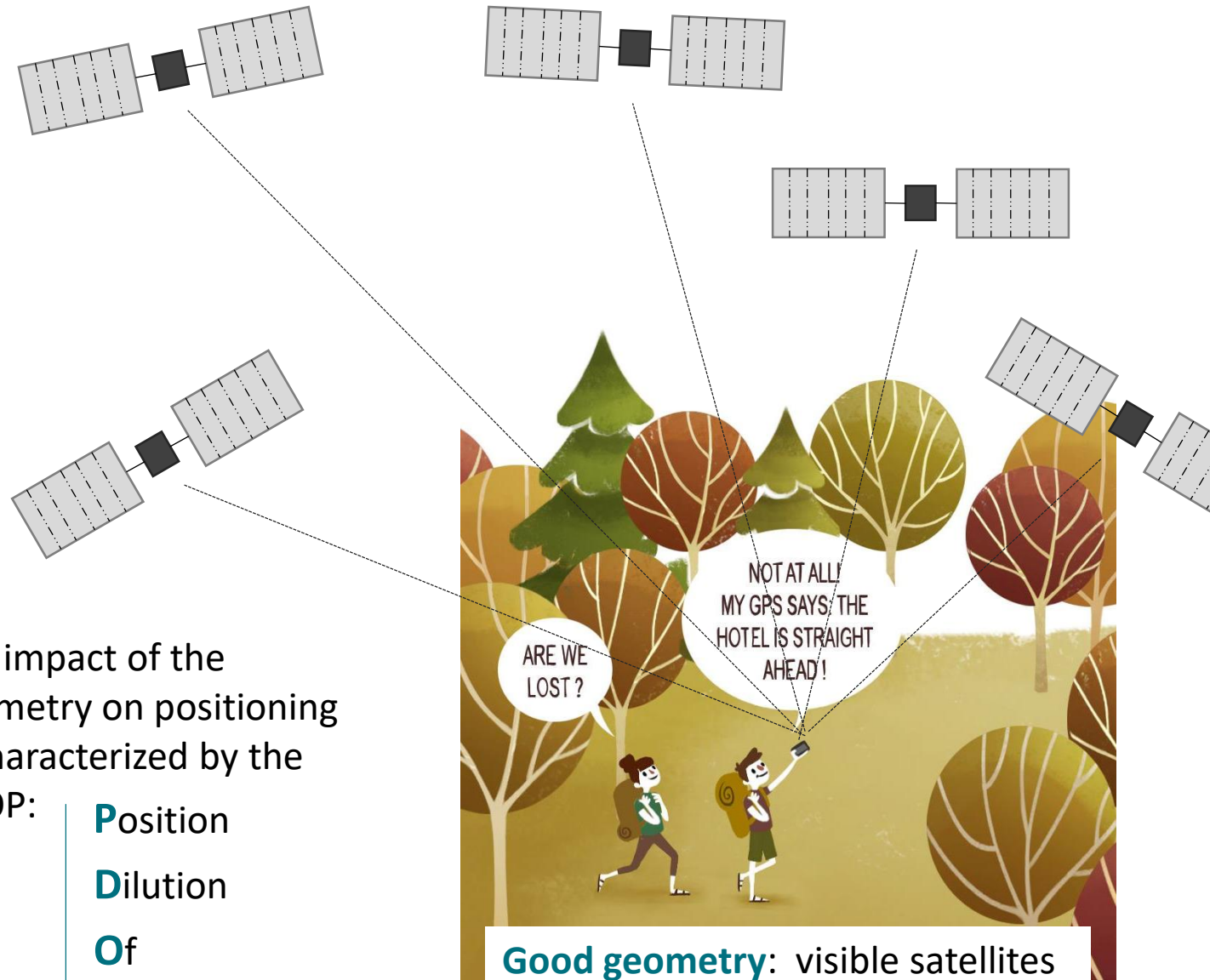
**Poor geometry:** visible satellites gathered in a limited space





**Poor geometry:** visible satellites gathered in a limited space

**High PDOP**



The impact of the geometry on positioning is characterized by the PDOP:

- P**osition
- D**ilution
- O**f
- P**recision

**Good geometry:** visible satellites spread around the receiver

**Low PDOP**

The **geometry** of the satellites affects the **positioning precision** :

$$\sigma_{POS} = PDOP \cdot \sigma_{OBS}$$

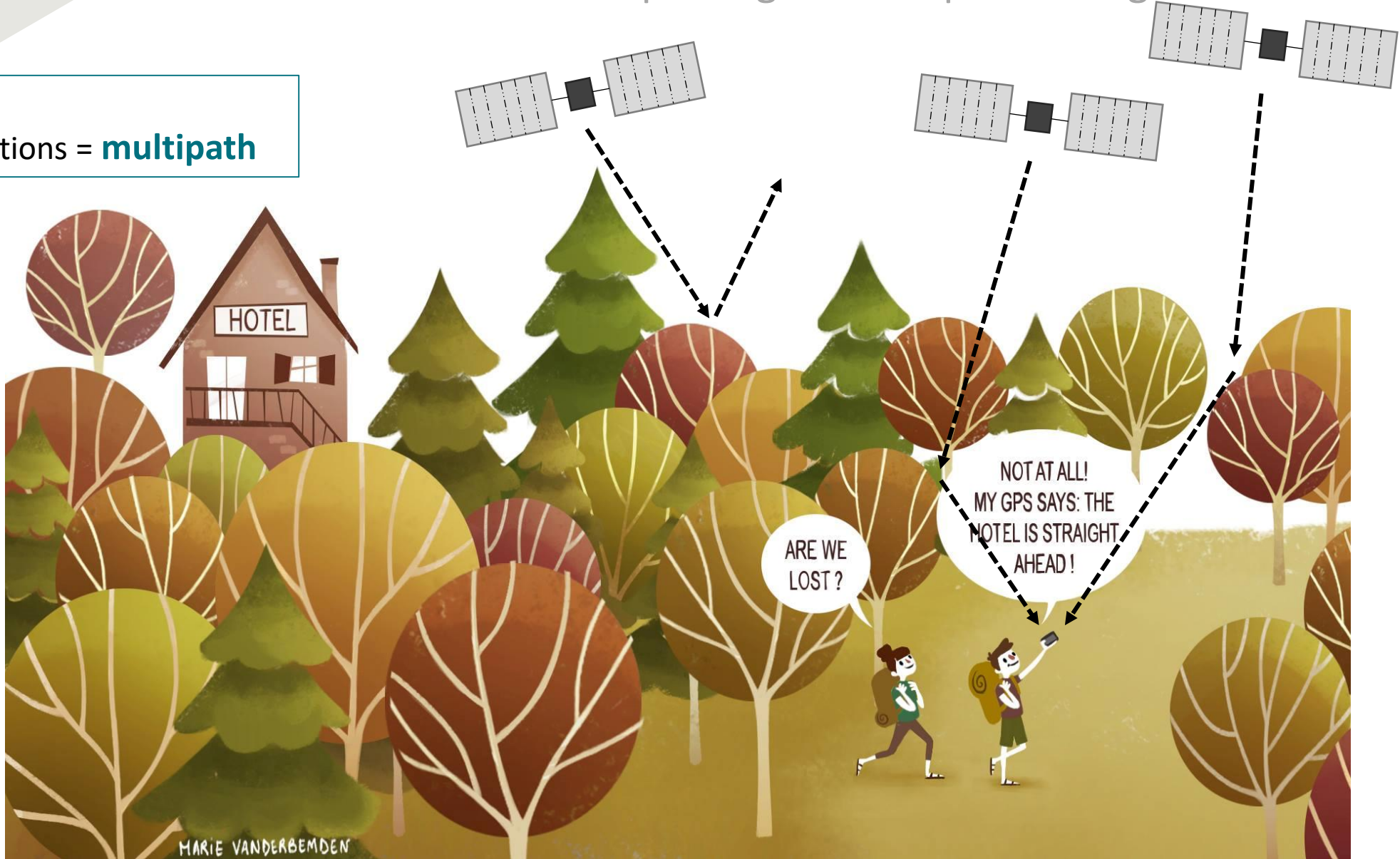
**PDOP** = **P**osition **D**ilution **O**f **P**recision  
= Impact of satellite geometry

**High PDOP** values **degrade** the positioning precision

# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

Forest, city -  
Signal obstructions = **multipath**

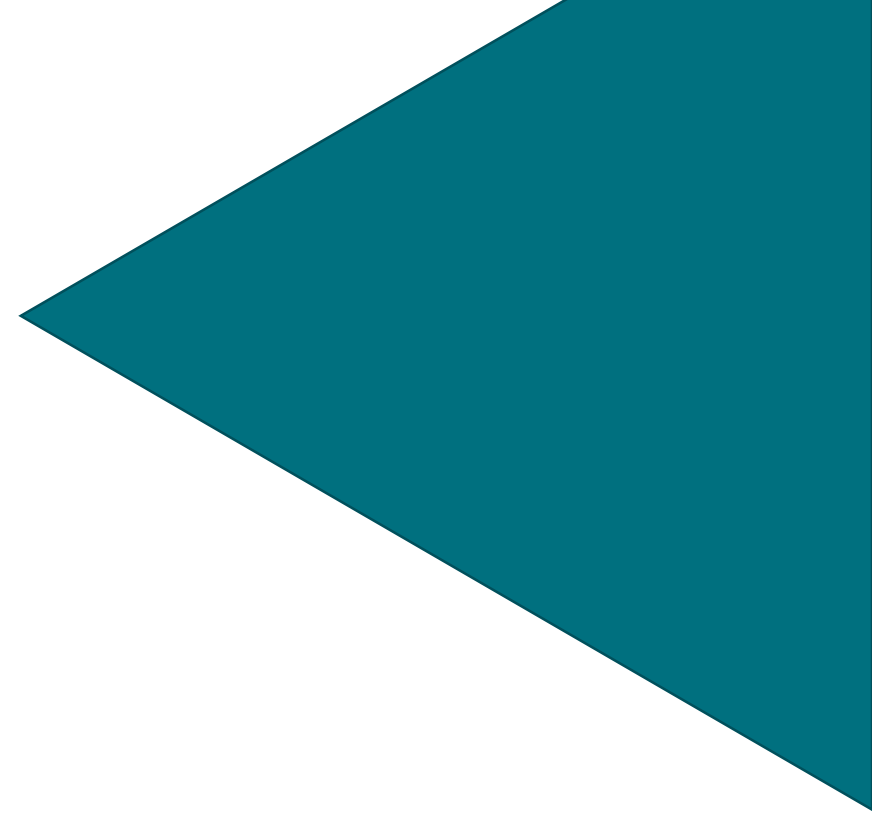


# What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

Receiver quality



How could **multi-GNSS**  
**improve**  
this situation?



