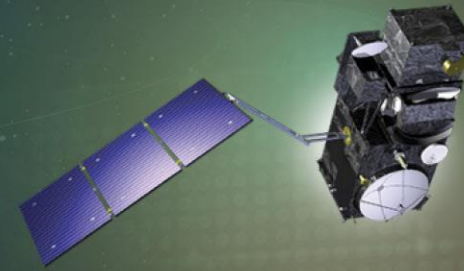




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# 7<sup>th</sup> Sentinel-3 Validation Team Meeting 2022

18-20 October 2022 | ESA-ESRIN | Frascati (Rm), Italy

## Updated altimeter validation results for Sentinel-3A/3B from Bass Strait, Australia

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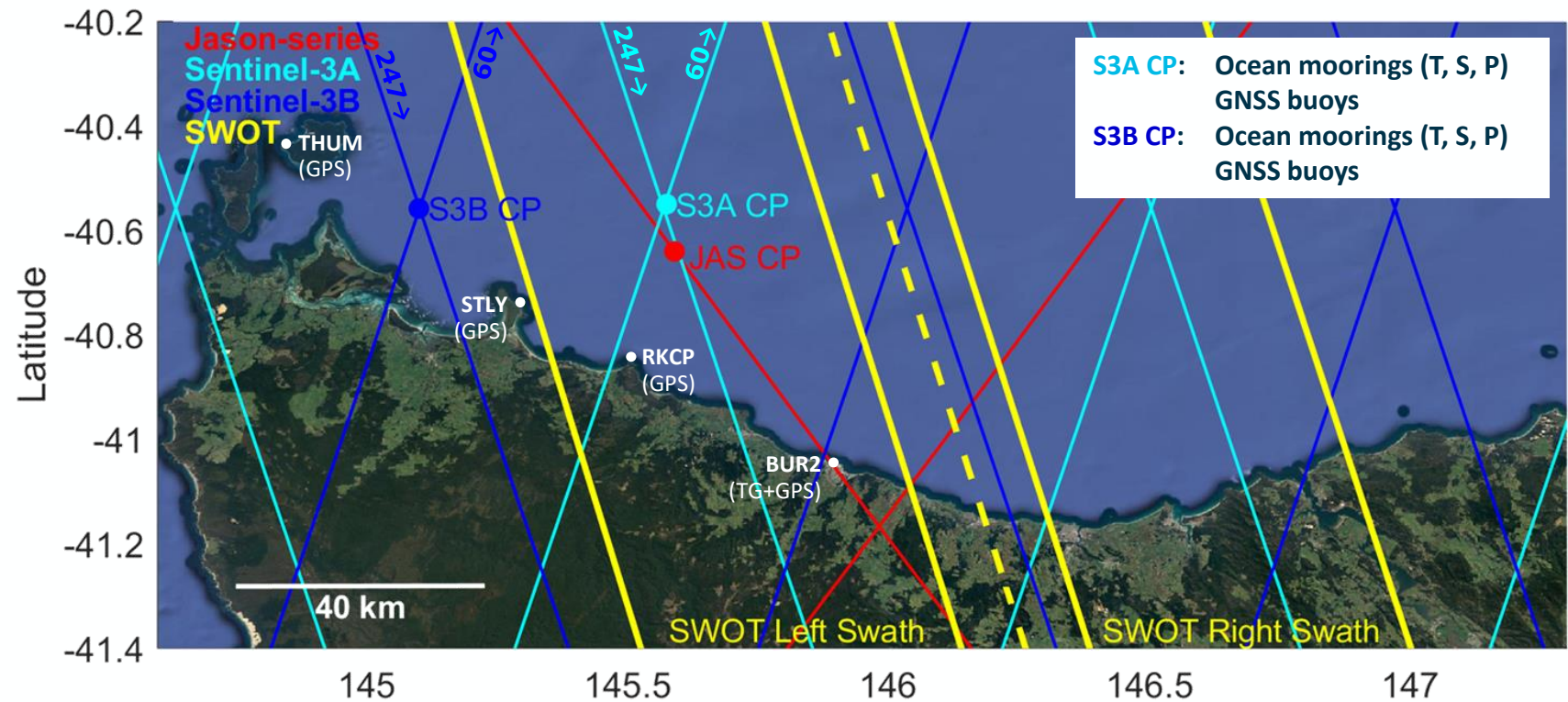


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## Bass Strait Validation Facility

- Sustained in situ absolute validation of satellite altimetry in Bass Strait, Australia, since the launch of TOPEX-Poseidon.
- This presentation: Updated absolute bias results for non-time critical SSH data from S3A and S3B (PB04 and 05).
- Both comparison points are located at cross overs of passes 060 and 247 (see S3A CP and S3B CP).



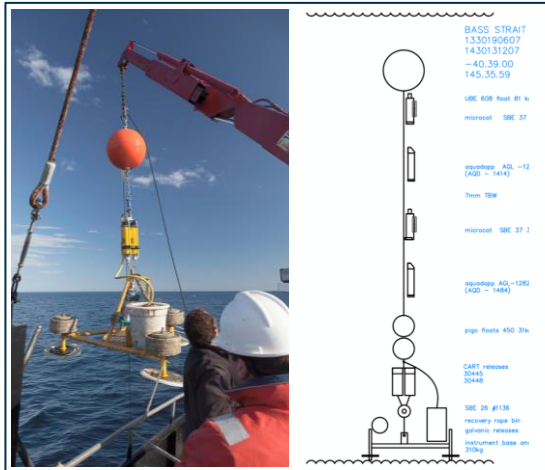
## Approach

- Direct, geometric approach to in situ validation.
- Key in situ observations at the respective S3A and S3B comparison points.



### GNSS/INS Equipped Buoys

- Deployed episodically at cross overs to determine absolute datum of in situ SSH time series.
- Extended to now include inertial sensors (INS) for orientation.



### Moored Sensors

- Bottom pressure, temp and salinity to determine continuous SSH time series (datum defined by GNSS buoys).
- New current, waves, pressure inverted echo sounders (CWPIES) yield high and low frequency SSH as well as currents.

