



Philippine  
Space  
Agency



# **GNSS Techniques for Water Level Monitoring**

**Luis Carlos Mabaquiao**

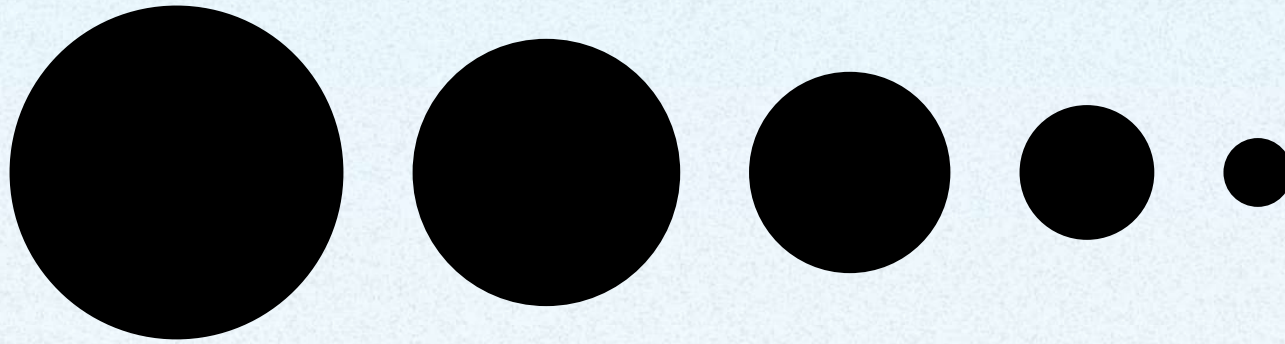
Department of Geodetic Engineering

University of the Philippines



# About Me

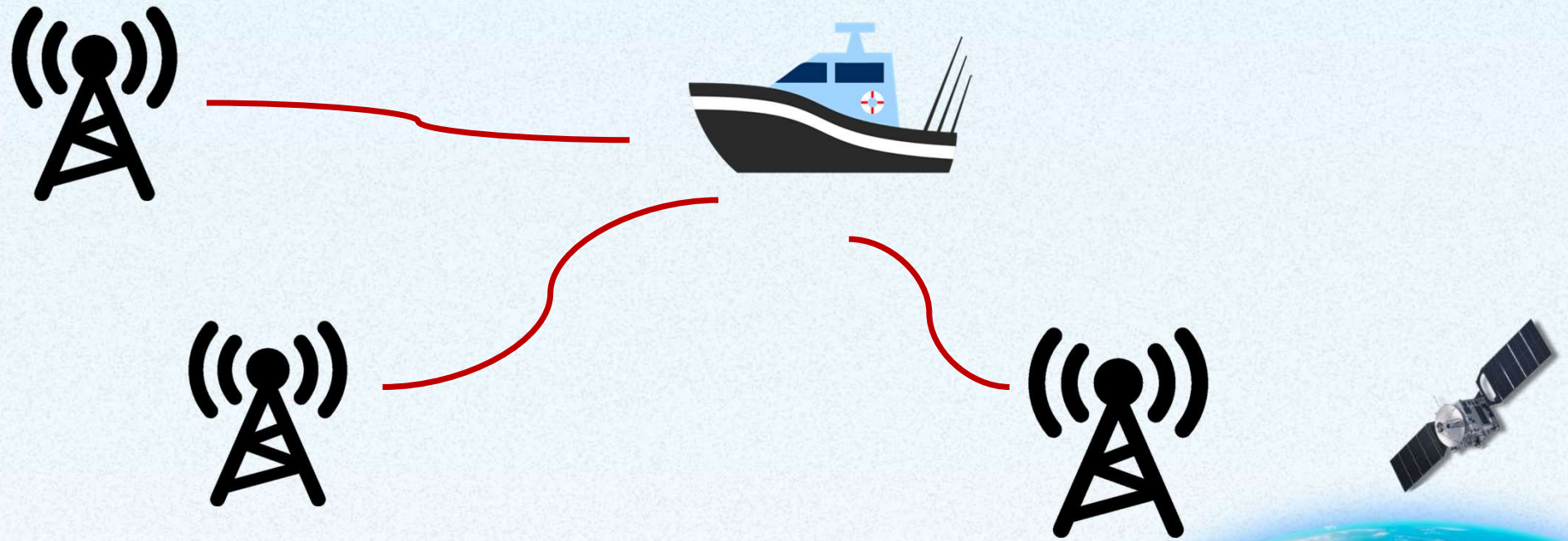




# Accuracy vs. Scale vs. Cost



# Positioning – Trilateration



# Positioning – Satellites

## Global Navigation Satellite System

- **Constellation of satellites** providing signals from space that transmit positioning and timing data to GNSS receivers.
- Provide **autonomous positioning** with global coverage
- Determine the location using **time signals**



# GNSS Positioning

## What do we need to know?

1. Location of the Satellite
2. Time signal was sent
3. Speed of signal
4. Time signal arrived

*Provided in Nav. File  
Ephemeris*



# GNSS Positioning Modes

**Point Positioning**

SPP (Single Point)

PPP (Precise Point)

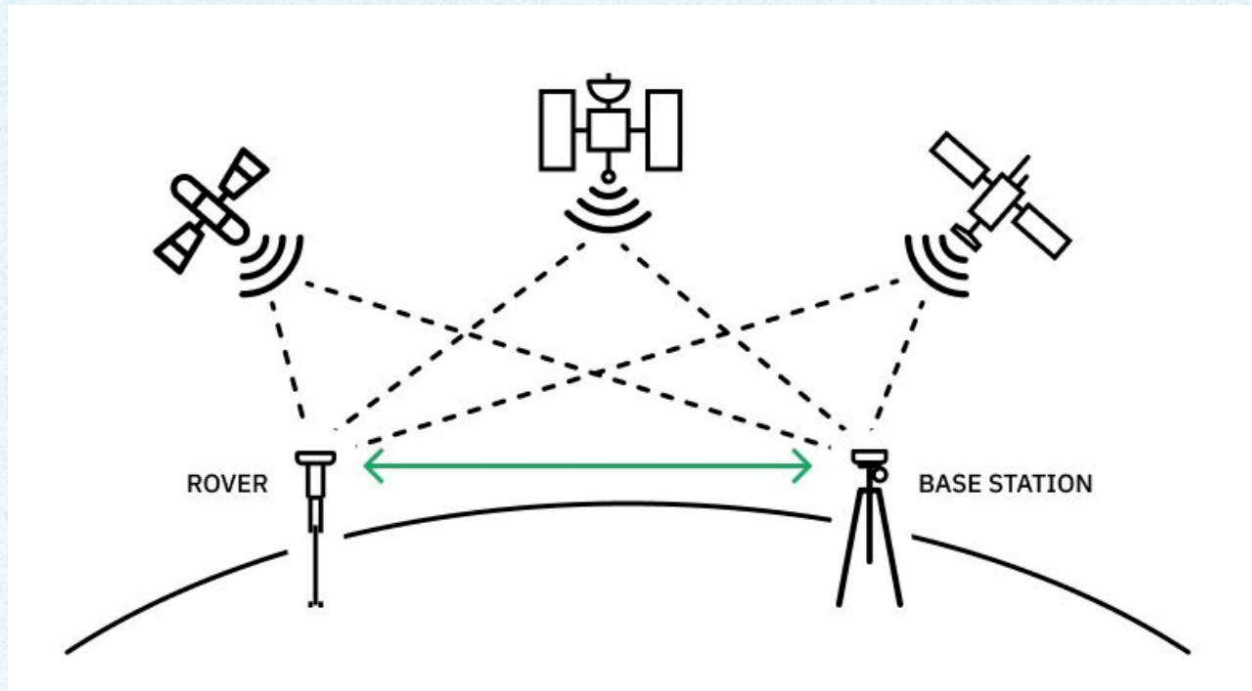
**Relative Positioning**

DGNSS (Differential)

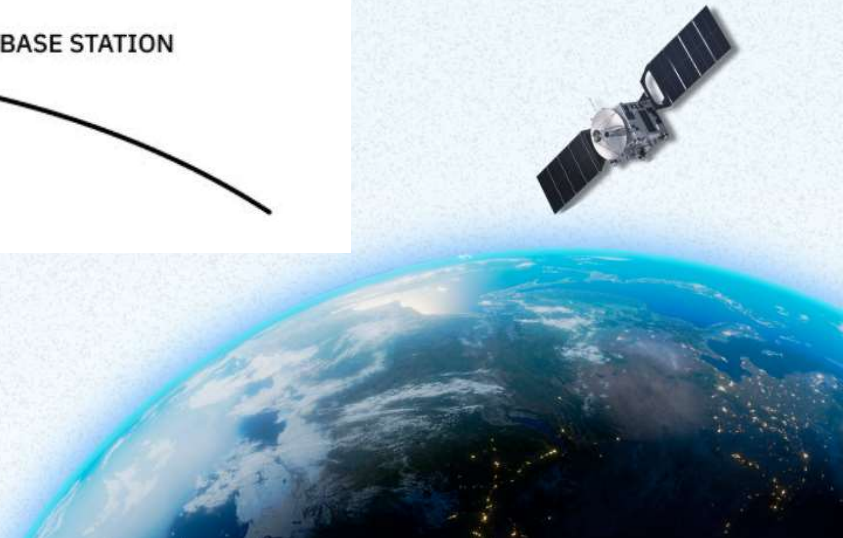
Kinematic (RTK/PPK)



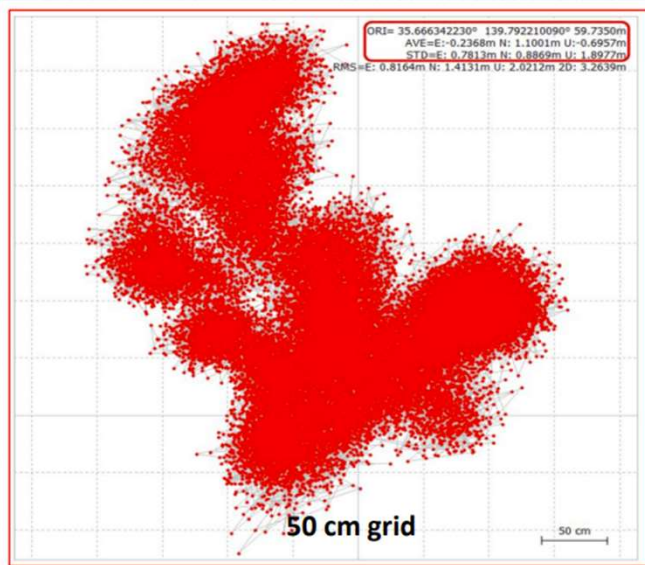
# Kinematic Positioning



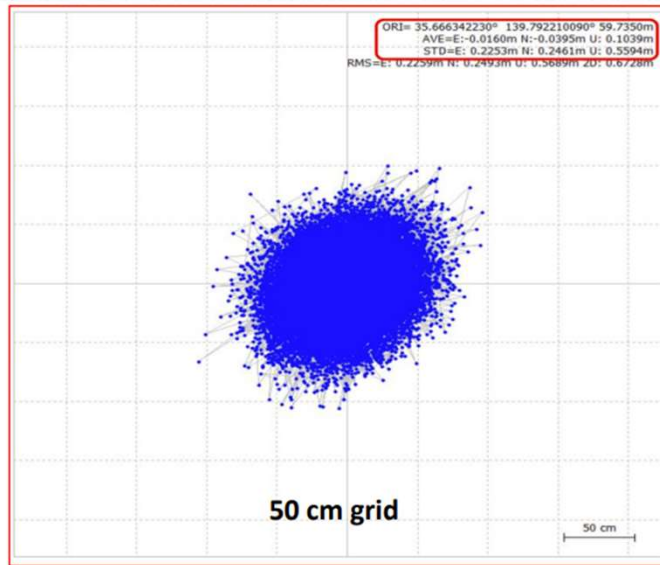
Rao Geo Tech.FZE (2024)



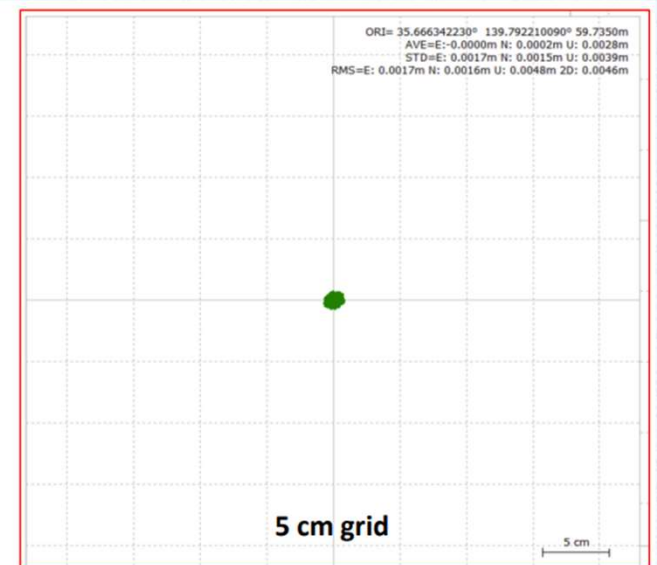




**SPP (Single Point)**



**DGNSS (Differential)**  
Code Observable  
Pseudorange



**RTK (Kinematic)**  
Phase Observable  
Carrier Phase

*\*Slide from Dr. Dinesh Manandhar, CSIS, The University of Tokyo*



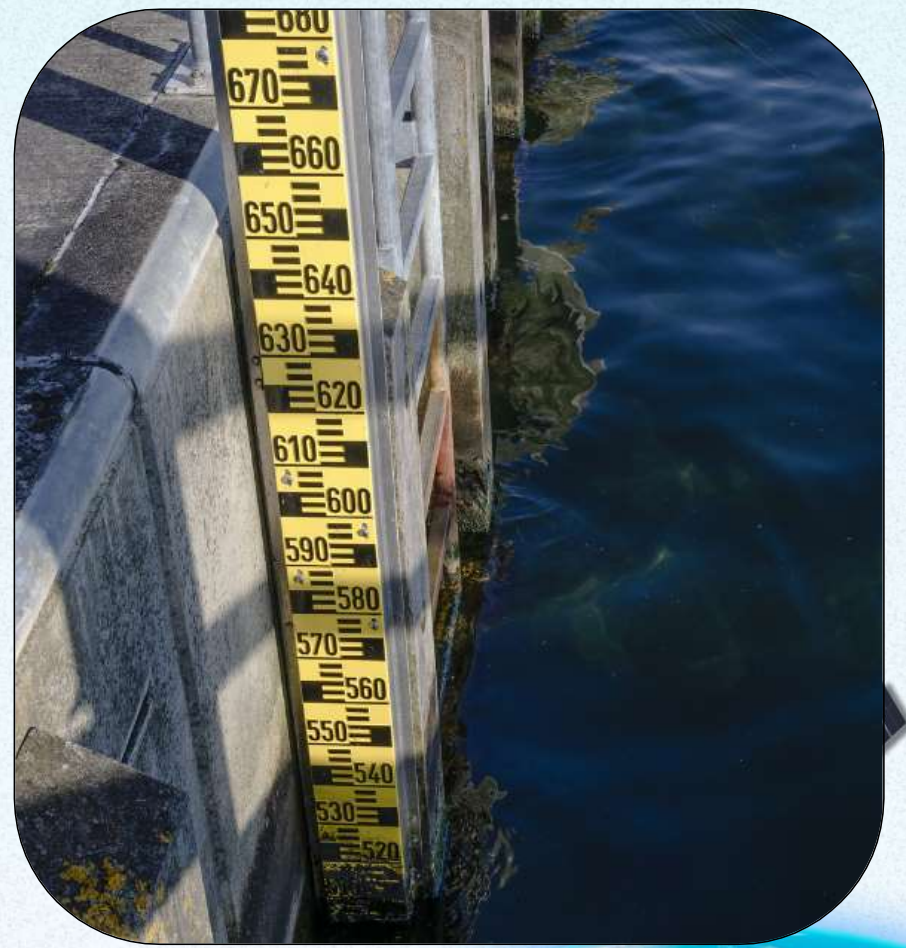
# Why monitor water levels?

1. Climate Change Adaptation
2. Flood Risk Management
3. Erosion – Loss of Land
4. Economic Considerations
5. Water Supply Management
6. Agricultural Impacts



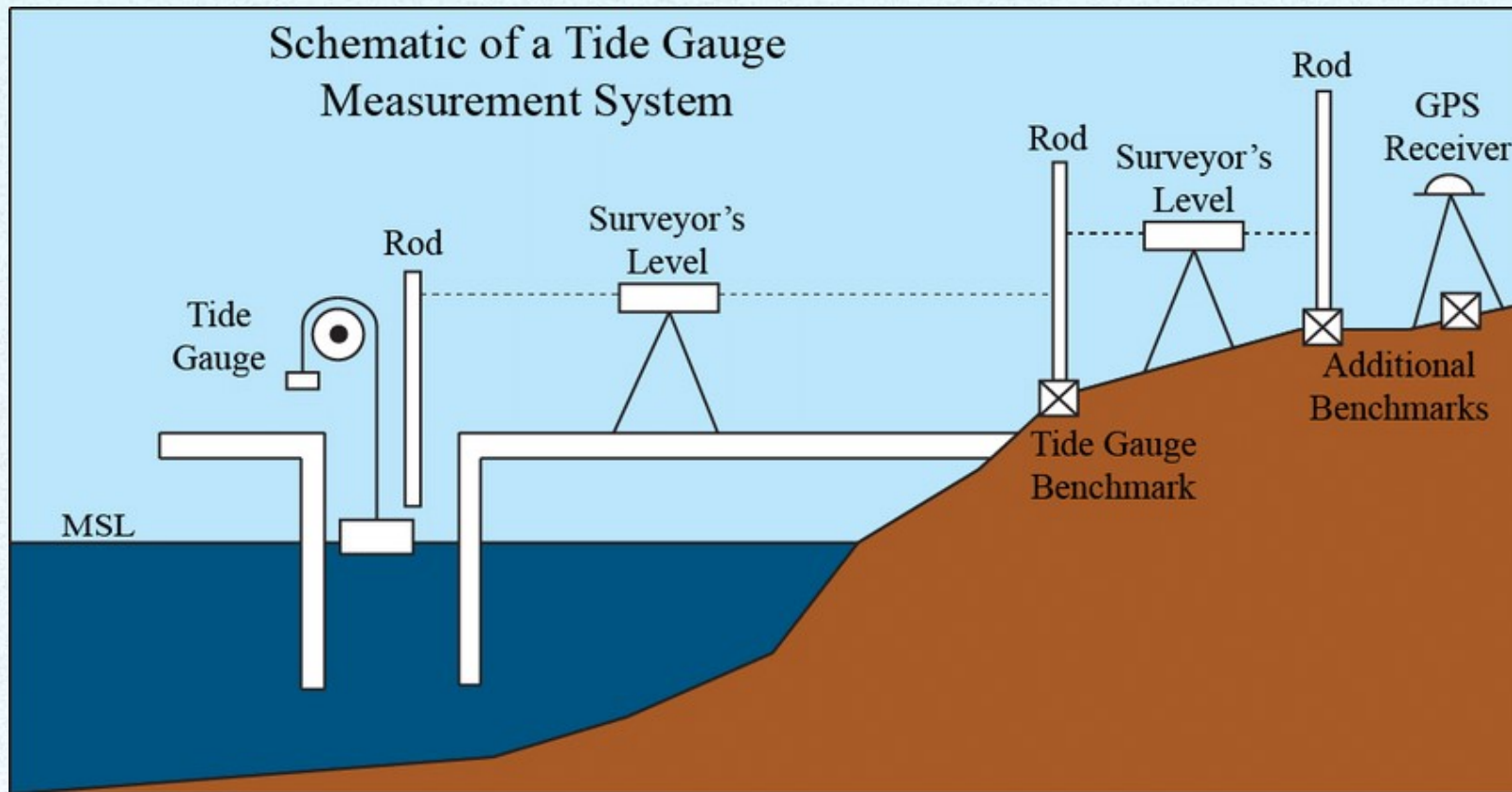
# How to monitor water levels?





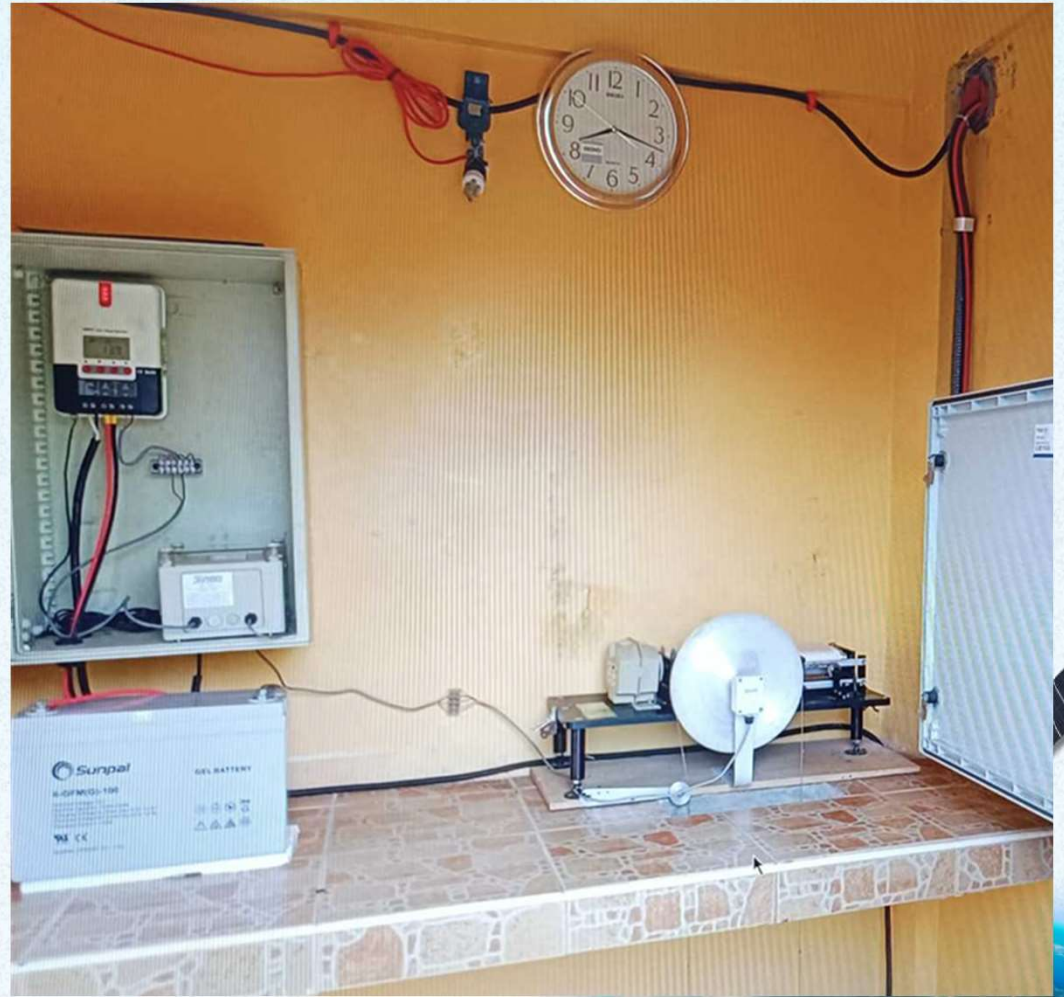
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*De Grandpre, Kimberly. (2015). Relative Sea Level Change In Western Alaska Estimated From Satellite Altimetry and Repeat GPS Measurements.*





# Expensive Painful



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# Low Cost GNSS Receiver System



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# Why choose low cost GNSS?