# GNSS : Global Navigation Satellite Systems

American: GPS

Russian: GLONASS

European: Galileo

Chinese: BeiDou

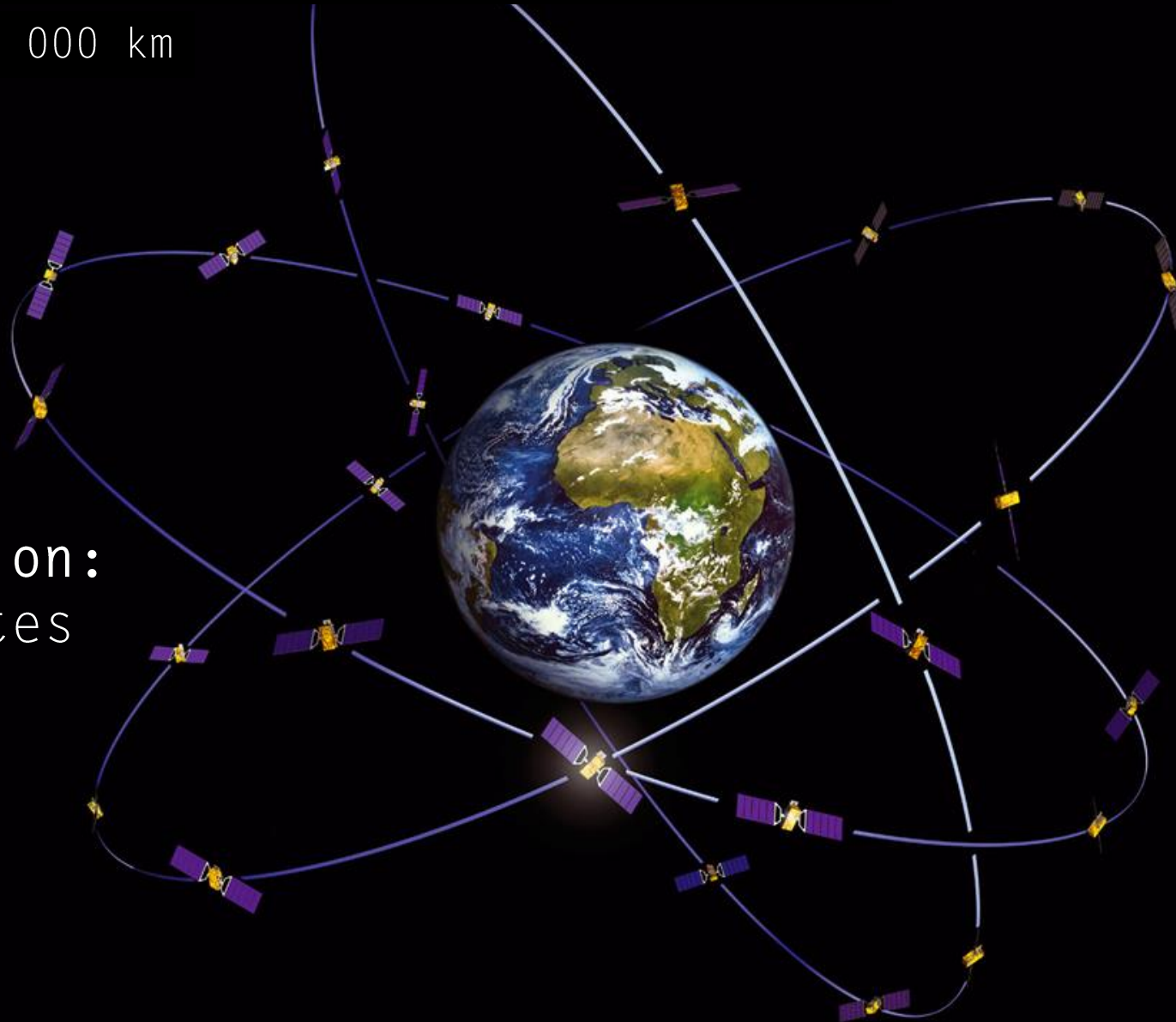


# GPS : Global Positioning system

Altitude:  $\pm 20\ 000$  km



Constellation:  
30 satellites



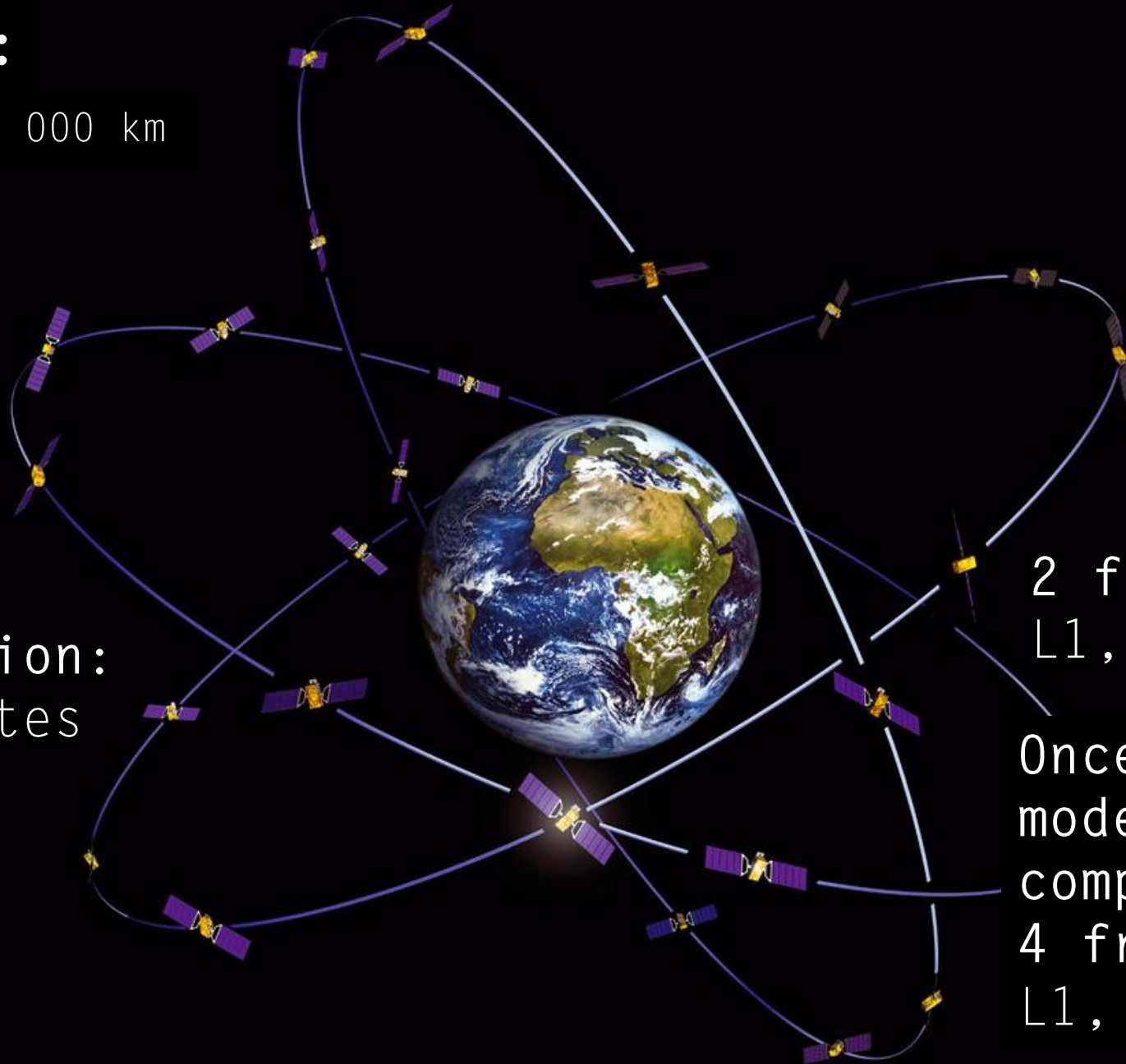
3 frequencies:  
L1, L2, L5

# GLONASS :

Altitude:  $\pm 19\ 000$  km



Undergoing  
modernization:  
24 satellites



2 frequencies:  
L1, L2

Once the  
modernization  
complete,  
4 frequencies:  
L1, L2, L3, L5

# Galileo

Altitude:  $\pm 24\ 000$  km



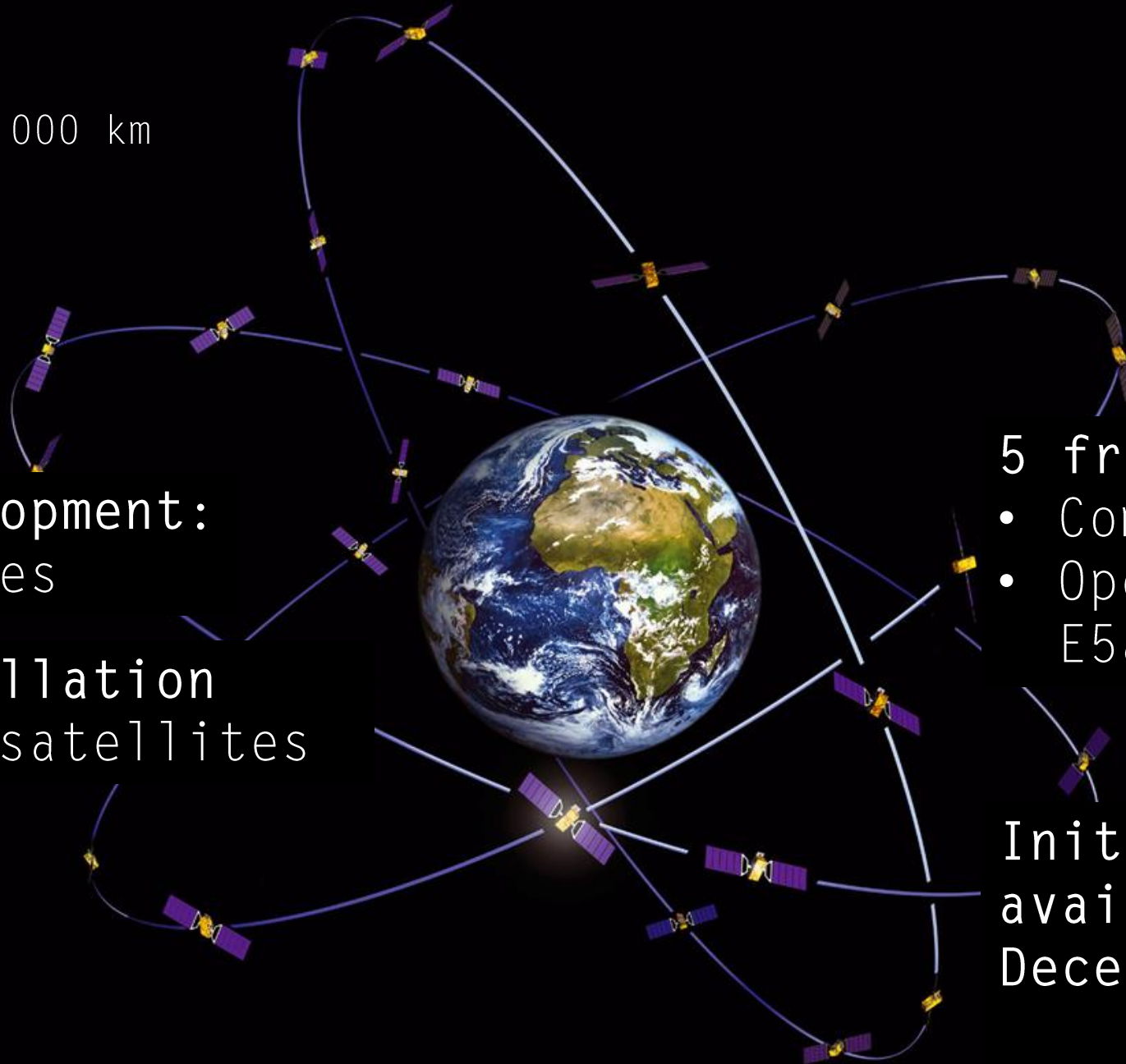
Under development:  
22 satellites

Full constellation  
(2020): 30 satellites

5 frequencies:

