

# Innovative Approaches for Altimetry Mapping in the Coastal Band

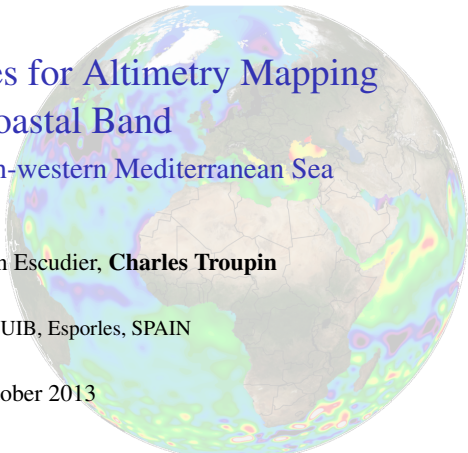
Applications to the North-western Mediterranean Sea

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8 October 2013

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## Scientific motivation and objectives

**Satellite altimetry: unique contribution to the global observation of eddy variability**

(Le Traon and Morrow, 2001; Ducet et al., 2000; Fu et al., 2003; Pascual et al., 2006)

**but . . .**

## Scientific motivation and objectives

Small scales ( $\sim 40$  km) and coastal zone  
**not well resolved**

(Nencioli al., 2011; Pascual et al., 2010)

# Scientific motivation and objectives

## Two objectives:

1. **Improvement of 2D mapping** of the currents in the coastal zone
2. **Integrated approach** for better monitoring/understanding dynamical processes in the North Western Mediterranean Sea



**1.**

High-resolution maps  
with influence of the bathymetry

## Method 1: optimal interpolation

SLA = large-scale + small-scale

- Large-scale: AVISO product

$$L = 100 \text{ km}, T = 10 \text{ days}$$

- Small-scale: [\[High-Resolution product\]](#)

$$L = 30 \text{ km}, T = 5 \text{ days}$$

$$C(r, t) = \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2L^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{t}{T}\right)^2$$

## Method 2: increased covariance along isobaths

[High-Resolution+BATHY product]

$$C(r = a - b, t) = \exp(-\mathbf{R}^2) \exp\left(-\frac{t}{T}\right)^2$$

## Method 2: increased covariance along isobaths

$$\mathbf{R}^2 = \frac{|a - b|^2}{2L^2} + \frac{1}{\phi} \frac{|PV(a) - PV(b)|^2}{PV^2(a) + PV^2(b)}$$

[Davis et al. 1998]

[Dussurget et al. 2011]

$$PV = \frac{f}{H} = \frac{\textit{Coriolis}}{\textit{Bathymetry}}$$

Optimal values:  $L = 30$  km,  $T = 3$  days,  $\Phi = 0.7$

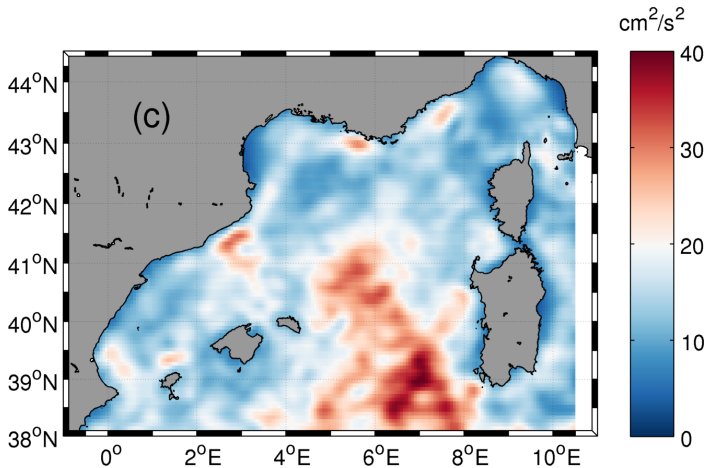
# Eddy Kinetic Energy (2003–2010)

larger mean value & stronger near coast

[High-Resolution]

