A Validation Dataset for CryoSat Sea Ice Investigators

Since its launch in April 2010 Cryosat has been collecting valuable sea ice data over the Arctic region. Over the same period ESA’s CryoVEx and NASA IceBridge validation campaigns have been collecting a unique set of coincident airborne measurements in the Arctic. The CryoVal-SI project has collated the campaign data and selected the CryoSat ground tracks which have the best coverage by coincident campaign data to produce a list of “Golden Days”. The campaign data were processed and resampled to coincident CryoSat footprints to make them easier to utilise. The resulting validation dataset provides an independent metric that can be used to objectively evaluate any experimental changes or refinements to the CryoSat data processing that a user may wish to test.

This valuable resource is in itself an output of the CryoVal-SI project which is made openly and freely available to the scientific community. In this talk we will describe the composition of the validation dataset, summarising how it was processed and how to understand the content and format of the data. We will also explain how to access the data and the supporting documentation.

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