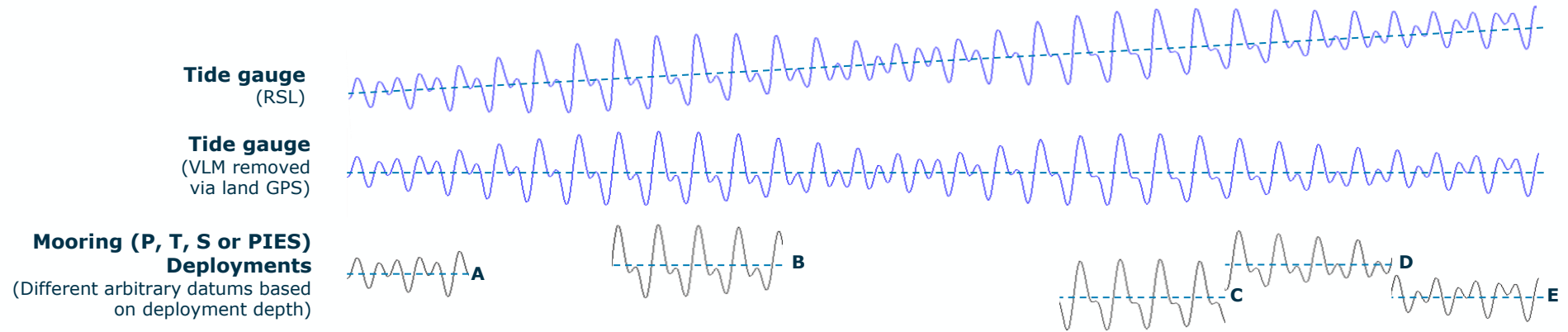


### Tide Gauge / cGNSS

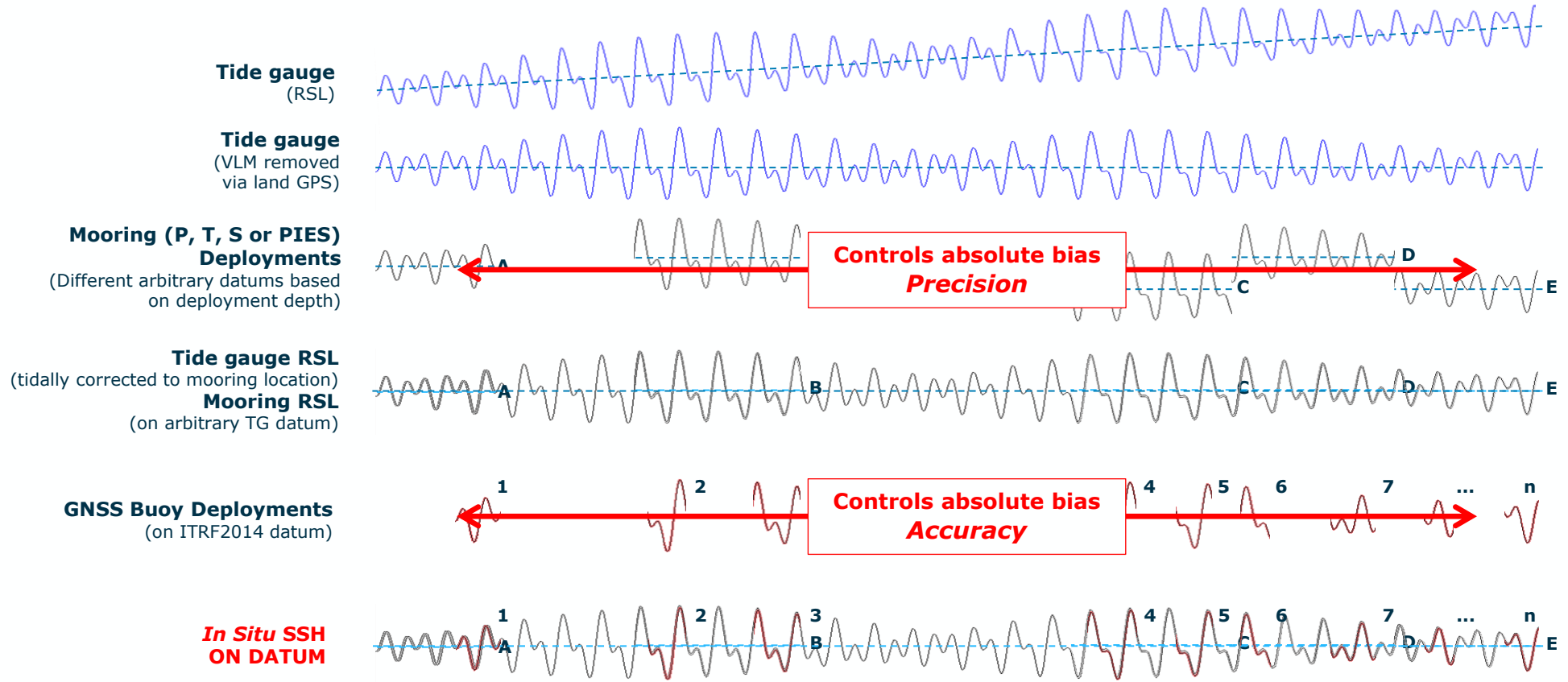
- “Climate quality” coastal tide gauge.
- Numerous inland GNSS to provide vertical land motion (VLM).
- Inland GNSS used in differential processing of buoys given favourable geometry.
- GNSS offer insight into spatial/temporal evolution of troposphere.



## Approach

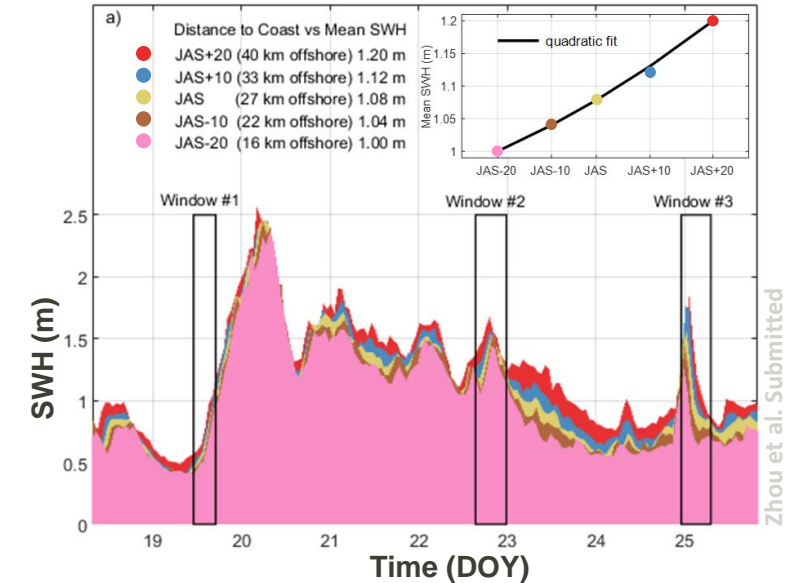
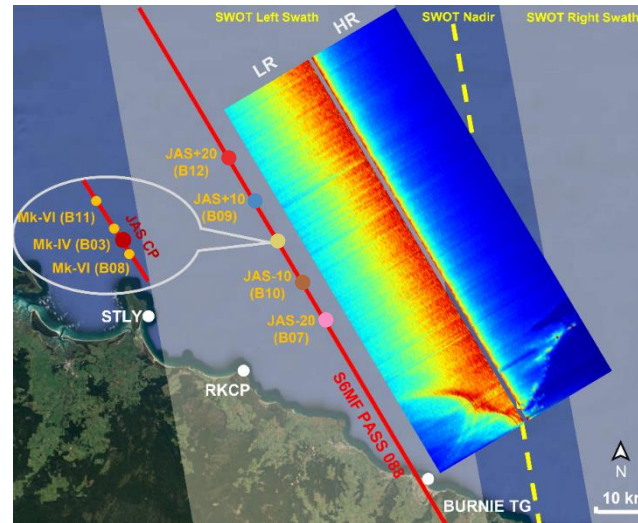
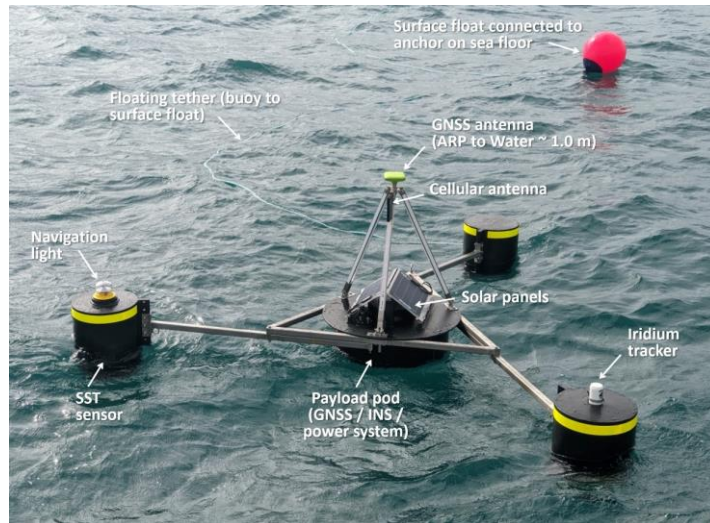


# Approach

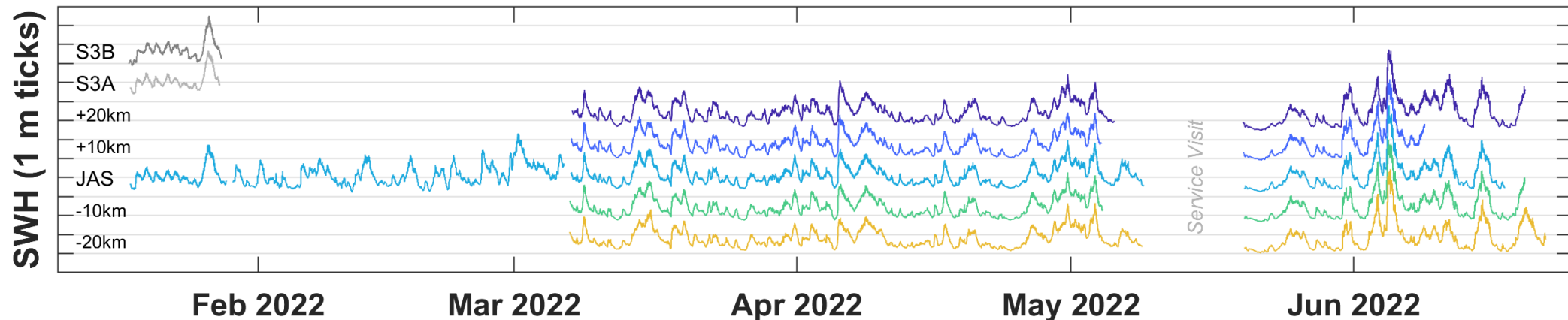
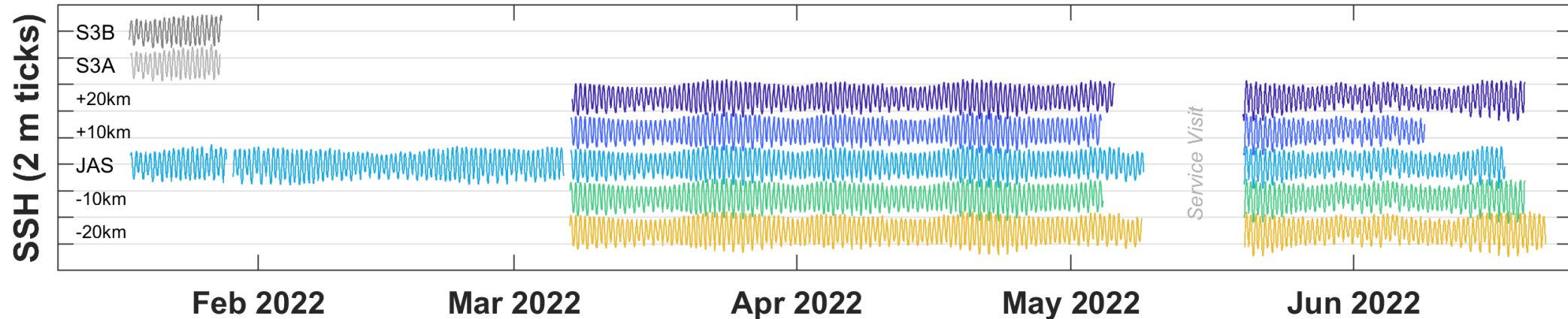