*minus*

AVISO



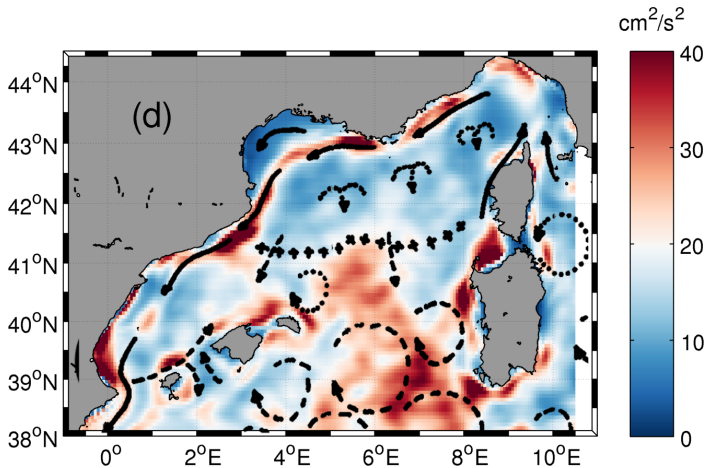
# Eddy Kinetic Energy (2003–2010)

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More details...

GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 40, 1–6, doi:10.1002/grl.50324, 2013

**Improvement of coastal and mesoscale observation from space:  
Application to the northwestern Mediterranean Sea**

Romain Escudier,<sup>1,2</sup> Jérôme Bouffard,<sup>3,4</sup> Ananda Pascual,<sup>1</sup> Pierre-Marie Poulain,<sup>5</sup> and Marie-Isabelle Pujol<sup>6</sup>

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doi: [doi:10.1002/grl.50324](https://doi.org/10.1002/grl.50324)



**2.**

**Data-interpolating  
variational analysis**











# Data-interpolating variational analysis

Create contour (from topography)



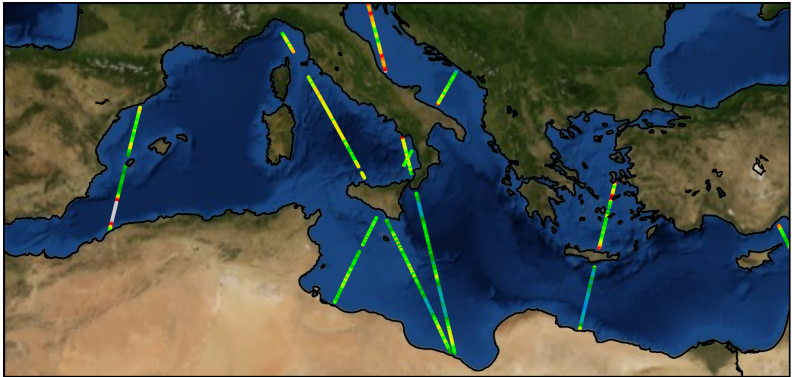
# Data-interpolating variational analysis

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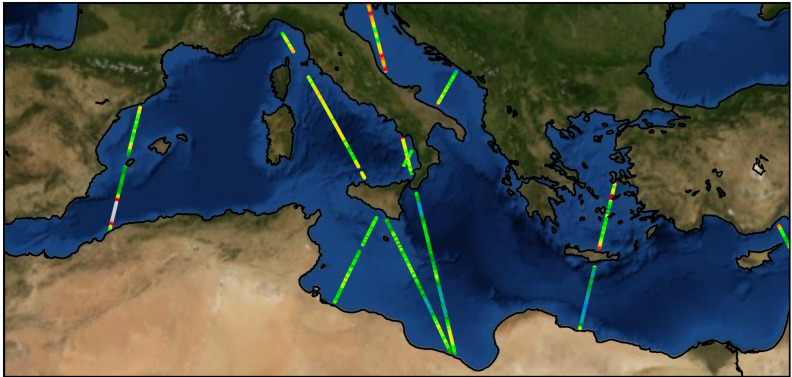
# Data-interpolating variational analysis

