

# The cooperative IGS RT-GIMs: a reliable estimation of the global ionospheric electron content distribution in real time *(summarized and updated)*

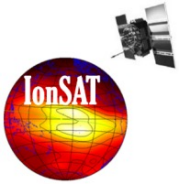
Qi Liu, Manuel Hernández-Pajares, Heng Yang, Enric Monte-Moreno, David Roma-Dollase, Alberto García-Rigo, Zishen Li, Ningbo Wang, Denis Laurichesse, Alexis Blot, Qile Zhao, Qiang Zhang, André Hauschild, Loukis Agrotis, Martin Schmitz, Gerhard Wübbena, Andrea Stürze, Andrzej Krankowski, Stefan Schaer, Joachim Feltens, Attila Komjathy, and Reza Ghoddousi-Fard

UPC-IonSAT research group  
IGS real-time working group  
IGS Ionosphere working group



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA  
DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH





Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 13, 4567–4582, 2021  
https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-13-4567-2021  
© Author(s) 2021. This work is distributed under  
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.



Open Access  
Earth System  
Science  
Data

## The cooperative IGS RT-GIMs: a reliable estimation of the global ionospheric electron content distribution in real time

Qi Liu<sup>1</sup>, Manuel Hernández-Pajares<sup>1,2</sup>, Heng Yang<sup>2,1</sup>, Enric Monte-Moreno<sup>4</sup>, David Roma-Dollase<sup>2</sup>, Alberto García-Rigo<sup>1,2</sup>, Zishen Li<sup>5</sup>, Ningbo Wang<sup>5</sup>, Denis Laurichesse<sup>6</sup>, Alexis Blot<sup>6</sup>, Qile Zhao<sup>7,8</sup>, Qiang Zhang<sup>7</sup>, André Hauschild<sup>9</sup>, Loukis Agrotis<sup>10</sup>, Martin Schmitz<sup>11</sup>, Gerhard Wübbena<sup>11</sup>, Andrea Stürze<sup>12</sup>, Andrzej Krankowski<sup>13</sup>, Stefan Schaefer<sup>14,15</sup>, Joachim Felten<sup>16</sup>, Attila Komjathy<sup>17</sup>, and Reza Ghoddousi-Fard<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC-IonSAT), Barcelona, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya (IEEC), Barcelona, Spain

<sup>3</sup>School of Electronic Information and Engineering, Yangtze Normal University, 408100 Chongqing, China

<sup>4</sup>Department of Signal Theory and Communications, TALP,

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, 08034 Barcelona, Spain

<sup>5</sup>Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China

<sup>6</sup>Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, Toulouse, France

<sup>7</sup>GNSS Research Center, Wuhan University, No. 129 Luoyu Road, Wuhan 430079, China

<sup>8</sup>Collaborative Innovation Center of Earth and Space Science, Wuhan University,

No. 129 Luoyu Road, Wuhan 430079, China

<sup>9</sup>German Aerospace Center (DLR), German Space Operations Center (GSOC), 82234 Weßling, Germany

<sup>10</sup>European Space Operations Center, European Space Agency, Darmstadt, Germany

<sup>11</sup>Geo++ GmbH, Steinriede 8, 30827 Garbsen, Germany

<sup>12</sup>BKG, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Frankfurt, Germany

<sup>13</sup>Space Radio-Diagnostics Research Centre, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn,

10-719 Olsztyn, Poland

<sup>14</sup>Astronomical Institute, the University of Bern, Sidlerstrasse 5, Bern 3012, Switzerland

<sup>15</sup>Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo), Wabern, Switzerland

<sup>16</sup>Navigation Support Office, Telespazio Germany GmbH c/o European Space Agency/European Space

Operations Centre, Robert-Bosch-Straße 5, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

<sup>17</sup>Near Earth Tracking Systems Group (335S), NASA – Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of

Technology, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, M/S 138-317, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA

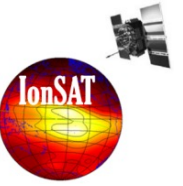
<sup>18</sup>Canadian Geodetic Survey, Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, Canada