1. Cost Effective
2. Widespread Deployment
3. Accessibility
4. Equivalent Performance
5. Tied to a Reference System





Lazada



# IPCS ZED-F9P-02B-00 ZED-F9P-02B GNSS Modules u-blox AG

Condition: New

Quantity:  5 available

Price: **US \$179.90**

Approximately PHP 10,151.80

Buy

Best Offer:

Make

♥ Add to



1/6

**NEO-F9P-15B**

u-blox F9 dual band L1/L2 module high precision P-grade LGA, 16x12 mm, 2

**₱18,599**

High precision GNSS multi frequency centimeter level low power consumption UBLOX ZED-F9P RTK



Micro USB  
Port

Zed F9P  
Module

Antenna  
Port

Power  
Supply



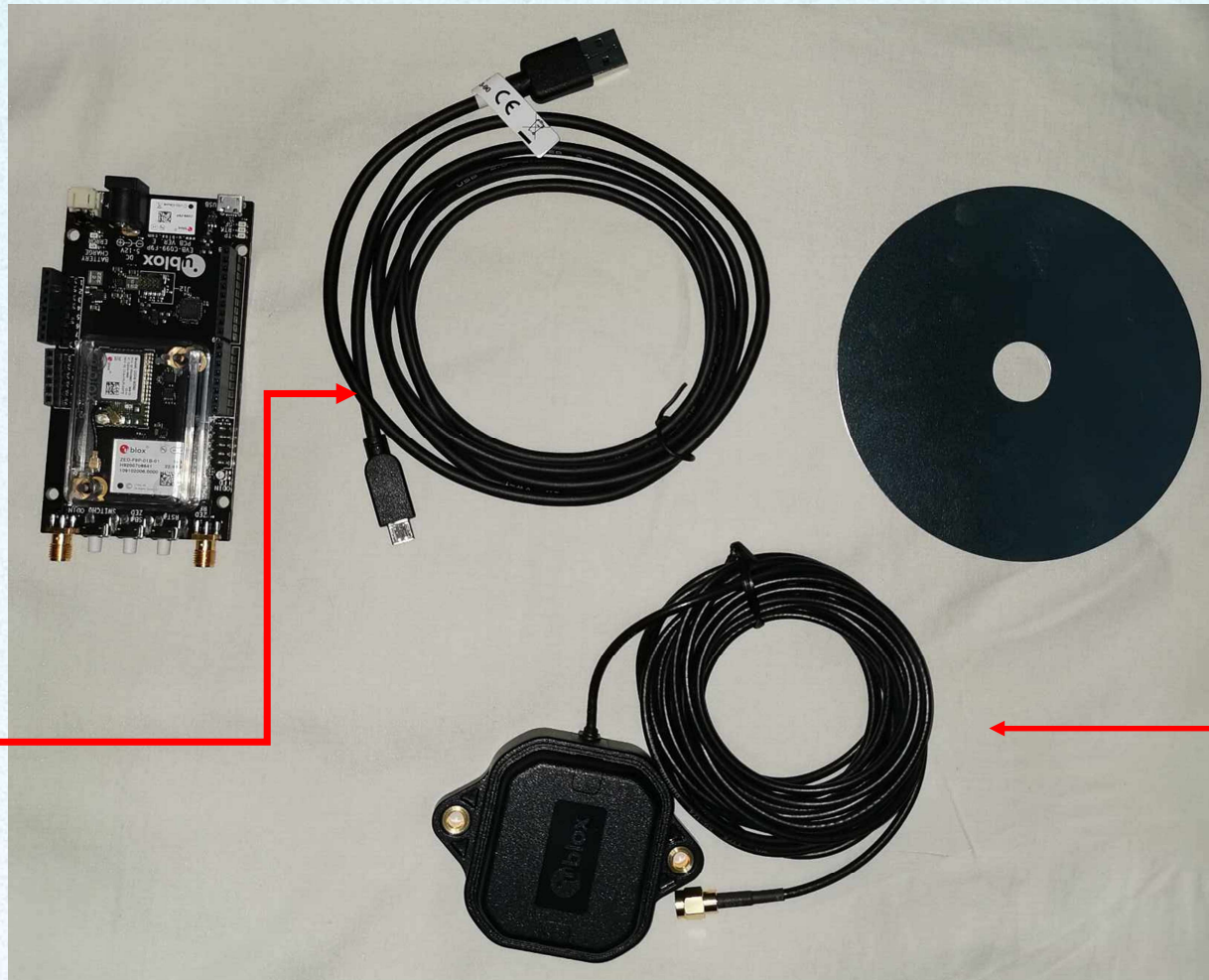
Radio  
(UART) Port

## Ublox Zed F9P Receiver



Zed F9P  
Board

Micro USB  
Cable



Ground  
Plane

Patch  
Antenna



# GNSS Positioning Modes

**Point Positioning**

SPP (Single Point)

PPP (Precise Point)

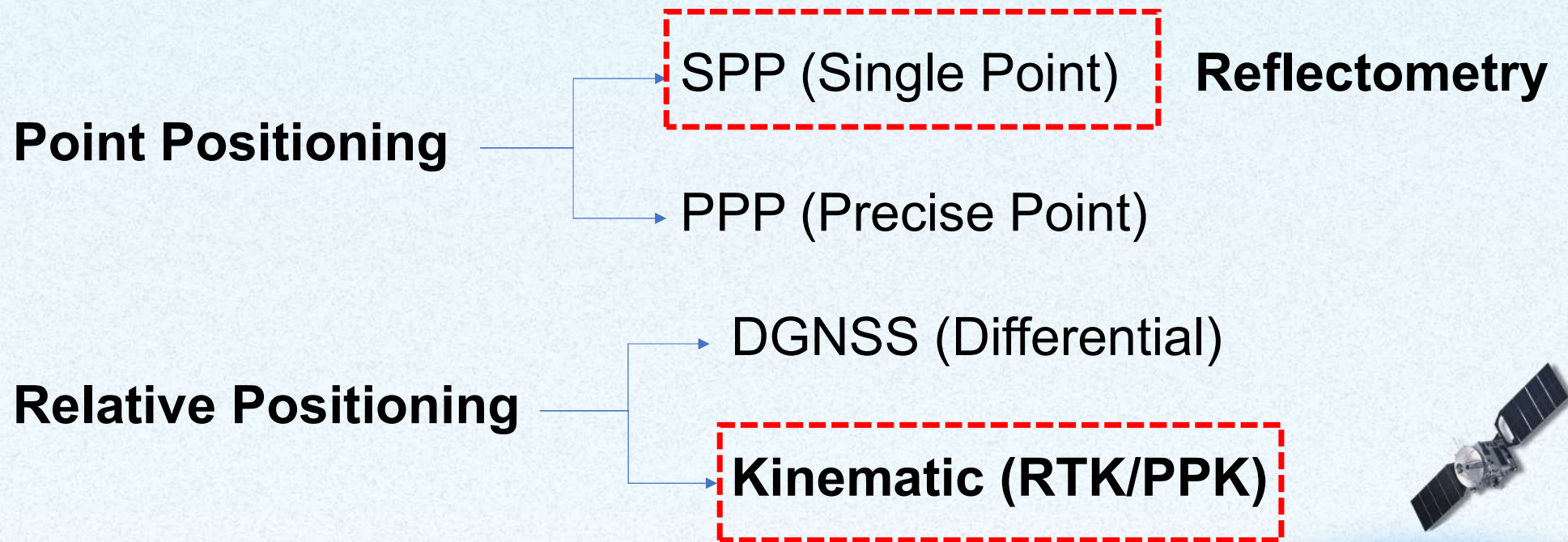
**Relative Positioning**

DGNSS (Differential)

Kinematic (RTK/PPK)



# GNSS Positioning Modes



# Water Level Monitoring using **Kinematic Positioning**

*(Dizon, Penales, Reyes, Mabaquiao)*





# General Workflow

## Setup Phase

Materials and Equipment  
BM Establishment

## Data Collection

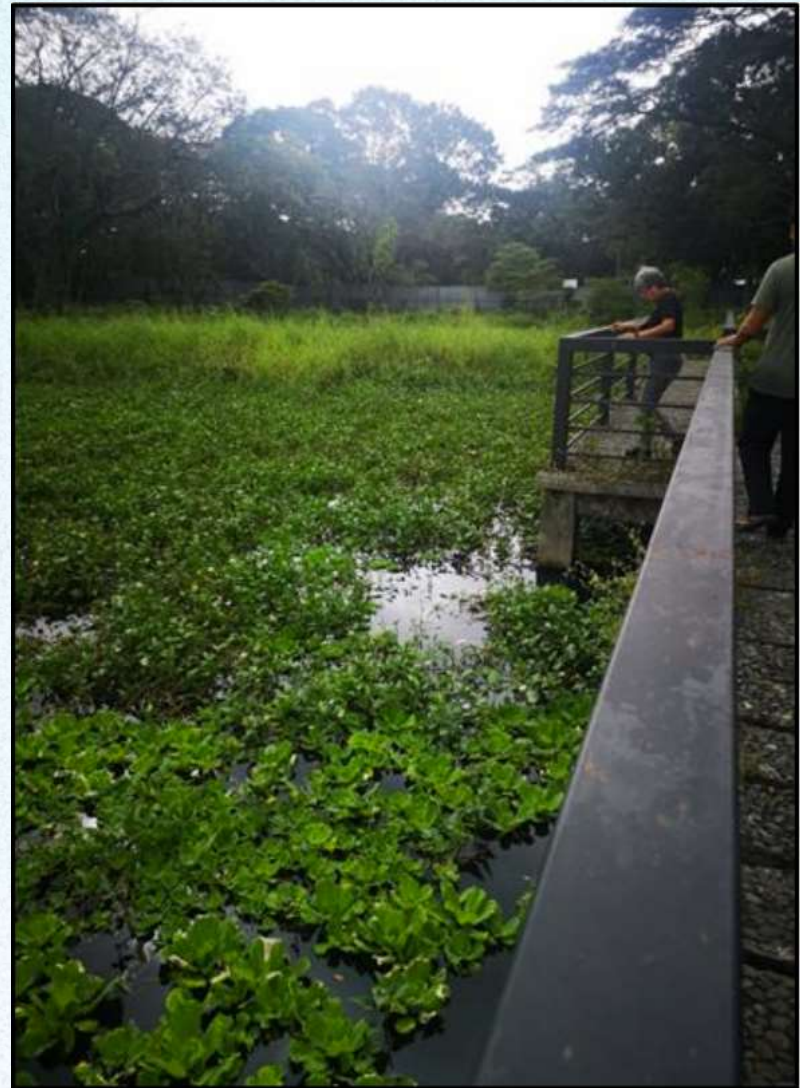
24 hour observation  
Raw observation retrieval

## Data Processing

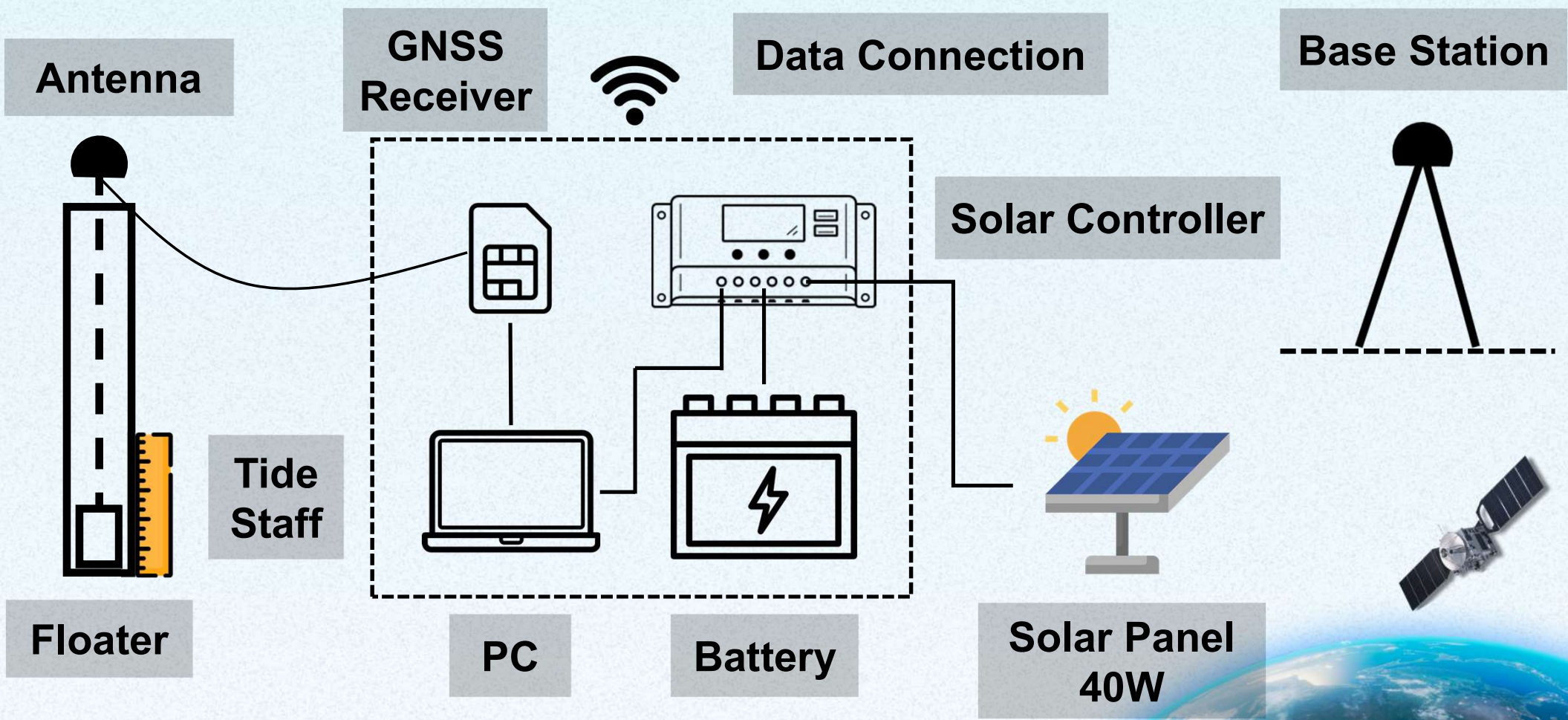
RTK Processing  
(+ *PPK Processing*)

## Performance Analysis

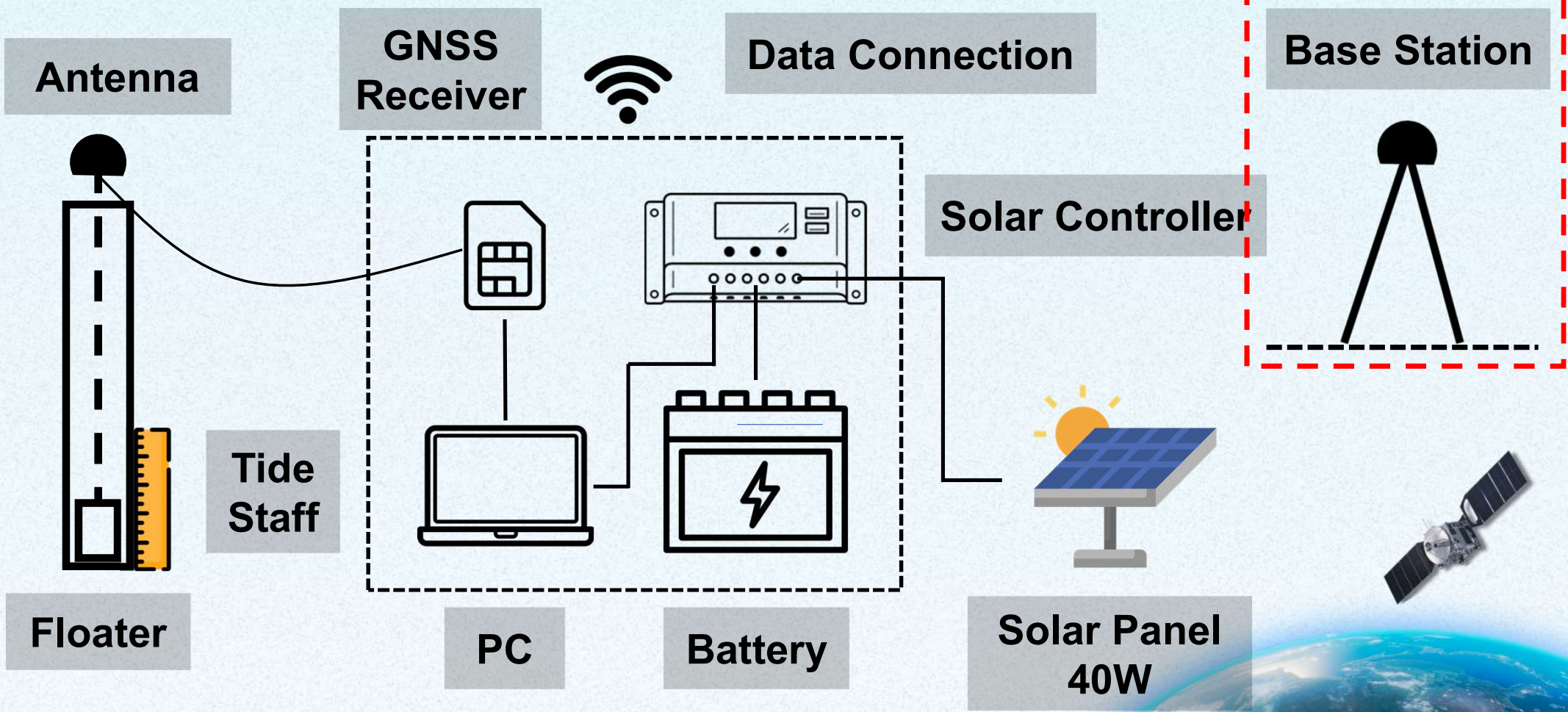
Accuracy and Integrity  
Continuity and Costing