## Progress with In Situ SSH at Bass Strait

- Advancing altimeter performance requires further understanding and development of in situ SSH observation techniques.
- We have successfully tested a GNSS buoy array at 10 km spacing in Bass Strait. (Zhou et al, Submitted).
- Currently assessing against new sub-surface T/S/P and CWPIES moorings.



## Progress with In Situ SSH at Bass Strait





## Results:

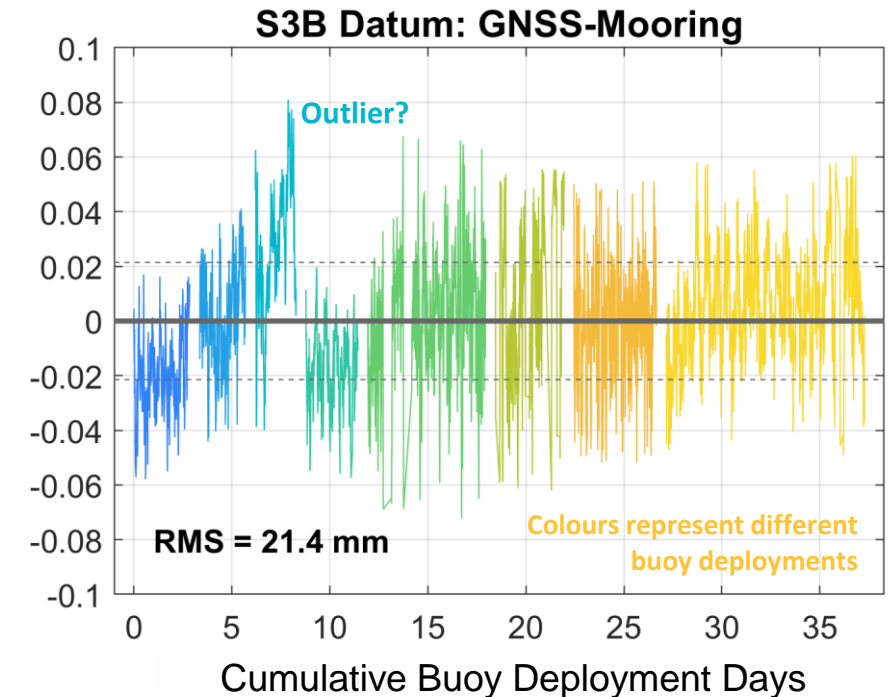
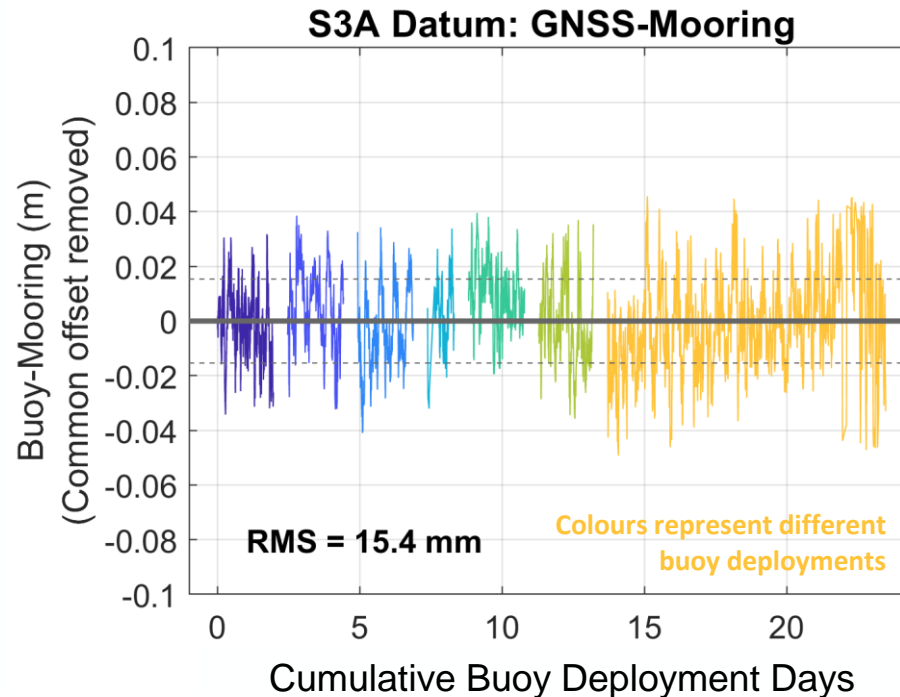
- **Mooring datum stability against GNSS buoys.**
- **S3A SAR and PLRM absolute bias. PB04/05.**
  - SAR v PLRM relative bias
- **S3B SAR and PLRM absolute bias. PB04/05.**
  - SAR v PLRM relative bias
- **Comparison of absolute bias from mooring/buoy compared to coastal tide gauge.**





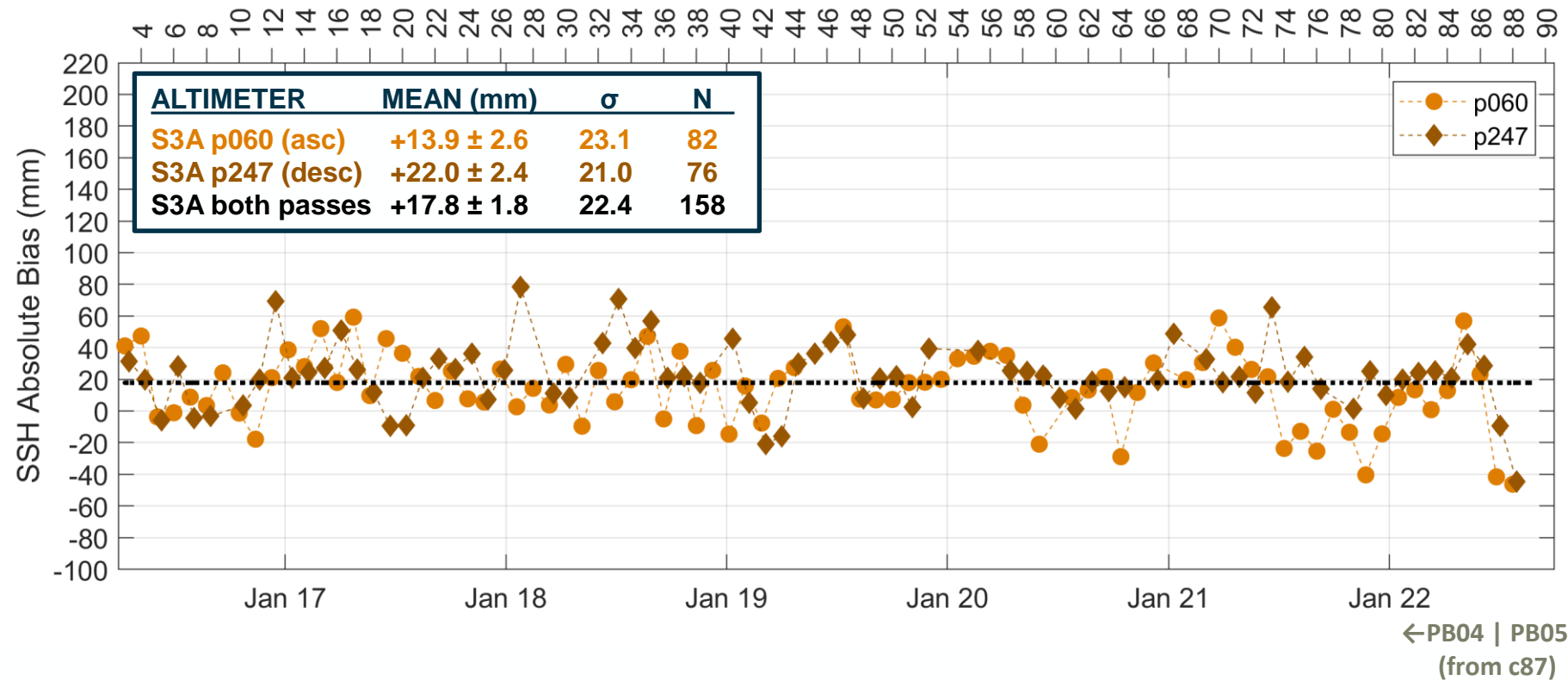
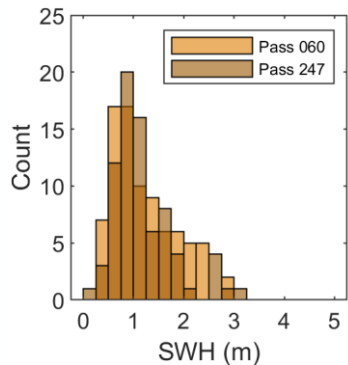
## Results: Mooring Datum Stability