**Correspondence:** Manuel Hernández-Pajares (manuel.hernandez@upc.edu)

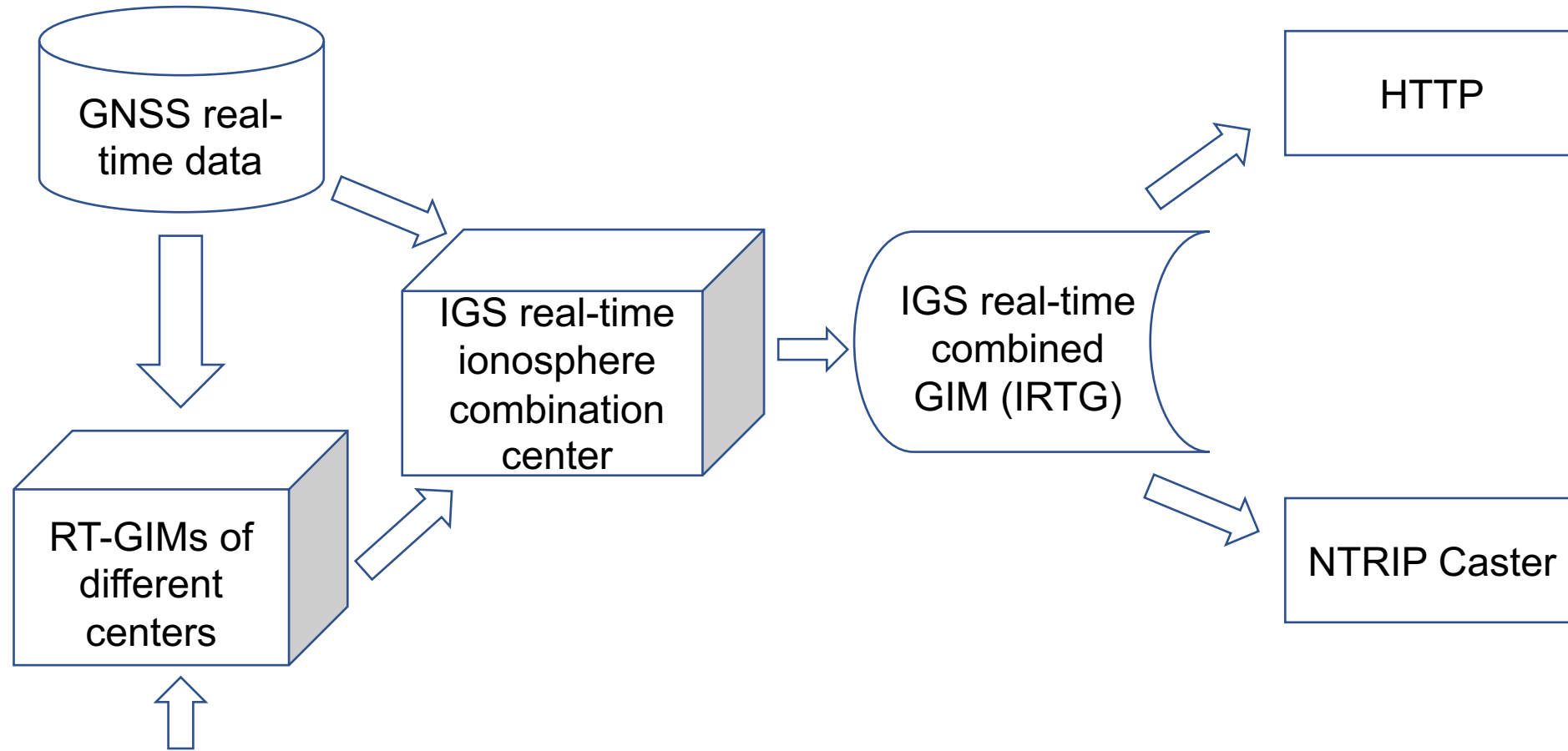
Received: 22 April 2021 – Discussion started: 4 May 2021

Revised: 17 July 2021 – Accepted: 19 August 2021 – Published: 23 September 2021

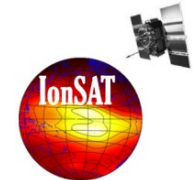
**Abstract.** The Real-Time Working Group (RTWG) of the International GNSS Service (IGS) is dedicated to providing high-quality data and high-accuracy products for Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) positioning, navigation, timing and Earth observations. As one part of real-time products, the IGS combined Real-Time Global Ionosphere Map (RT-GIM) has been generated by the real-time weighting of the RT-GIMs from IGS real-time ionosphere centers including the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) and Wuhan University (WHU). The performance of global vertical total electron content (VTEC) representation in all of the RT-GIMs has been assessed by VTEC from Jason-3 altimeter for 3 months over oceans and dSTEC-GPS technique with 2 d observations over