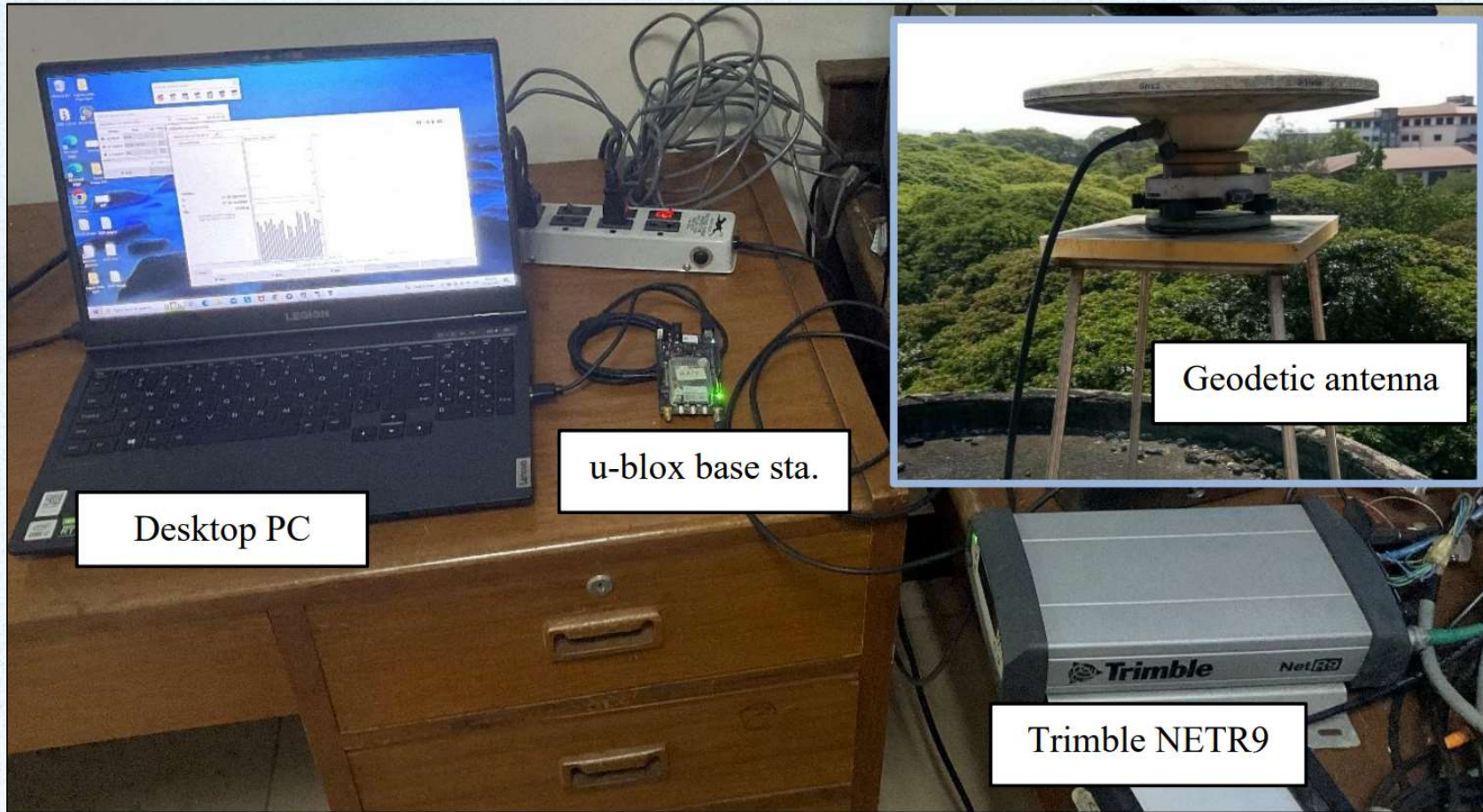
# Kinematic Setup



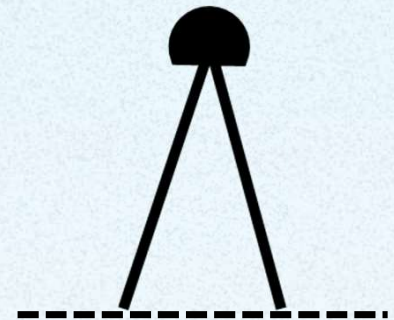
# Kinematic Setup



# Kinematic Setup



## Base Station



Low Cost  
Rover Receiver  
**UBX Zed F9P**



kinematic processing



Low Cost  
Base Station  
**UBX Zed F9P**

**Setup 1 (LC-LC)**  
Low Cost: Rover  
Low Cost: Base



kinematic processing



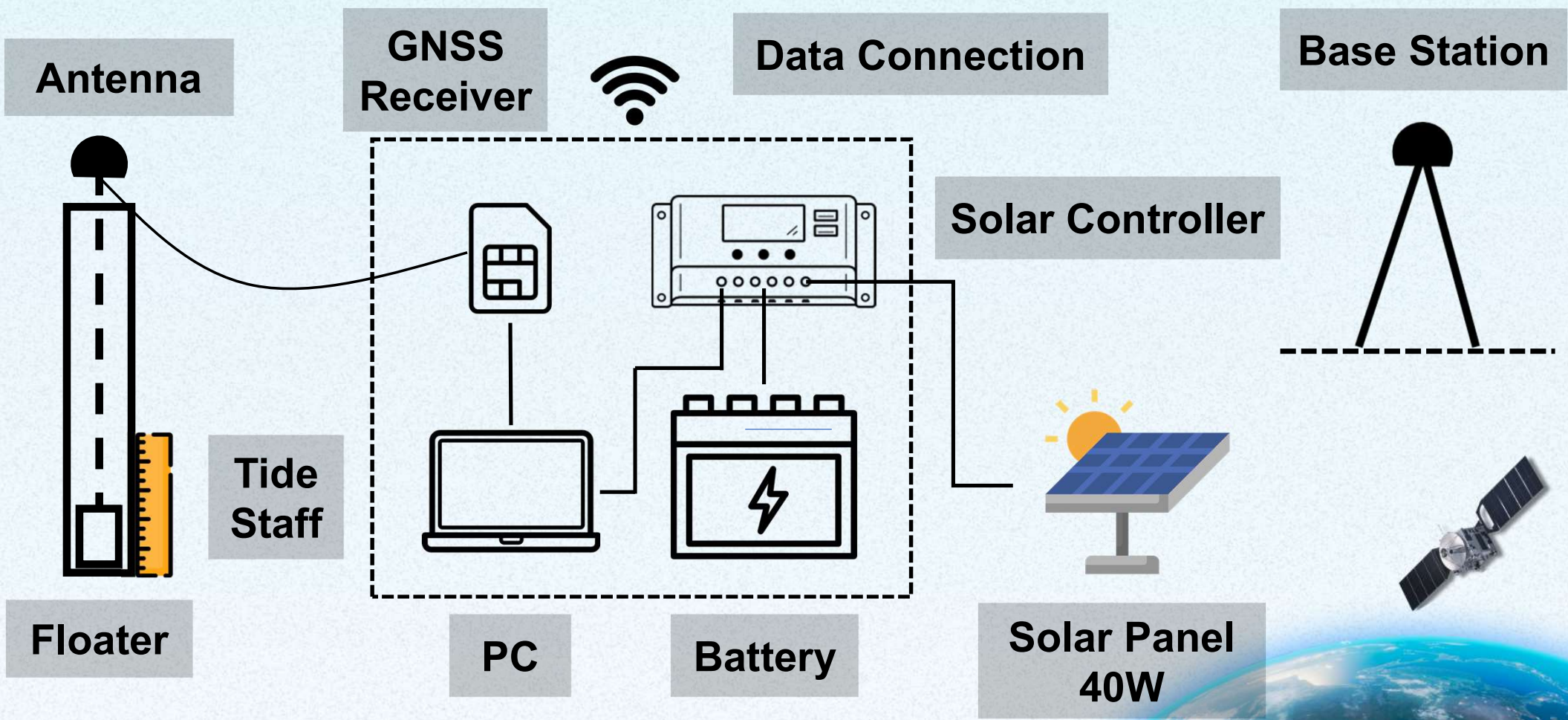
Low Cost  
Rover Receiver  
**UBX Zed F9P**

Survey Grade  
Base Station  
**Trimble Net R9**

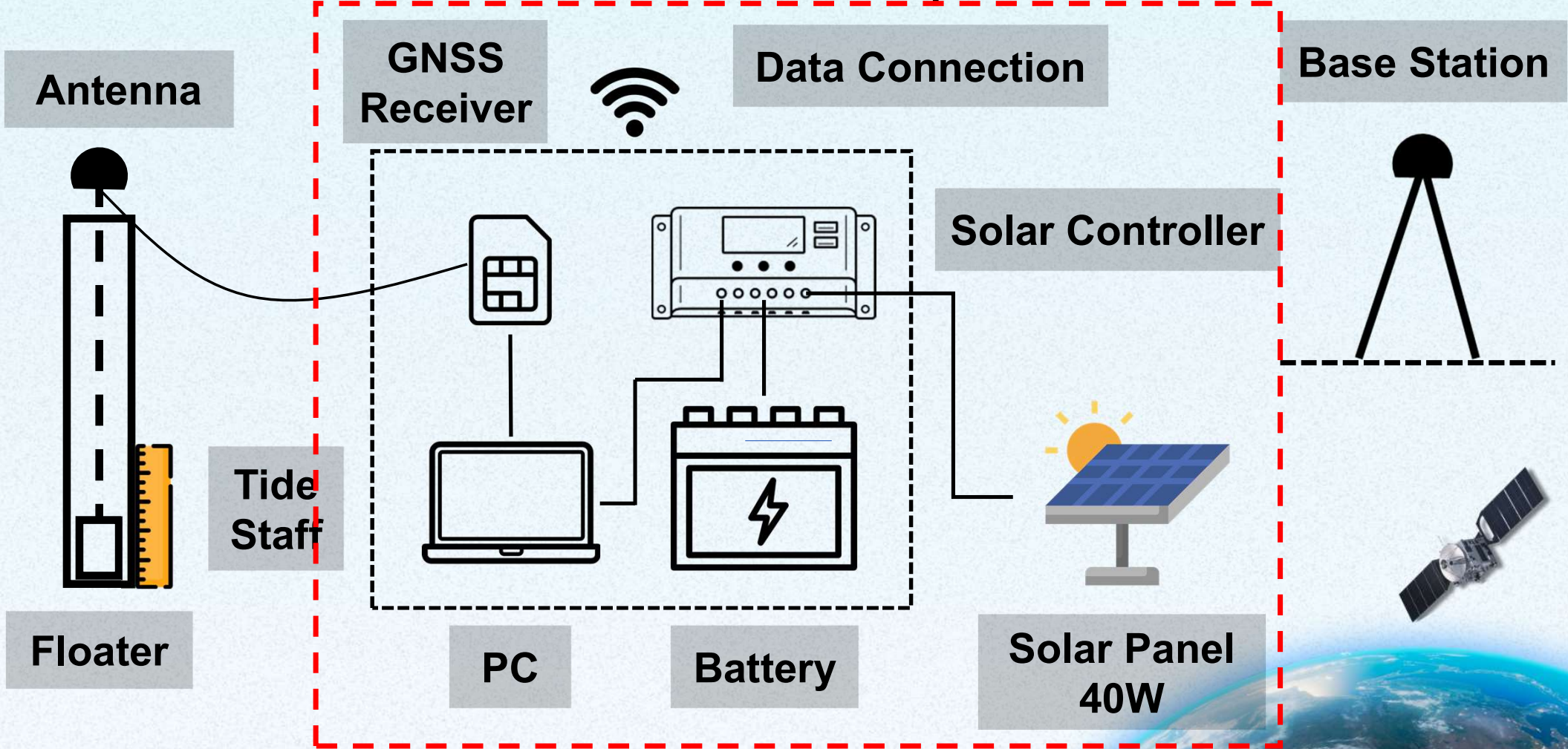
**Setup 2 (LC-SG)**  
Low Cost: Rover  
Survey Grade: Base



# Kinematic Setup

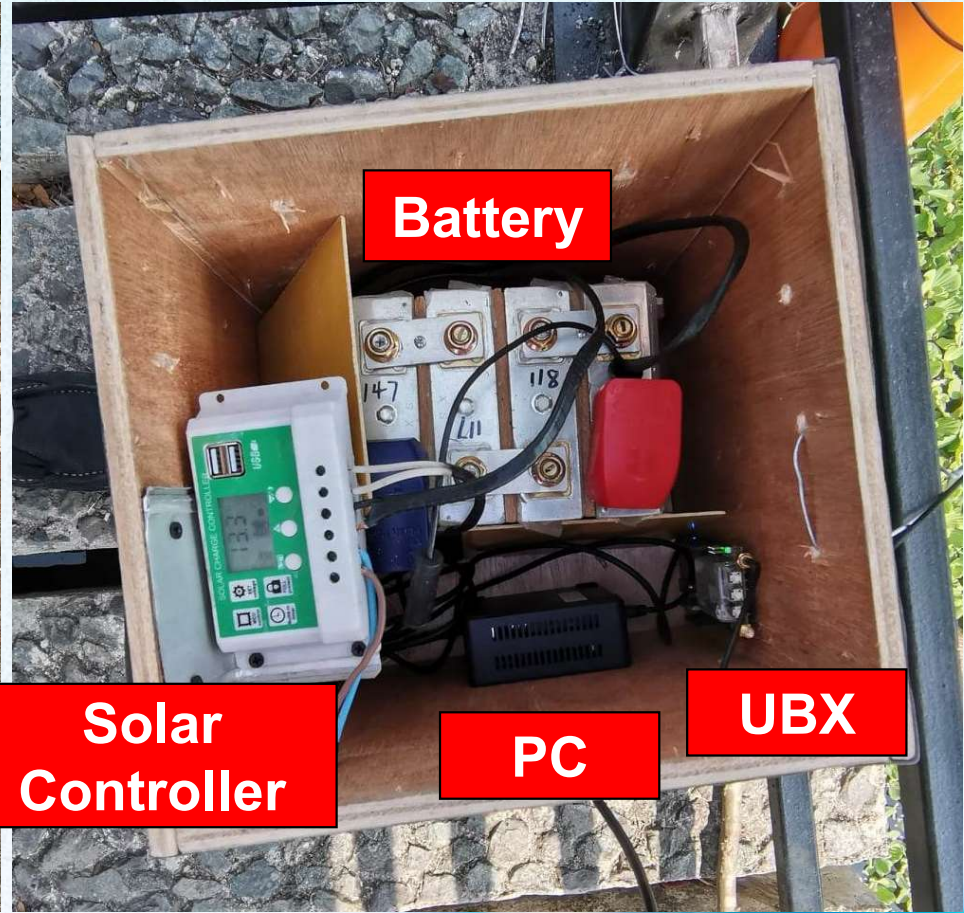


# Kinematic Setup





Solar Panels



Battery

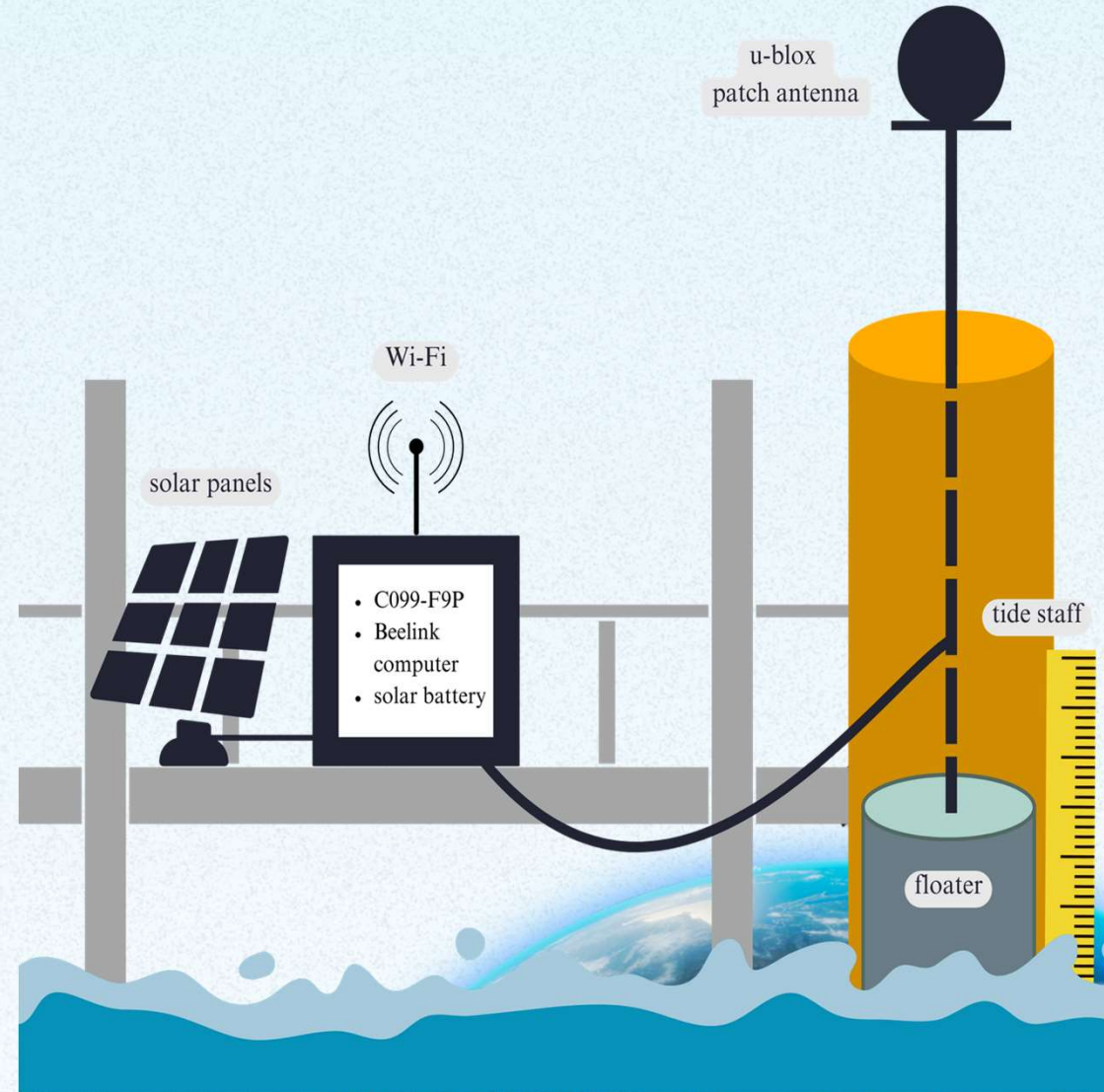
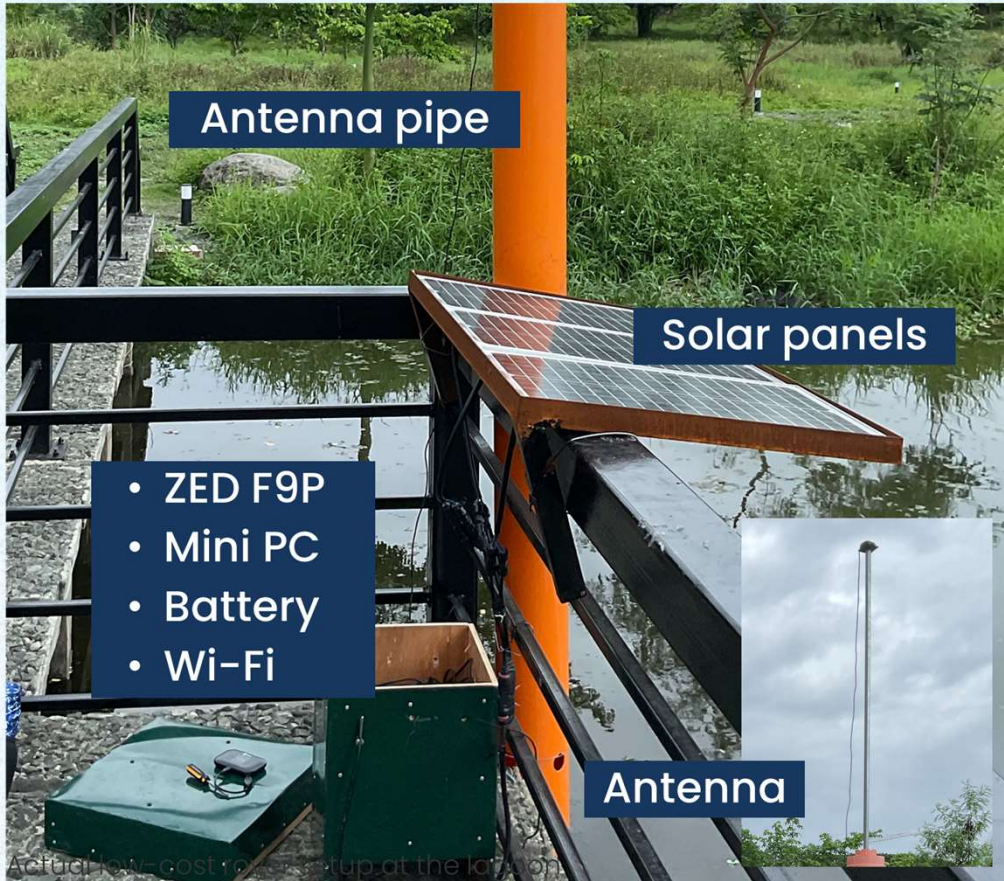
Solar Controller

PC

UBX



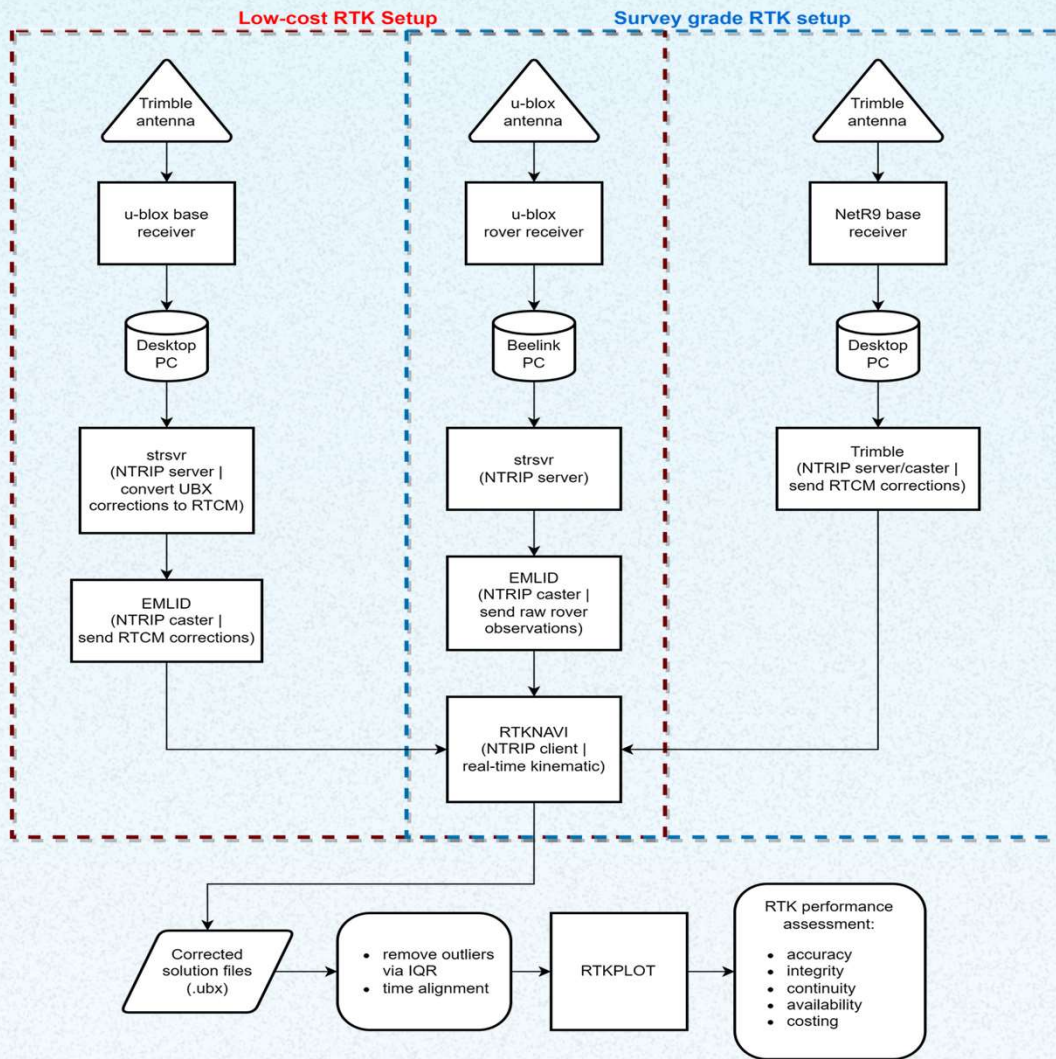






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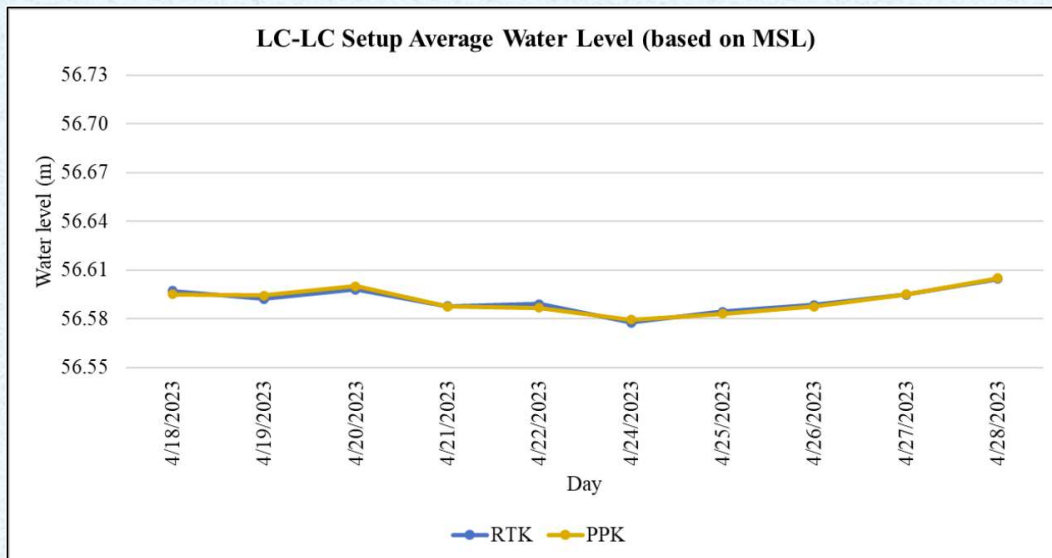