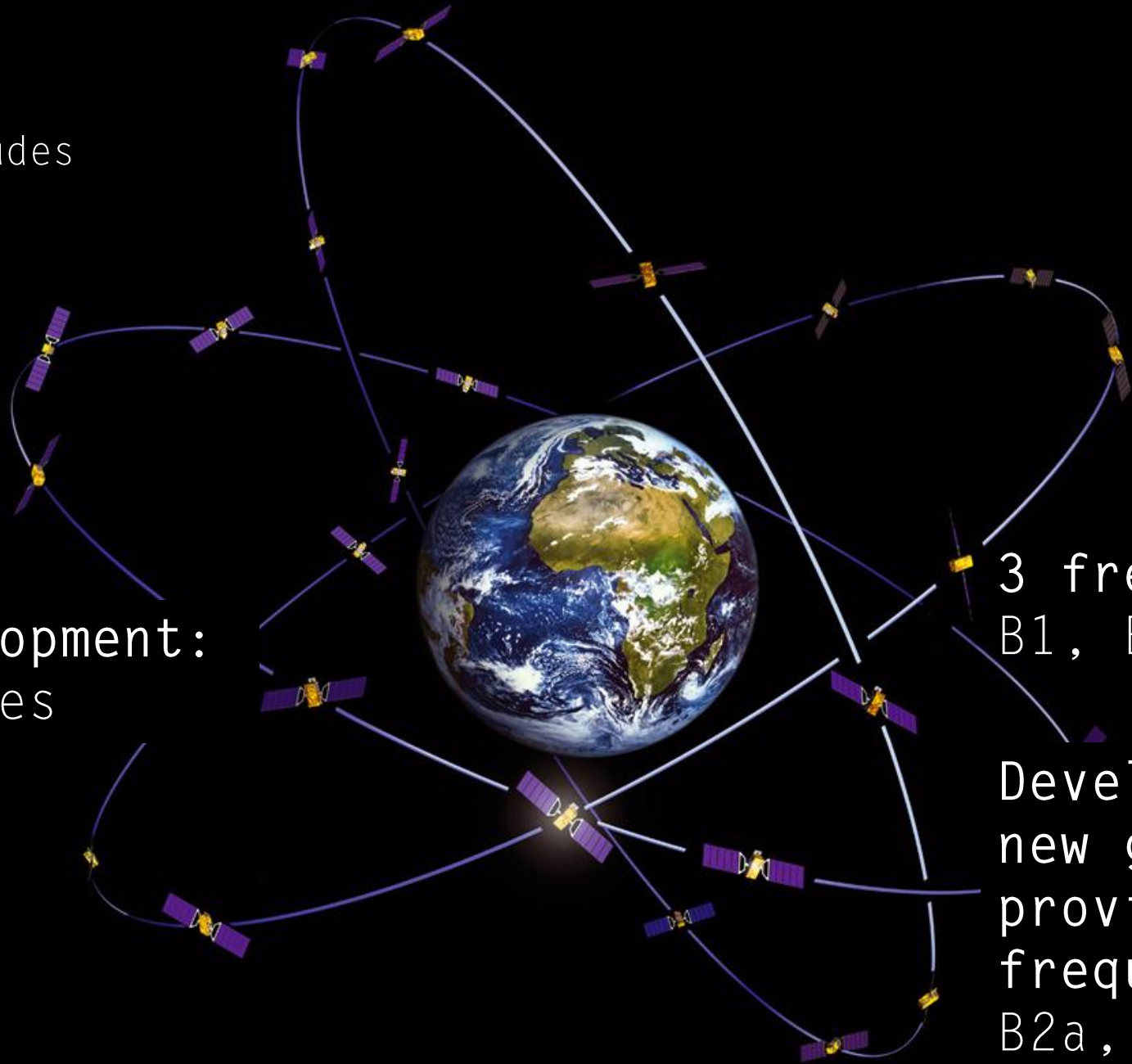
- Commercial: E6
- Open access: E1, E5a, E5b, E5a+b

Initial services  
available since  
December 2016



# BeiDou

Various altitudes



Under development:  
38 satellites

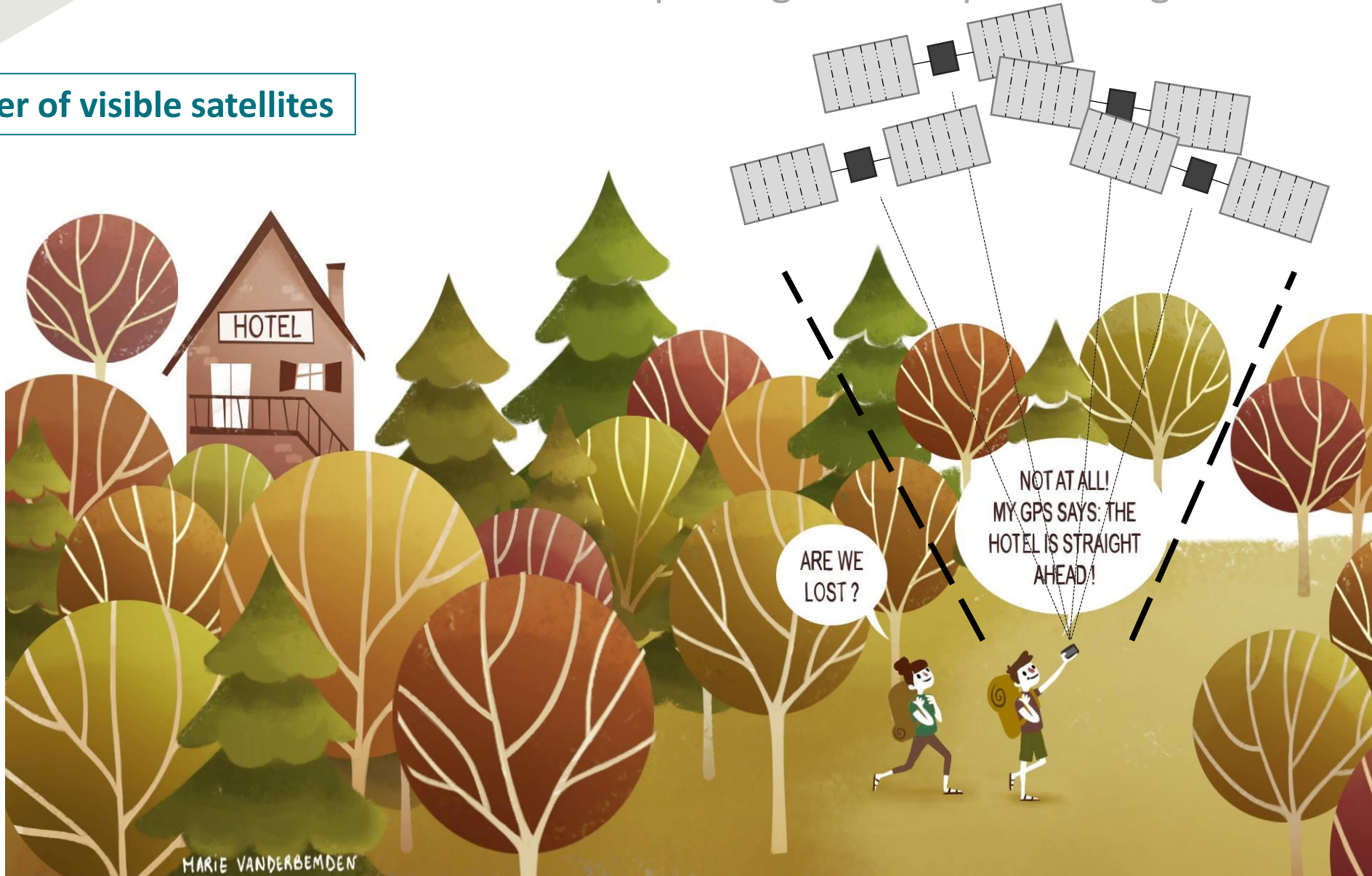
3 frequencies:  
B1, B2, B3

Development of a  
new generation  
providing 5  
frequencies: B1,  
B2a, B2b, B2a+b, B3

# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

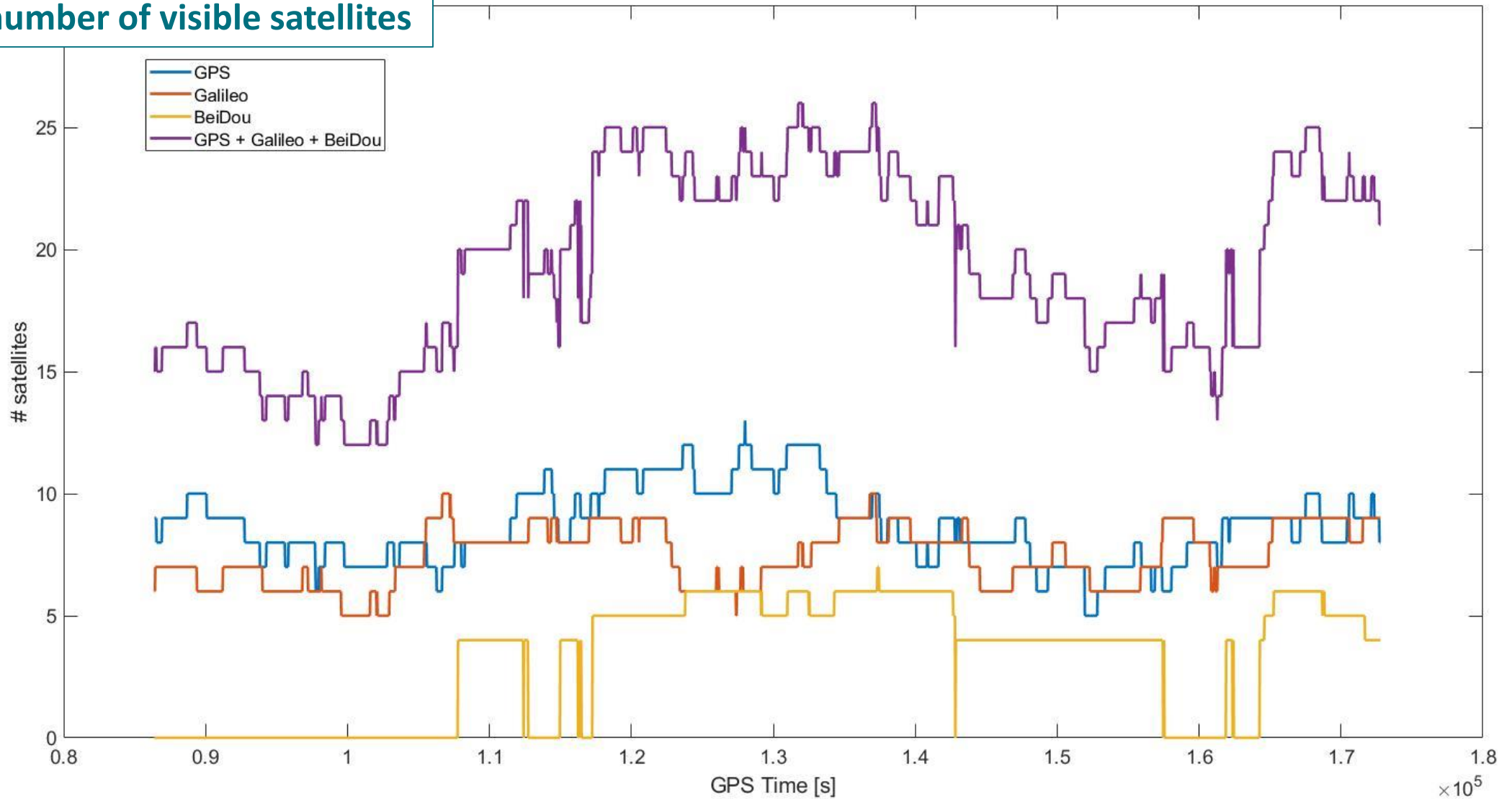
## What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