# IGS real-time combined GIM



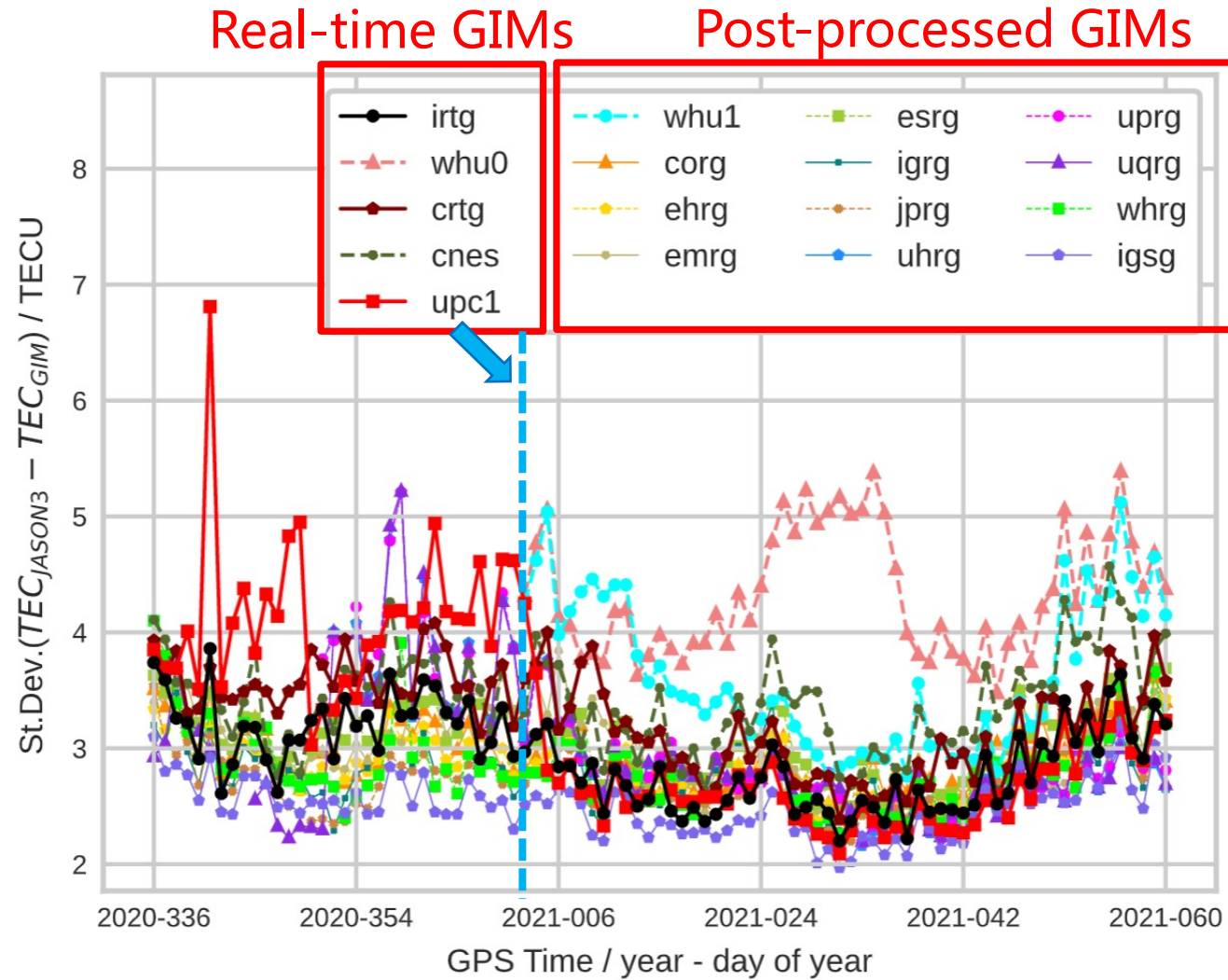
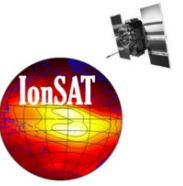
CAS, CNES, UPC, WHU