# RTK Processing

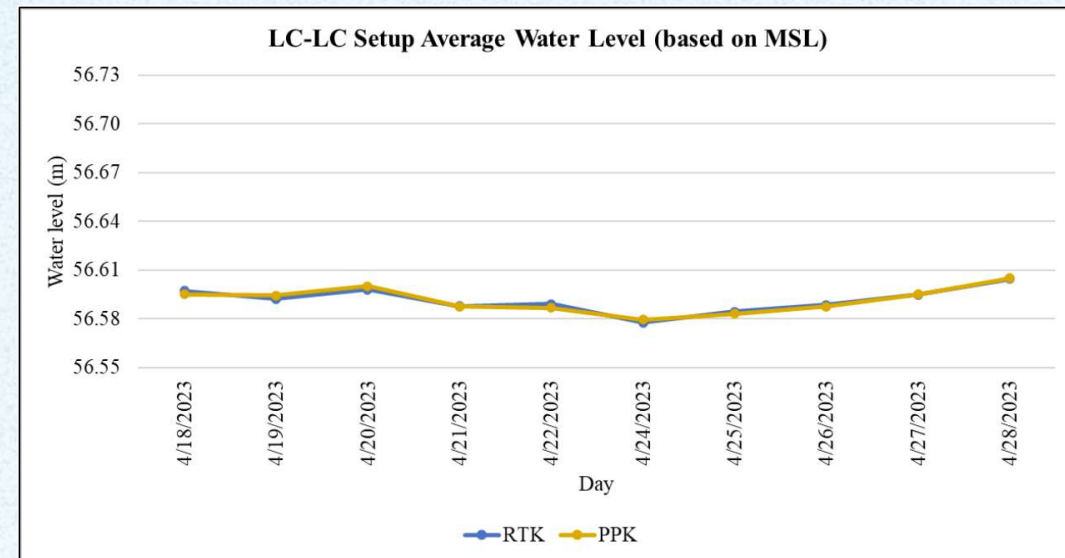
- Real time data streams
- **strsvr**: stream RCTM corrections
- **Emlid caster**: send rover data
- **RTKNAVI**: perform RTK processing
- **RTKPLOT**: plot real time solutions



## Setup 1 (LC-LC)



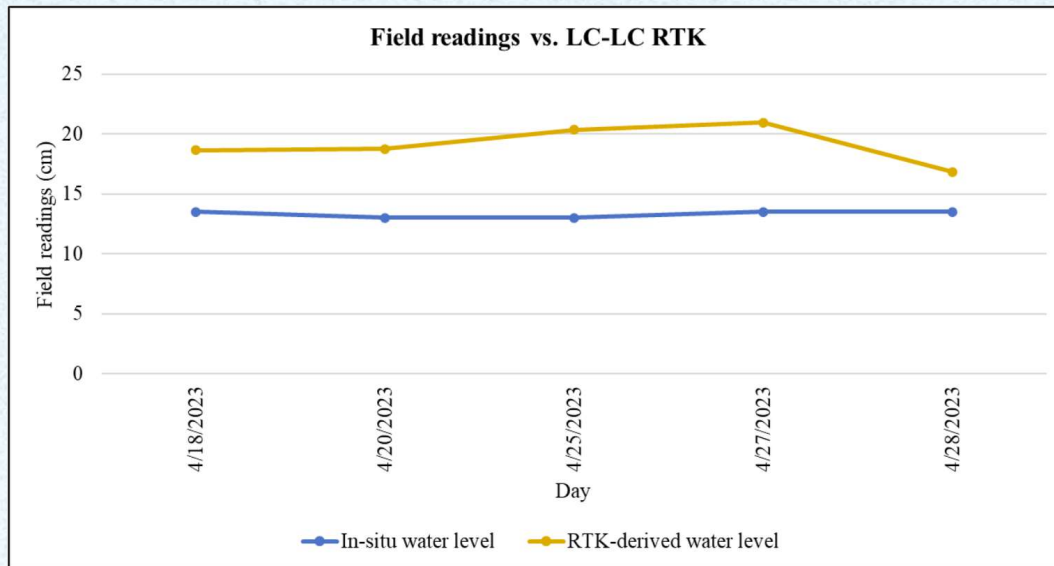
## Setup 2 (SG-LC)



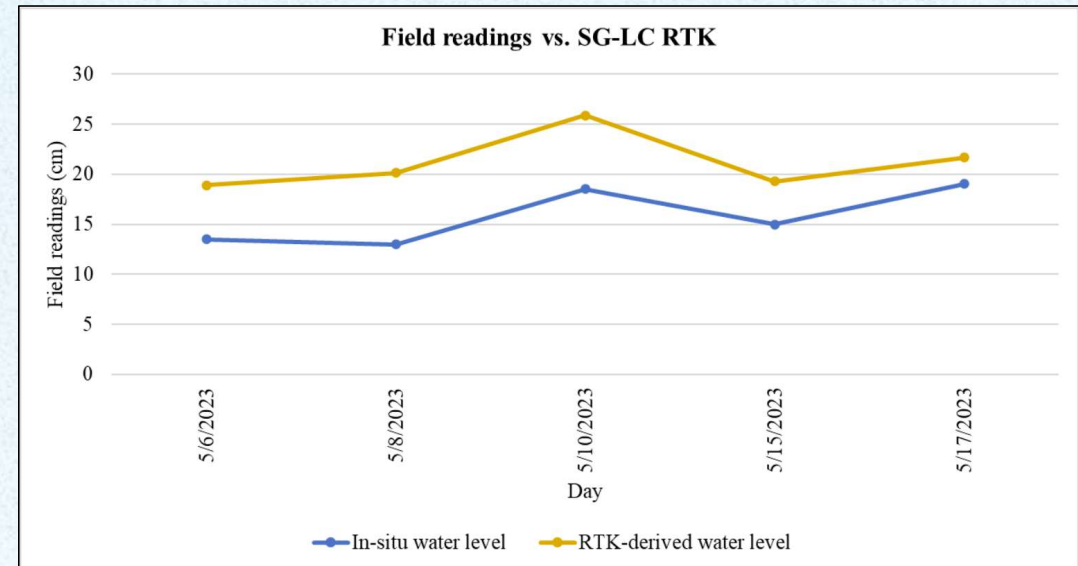
**Results: RTK vs PPK**



## Setup 1 (LC-LC) 5.65cm difference



## Setup 2 (SG-LC) 5.37cm difference

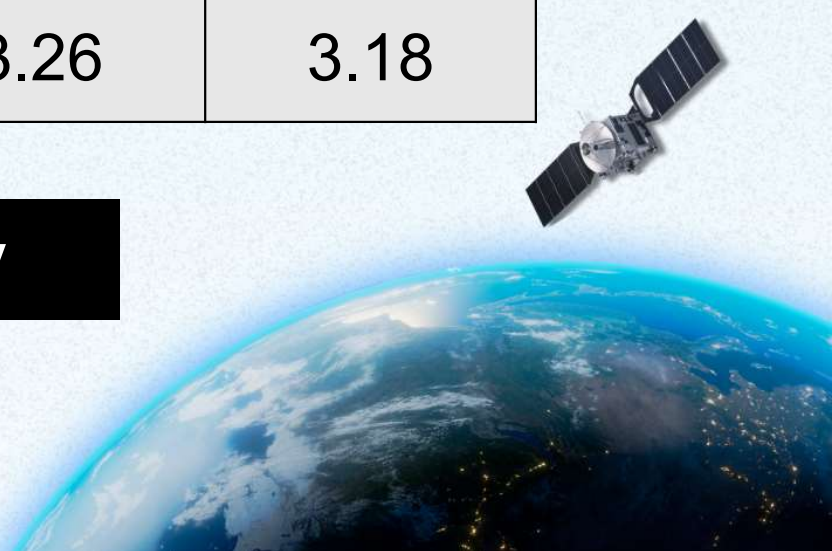


**Results: Accuracy**



<b>RMS U – D Direction (cm)</b>				
	<b>Low Cost</b>		<b>Survey Grade</b>	
	<b>RTK</b>	<b>PPK</b>	<b>RTK</b>	<b>PPK</b>
<b>MIN</b>	1.68	1.31	1.59	1.35
<b>MAX</b>	2.74	1.96	3.26	3.18

**Results: Integrity**



## % Fixed solutions (survey grade setup)

Day	RTK	PPK
May 2, 2023	96.73	99.38
May 5, 2023	93.41	92.87
May 6, 2023	96.19	99.05
May 7, 2023	87.4	99.92
May 11, 2023	97.85	99.68
May 12, 2023	97.13	98.16
May 13, 2023	97.81	97.14
May 14, 2023	98.34	98.73
May 15, 2023	98.17	99.12
May 16, 2023	92.08	99.87

## % Fixed solutions (low-cost setup)

Day	RTK	PPK
April 18, 2023	68.95	83.35
April 19, 2023	98.12	99.22
April 20, 2023	89.08	85.74
April 21, 2023	99.35	96.03
April 22, 2023	98.2	88.93
April 24, 2023	95.33	93.83
April 25, 2023	70.82	89.2
April 26, 2023	95.48	95.71
April 27, 2023	99.57	99.2
April 28, 2023	99.37	97.96

# Results: Continuity



## % Fixed solutions (survey grade setup)

Day	RTK	PPK
May 2, 2023	96.73	99.38
May 5, 2023	93.41	92.87
May 6, 2023	96.19	99.05
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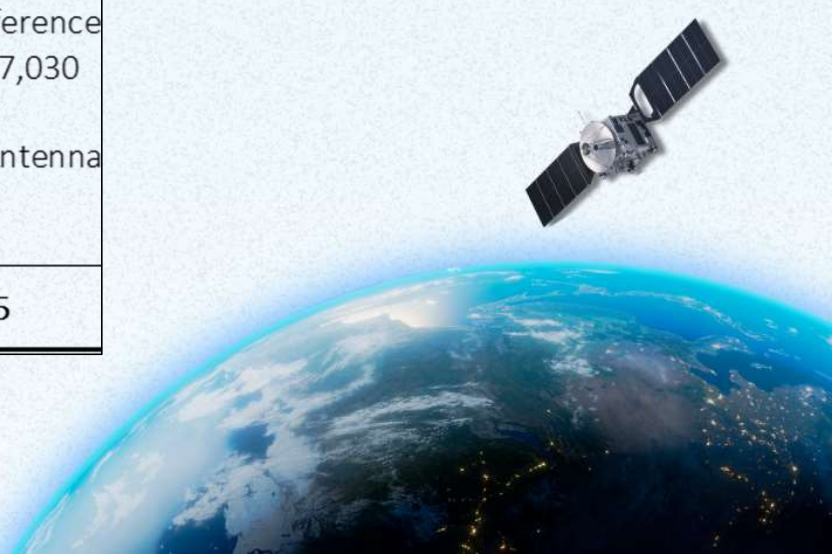
# Results: Continuity

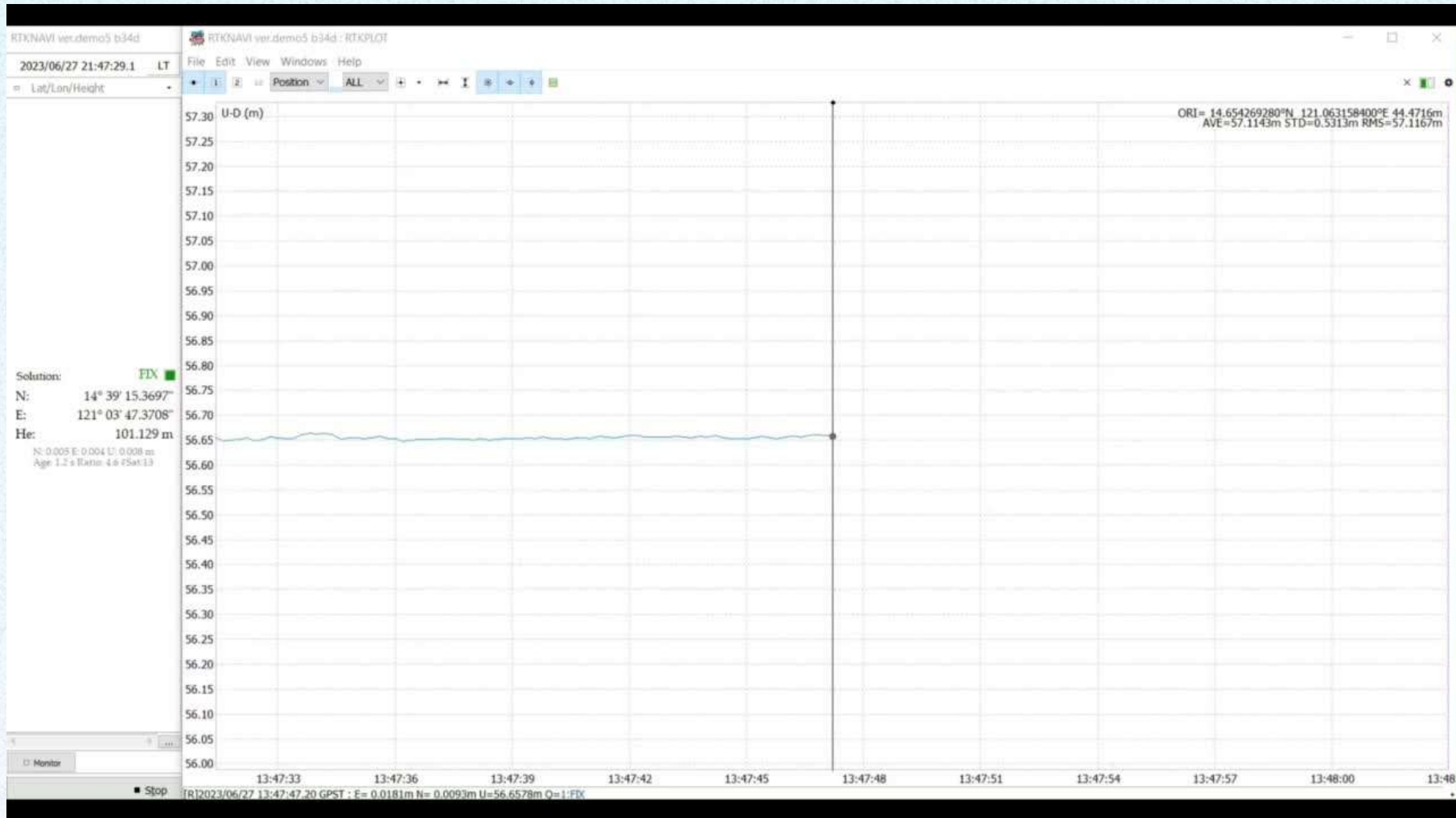




Component		LC-LC Setup	SG-LC Setup
Rover Receiver System	Ublox Zed-F9P	₱ 18,000	₱ 18,000
	Beelink DDR4 8GB+512GB SSD	₱ 10,000	₱ 10,000
	Solar Panel	₱ 4,500	₱ 4,500
	Solar Controller	₱ 140	₱ 140
	Lifepo4 Prismatic Solar Battery	₱ 5,000	₱ 5,000
	Pocket Wi-Fi	₱ 700	₱ 700
	Housing and PVC Pipe	₱ 2,000	₱ 2,000
Base Receiver System	Base Receiver	ublox Zed-F9P: ₱ 18,000	Trimble NetR9 reference Receiver: ₱ 1,117,030 Zephyr Geodetic Antenna ₱ 122,275
Total Cost		₱ 58,340	₱ 1,279,645

# Results: Costing



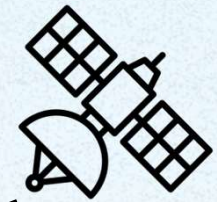
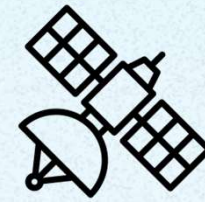
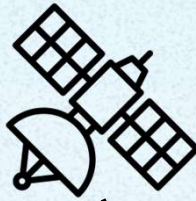
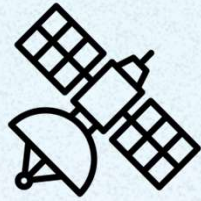


# Water Level Monitoring using **GNSS Reflectometry**

*(Cruz, Molleno, Mabaquiao)*



**Satellite Orbits and  
Clocks**

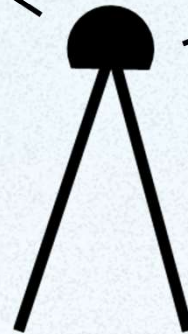


**Atmospheric  
Delay**

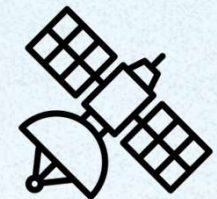
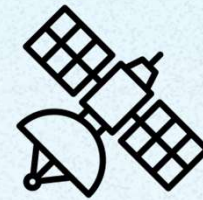
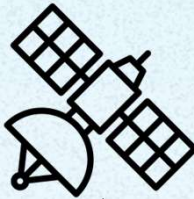
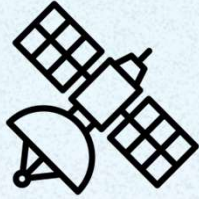
**Multipath /  
Reflections**

**Precise Earth  
Model**

*\*Receivers also measure  
signal strength*



**Satellite Orbits and  
Clocks**



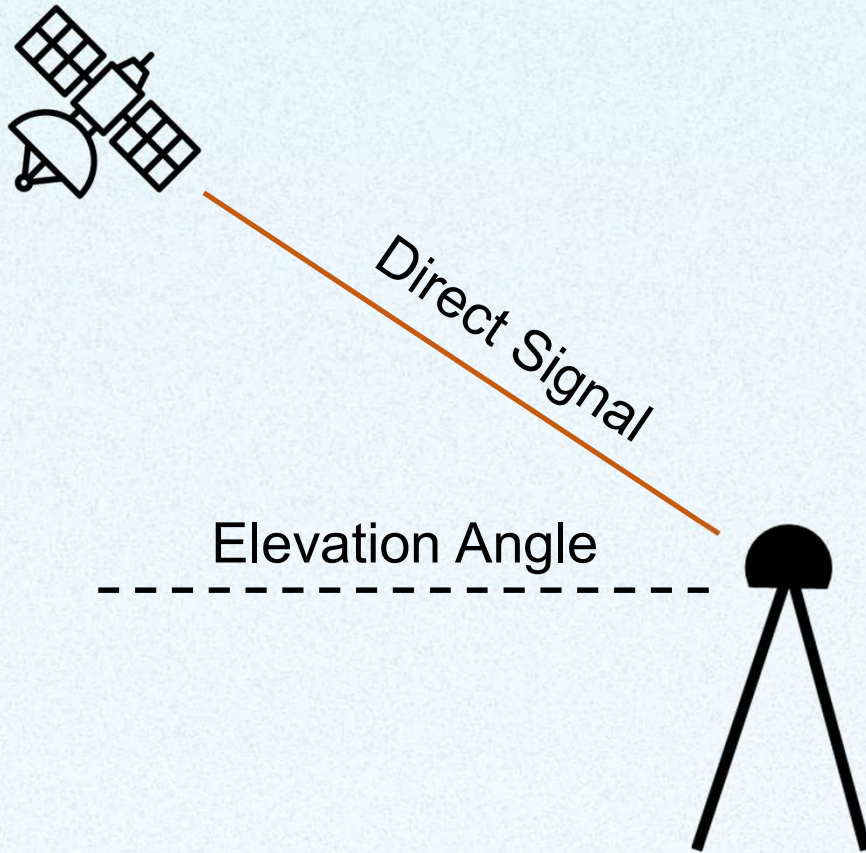
**Atmospheric  
Delay**

**Multipath /  
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**Precise Earth  
Model**

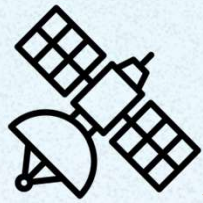
*\*Receivers also measure  
signal strength*