- We detrend each ~6 to 12 monthly mooring SSH against the tidally corrected coastal tide gauge.
- We then determine the average offset of this series against multiple buoy deployments. The variability about this common offset is shown here.
- For comparison: at the reference missions comparison point, the RMS = 18 mm.



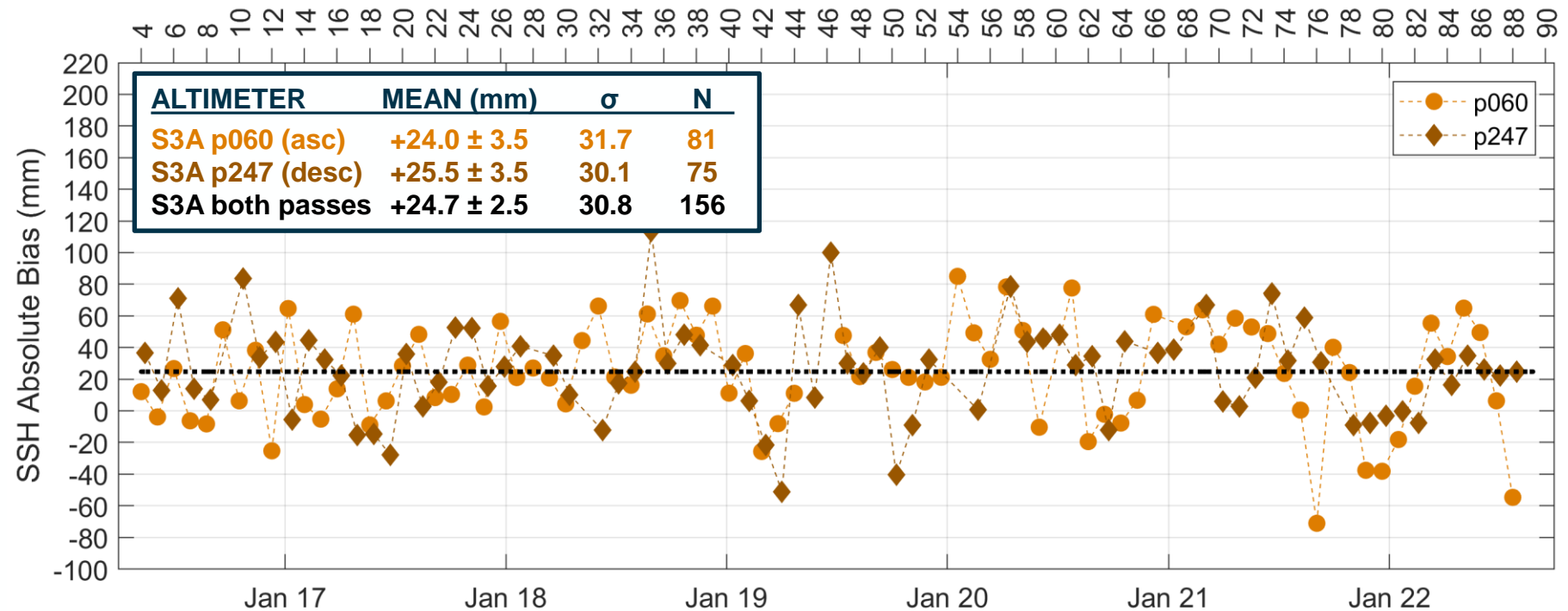
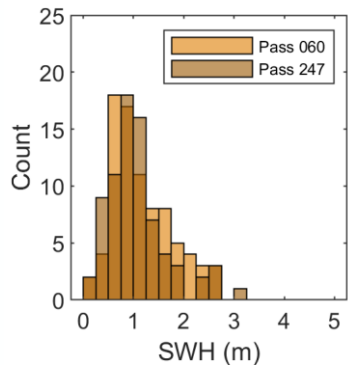
## Results: S3A SAR Absolute Bias

- PB04/05. Compared here against in situ SSH at the S3A cross over.
- Absolute bias and variability is at the ~2 cm level.
- Trend from robust linear fit is insignificant ( $-1.2 \pm 1.9$  mm/yr).



## Results: S3A PLRM Absolute Bias

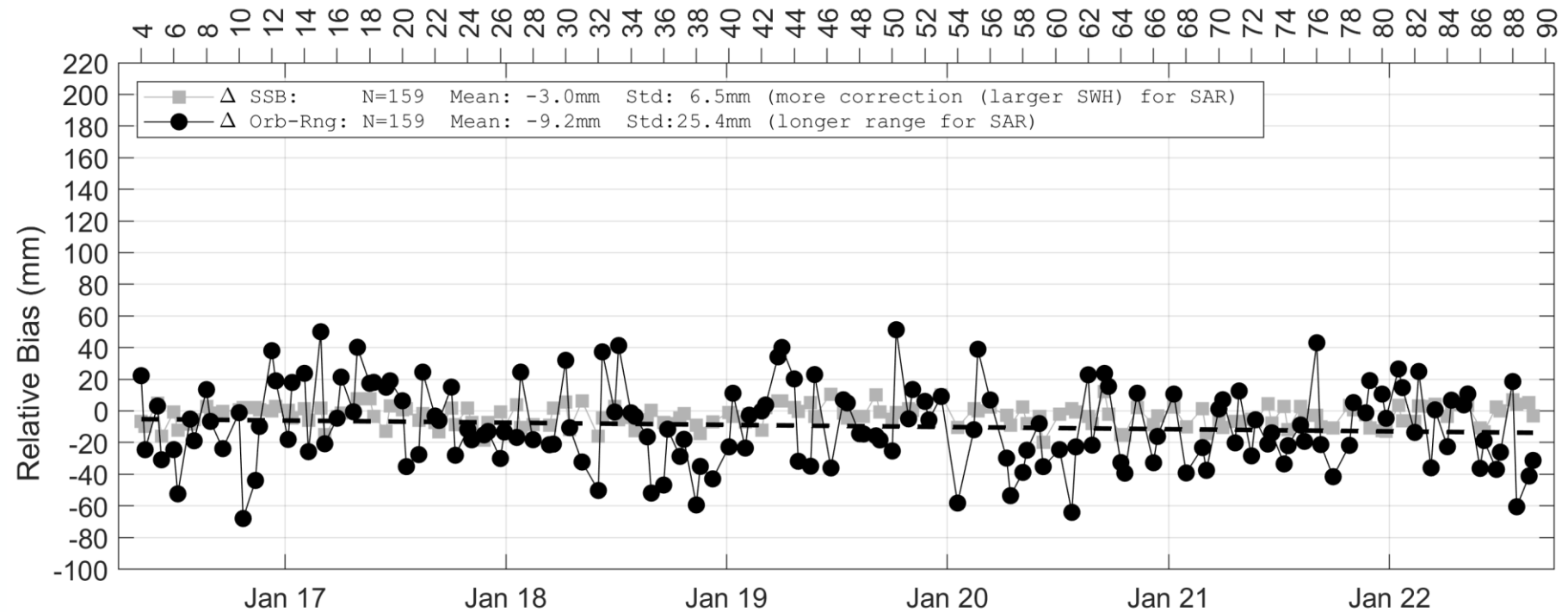
- PLRM bias increases c.f. SAR (~18 mm to ~25 mm).
- PLRM bias variability increases c.f. SAR (~22 mm to ~31 mm).
- Trend from robust linear fit is insignificant ( $+0.5 \pm 2.7$  mm/yr).