Extract data



# Data-interpolating variational analysis

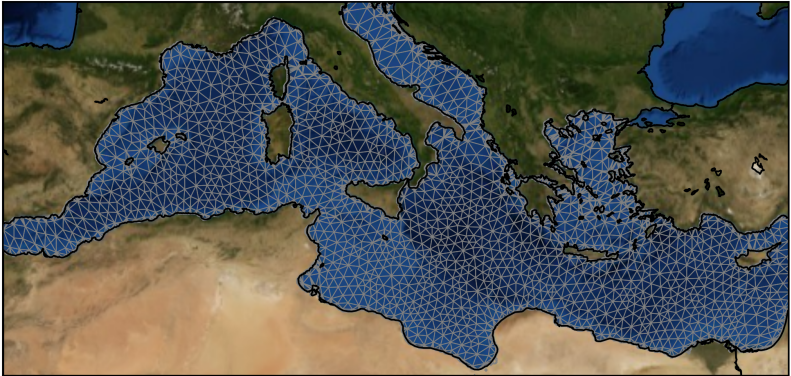
Evaluate analysis parameters





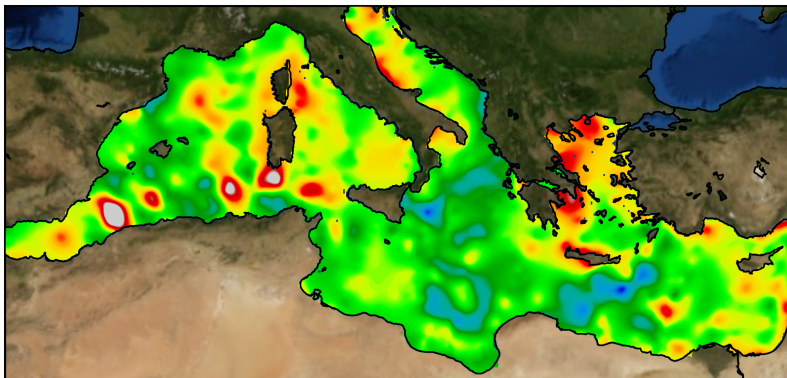
# Data-interpolating variational analysis

Create finite-element mesh



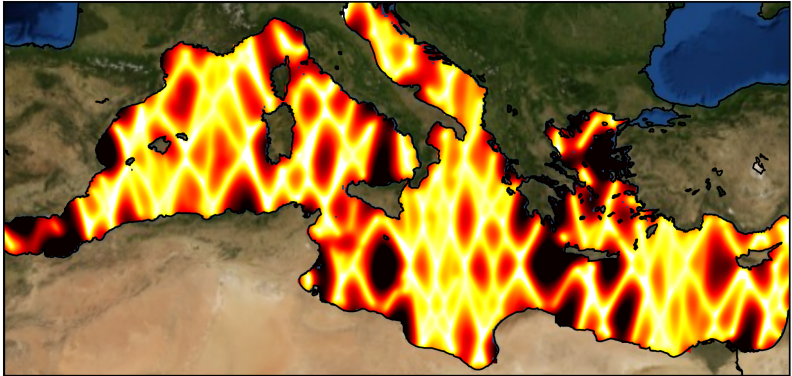
# Data-interpolating variational analysis

Generate analysis



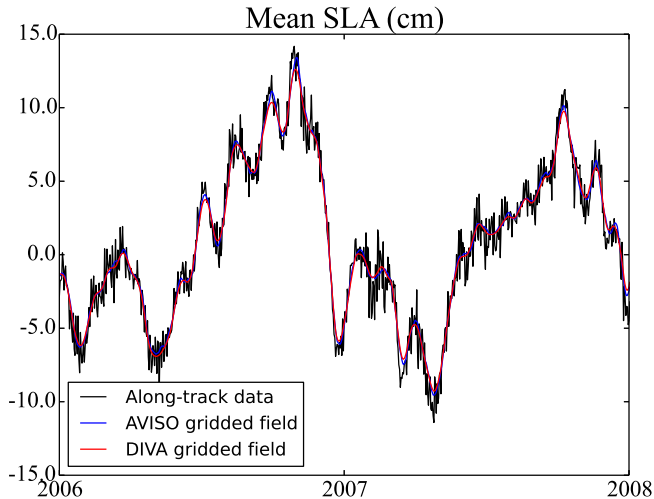
# Data-interpolating variational analysis