**Low number of visible satellites**



# MULTI-GNSS IMPROVEMENTS

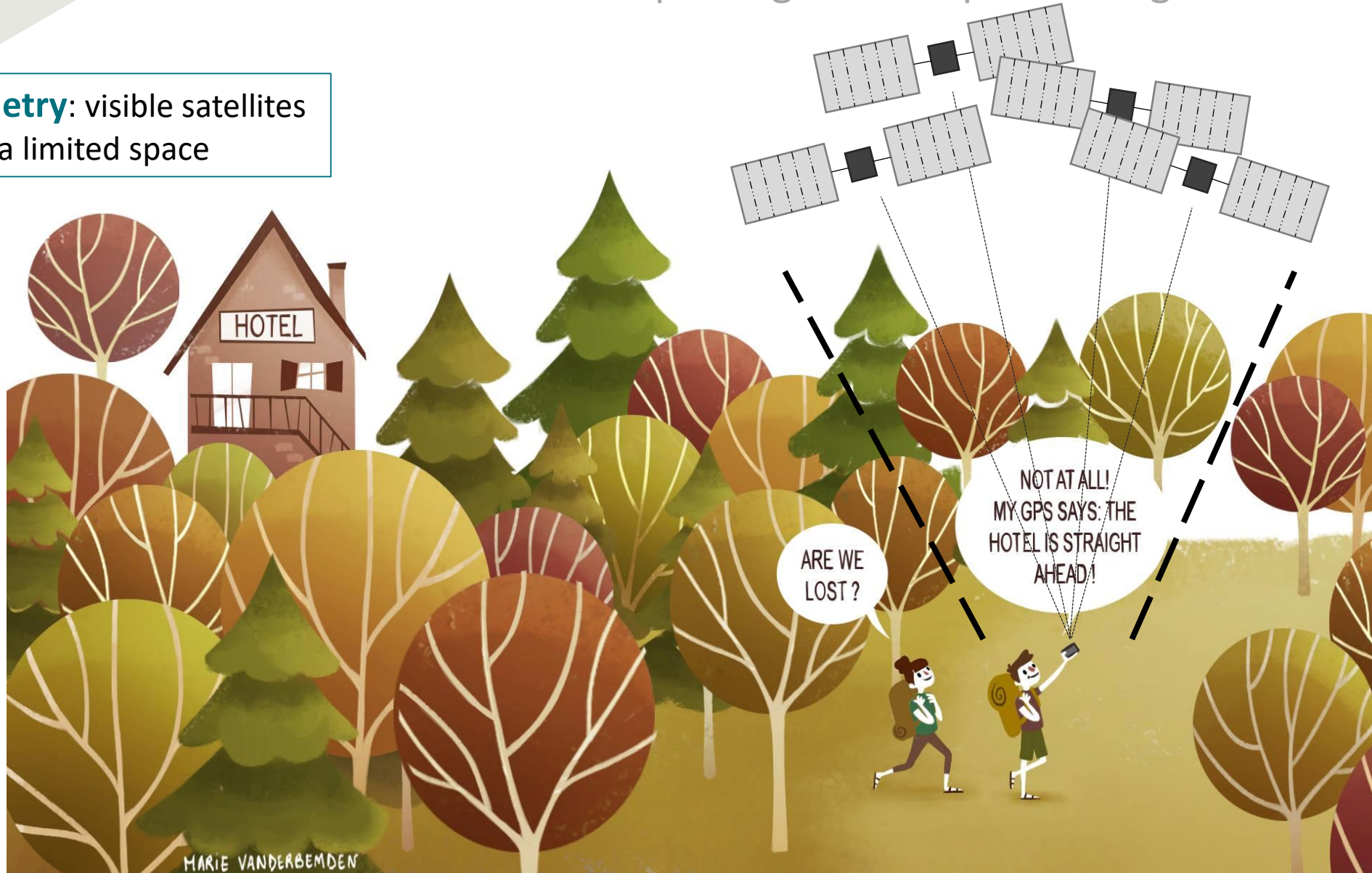
## Low number of visible satellites



# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

## What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

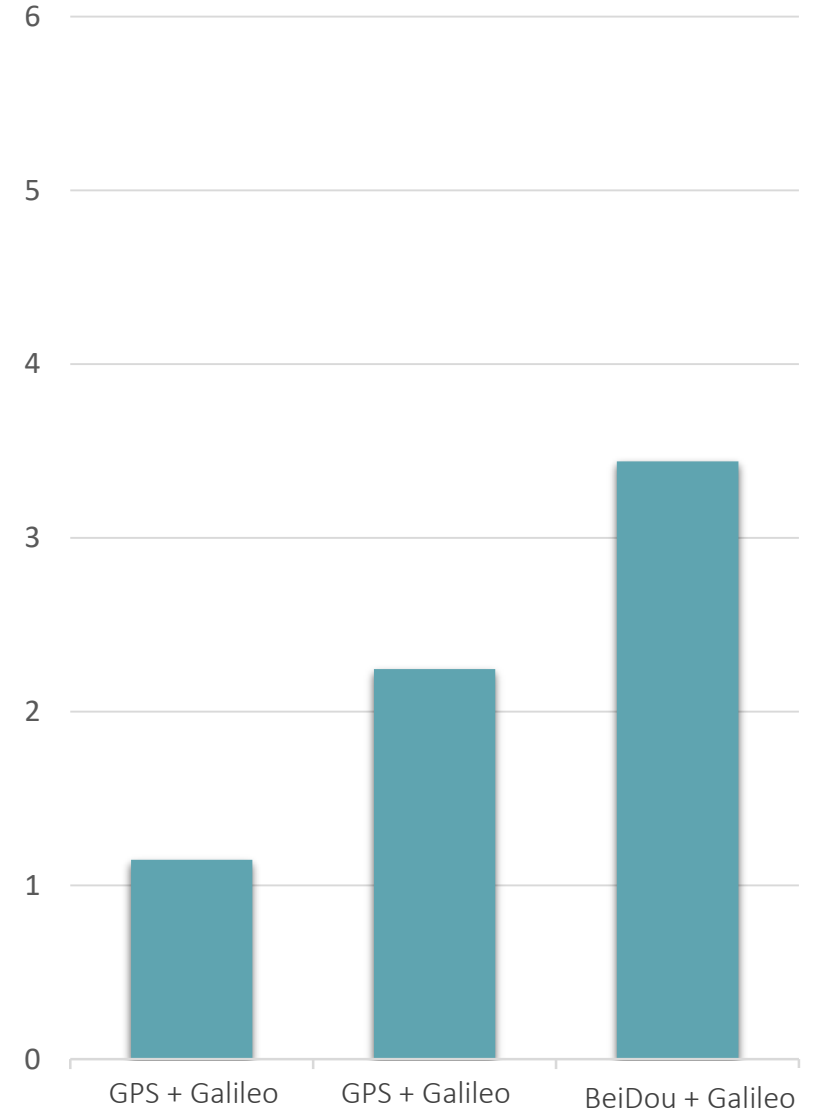
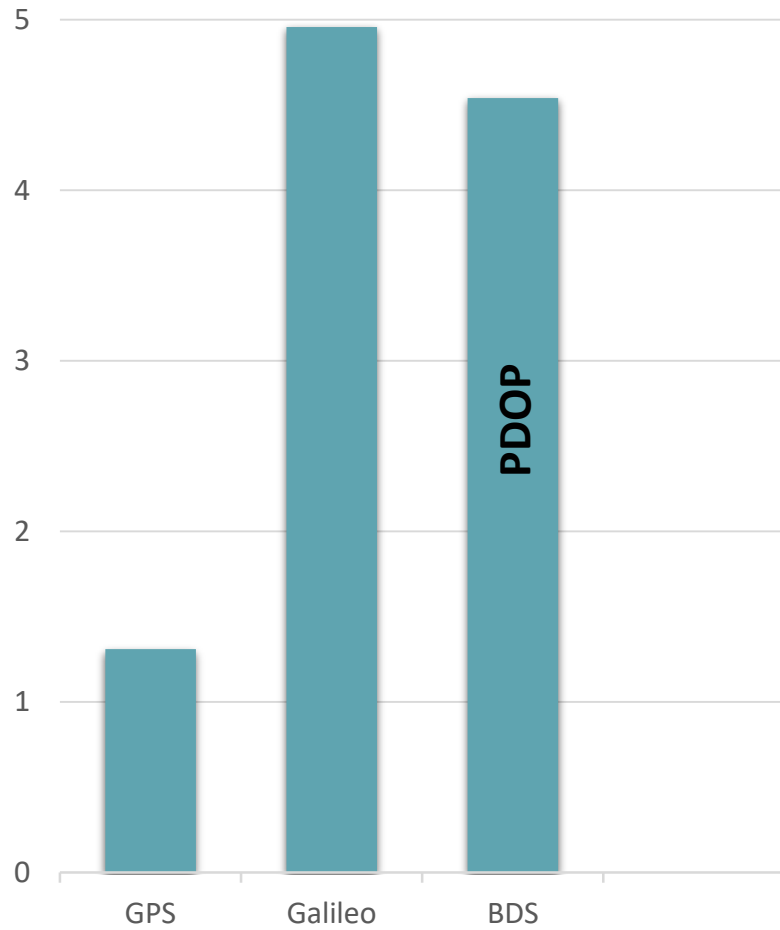
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# MULTI-GNSS IMPROVEMENTS