←PB04 | PB05→  
(from c87)

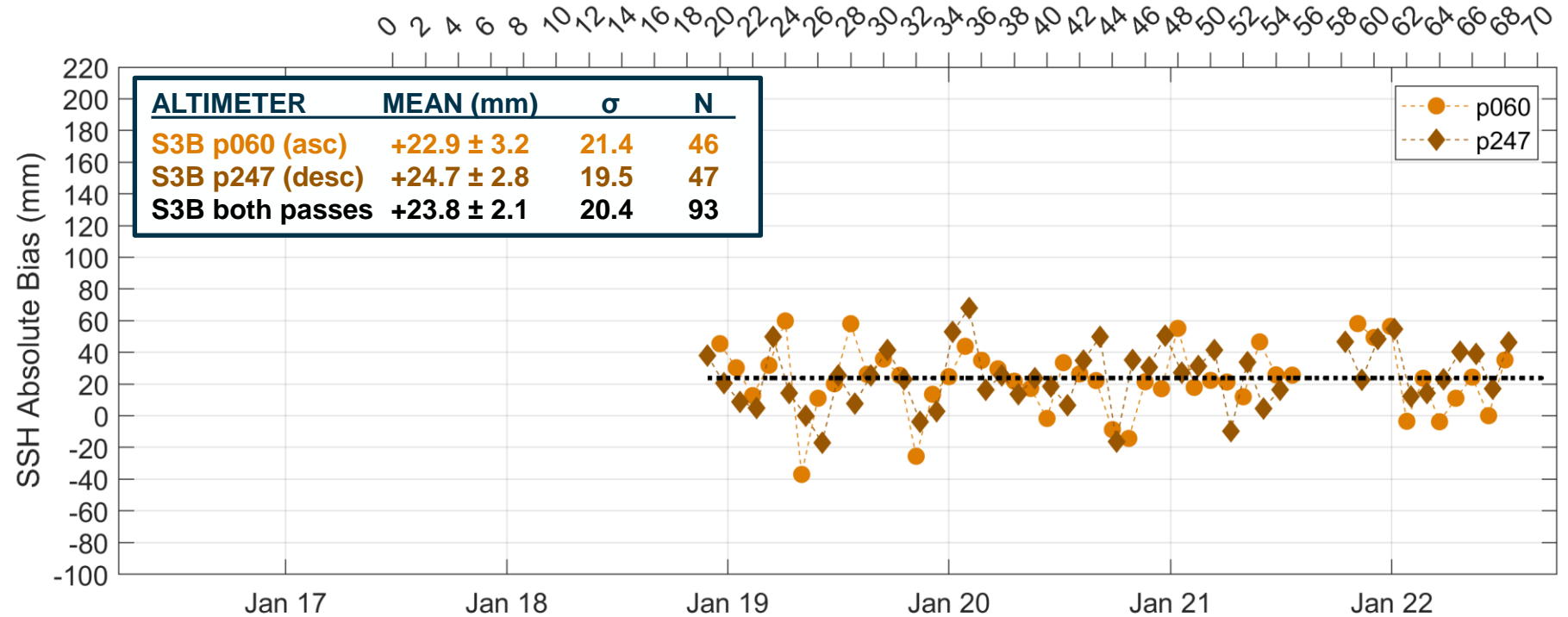
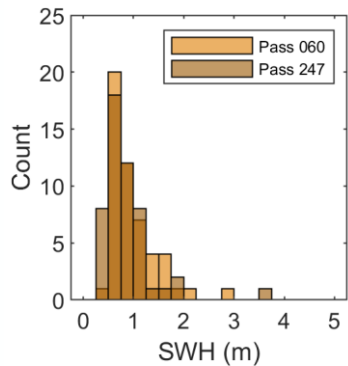
## Results: S3A SAR - PLRM

- **Relative SSH bias (SAR-PLRM):**  
 $-8.4 \pm 2.4$  mm (SAR SSH is lower).
- **Trend from robust linear fit to  $\Delta(\text{Orbit-Range})$  is insignificant:**  
 $(-1.4 \pm 2.2$  mm/yr)



## Results: S3B SAR Absolute Bias

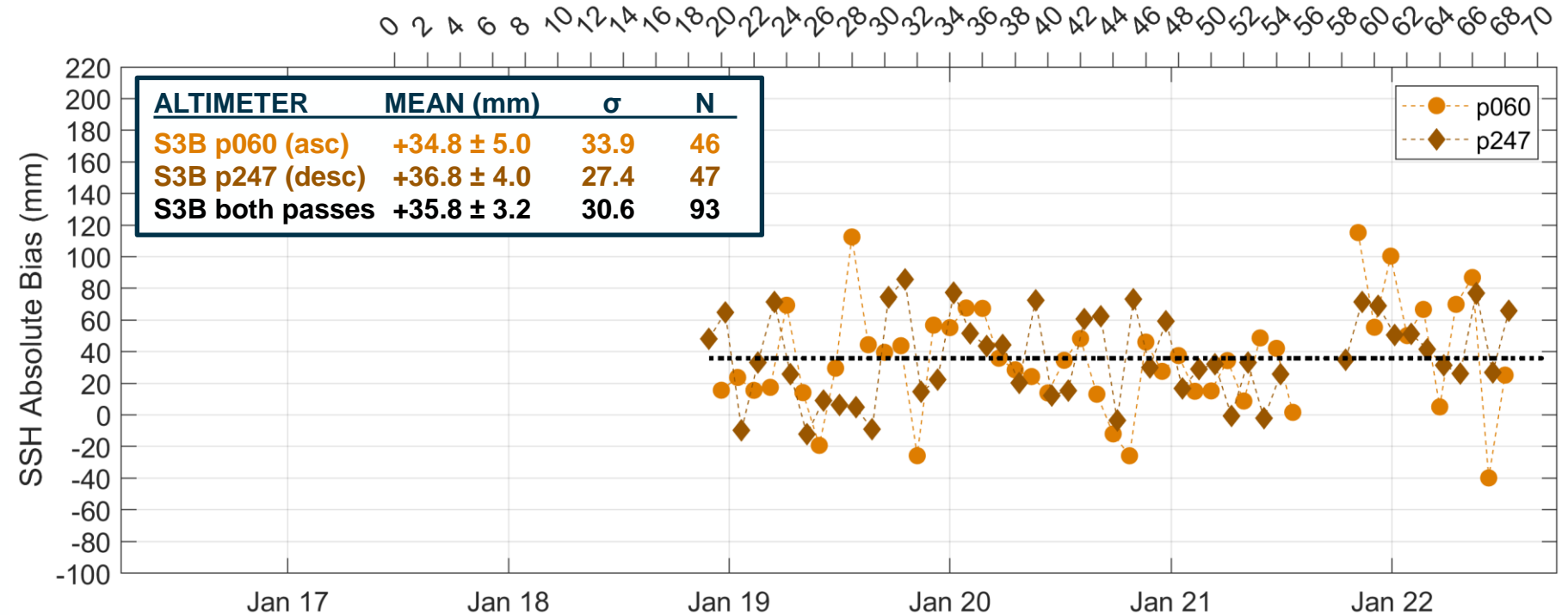
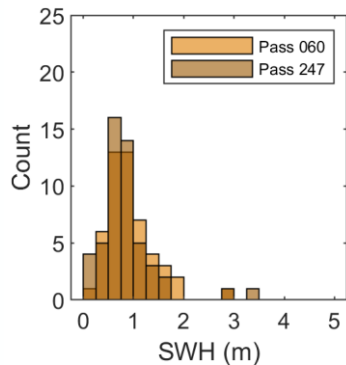
- PB04/05. Compared here against in situ SSH at the S3B cross over.
- S3B absolute bias marginally higher than S3A (~24 mm vs ~18 mm). Similar variability.
- Trend insignificant.