*\*Receivers also measure signal strength*





Direct Signal

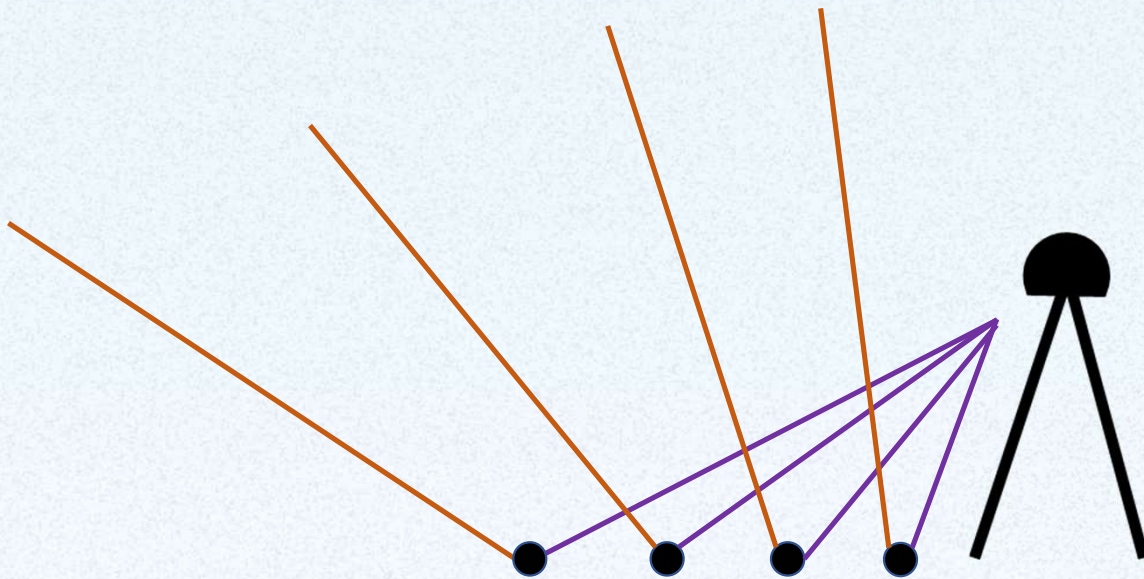
Elevation Angle

Reflected Signal

*\*Receivers also measure signal strength*



As the satellite rises, the **elevation angle increases**.  
The reflection point gets closer to the antenna



*\*Receivers also measure  
signal strength*

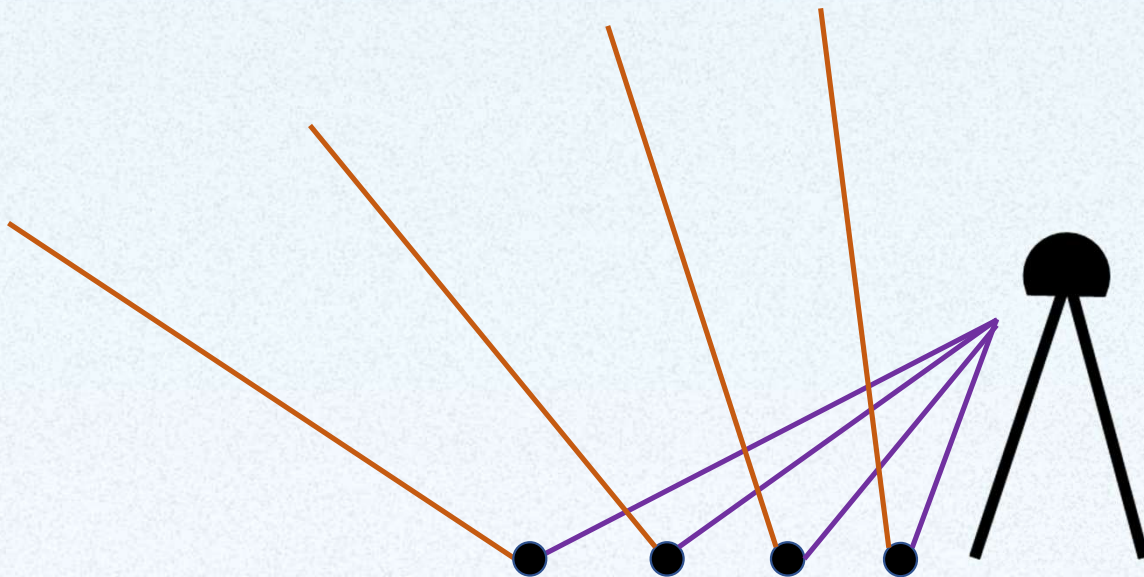




Direct + Reflected = **Interference Pattern**

Constructive or Destructive

As the satellite rises or sets, the receiver records the interference patterns

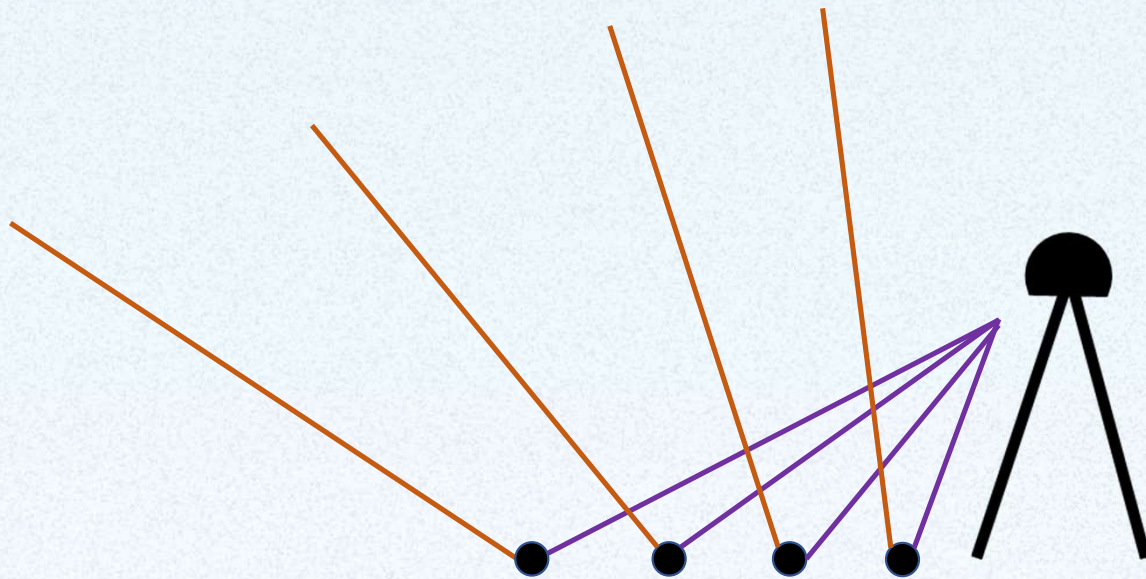


*\*Receivers also measure signal strength*



## Interference Pattern – SNR Data

- Frequency directly related to  $H$ , distance between the antenna and reflecting surface (**Reflector Height**)
- Surface dictates how strong the reflection is
- Depends on surface type and geometry



*\*Receivers also measure signal strength*



# General Workflow

## Setup Phase

- Site Selection
- Materials and Equipment

## Data Collection

- 24 hour observation for 2 weeks
- Ublox to RINEX 2.11 conversion

## Data Processing

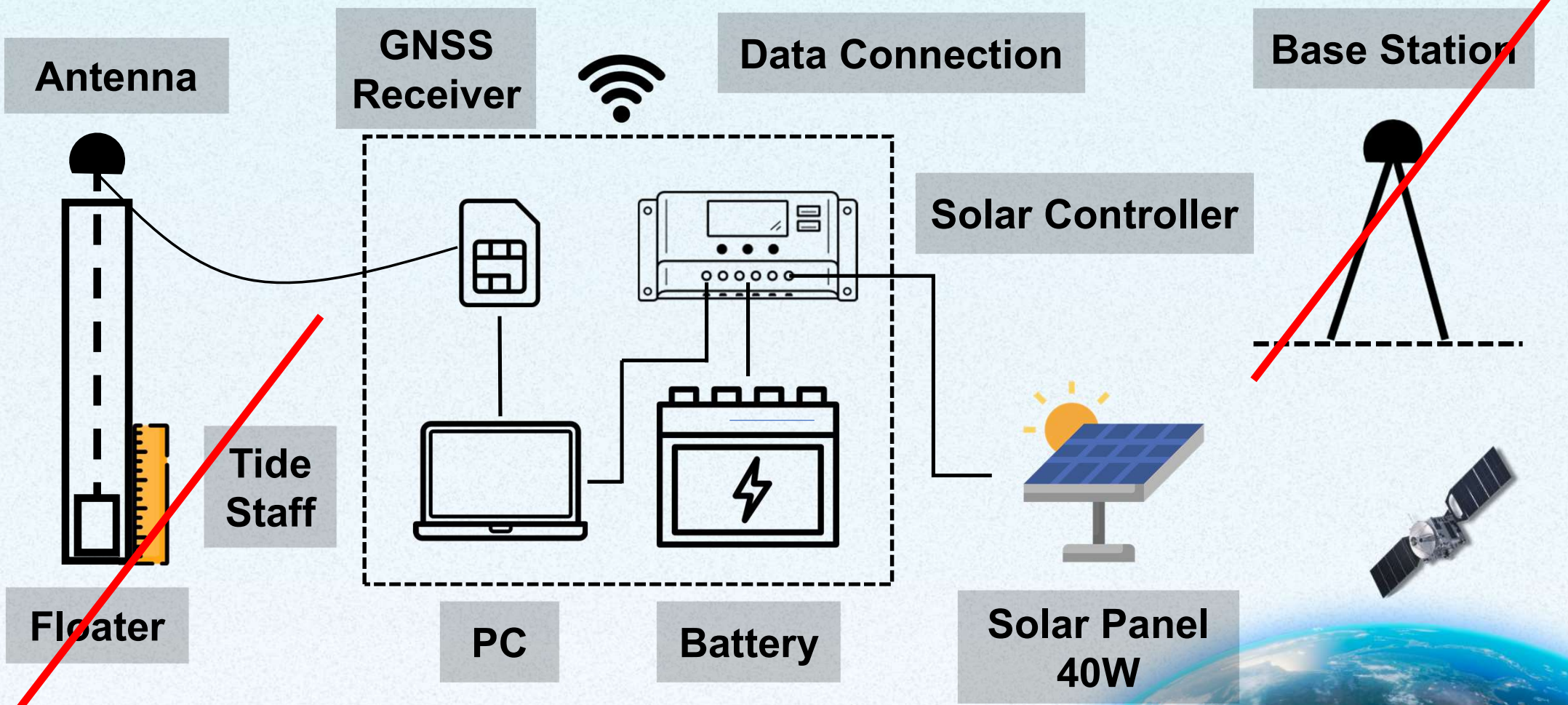
- Reflection Zones
- RINEX-SNR Conversion
- Quality Control
- GNSS – IR

## Data Analysis

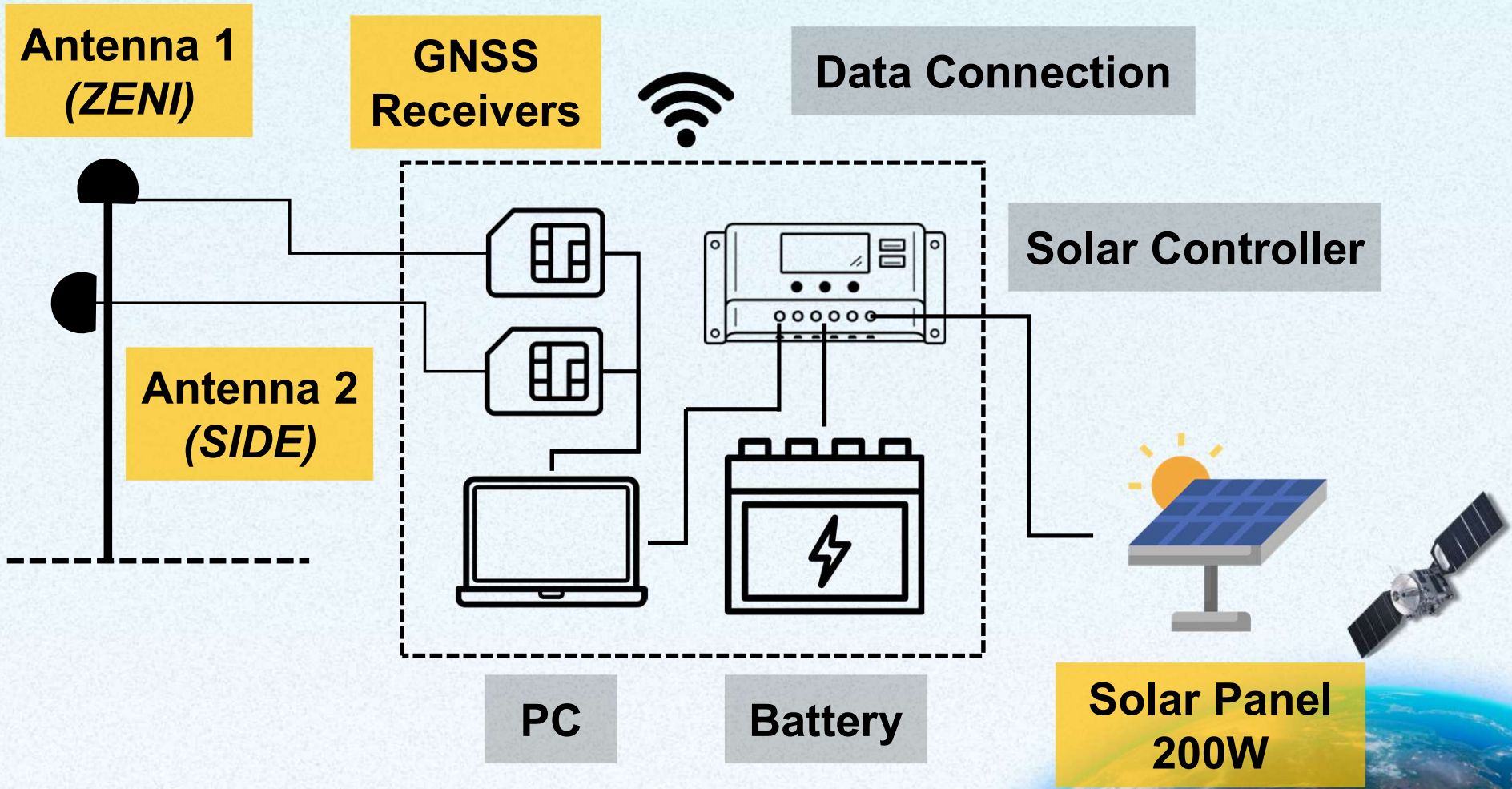
- Orientation Comparison
- Frequency Analysis
- Tide Gauge and GNSS-IR Comparison
- Cost Analysis

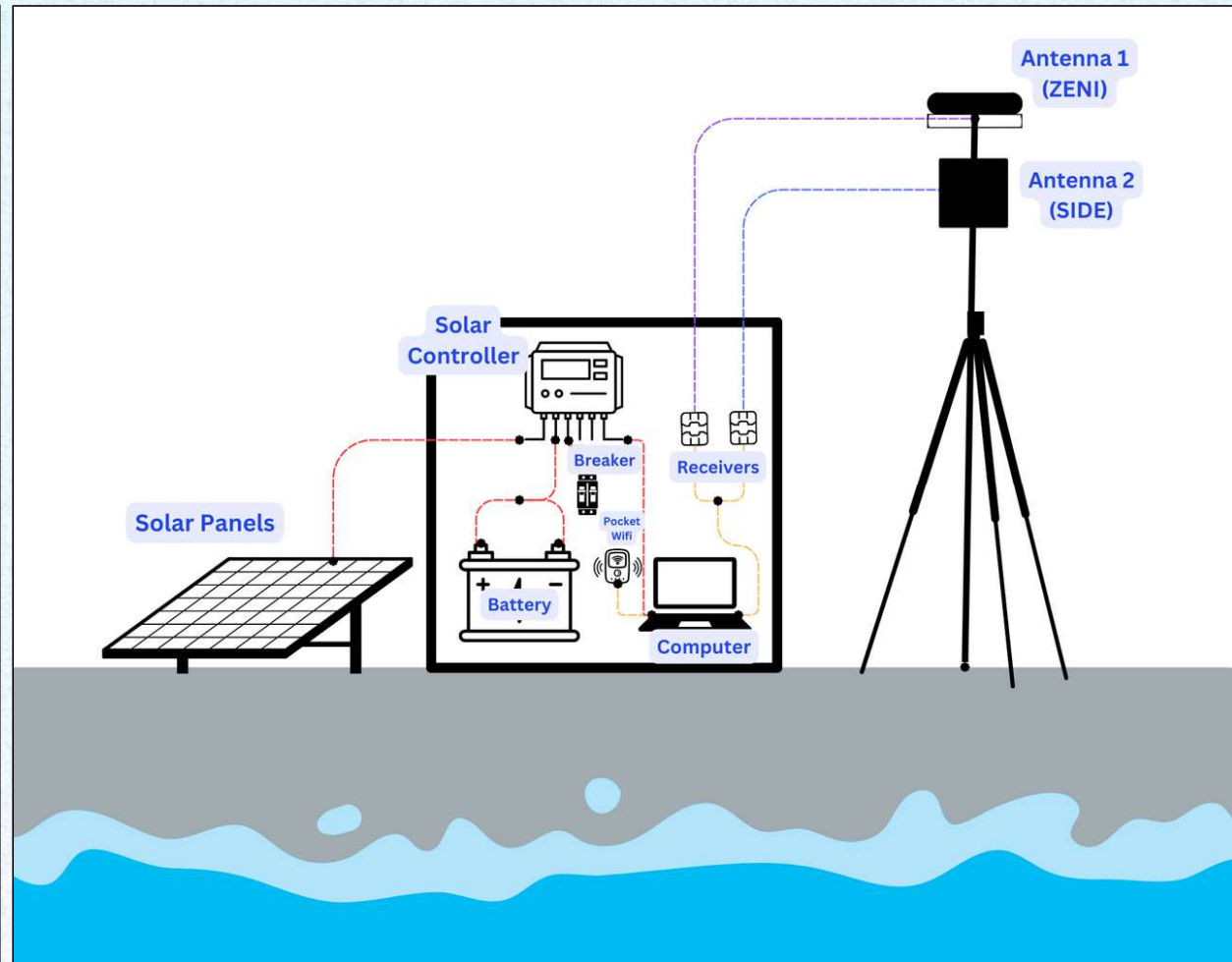
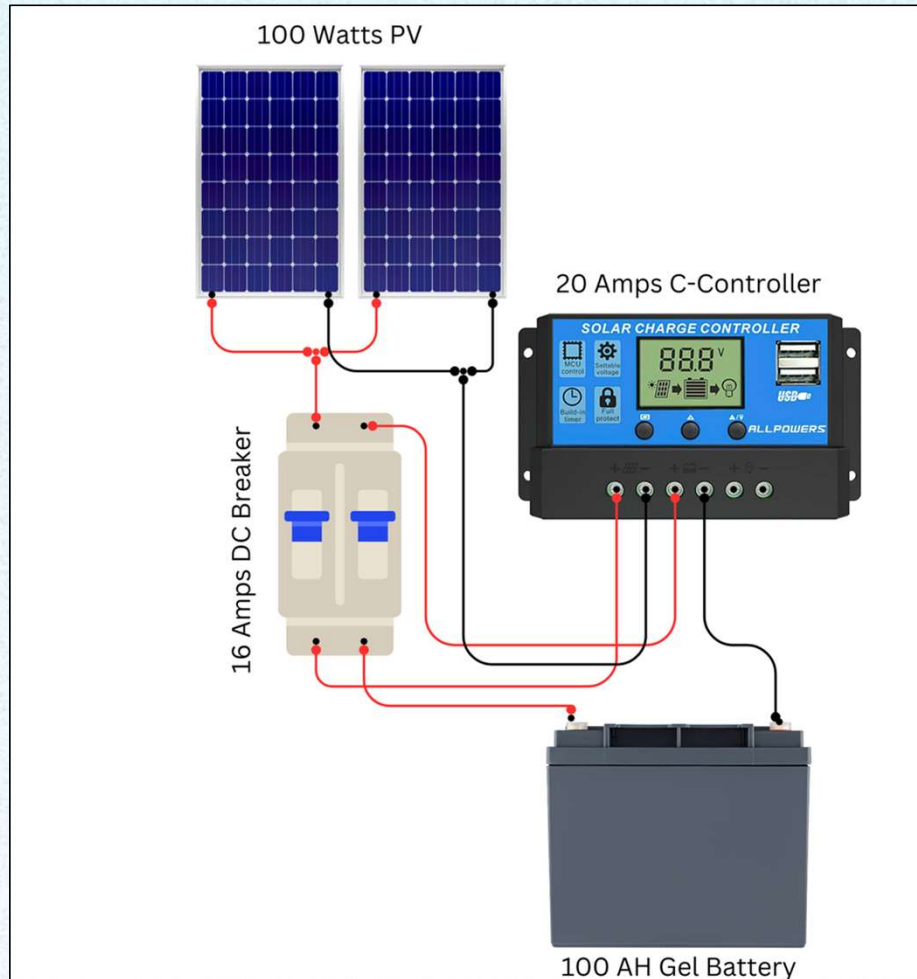