Generate error field



# Comparison with AVISO products

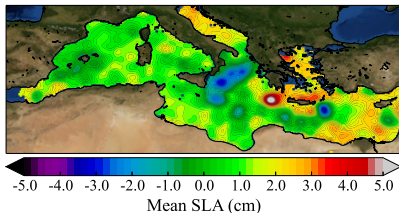
Spatial averaged SLA (2006-2008)



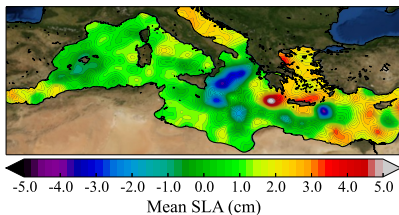
# Comparison with AVISO products

## Time-averaged SLA

AVISO (14 October 1992 – 19 January 2011)

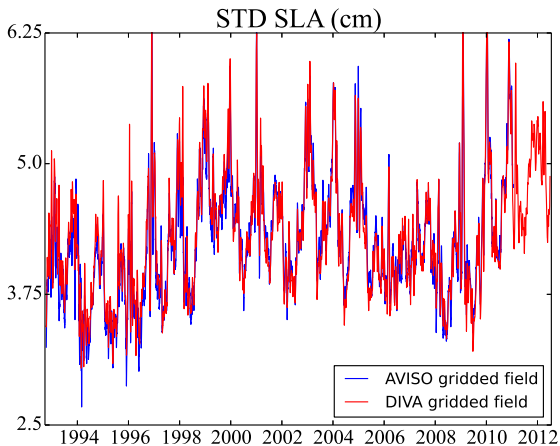


Diva (24 September 1992 – 9 July 2012)



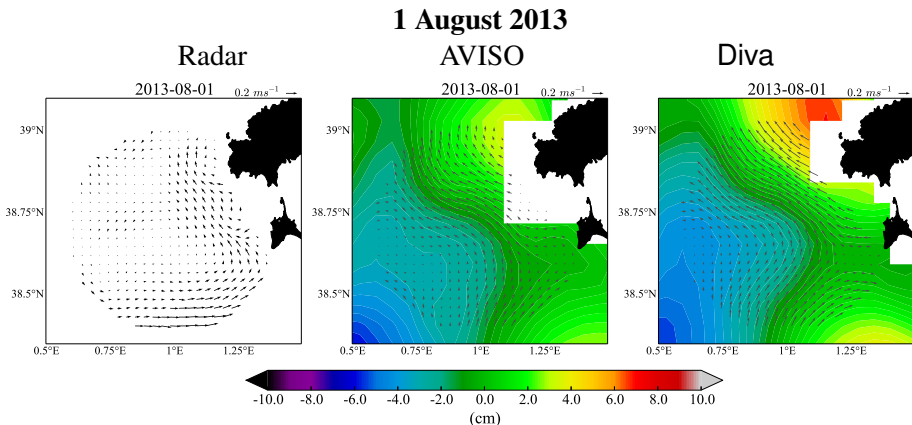
# Comparison with AVISO products

Standard Deviation SLA (1992-2012)