←PB04 | PB05→  
(from c67)

## Results: S3B PLRM Absolute Bias

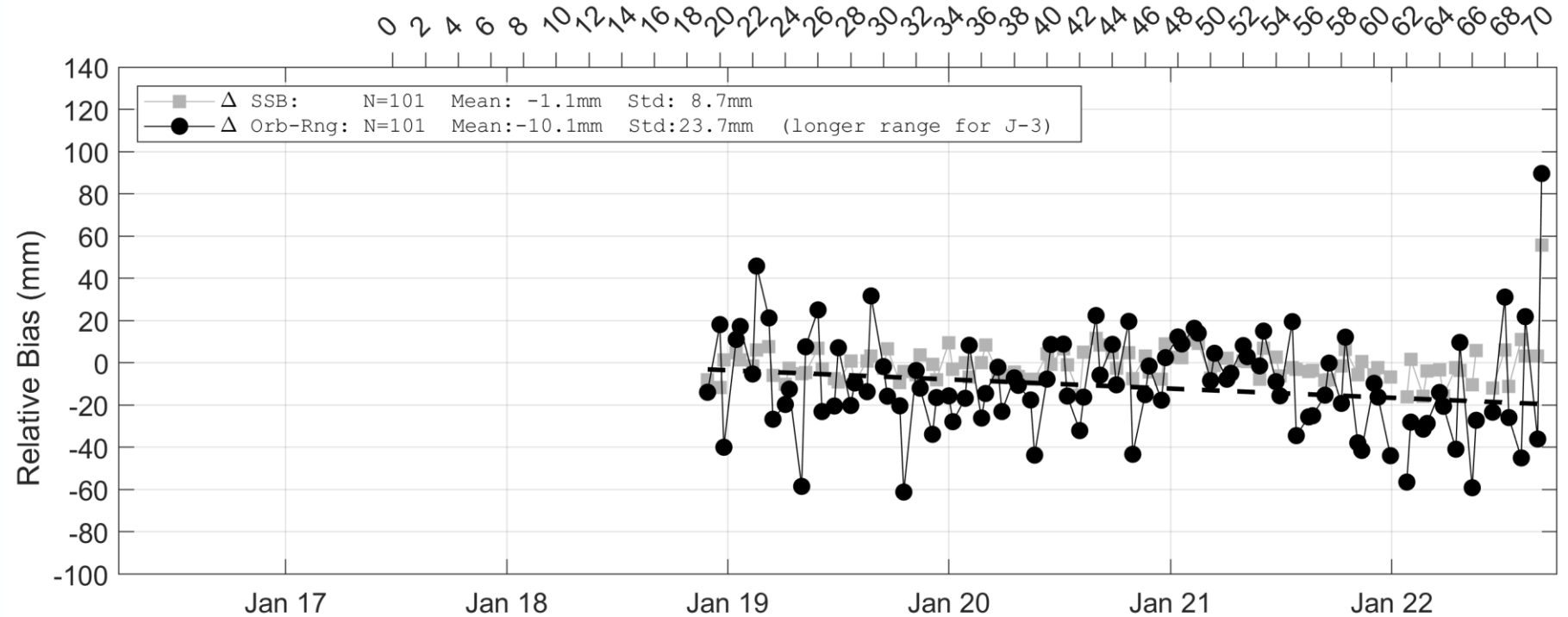
- Similar increases as per S3A.
- PLRM bias increases c.f. SAR (~36 mm to ~24 mm).
- PLRM bias variability increases c.f. SAR (~20 mm to ~31 mm).



←PB04 | PB05→  
(from c67)

## Results: S3B SAR-PLRM Relative Bias

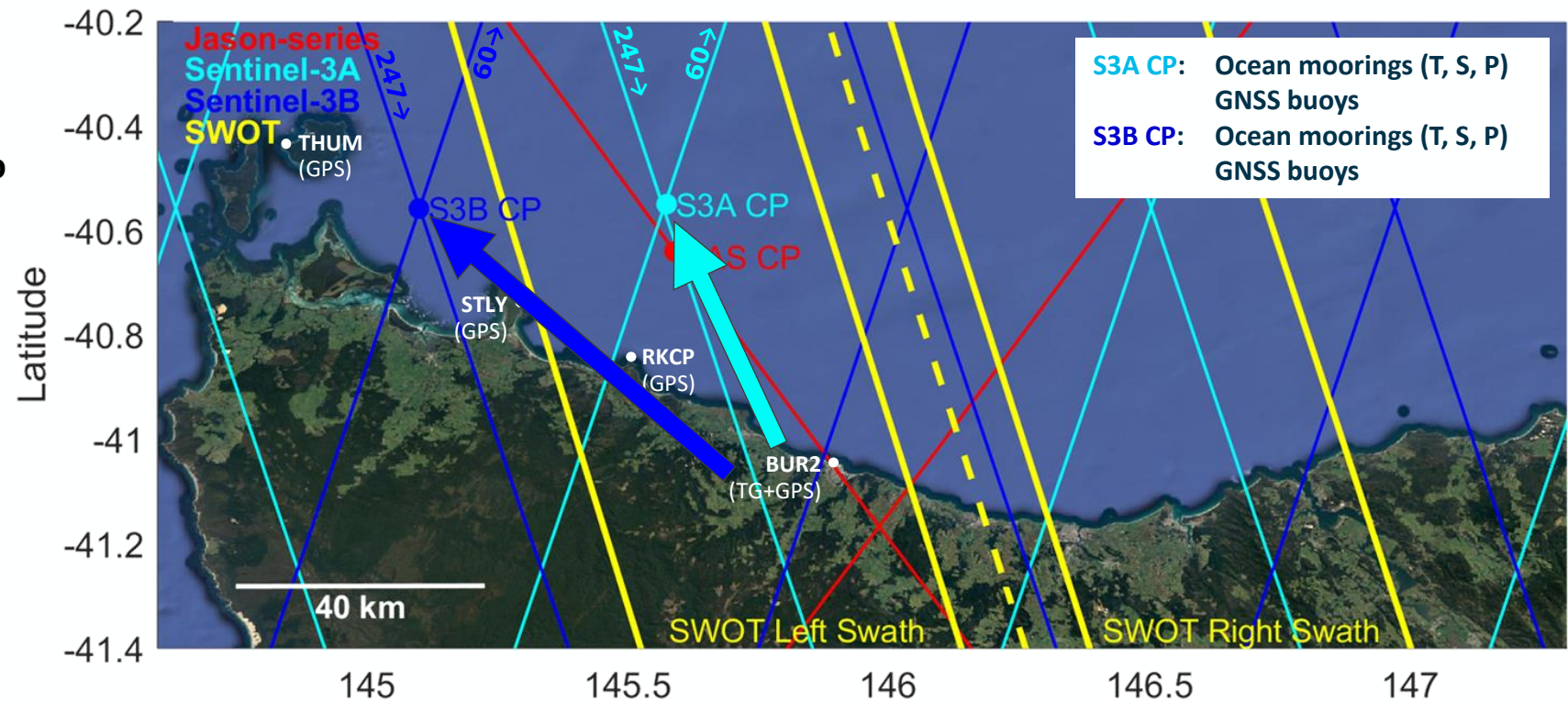
- **Relative SSH bias (SAR-PLRM):**  
-10.1 ± 2.4 mm (SAR SSH is lower).
- **Marginally more structure and trend apparent in the Δ(Orbit-Range) time series. Trend remains insignificant:**
  - OLS: -2.2 ± 4.3 mm/yr
  - Robust: -4.3 ± 4.0 mm/yr.



←PB04 | PB05→  
(from c67)

## Comparison: Bias estimates using the coastal tide gauge

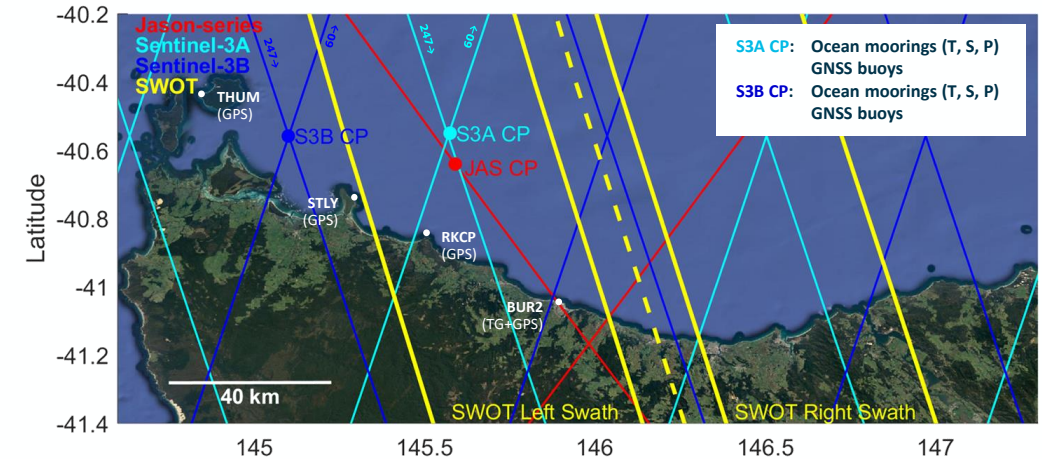
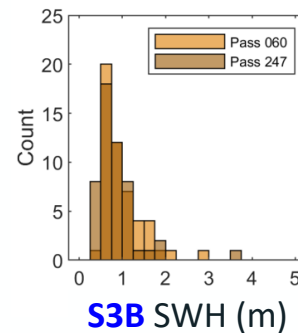
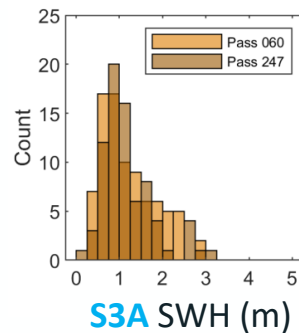
- Purely for comparison and as a sanity check, absolute biases computed at the comparison points using the coastal tide gauge agree to within ~1-4 mm of those computed against the offshore moorings and GNSS buoys (expected).
- Variability increases as expected, especially for **S3B** given separation from tide gauge. (~5-6 mm increase in std dev for **S3A**, ~15 mm for **S3B**).