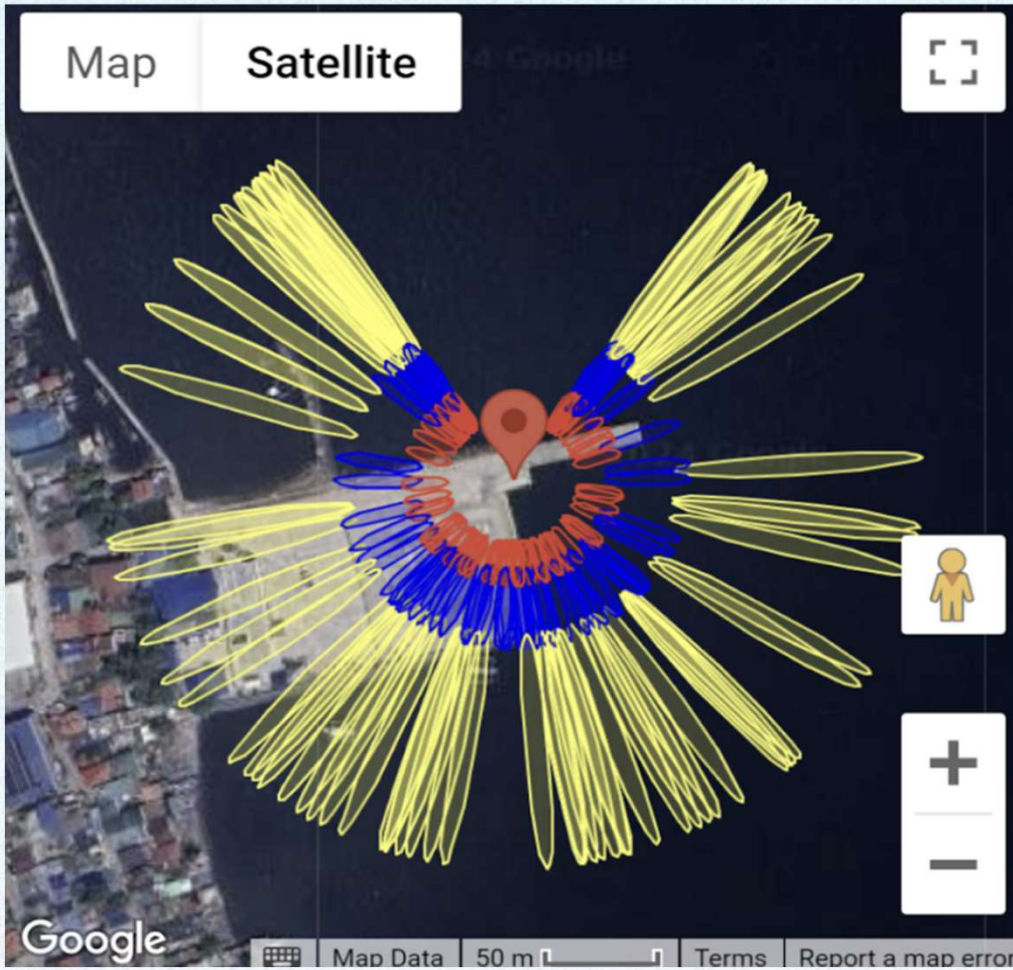
# Kinematic Setup



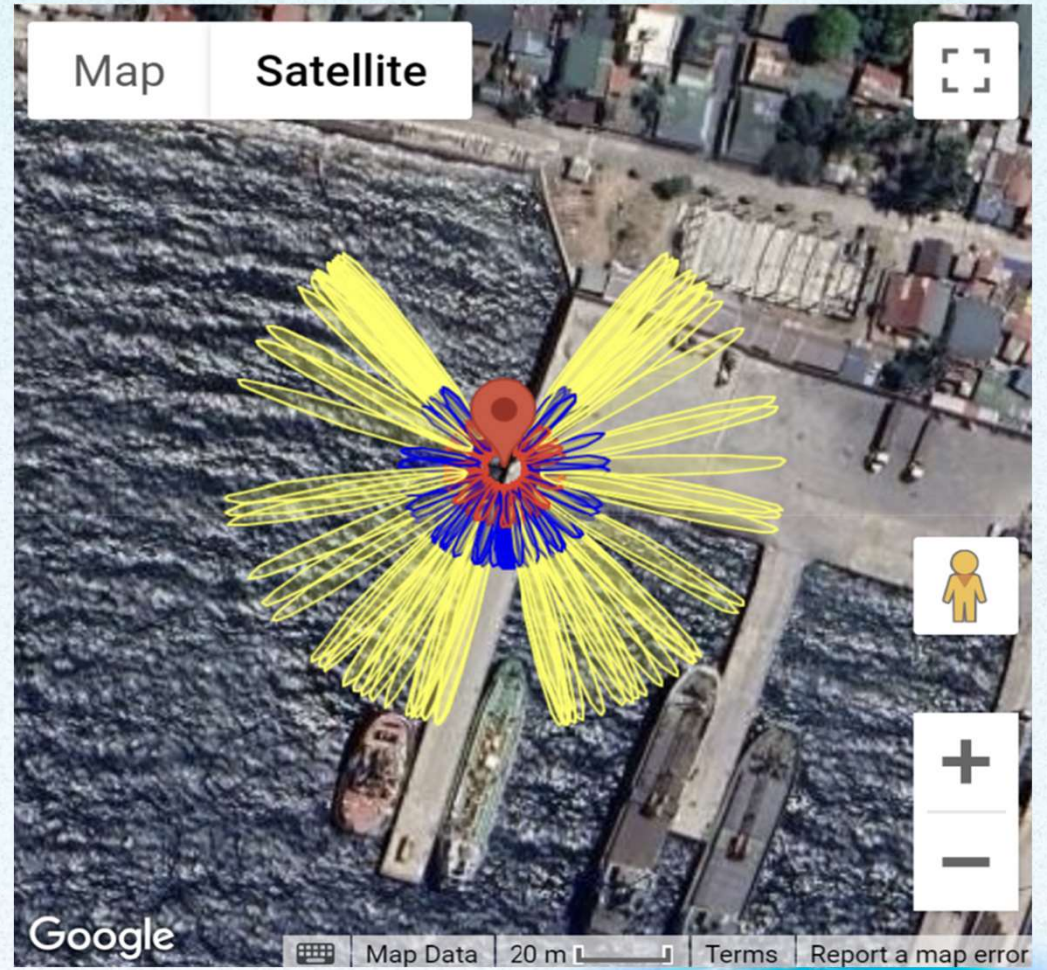
# Reflectometry Setup







**Limay, Bataan**

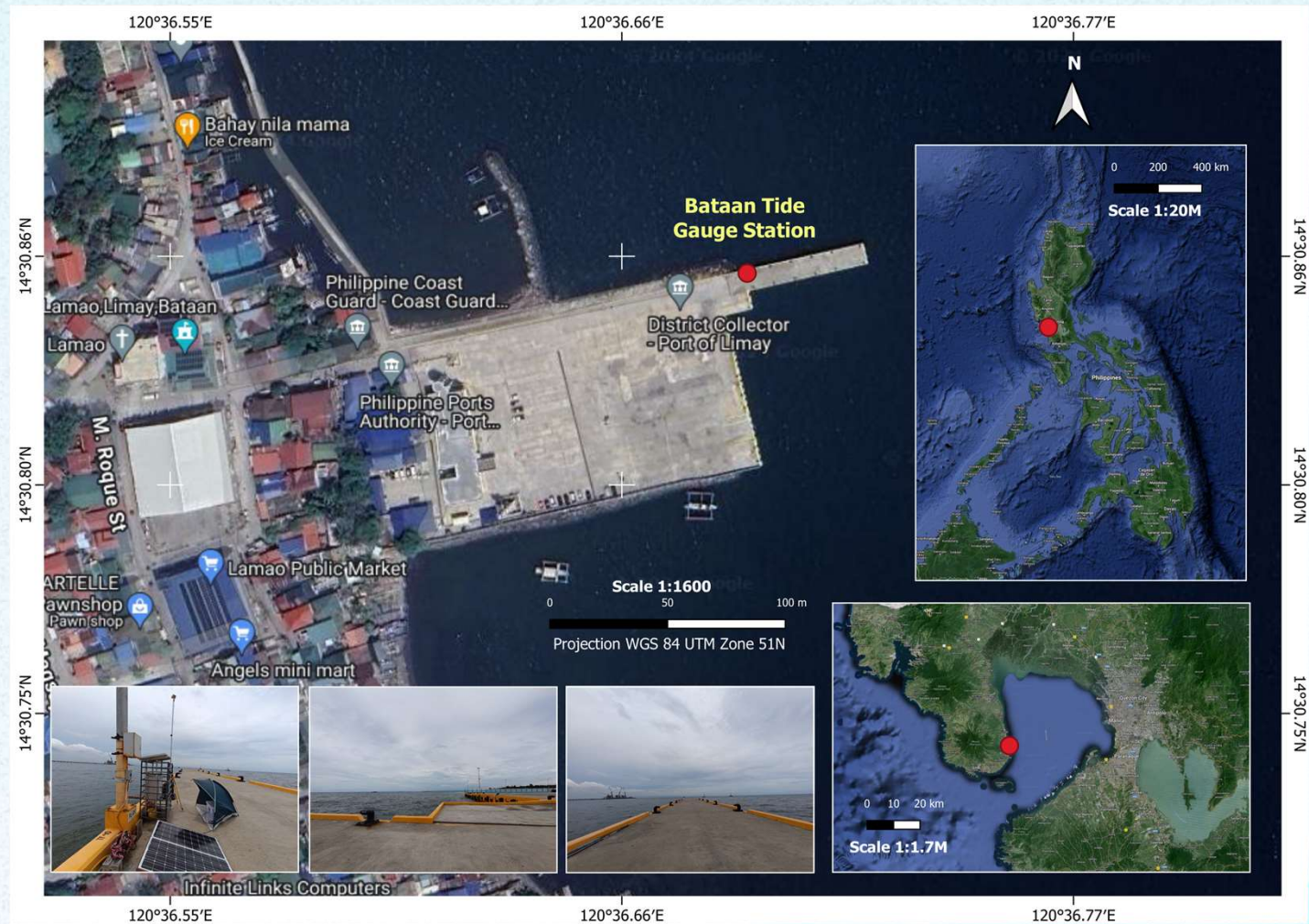


**Bauan, Batangas**

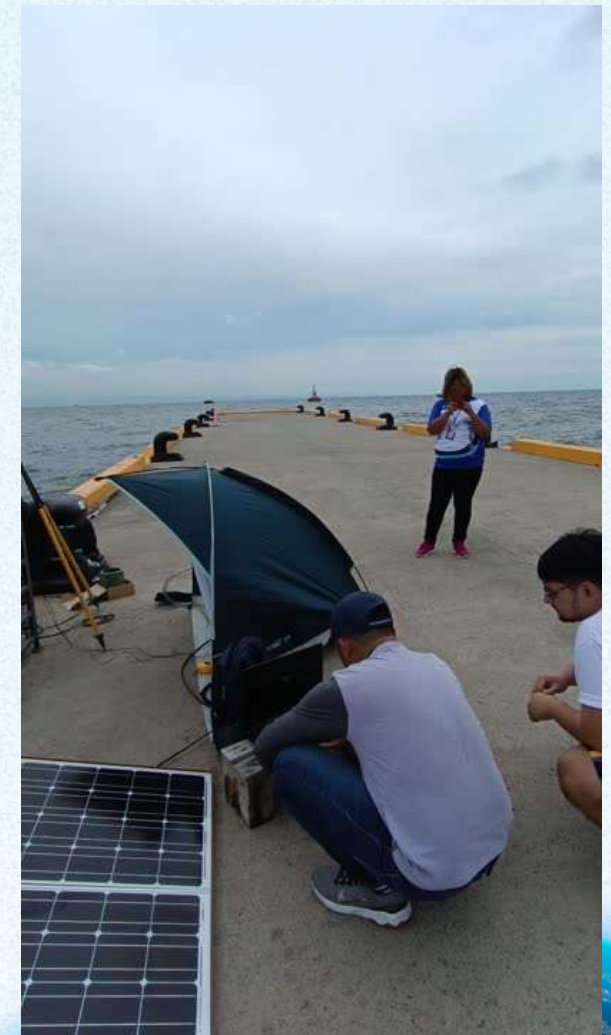
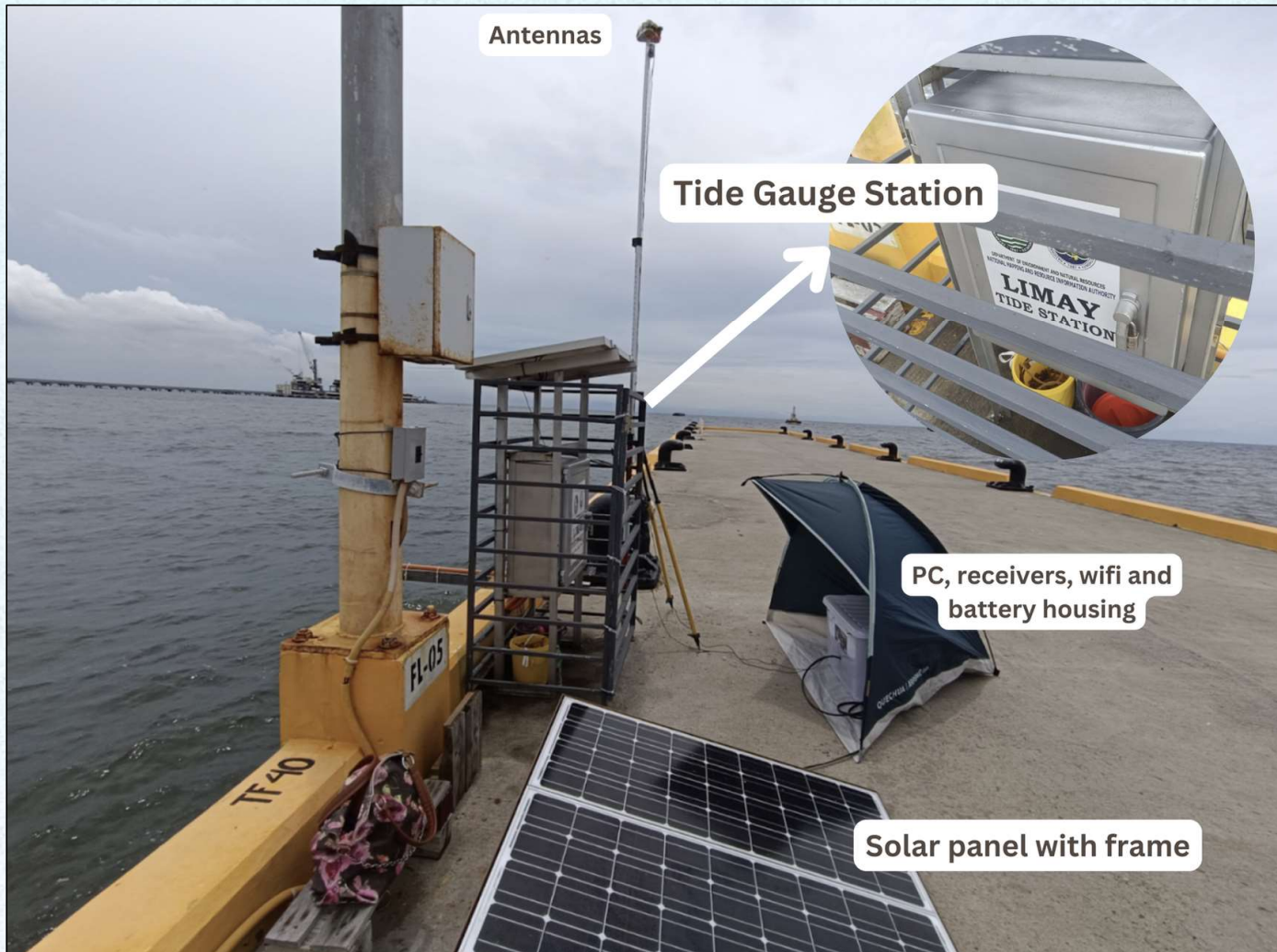


# Lamiao Port Limay, Bataan

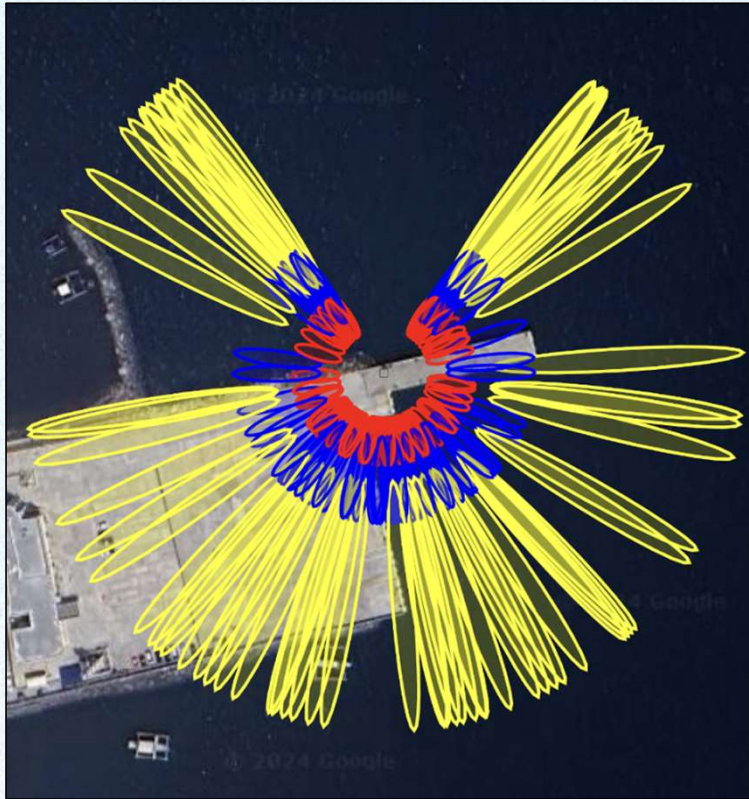
Axis	Coordinates
Latitude	14-30-51.24
Longitude	120-36-41.45
Ell. Height	50.4 m