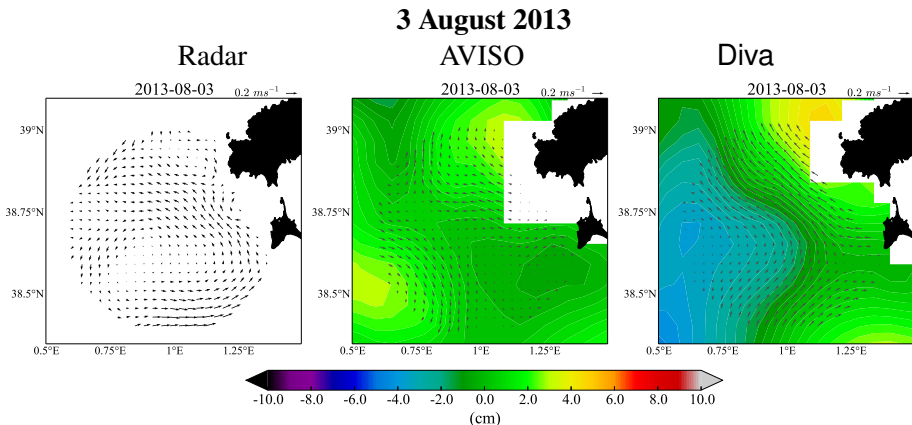
# Comparison with radar data

- Surface currents in the Ibiza Channel: SOCIB HF-radar facility.
- Altimetry-derived velocities re-interpolated onto radar grid.



# Comparison with radar data

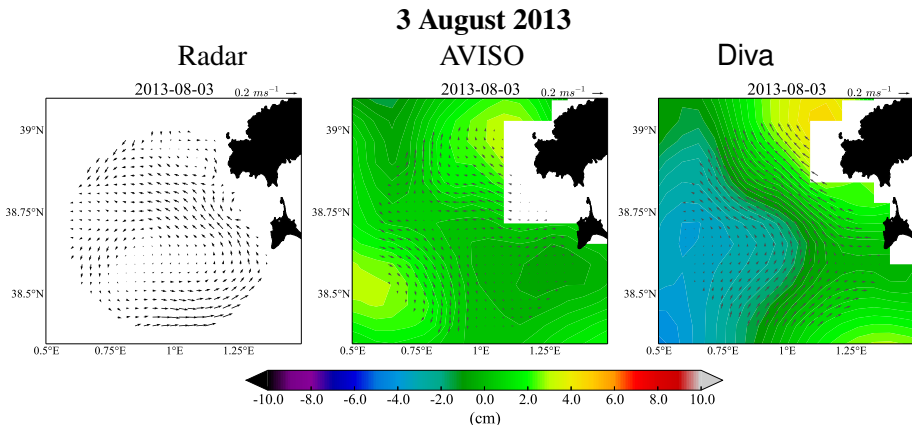
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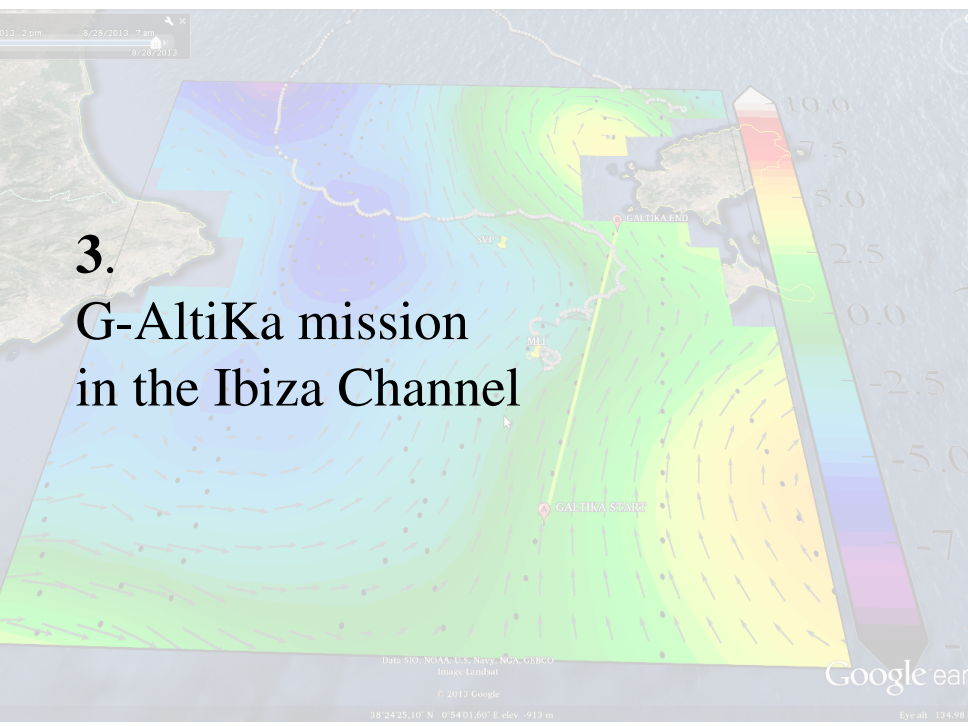
## Comparison with radar data