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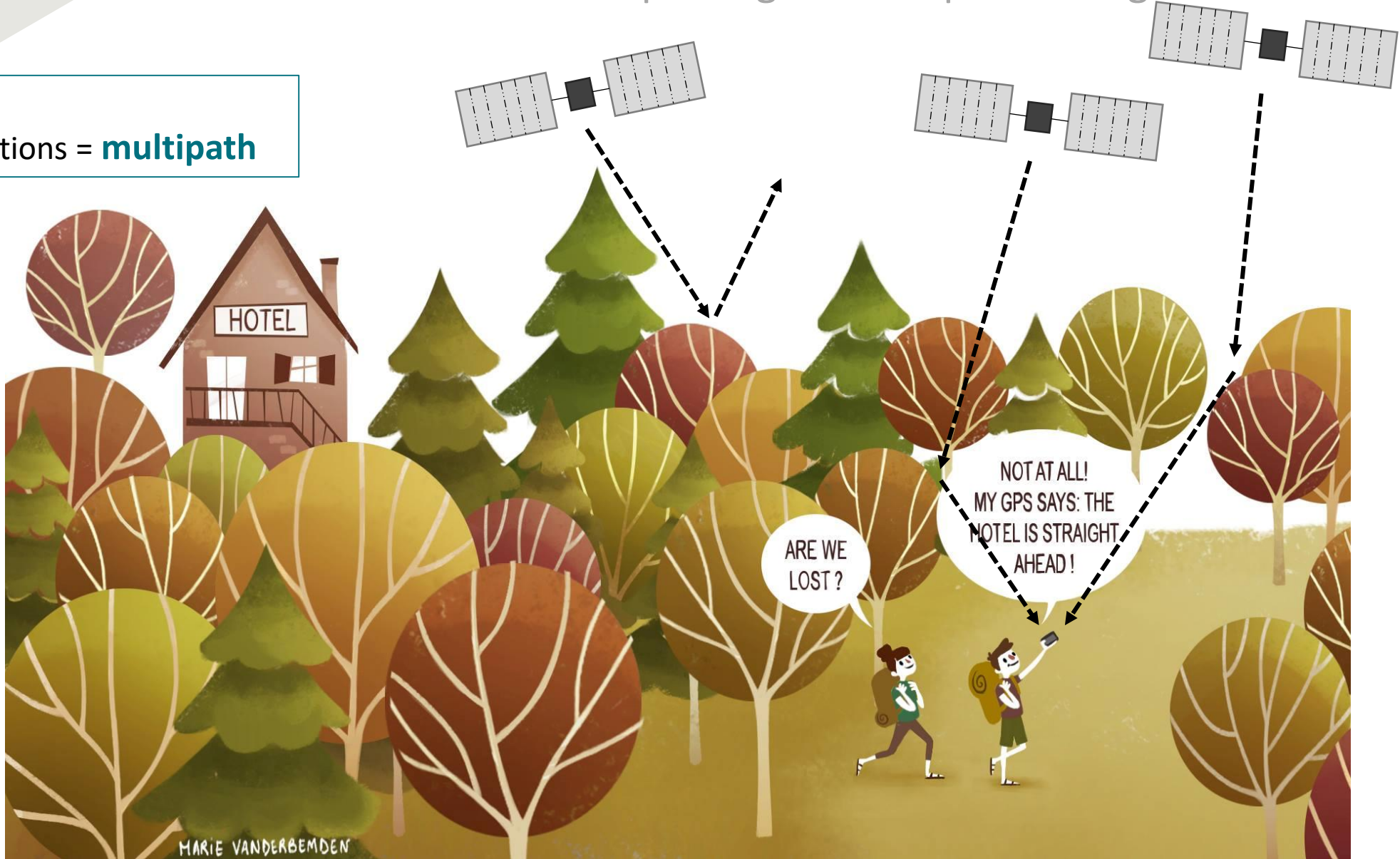
## PDOP evolution



# POSITIONING ALTERATIONS

What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

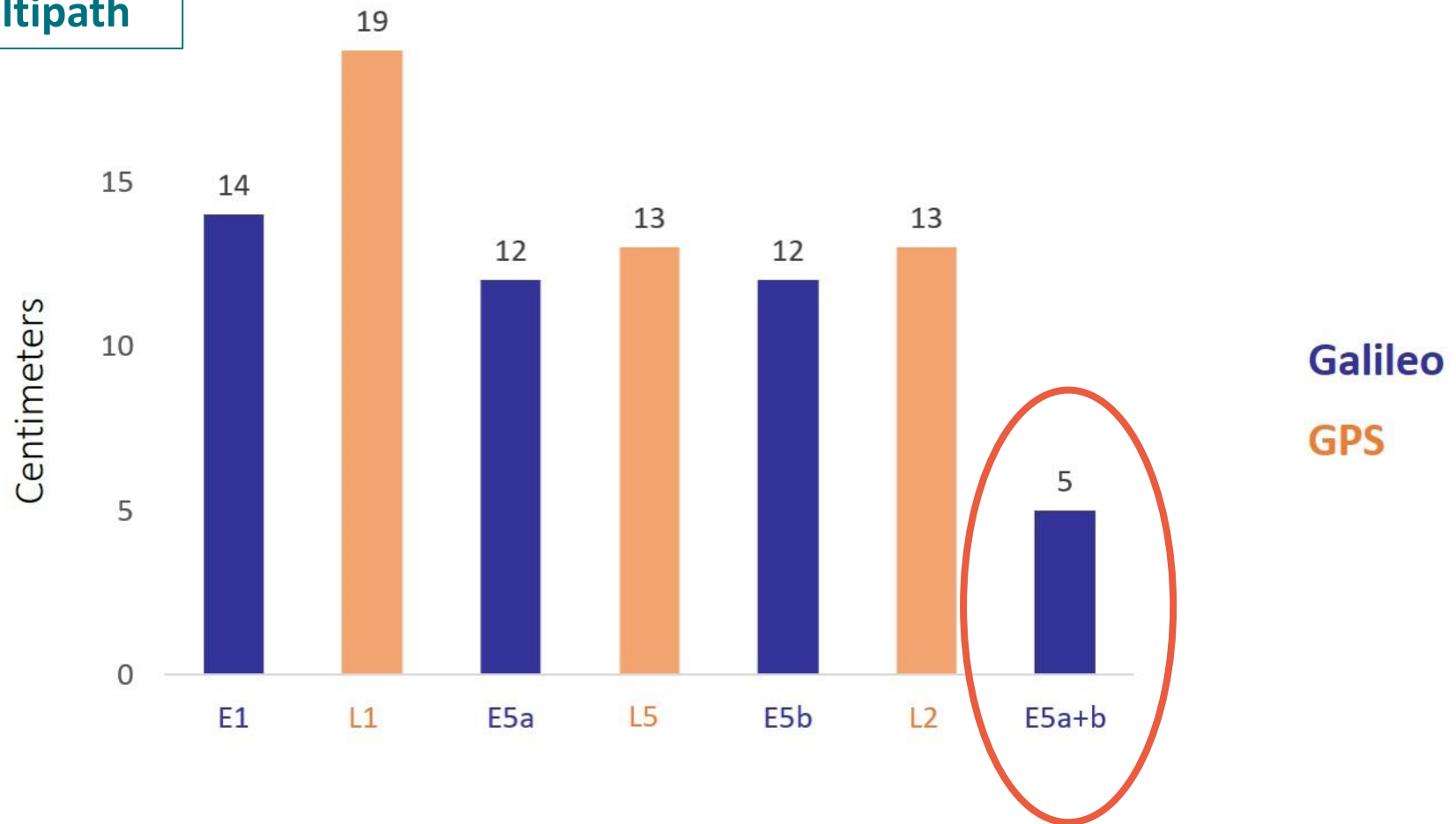
Forest, city -  
Signal obstructions = **multipath**



# MULTI-GNSS IMPROVEMENTS

Forest, city -  
Signal obstructions = **multipath**

## Signal precisions



What are the factors impacting satellite positioning?

Receiver quality



## Geodetic receivers

\$\$\$ (Thousands USDs )



*Trimble image*



*Septentrio image*

- Multi-GNSS
- Multi-Frequency

## Low-Cost receivers

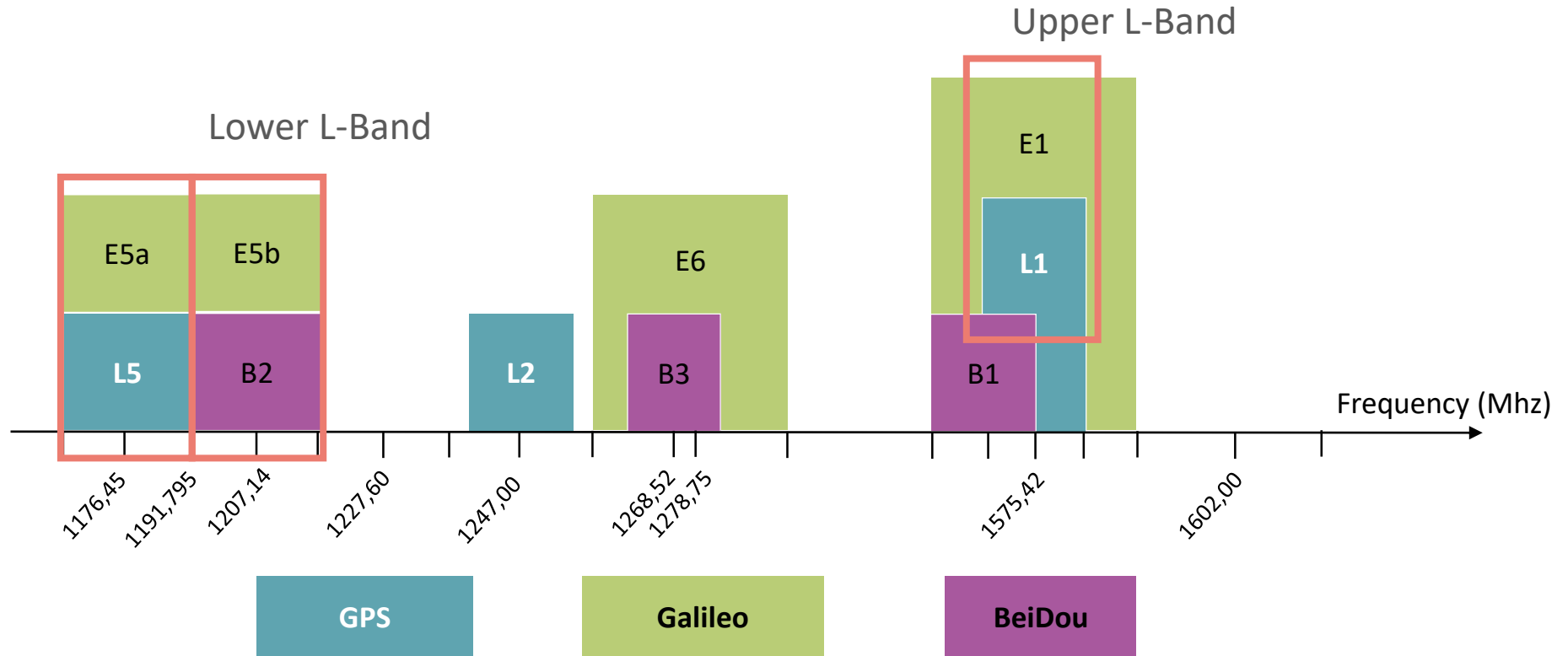
\$\$ (Hundreds USDs)