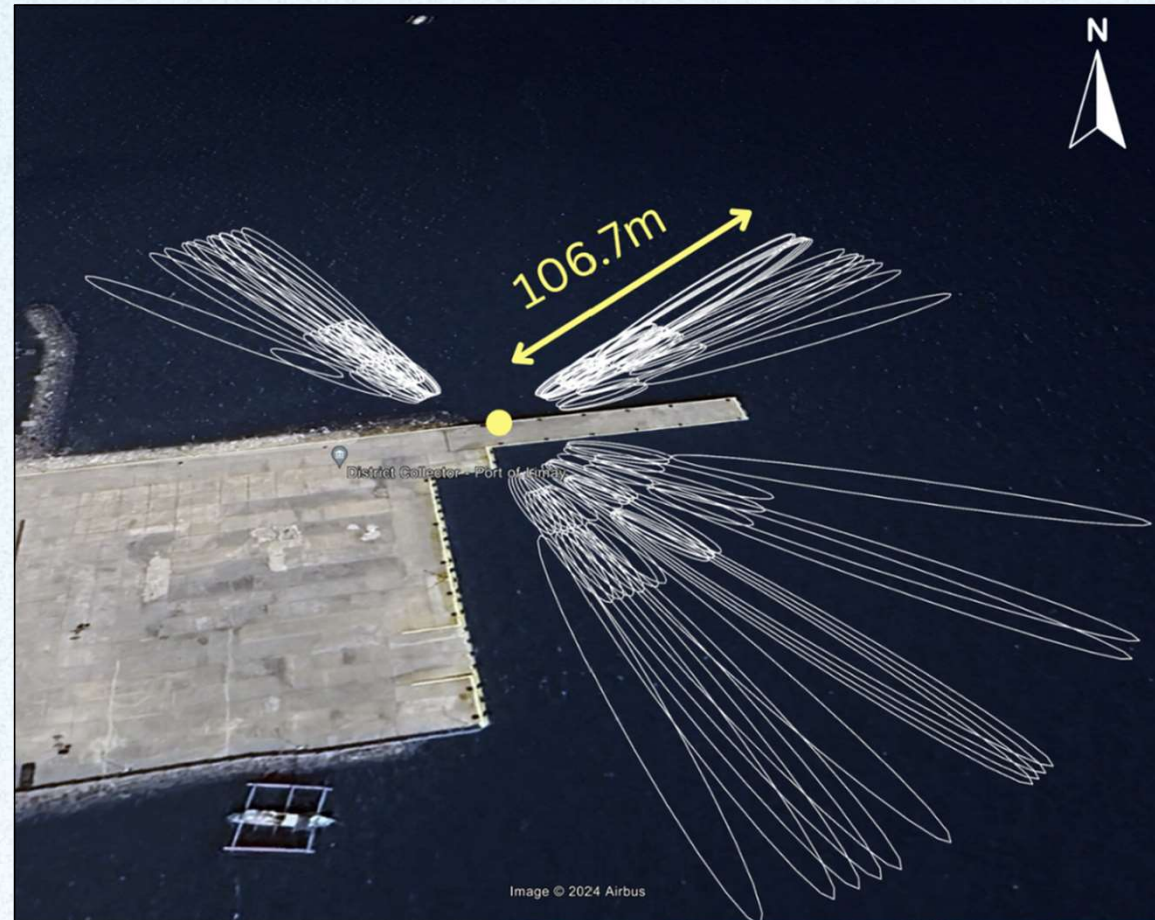


# Reflection Zones (Lamao Port)

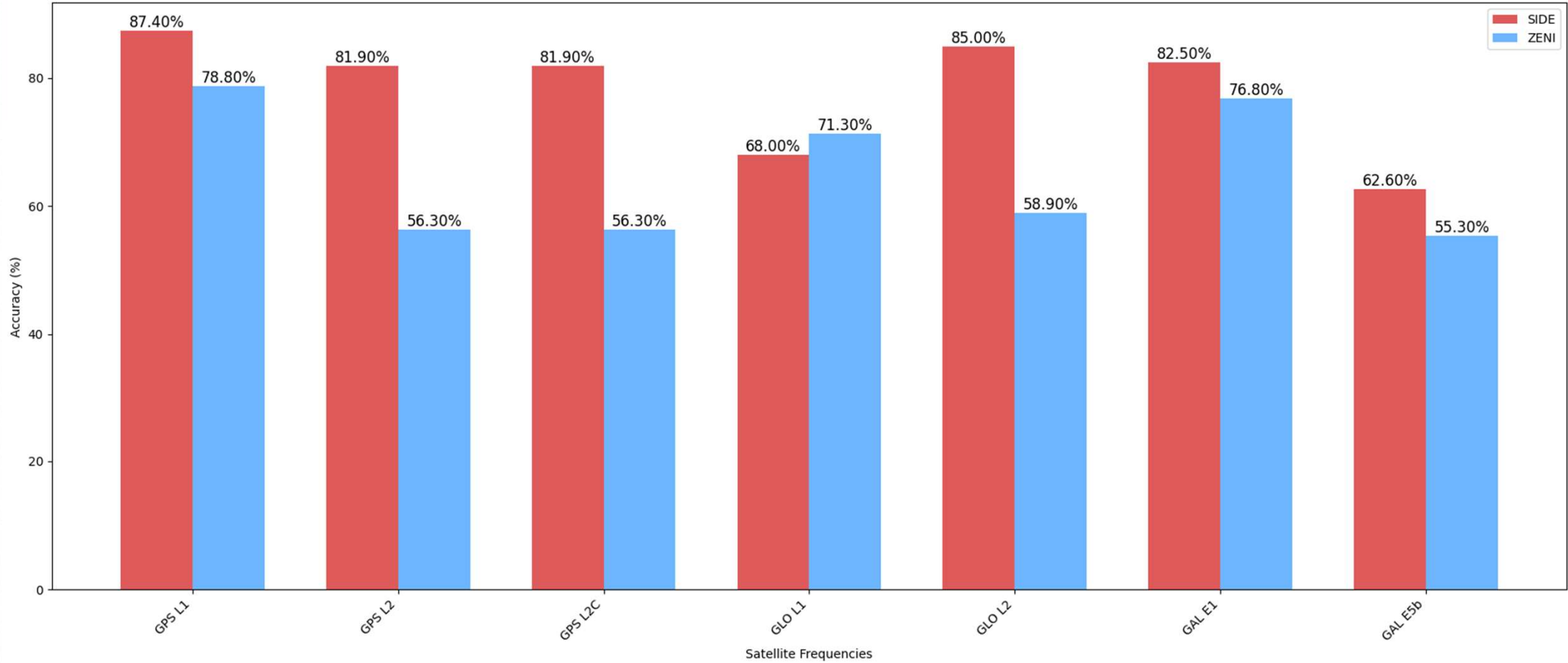


# Reflection Zones (Lamao Port)

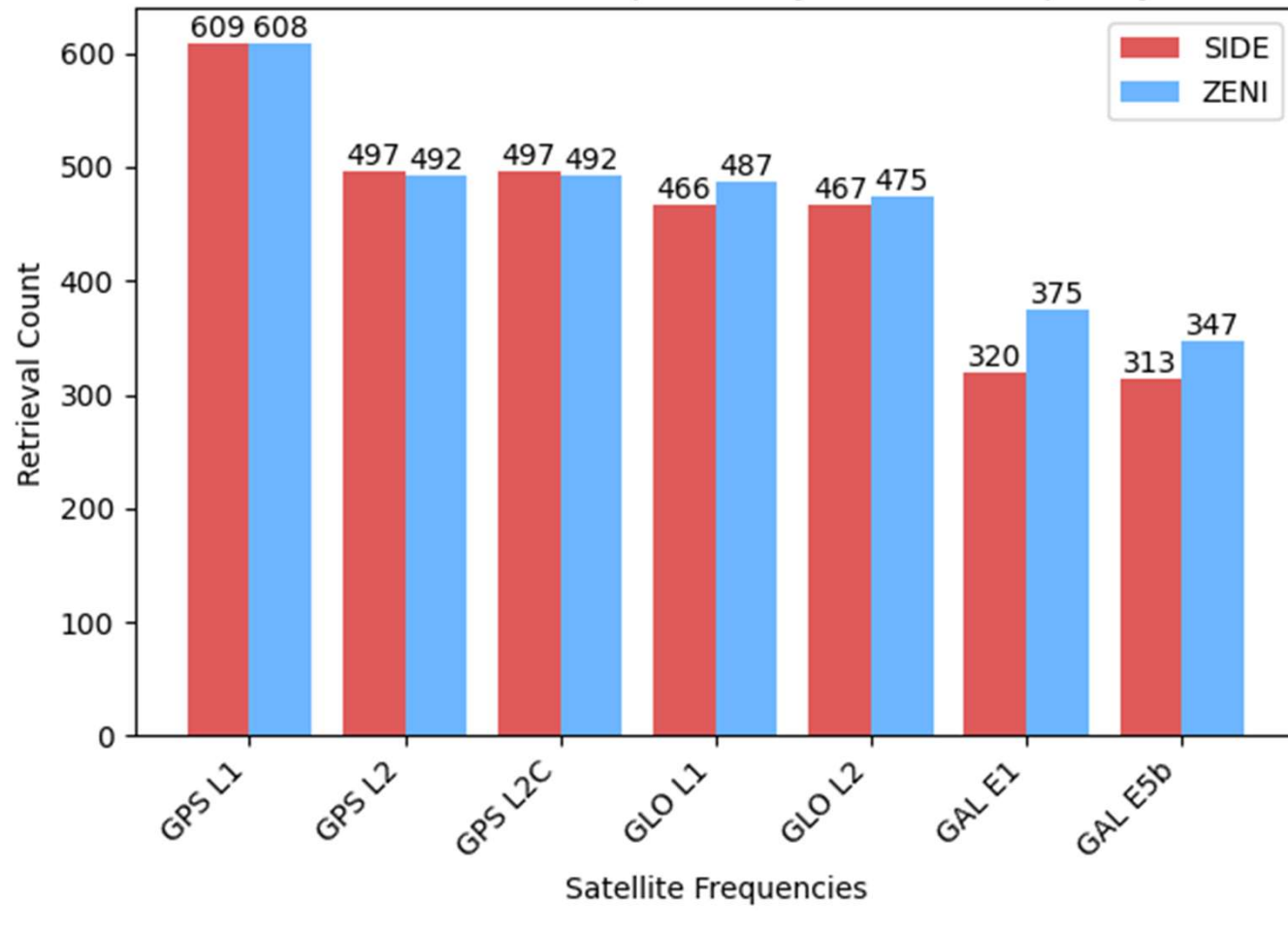
Elevation	Distance from Station (m)	Length of Fresnel Zone (m)	Area of Fresnel Zone (m <sup>2</sup> )
5°	37.571	86.496	506.318
13°	17.562	20.301	72.122

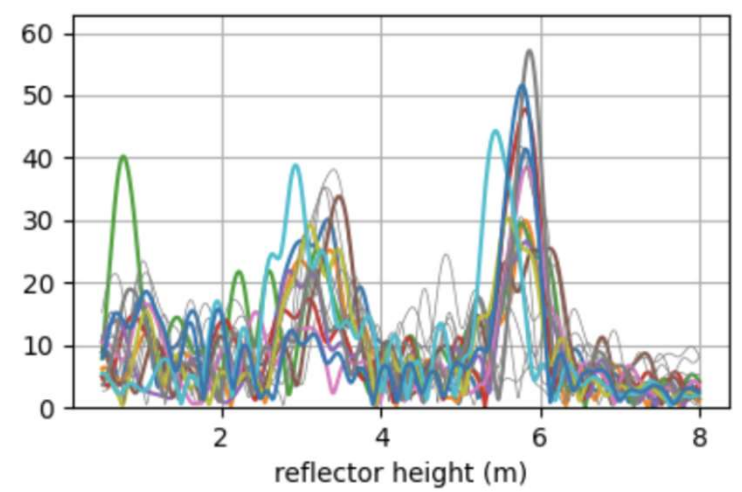
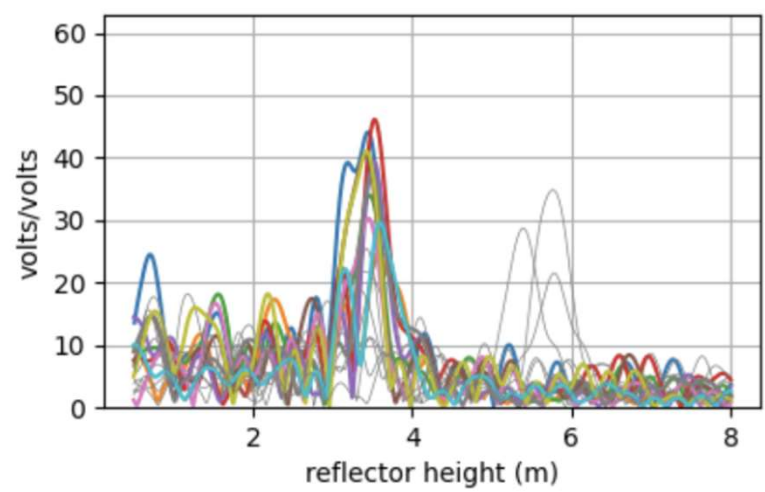
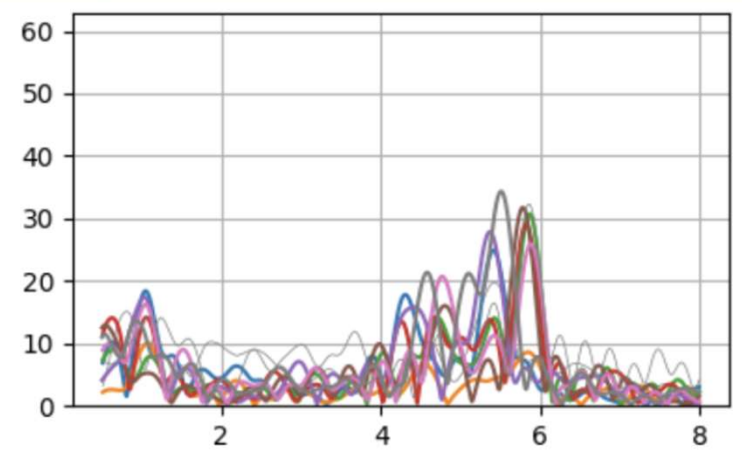
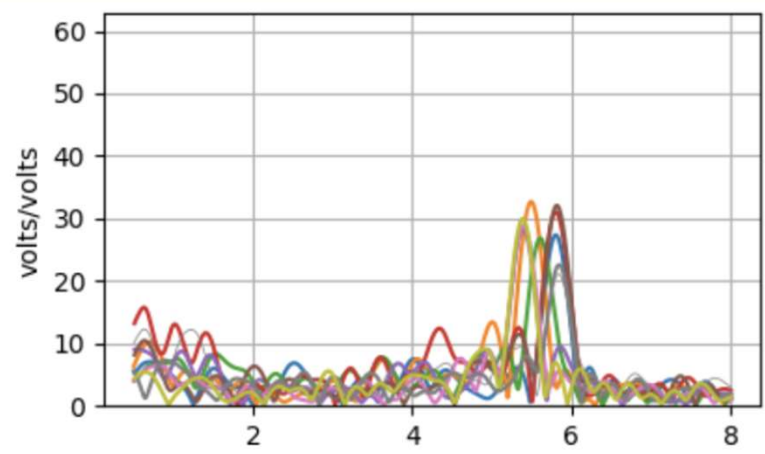


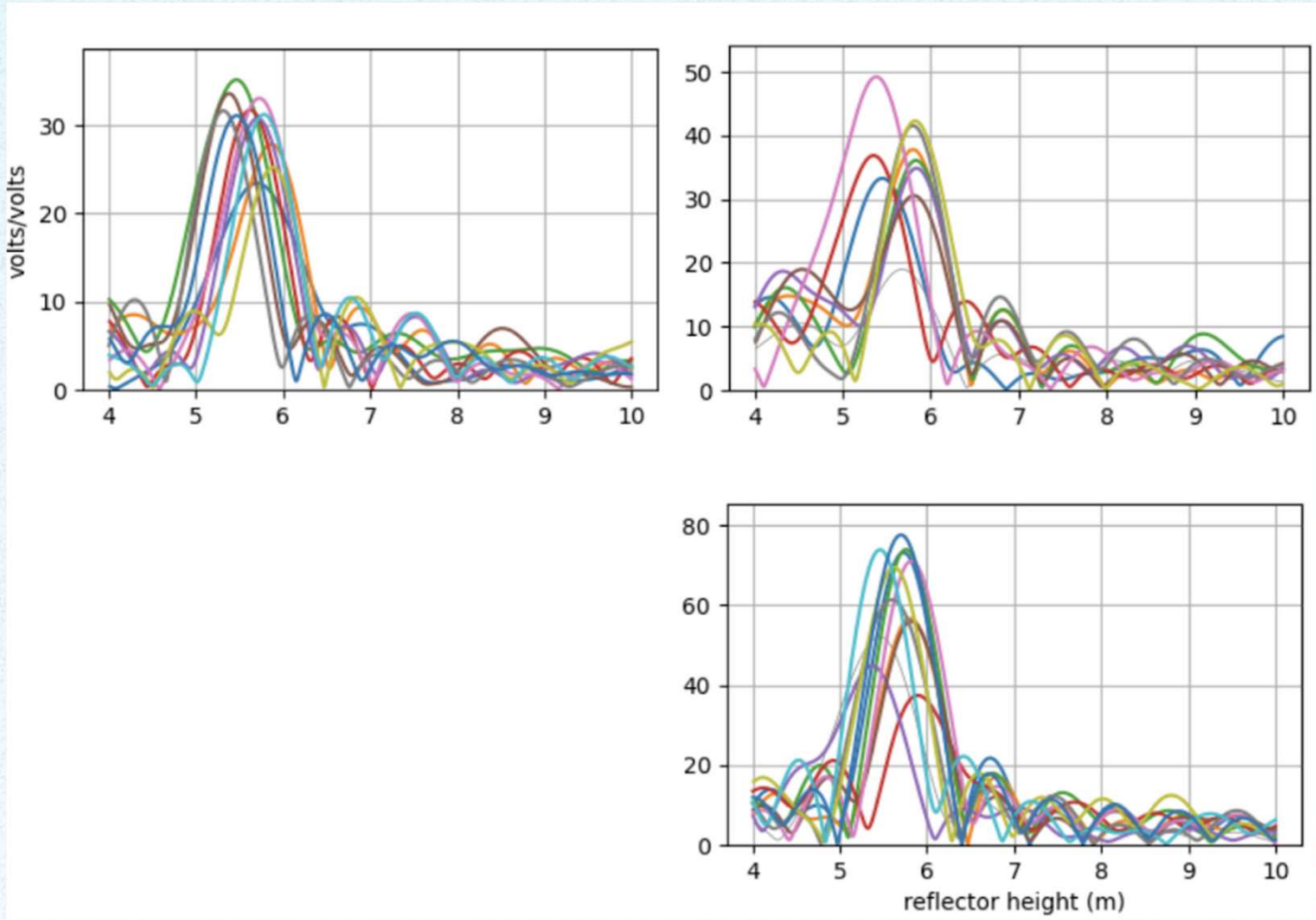
Accuracy Comparison by Satellite Frequency



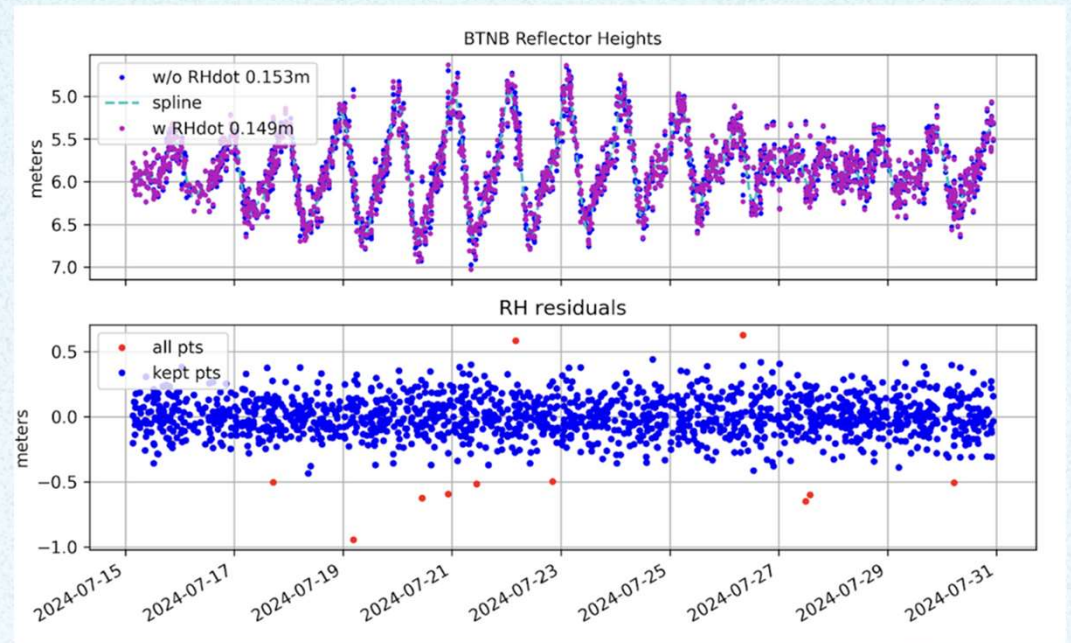
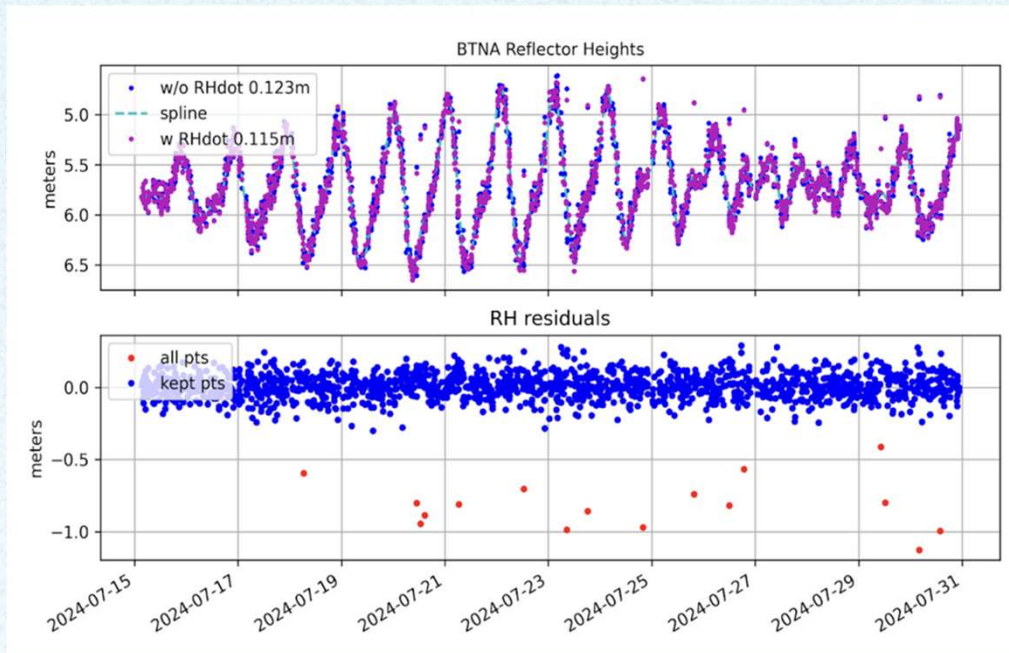
### Retrieval Count Comparison by Satellite Frequency







# Applying Corrections and Outlier Filtering



**SIDE**

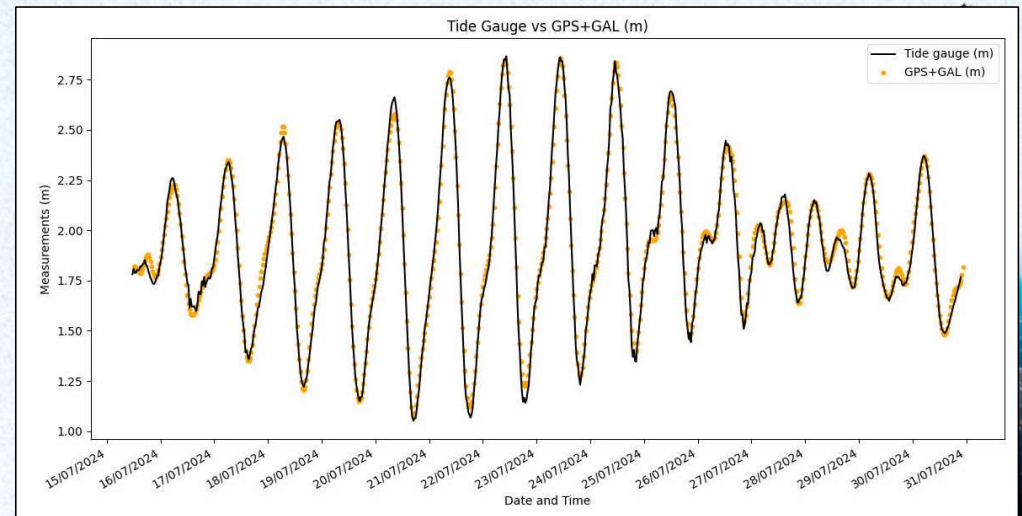
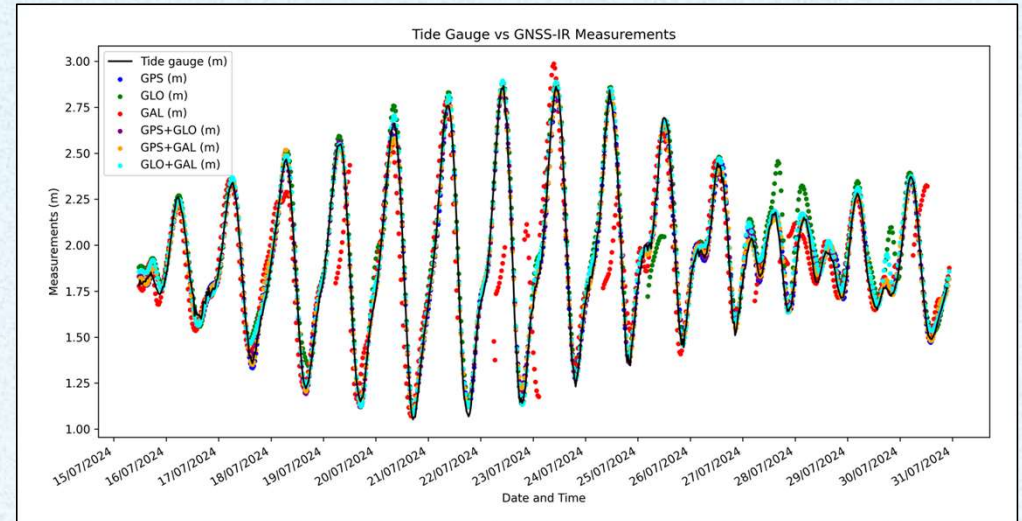
**ZENI**



