

Supplement for “Precise water level measurements using low-cost GNSS antenna arrays”

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Data processing

The signals received by the GNSS100L and BN-84U antennas are internally processed and recorded into the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) 0183 format, which contains processed GNSS data such as the estimated position of the antenna, number satellites in view and position and strength of signal received from the satellites. This is in contrast to the standard receiver independent exchange (RINEX) format, standard for geodetic receivers, which contains information about the carrier phase of received signals that can be processed to obtain precise positioning data. Whilst precise positioning is not possible with the low-cost antennas used herein, the key parameter of interest for reflectometry applications is the SNR data, which is recorded in the NMEA file format.

The azimuth and elevation angle of satellites relative to the antenna is also recorded in the NMEA file format at a resolution of 1 degree. This resolution is not good enough for obtaining reflector height estimates. Instead, we use the Center for Orbit Determination in Europe (COD) orbit solutions that are available online from the Multi-GNSS Experiment and Pilot Project (MGEX) and Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (CDDIS) archive. These orbit solutions give the location of each GNSS satellite every 5 minutes, which can then be interpolated to every second and converted to an azimuth and elevation angle at the antenna. Codes that were used to obtain and process this data are provided along with this article.