## Summary

- **S3A** and **S3B** SAR absolute biases at the Bass Strait facility are at the ~20 mm level, slightly higher for **S3B** (18 v 24 mm).
- Variability of the SAR absolute bias time series is also at the ~20 mm level underscoring the performance of each mission and the Bass Strait in situ time series.
- Absolute bias and variability for both missions increase by approximately ~10 mm when using PLRM in place of SAR.
- Non-averaging errors likely limit absolute bias uncertainty to ~10 mm.



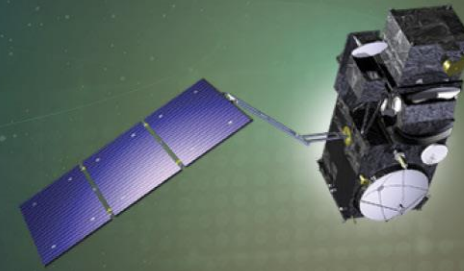
Mission	Cycles	Absolute Bias	Std Dev (Sample Size)
<b>S3A SAR</b> (PB04/05)	3 -> 88	+18 mm <i>+18 mm</i>	22 mm (n = 158) <i>28 mm (vs Coastal TG)</i>
<b>S3A PLRM</b> (PB04/05)	3 -> 88	+25 mm <i>+26 mm</i>	31 mm <i>36 mm (vs Coastal TG)</i>
<b>S3B SAR</b> (PB04/05)	19 -> 69	+24 mm <i>+20 mm</i>	20 mm (n = 93) <i>35 mm (vs Coastal TG)</i>
<b>S3B PLRM</b> (PB04/05)	19 -> 69	+36 mm <i>+37 mm</i>	31 mm <i>41 mm (vs Coastal TG)</i>
<b>Jason-3 GDRF</b>	1 -> 208	-3.2 mm	24 mm (n = 191)
<b>Sentinel-6 MF HR</b>	4 -> 68	-3.1 mm	23 mm (n = 53)



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## Questions?

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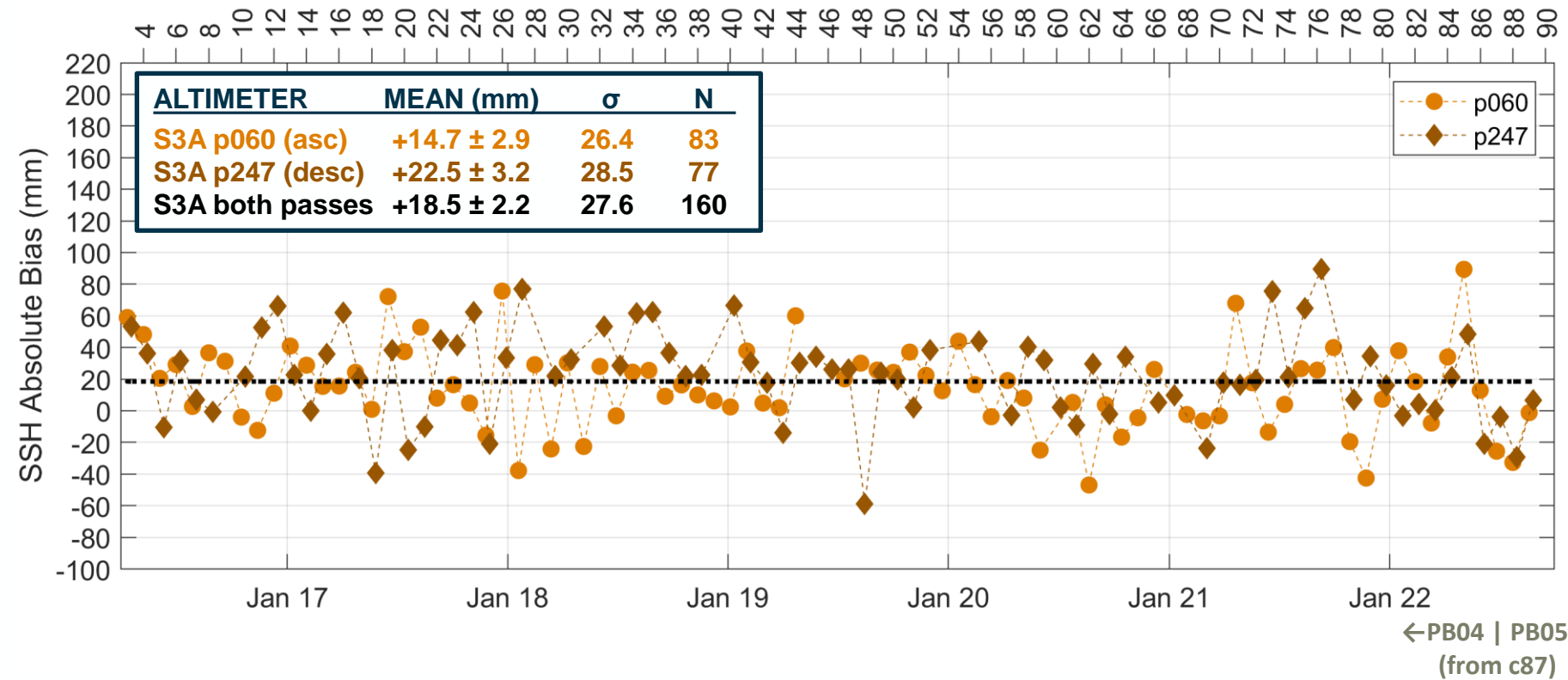
## Spares



## Results: S3A SAR (v tide gauge)

Computed against tide gauge: expect higher variability than against mooring.

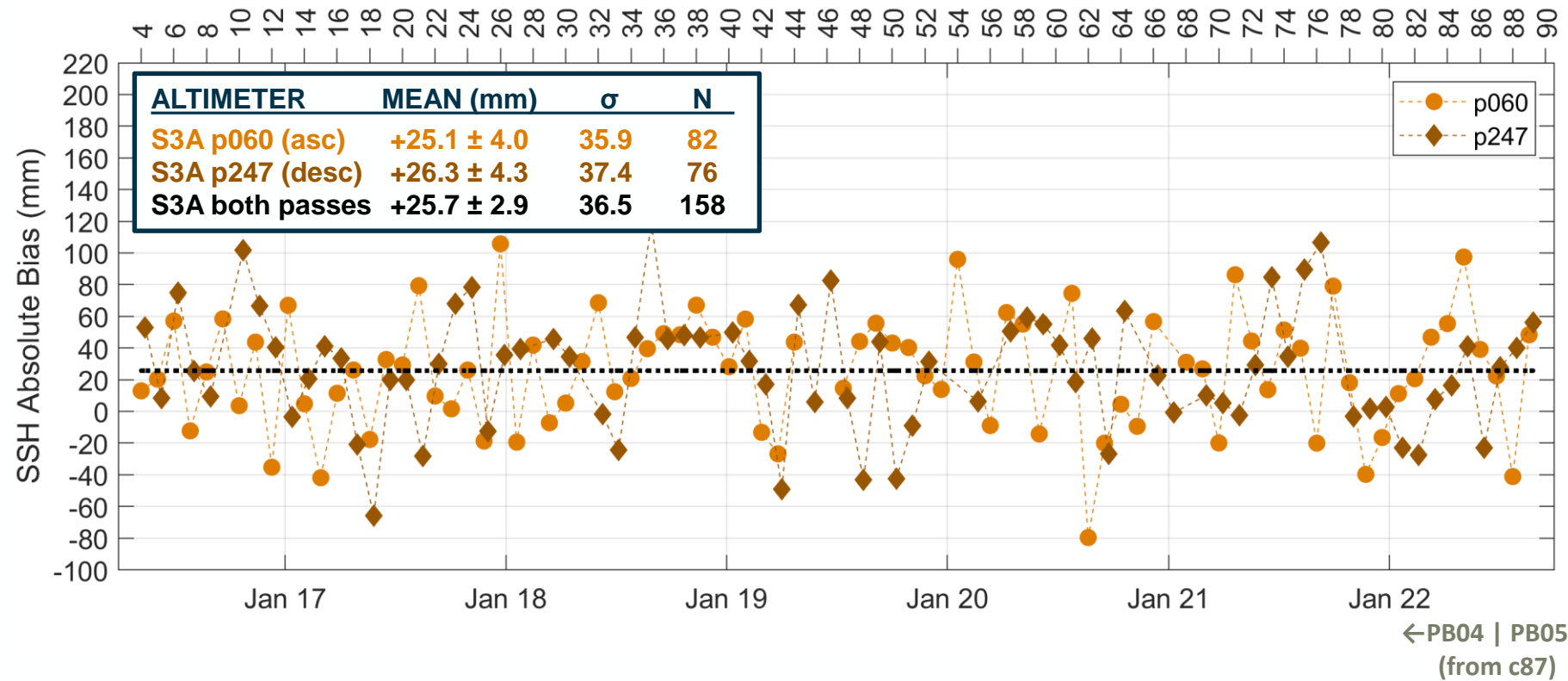
- PB04/05. Compared here against tidally and dAP corrected TG.