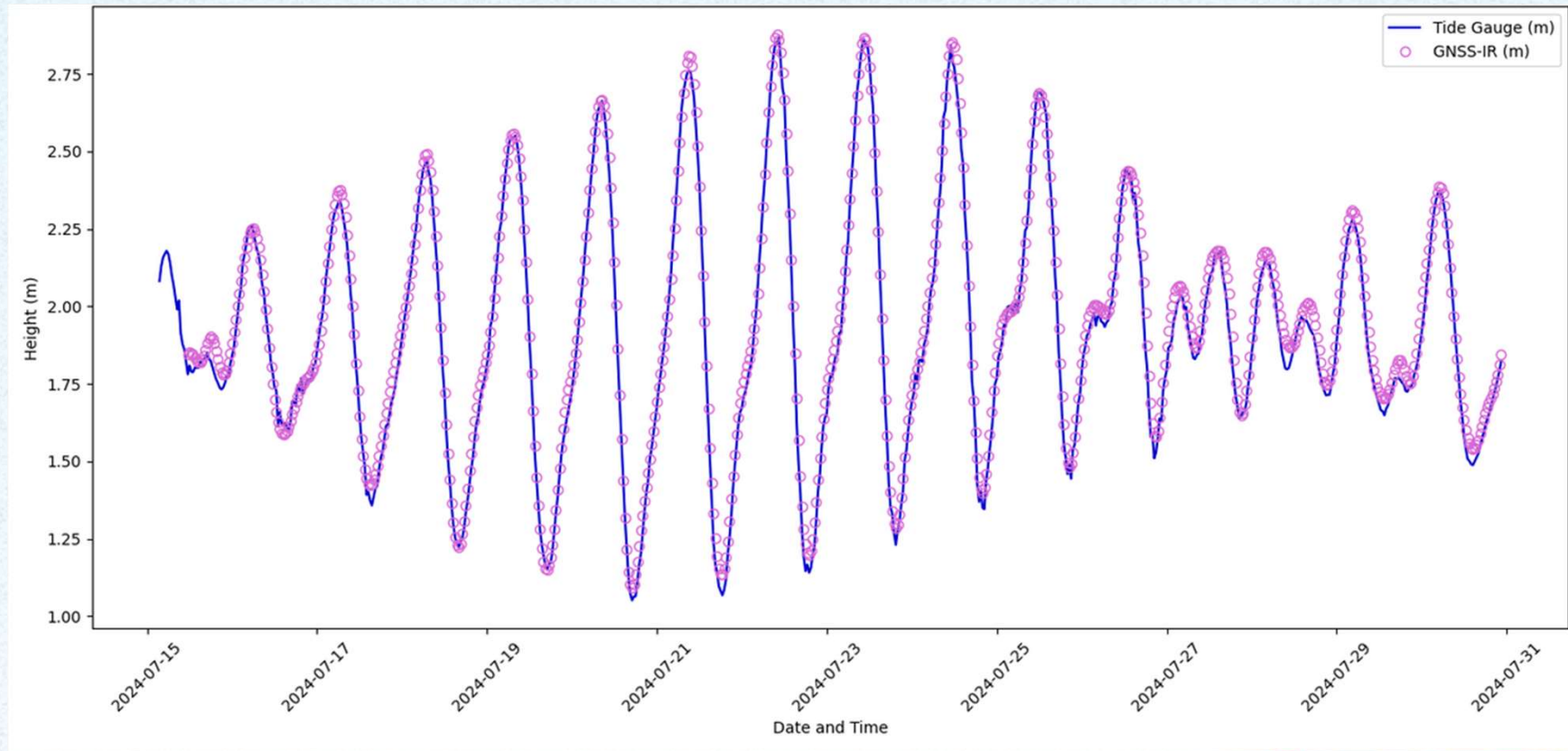


# Tide Gauge Comparison (SIDE)

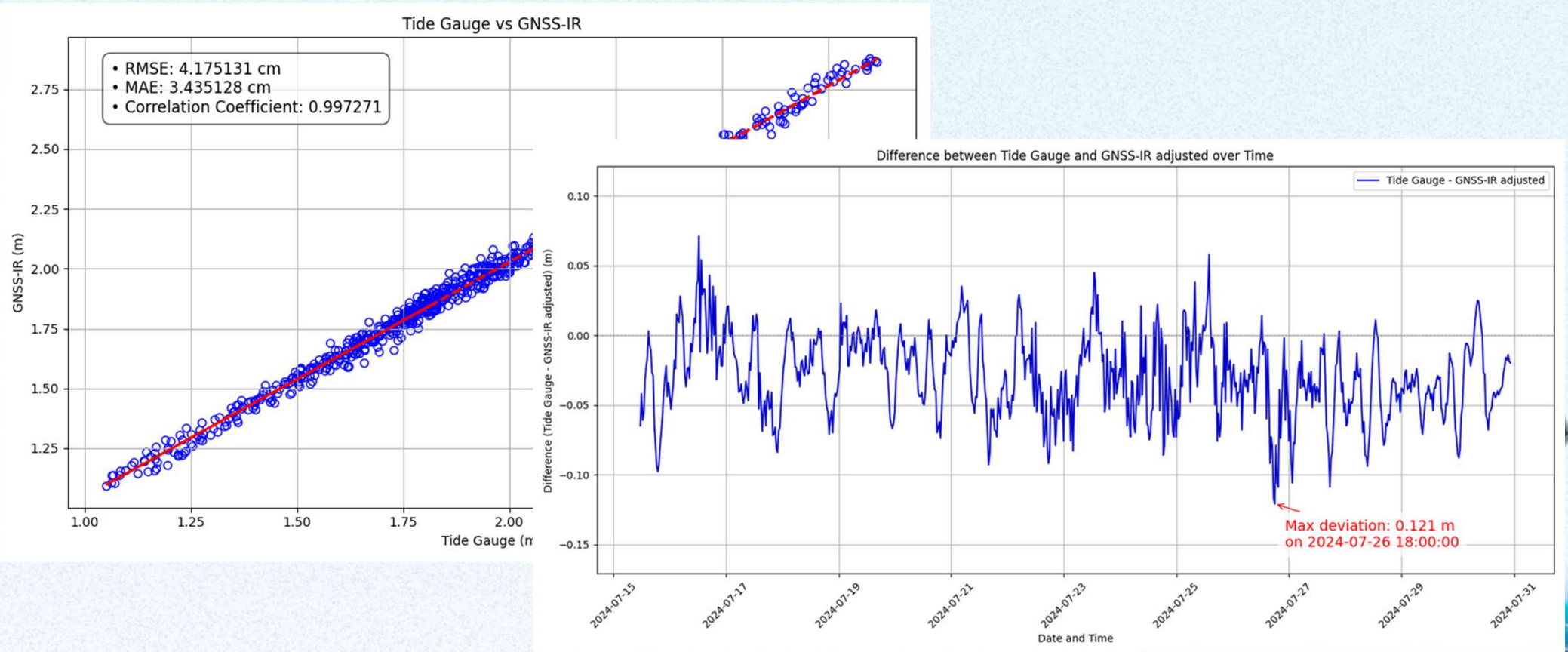
GNSS Frequency	RMSE (cm)	MAE (cm)	Correlation Coefficient
GPS	4.200	3.283	0.995
GLO	10.147	6.897	0.974
GAL	29.991	17.410	0.693
GPS+GLO	3.228	2.626	0.997
GPS+GAL	3.769	2.909	0.996
GLO+GAL	5.048	3.955	0.995
ALL	4.175	3.435	0.997



# Tide Gauge Comparison (SIDE)

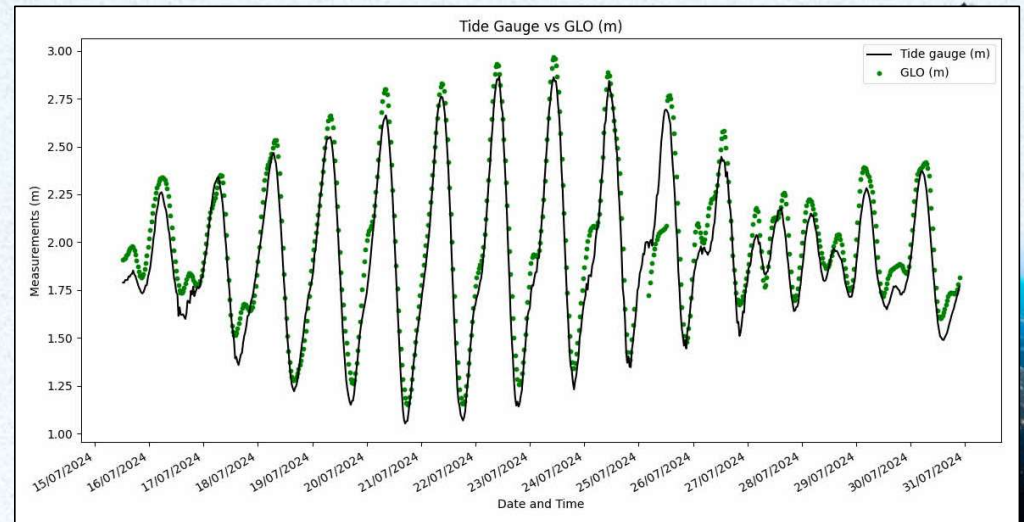
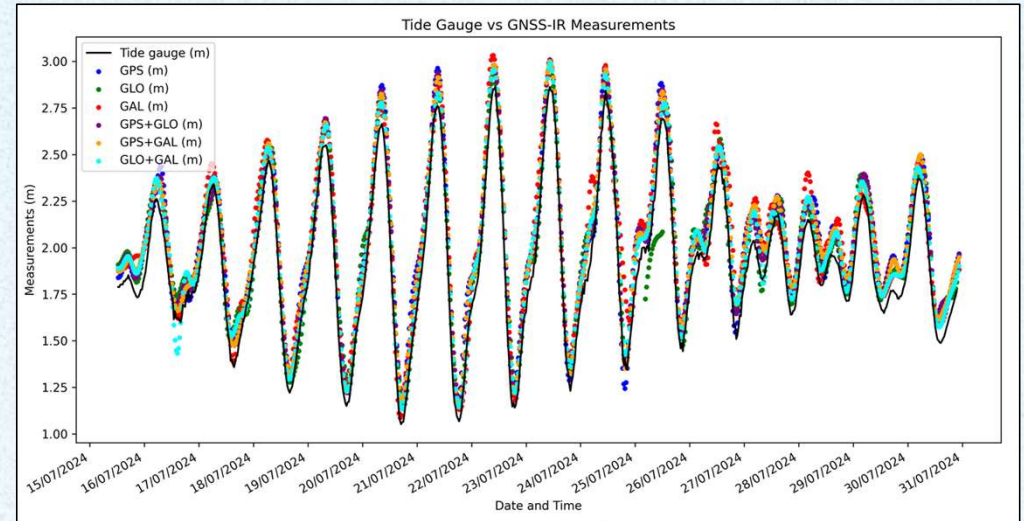


# Tide Gauge Comparison (SIDE)

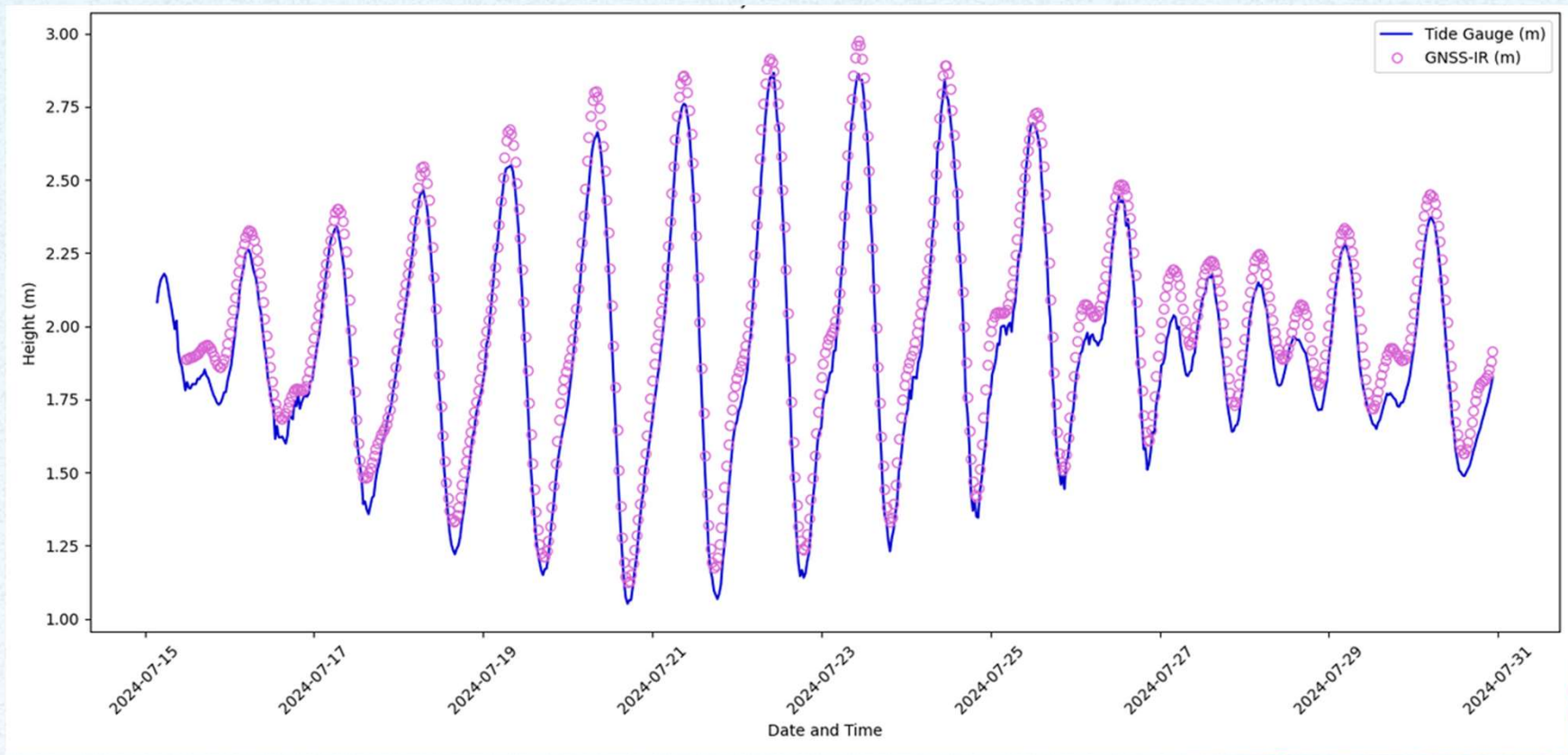


# Tide Gauge Comparison (ZENI)

GNSS Frequency	RMSE (cm)	MAE (cm)	Correlation Coefficient
GPS	12.930	11.620	0.988
GLO	12.088	9.829	0.973
GAL	13.913	11.838	0.981
GPS+GLO	12.382	11.508	0.992
GPS+GAL	12.463	11.749	0.994
GLO+GAL	10.234	9.355	0.992
ALL	10.219	9.406	0.994

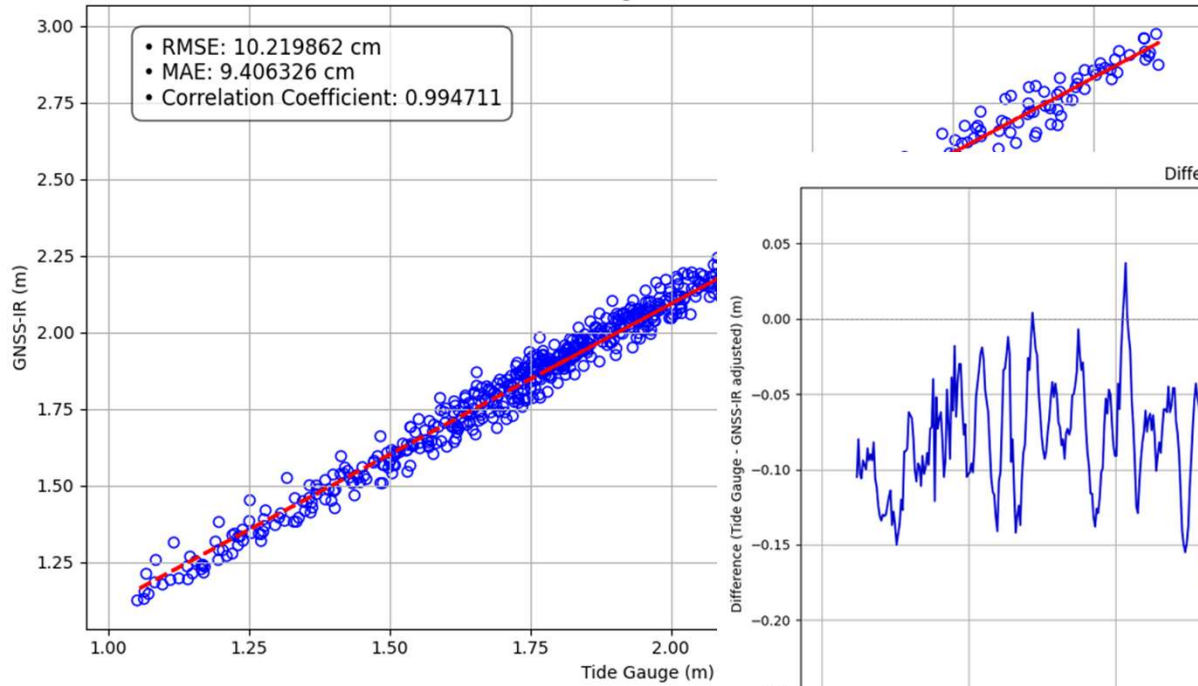


# Tide Gauge Comparison (ZENI)

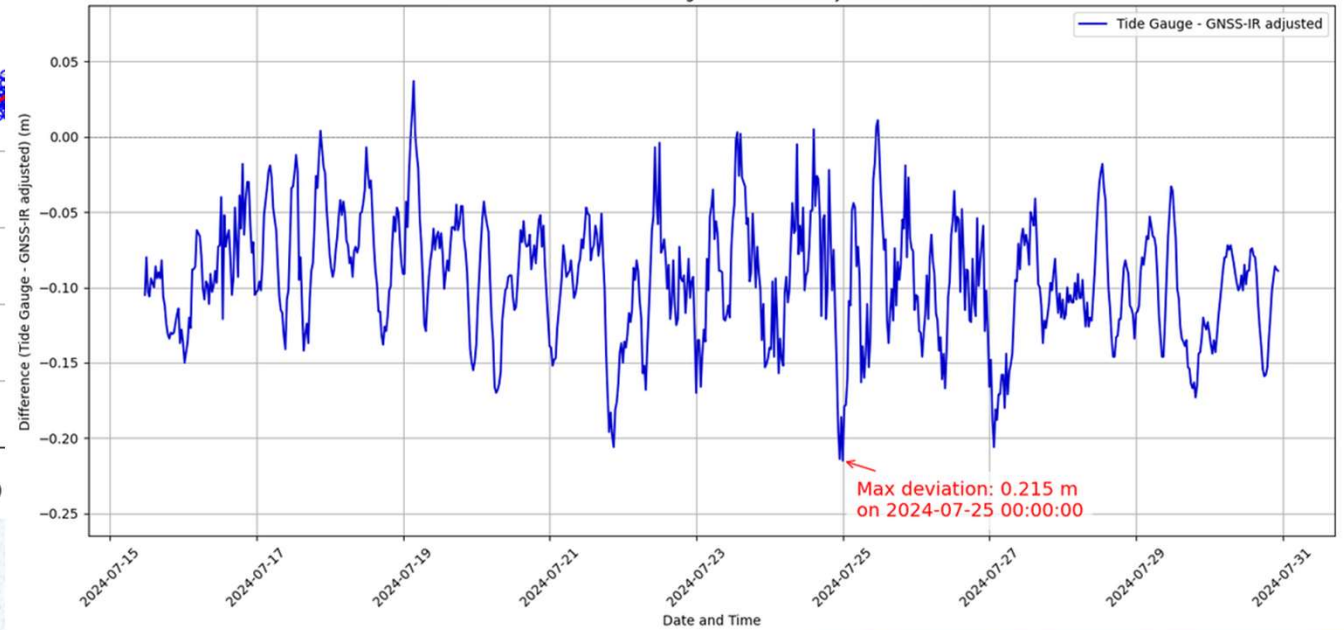


# Tide Gauge Comparison (SIDE)

Tide Gauge vs GNSS-IR



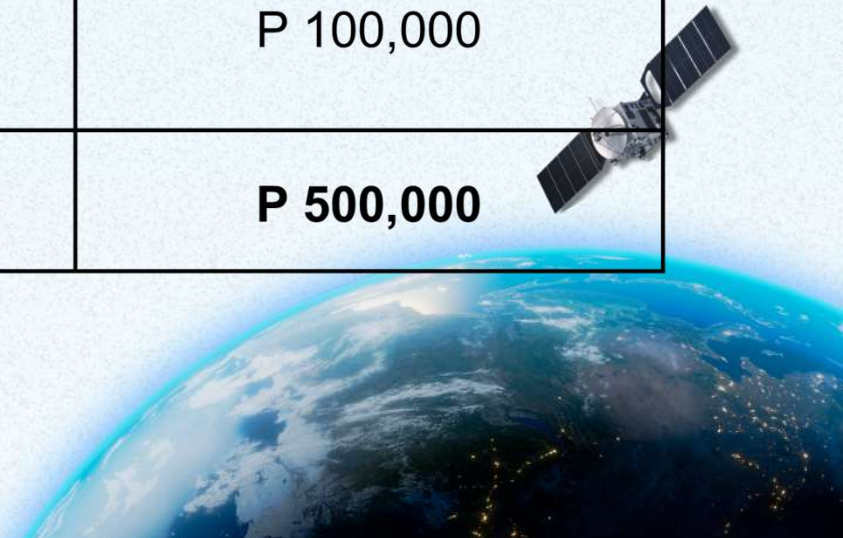
Difference between Tide Gauge and GNSS-IR adjusted over Time



GNSS-IR		Tide Gauge	
U-blox Zed-F9P receivers	P 9,000	Radar or pressure-type tide gauge instrument (medium-end)	<b>P 350,000</b>
U-blox ANN-MB1 antenna	P 4,000		
Beelink Mini Computer	P 10,000		
1 Pocket Wifi	P 5,000		
1 Housing (Megabox)	P 2,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>P 30,000</b>		



<b>Component</b>	<b>GNSS-IR Station</b>	<b>Tide Gauge Station</b>
<b>Instrument and housing</b>	P 30,000	P 350,000
<b>Power supply system</b>	P 10,000	P 50,000
<b>Civil Works and Fabrication</b>	P 8,000	P 100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>P 48,000</b>	<b>P 500,000</b>





# Thank you for your time!

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