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See Poster OSTST no. 20 for details and statistics

# 3. G-Altika mission in the Ibiza Channel



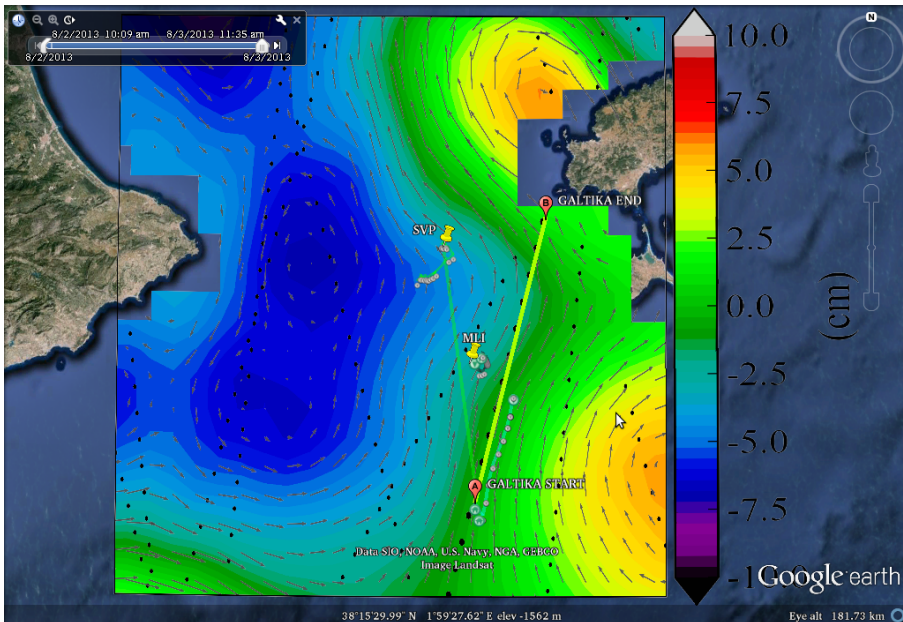
Data: SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image: Landsat

© 2013 Google

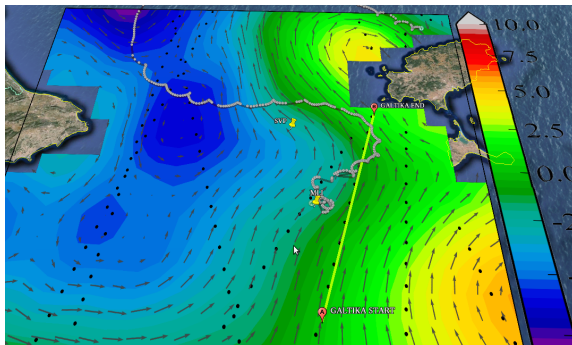
38°24'25.10" N 0°54'01.60" E elev: -913 m

Google earth

Eye alt: 134.9 m



# G-AltiKa: multi-sensor experiment in the Ibiza Channel



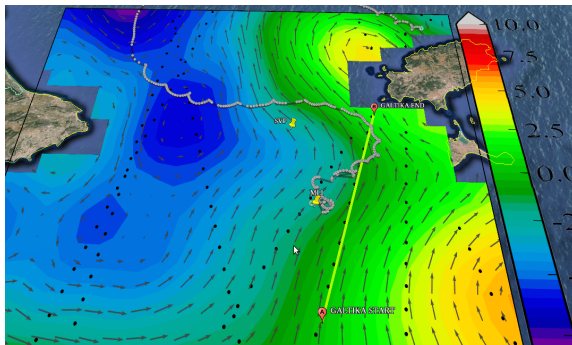
**Location:** Ibiza Channel, NW Mediterranean Sea