*u-blox image*

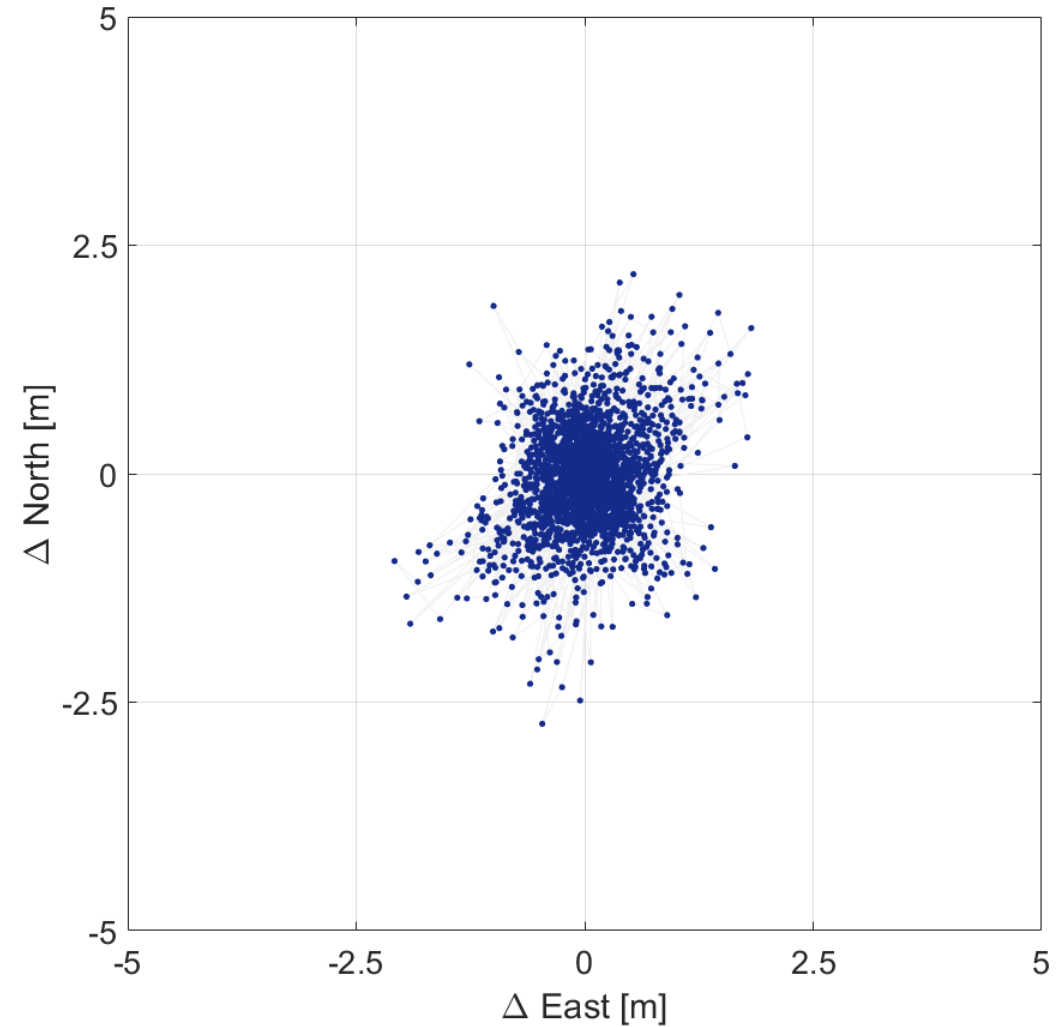
- Multi-GNSS
- Single-Frequency

# GNSS constellations are compatible



# Positioning with Galileo

Galileo E1:



**Galileo E1**

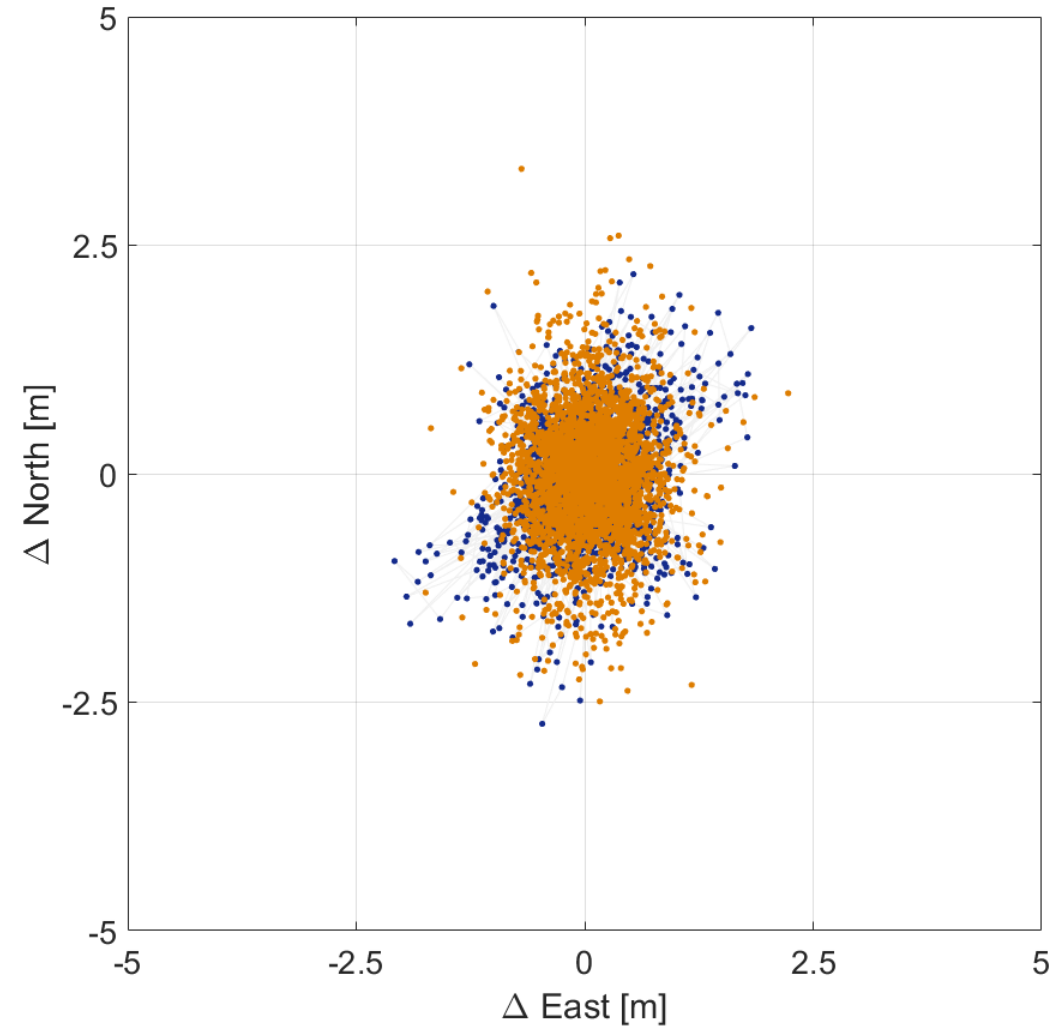
Position 2D: 0.71 m

Position 3D: 1.10 m

# Positioning with **GPS**

**Galileo E1:**

**GPS L1:**



**Galileo E1**

Position 2D: 0.72 m

Position 3D: 1.13 m

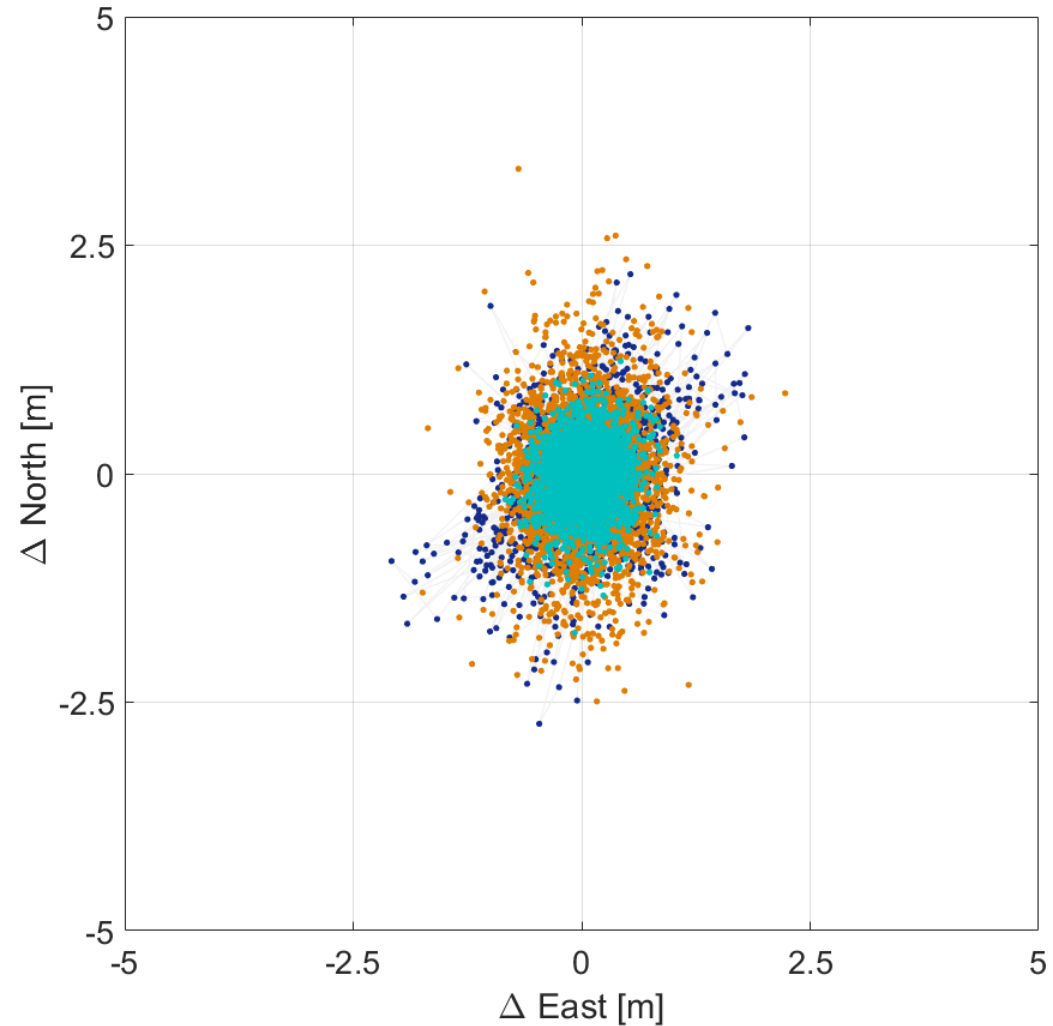
**GPS L1**

Position 2D: 0.81 m

Position 3D: 1.32 m

# Positioning with Galileo + GPS

Galileo E1  
+  
GPS L1 :



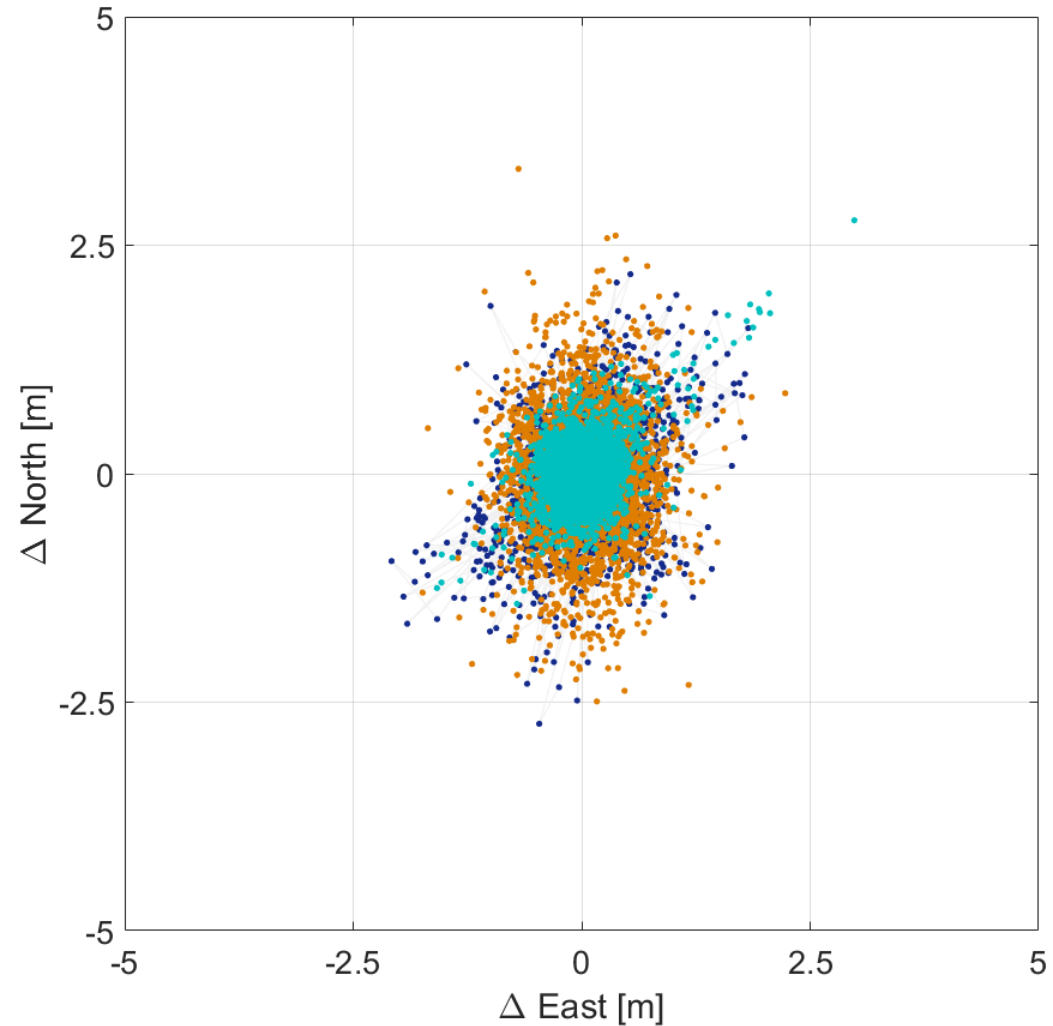
Overlapping frequencies  
= single-frequency