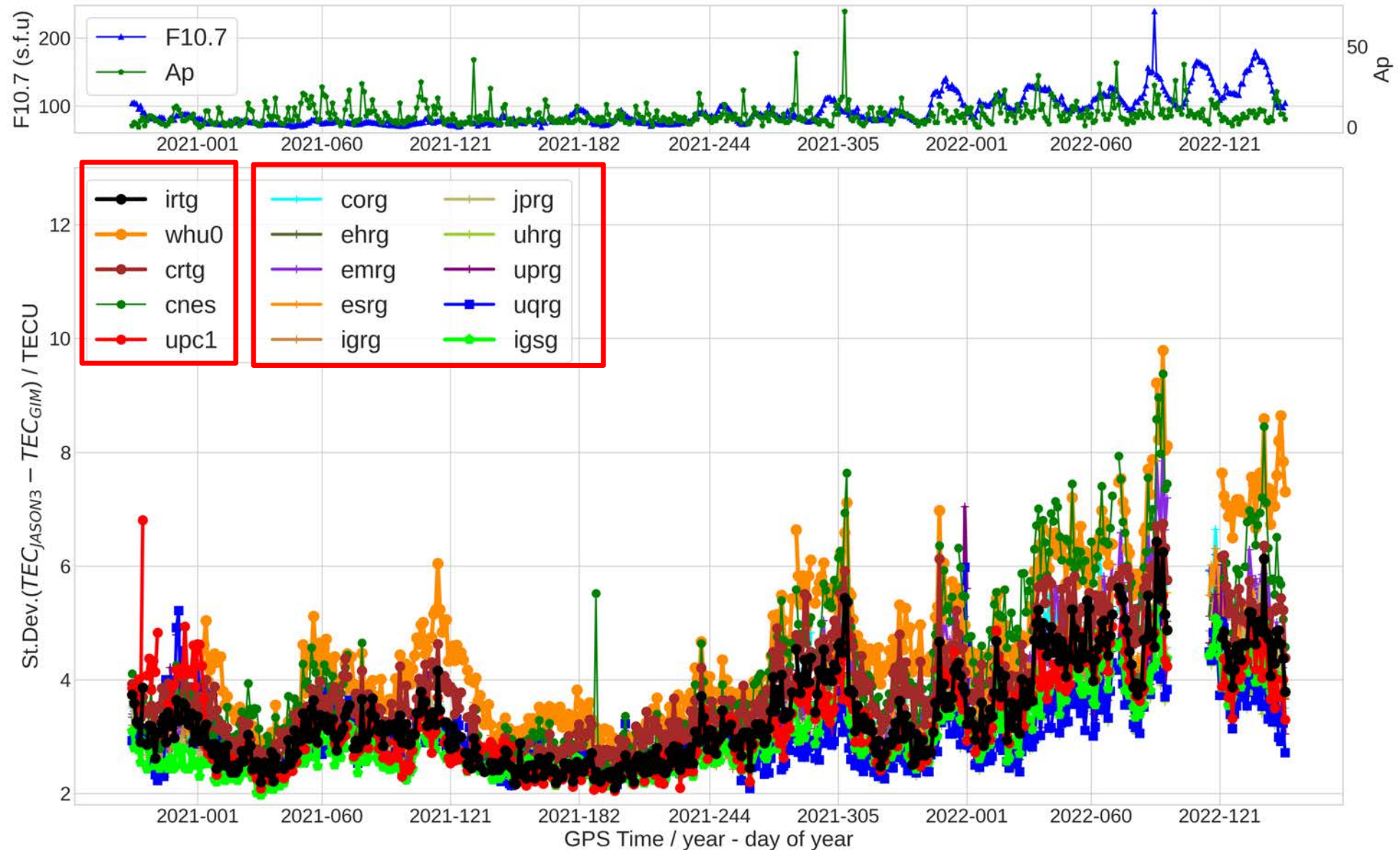
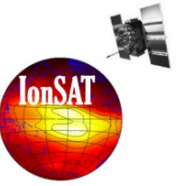
# The broadcasting of IGS RT-GIMs