**Period:** August 2013

**Sensors:**

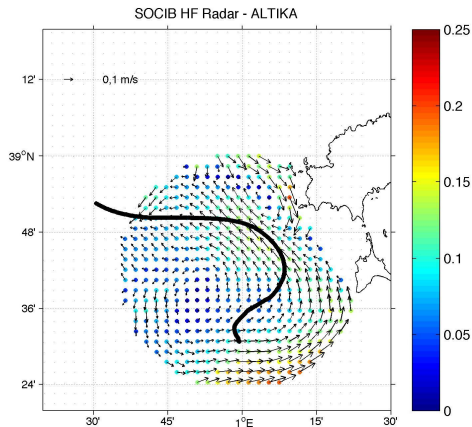
- deep Slocum glider along SARAL-Altika track no. 16
- HF-radar (SOCIB)
- 2 surface drifters (SVP and MLI)

# G-Altika: multi-sensor experiment in the Ibiza Channel



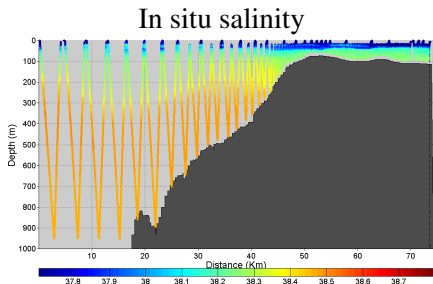
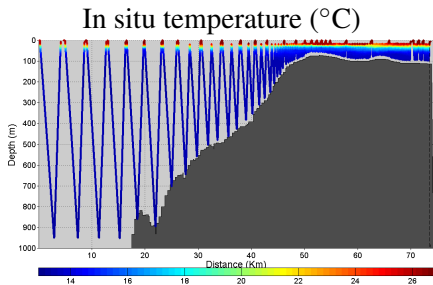
- Objectives:
- 1 Processing, validation, inter-calibration of multi-platform datasets in coastal ocean (focus on SARAL/Altika)
  - 2 Integrated approach to improve the monitoring and understanding of dynamical processes in the Western Mediterranean Sea

# G-Altika experiment: radar and drifter velocities



- Ekman component not removed
- Meander and **current** close to the coast ( $< 10\text{km}$ )

# Glider profiles: increasing resolution towards coast



Resolution:

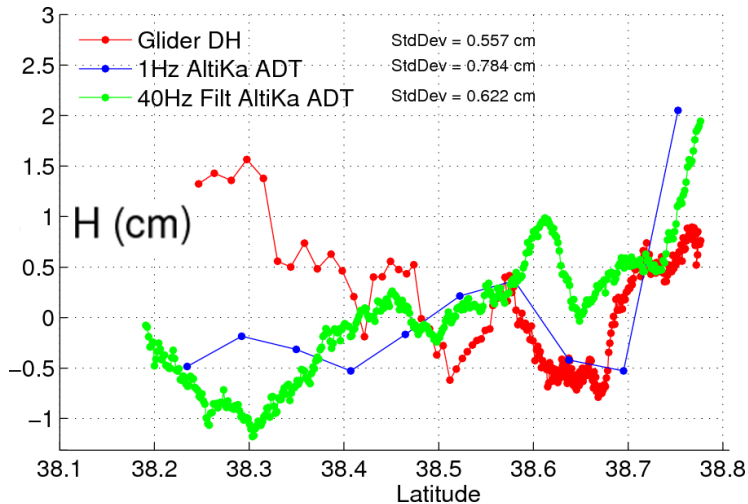
$\approx 5$  km offshore,

$\approx 1$  km in coastal area

Dynamic height:

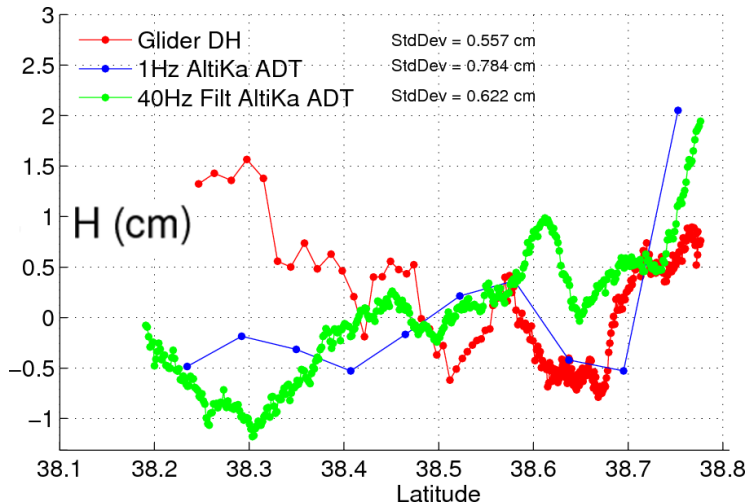
not sensitive to level of reference

# Glider vs SARAL/AltiKa along track velocity



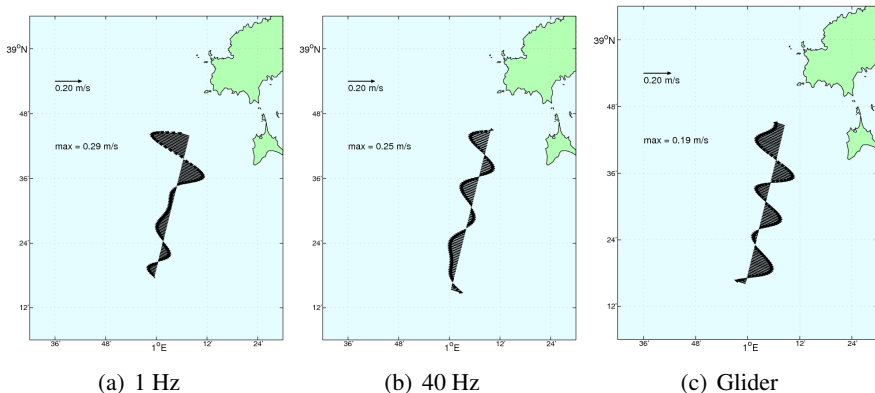


# Glider vs SARAL/AltiKa along track velocity



Open-sea: differences      Coastal zone: good agreement  $\rightarrow$  coast current  
Difference structures in 1 Hz and 40 Hz      Very small gradients ( $\sim 2$  cm)

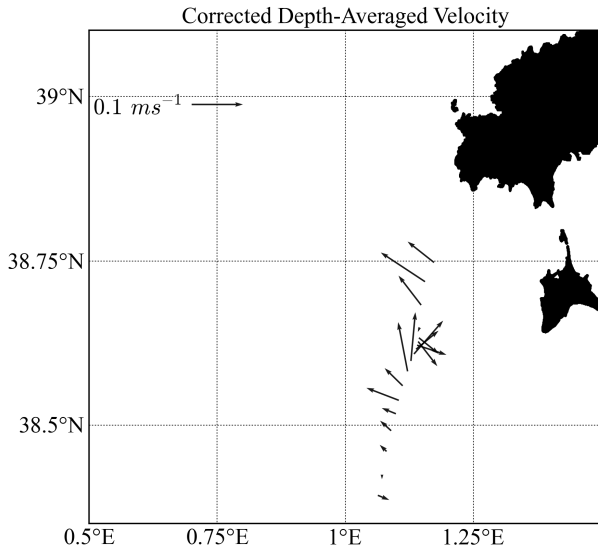
# Glider vs SARAL/AltiKa along track velocity



- Lanczos filter (14 km window)
- Agreement with depth-averaged velocity from glider (next slide)

# Glider vs SARAL/AltiKa along track velocity

Depth averaged velocity: estimated by glider



## Conclusions & perspectives

- 1 Innovative methods to generate high-resolution maps, with improvement of coastal and mesoscale characterization.

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- 1 **Innovative methods** to generate high-resolution maps, with **improvement** of coastal and mesoscale characterization.
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- 3 **Integrated approach**: HF-radar data, drifters, ...

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- 5 Promising results by SARAL/AltiKa in the coastal band (also see Ananda's poster no. 91)
- 6 Looking forward to Sentinel-3 and SWOT!

Thanks for your attention  
Thanks to the contributions!



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