Position 2D: 0.43 m  
Position 3D: 0.85 m

# Positioning with Galileo + GPS

Galileo E5a  
+  
GPS L5 :



Overlapping frequencies  
= single-frequency

Galileo E5a  
+  
GPS L5

Position 2D: 0.45 m  
Position 3D: 0.73 m



# **Drawbacks** of multi-GNSS positioning

## Differences

between GNSS

Time systems

Coordinate systems

Hardware delays

lead to **additional biases!**

**= Inter-System Biases**

**= ISBs**

# ISBs

## ISBs are receiver-dependent



Trimble NetR9

(a)  
+



Septentrio X4

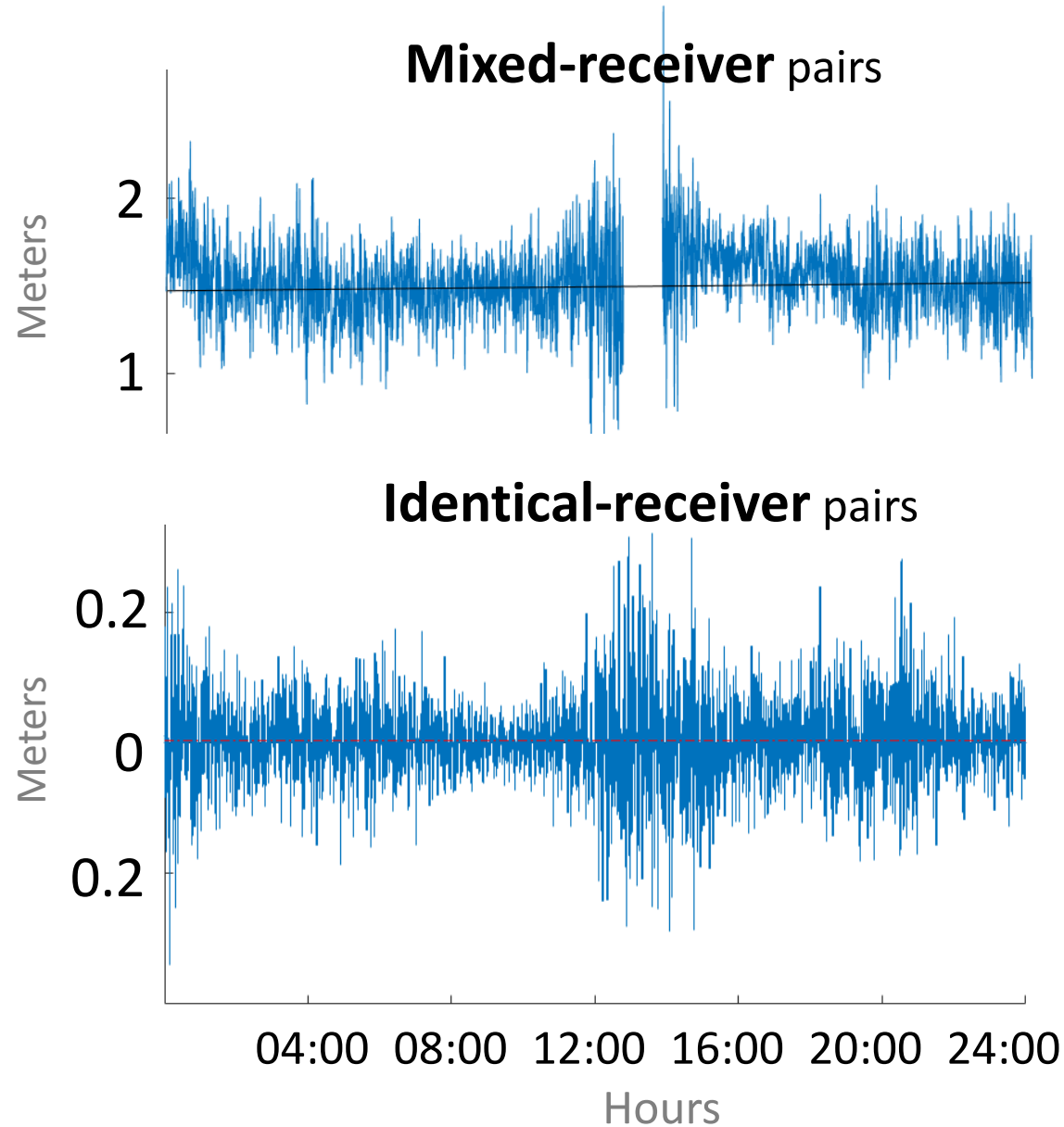
(b)  
+



Septentrio X4



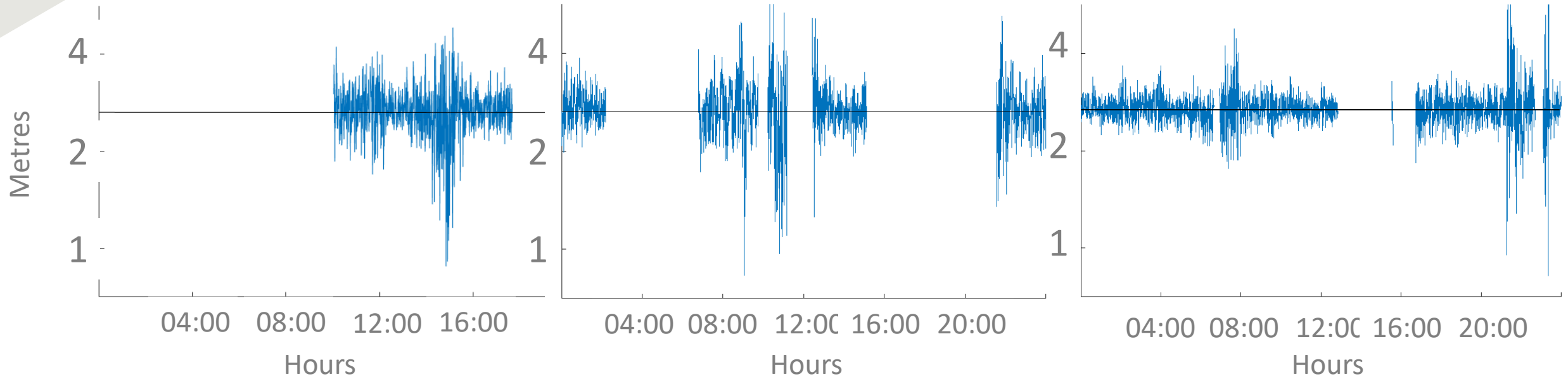
Septentrio X4



Mean:  
1.52 m

Mean:  
0.00 m

# ISBs are **stable** over time



Mean:  
2.82 m

**2014** (a)

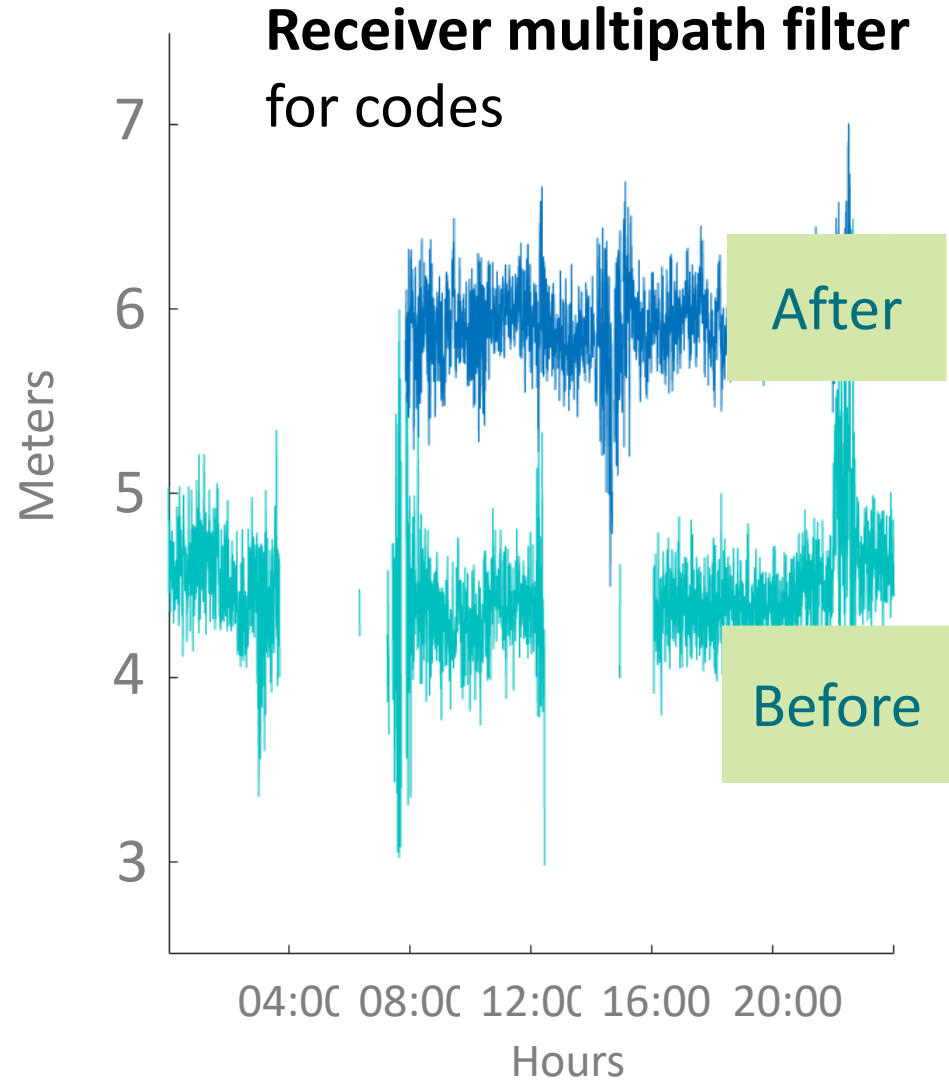
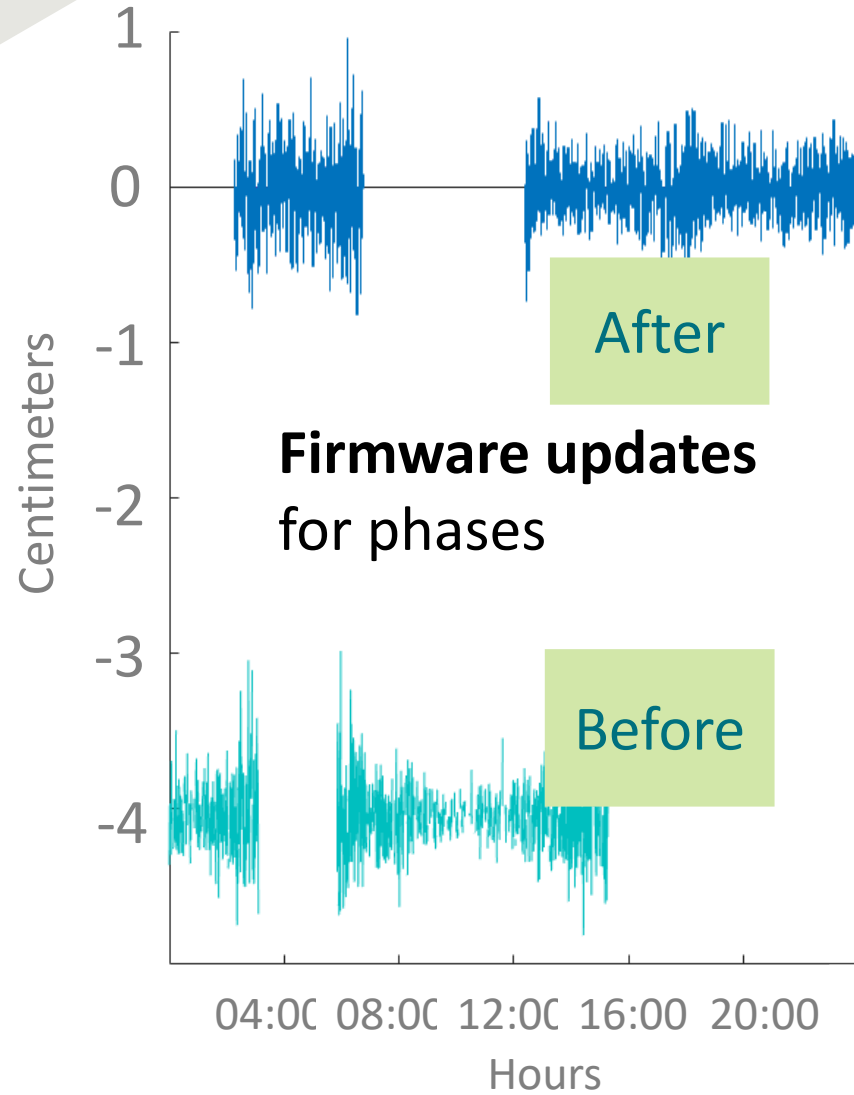
Mean:  
2.86 m