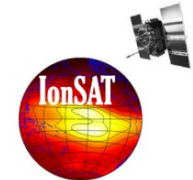
Agency	Temporal resolution	Broadcast frequency	Spherical harmonic degree	Mountpoints in NTRIP caster (in SSR format)	Real-Time IONEX files saved at FTP/HTTP
CAS	5 minutes	1 minute	15	59.110.42.14:2101/SSRA00CAS1 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRA00CAS0 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRC00CAS1 59.110.42.14:2101/SSRC00CAS0 182.92.166.182:2101/IONO00CAS1 182.92.166.182:2101/IONO00CAS0	<a href="ftp://ftp.gipp.org.cn/product/ionex/">ftp://ftp.gipp.org.cn/product/ionex/</a> (update at the end of day)
CNES	2 minutes	1 minute	12	products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRA00CNE1 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRA00CNE0 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRC00CNE1 products.igs-ip.net:2101/SSRC00CNE0	No
UPC-IonSAT	15 minutes	15 seconds	15	products.igs-ip.net:2101/IONO00UPC1	<a href="http://chapman.upc.es/tomion/real-time/quick/">http://chapman.upc.es/tomion/real-time/quick/</a> (update every 15 min)
WHU	5 minutes	1 minute	15	58.49.58.150:2106/IONO00WHU0	<a href="ftp://igs.gnsswhu.cn/pub/whu/MGEX/realtime-ionex/">ftp://igs.gnsswhu.cn/pub/whu/MGEX/realtime-ionex/</a> (update every 30 min)
IRTG (IGS)	20 minutes	15 seconds	15	products.igs-ip.net:2101/IONO00IGS1	<a href="http://chapman.upc.es/irtg/">http://chapman.upc.es/irtg/</a> (update every 20 min)

# Jason3 VTEC assessment around the beginning of 2021



# Jason3 VTEC assessment from 2021 to 2022

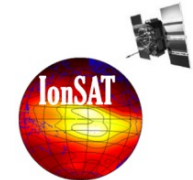




# Statistics of Jason3 VTEC assessment

Overall standard deviation of the GIM-VTEC versus measured Jason-3 VTEC in Jason3 VTEC assessment (TECU)

GIM	From 1 December 2020 to 3 January 2021	From 4 January to 1 March 2021	From 4 January 2021 to 1 June 2022	From 4 January 2022 to 1 June 2022
corg	3.1	2.9	3.8	4.9
ehrg	3.0	2.8	3.6	4.5
emrg	3.2	2.9	3.9	5.1
esrg	3.2	3.0	3.8	4.9
igr	2.9	2.8	3.3	4.0
jprg	2.8	2.7	3.4	4.2
uhrg	3.9	2.8	3.1	3.6
uprg	3.9	2.8	3.3	4.0
uqrg	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.7
igsg	2.6	2.5	3.2	4.0
crtg	3.6	3.2	4.1	5.2
cnes	3.5	3.4	4.7	6.2
upc1	4.3	2.7	3.4	4.2
whu0	4.3	4.4	5.0	6.5
irtg	3.3	2.8	3.5	4.5



# Recent activities & Potential new applications

## ■ Recent activities

CAS has started to provide a second real-time GIM combination: IONO01IGS0 / IONO01IGS1  
The quality monitoring of IGS real-time GIMs are available on IGS RTS website

## ■ Potential space weather applications

### Space Weather®











#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1029/2021SW002853

##### Key Points:

- The new ionospheric storm scale, IsUG, is presented
- The IsUG is based on the high

#### Ionospheric Storm Scale Index Based on High Time Resolution UPC-IonSAT Global Ionospheric Maps (IsUG)

Qi Liu<sup>1</sup> , Manuel Hernández-Pajares<sup>1,2</sup> , Haixia Lyu<sup>3,1</sup> , Michi Nishioka<sup>4</sup> , Heng Yang<sup>5,1</sup> , Enric Monte-Moreno<sup>6</sup> , Tamara Gulyaeva<sup>7</sup> , Yannick Béniguel<sup>8</sup> , Volker Wilken<sup>9</sup>, Germán Olivares-Pulido<sup>1</sup> , and Raúl Orús-Pérez<sup>10</sup> 



### Space Weather®








#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1029/2021SW002926

##### Key Points:

- A new ionospheric temporal and spatial gradient index based on UPC-IonSAT Global Ionosphere Maps (UQRG) are presented at the selected