## Results: S3A PLRM (v tide gauge)

Computed against tide gauge: expect higher variability than against mooring.

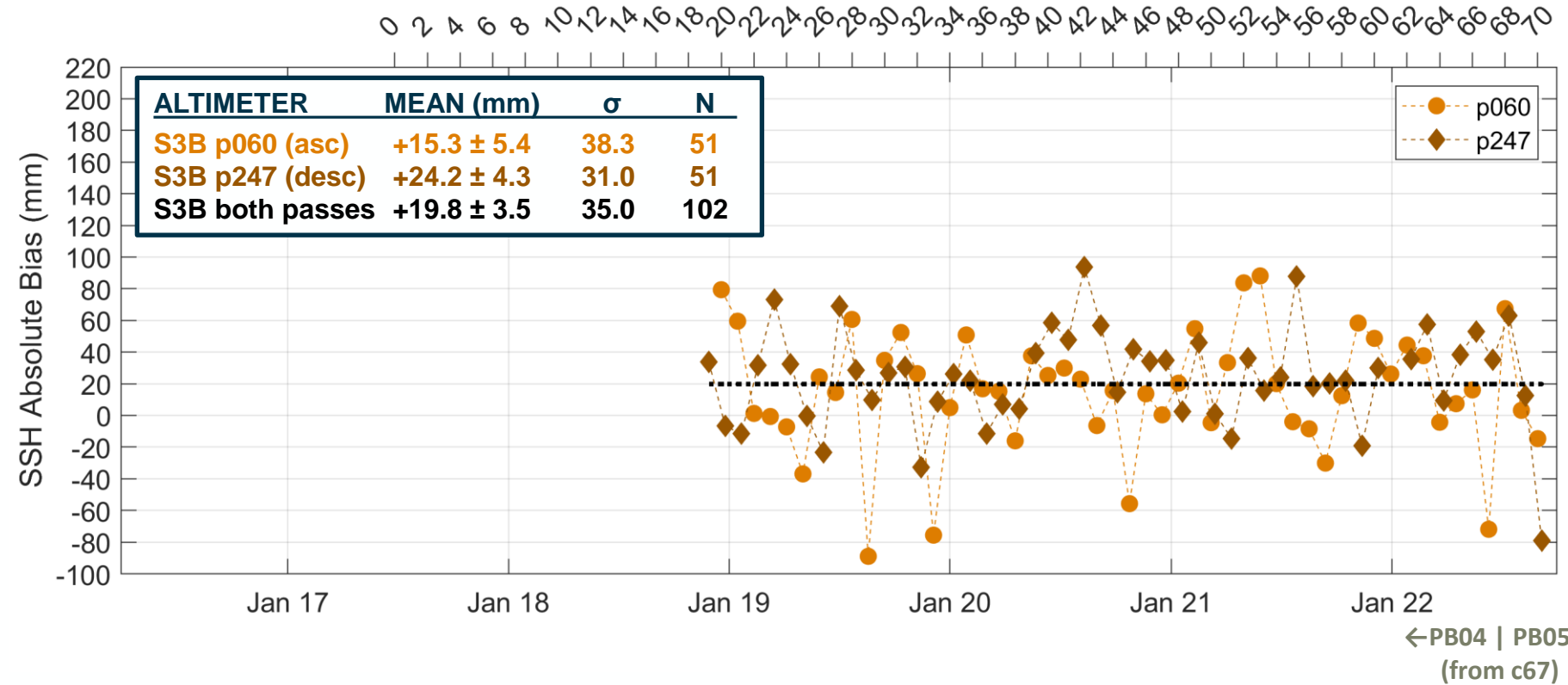
- PB04/05. Compared here against tidally and dAP corrected TG.



## Results: S3B SAR (v tide gauge)

Computed against tide gauge: expect higher variability than against mooring.

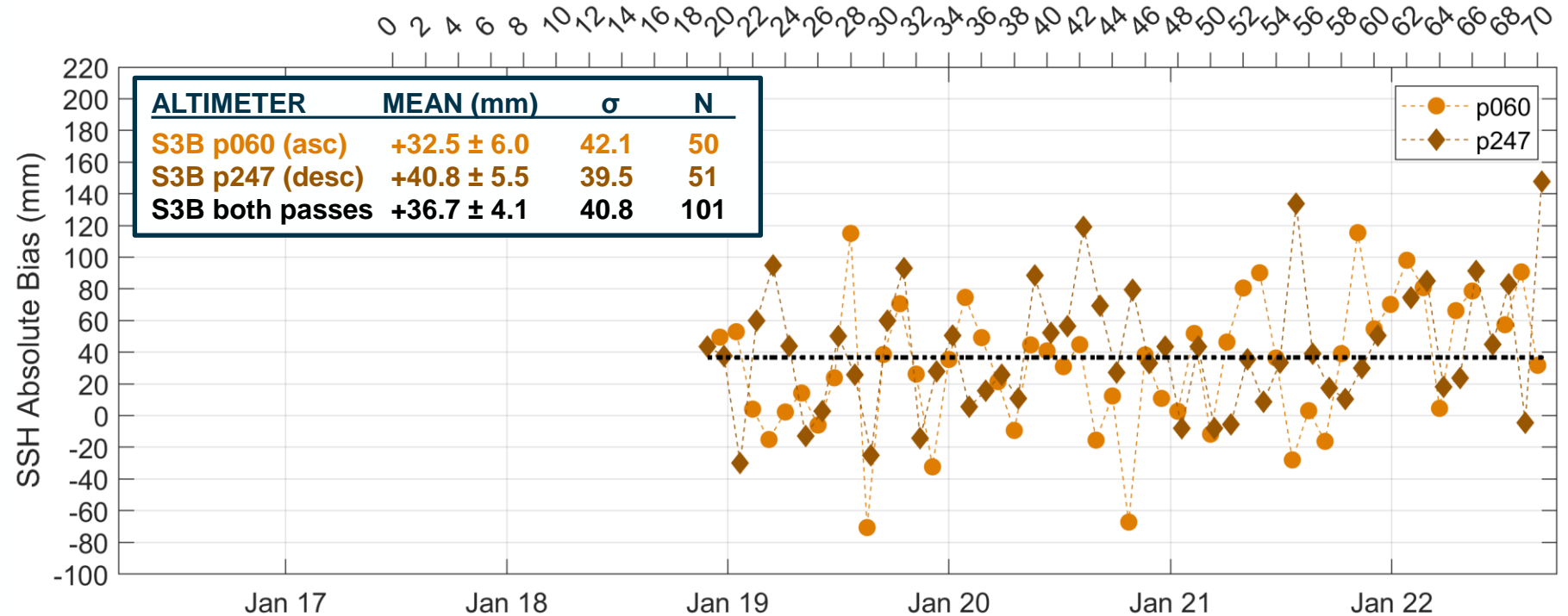
- PB04/05. Compared here against tidally and dAP corrected TG.



## Results: S3B PLRM (v tide gauge)

Computed against tide gauge: expect higher variability than against mooring.

- PB04/05. Compared here against tidally and dAP corrected TG.



←PB04 | PB05→  
(from c67)