**2015** (b)

Mean:  
2.84 m

**2016** (c)

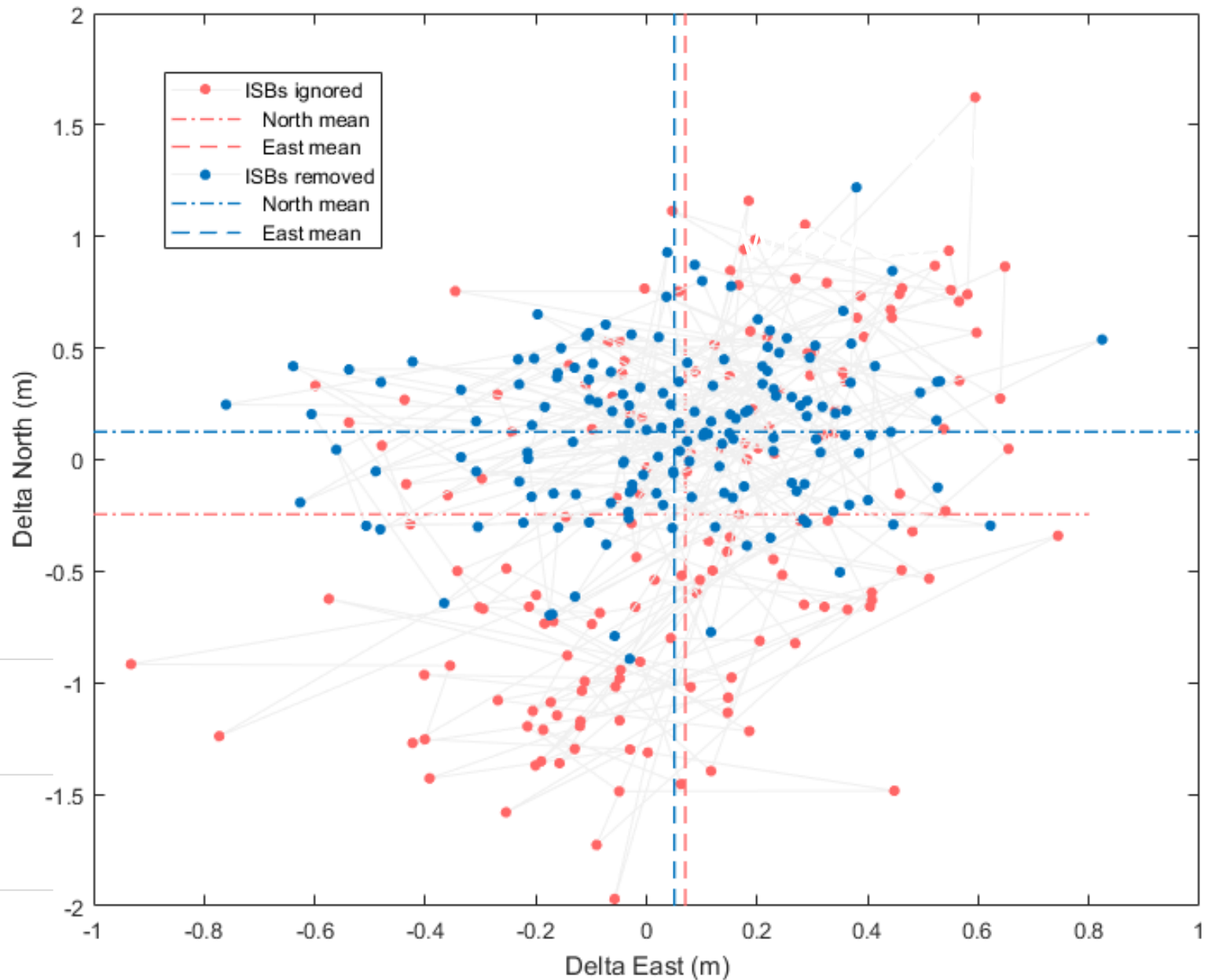
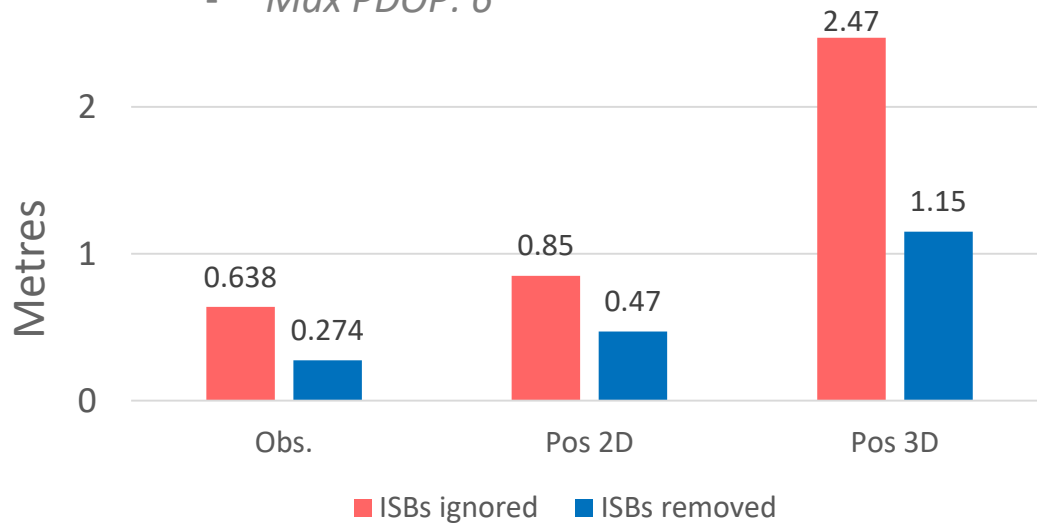
# ISBs might be **affected** by



# IMPACT OF ISBS

ISBs removal on a DD SB **5.6 m** on DOY 32 of 2018 (E1) between u-blox and Trimble R9 :

- Geodetic antennas
- 30s. data
- Min elevation: 10°
- Multipath filters OFF
- Max PDOP: 6

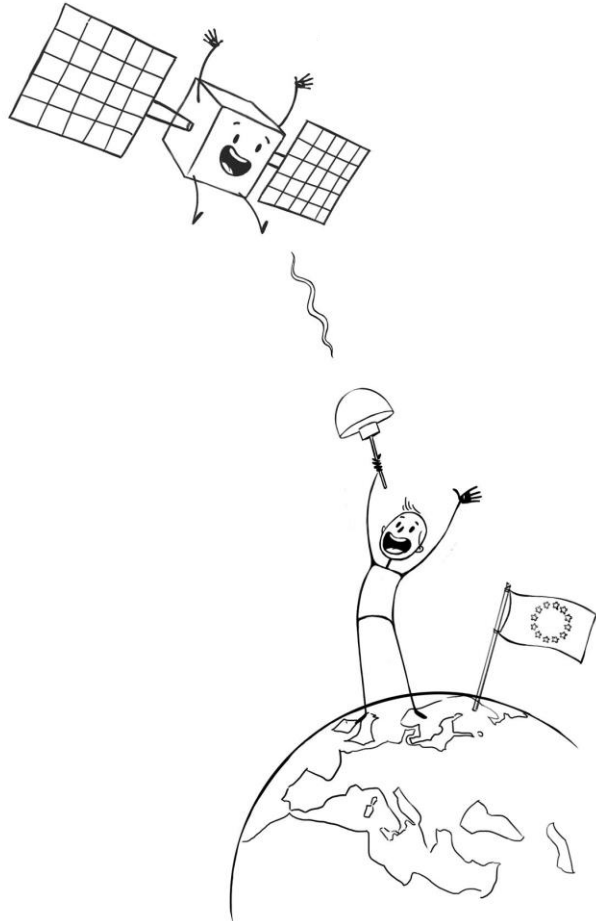


## CONCLUSIONS

- **Multi-GNSS improves positioning solutions**
  - Higher number of visible satellites
  - Lower PDOP values
  - Signals of new GNSSs (BeiDou, Galileo) designed to be more robust to multipath
  - Position precision improved regardless of the receiver brand
  
- **Multi-GNSS solution affected by additional biases**
  - ISBs are receiver-dependent
  - Most of these biases reveal constant in time => they can be estimated and removed from positioning equation
  - Intrinsic changes on receiver modify ISBs



CONTACT



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