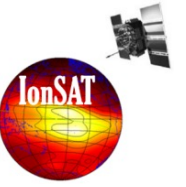
#### A New Way of Estimating the Spatial and Temporal Components of the Vertical Total Electron Content Gradient Based on UPC-IonSAT Global Ionosphere Maps

Qi Liu<sup>1</sup> , Manuel Hernández-Pajares<sup>1,2</sup> , Heng Yang<sup>1,3</sup> , Enric Monte-Moreno<sup>4</sup> , Alberto García-Rigo<sup>1,2</sup> , Haixia Lyu<sup>1,5</sup> , Germán Olivares-Pulido<sup>1</sup> , and Raúl Orús-Pérez<sup>6</sup>

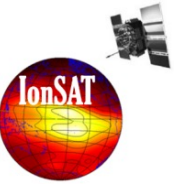


Details have been presented at Iono. WG session 27 June 2022



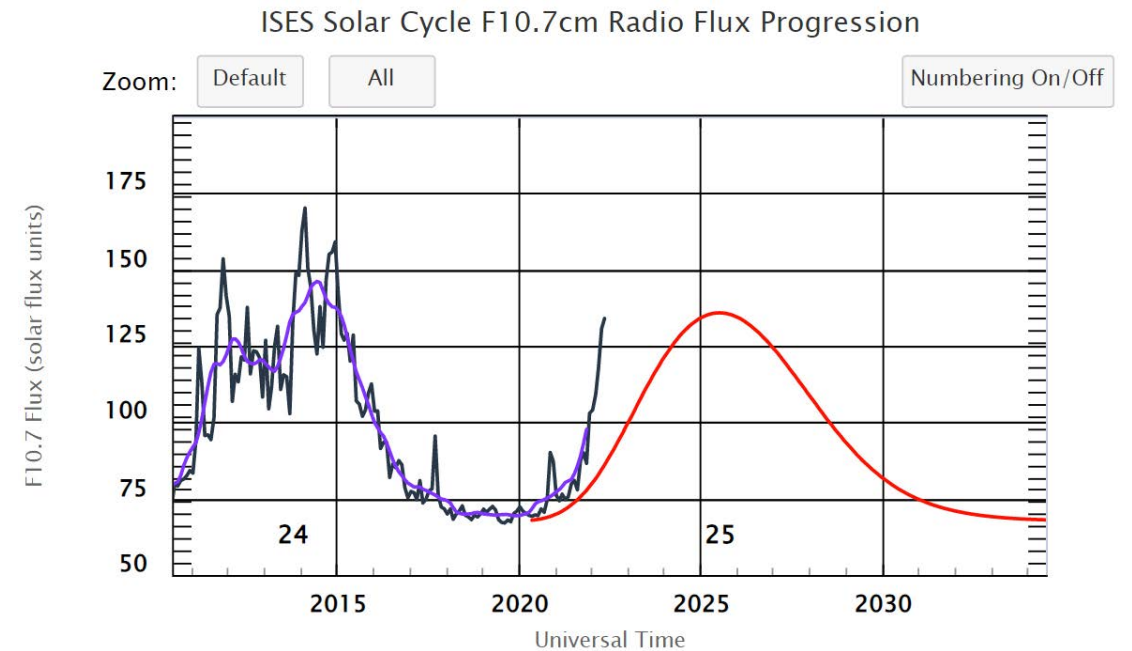
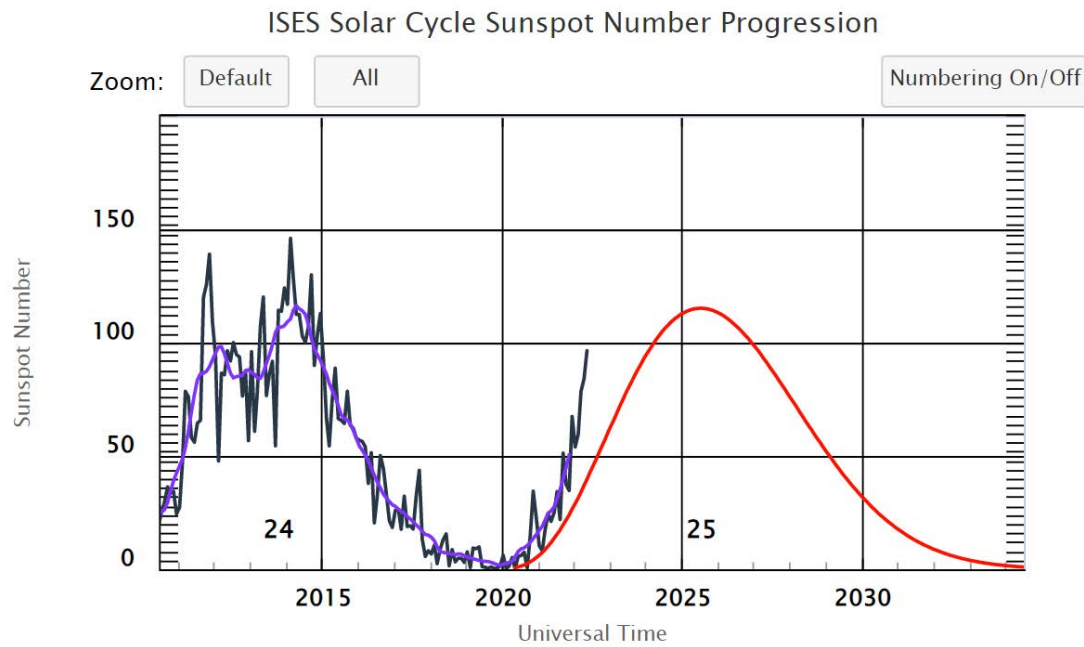
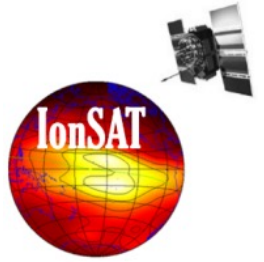


**Thanks for you attention!**



# Back-up Slides

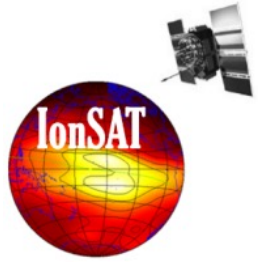
# The current phase of solar cycle



◆ Monthly Values    — Smoothed Monthly Values    — Predicted Values

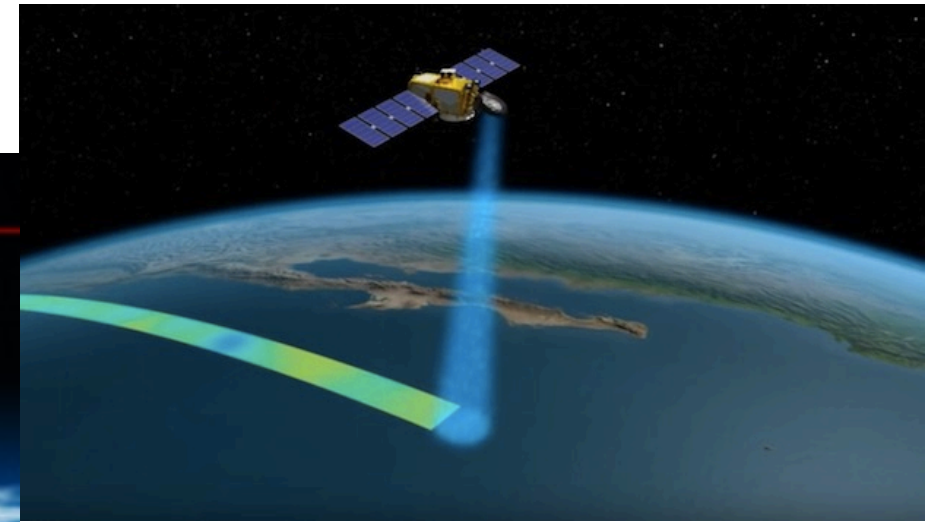
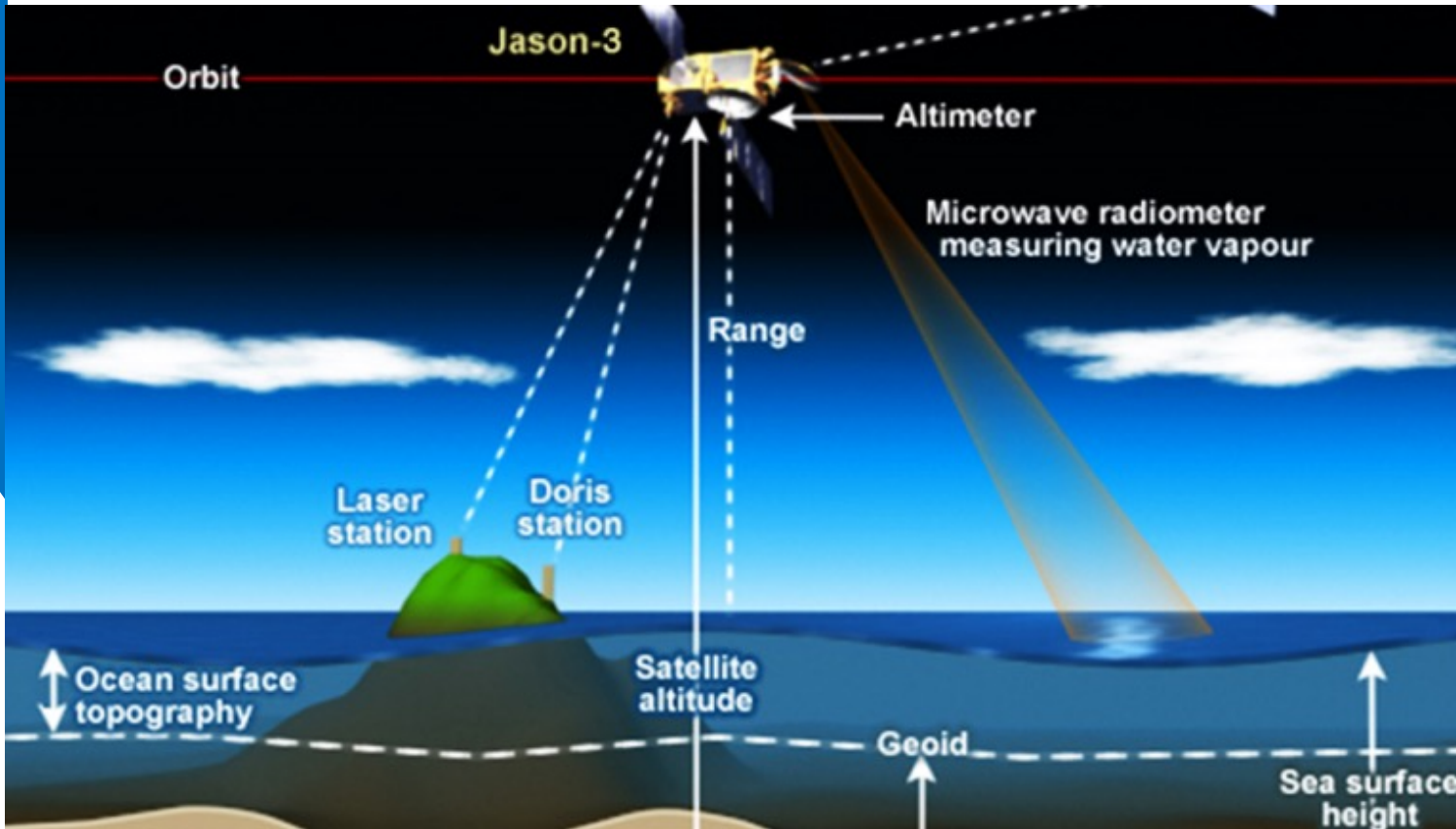
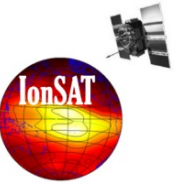
Figure from Space Weather Prediction Center  
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>

# Broadcasting and receiving SH expansions in SSR format



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} M_z = \left[ 1 - \sin^2 z / (1 + H_{\text{ion}} / R_E)^2 \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \text{VTEC}_t = \text{STEC}_t / M_z \\ \text{VTEC}_t = \sum_{n=0}^{N_{\text{SH}}} \sum_{m=0}^{\min(n, M_{\text{SH}})} P_{n,m}(\sin \varphi_I) \\ \quad \cdot (C_{n,m} \cos(m \lambda_{S,t}) + S_{n,m} \sin(m \lambda_{S,t})) \\ \lambda_{S,t} = (\lambda_I + (t - t_0) \times \pi / 43\,200) \text{ modulo } 2\pi \end{array} \right.$$

# GIM assessment methods



Jason VTEC