	<p>Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)</p>	<p>Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 1/31</p>
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The EUMETSAT
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Satellite Application
Facilities





Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)

SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06, Issue 1, Rev. 0.1



25 November 2013

Applicable to SAFNWC/MSG version 2012

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 2/31
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 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 3/31
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-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Table of contents

1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT	7
1.2 SOFTWARE VERSION IDENTIFICATION	7
1.3 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	7
1.4 REFERENCES	8
1.4.1 <i>Applicable Documents</i>	8
1.4.2 <i>Reference Documents</i>	8
2. CLOUD MASK (CMA) VALIDATION	9
2.1 OVERVIEW	9
2.1.1 <i>General objectives of the validation</i>	9
2.1.2 <i>Methodology outline</i>	9
2.2 CMA CLOUD MASK: COMPARISON WITH SURFACE OBSERVATION (SYNOP)	9
2.3 CMA DUST FLAG VALIDATION	10
2.4 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY	12
3. CLOUD TYPE (CT) VALIDATION	13
3.1 OVERVIEW	13
3.1.1 <i>General objectives of the validation</i>	13
3.1.2 <i>Methodology outline</i>	13
3.2 COMPARISON WITH INTERACTIVE TARGET DATABASE	13
3.3 CT CLOUD PHASE FLAG VALIDATION	14
3.4 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY	15
4. CLOUD TOP TEMPERATURE AND HEIGHT (CTTH) VALIDATION	16
4.1 OVERVIEW	16
4.1.1 <i>General objectives of the validation</i>	16
4.1.2 <i>Methodology outline</i>	16
4.2 VALIDATION OF CLOUD TOP TEMPERATURE AND HEIGHT (CTTH) WITH GROUND-BASED LIDAR AND RADAR	16
4.2.1 <i>Opaque clouds</i>	17
4.2.2 <i>Semi-transparent clouds</i>	18
4.3 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY	20
ANNEX: TEST AND VALIDATION DATASET	21
ANNEX 1 INTERACTIVE TARGET DATABASE	21
ANNEX 2 FORMAT FOR SEVIRI SATELLITE TARGET	22
ANNEX 3 SURFACE OBSERVATIONS (SYNOP)	24
ANNEX 4 GROUND-BASED RADAR AND LIDAR MEASUREMENTS AT SIRTA SITE (PARIS)	25

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1 List of Applicable Documents.....	8
Table 2 List of Referenced Documents.....	8
Table 3 Contingency table conventions	10
Table 4 CMA v3.2 performance in the detection of fully cloudy and cloud-free events estimated from collocated SYNOP and MSG-2/SEVIRI observations over land on Europe from 10 December 2010 up to 21 March 2011 stratified by illumination	10
Table 5 Contingency table conventions (h for hits, m for misses, fa for false alarm and cr for correct rejection).....	11
Table 6 Dust flag performance over sea estimated from the Interactive Target Database.....	11
Table 7 Dust flag performance over land estimated from the Interactive Target Database.....	11
Table 8 Equivalence between manually labelled targets and CT types	14
Table 9 Users accuracy for each main cloud classes estimated from the Interactive Target database stratified by illumination. For v2.2.....	14
Table 11 Contingency table conventions	15
Table 12 Cloud phase flag performance in daytime conditions estimated from the SIRT database. Ground-based radar and lidar measurement from from the SIRT database are used to validate respectively low/midlevel/high clouds and semi-transparent clouds.	15
Table 13 Low opaque and mid-level/high opaque clouds statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.	17
Table 14 Opaque clouds statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.....	17
Table 15 Statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_LNA) when the intercept method is used. Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.....	19
Table 16 Statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) when in the radiance ratioing method is used. Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.....	20
Table 17 List of cloud & earth types available in the Interactive Target Database	21
Figure 1 Localisation of the interactive targets corresponding to dust events. Black symbol and orange diamond correspond respectively to detected and non detected by the CMA dust flag.	12
Figure 2 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from lidar/radar (RALI) for opaque clouds. PDF is the probability density function.	18
Figure 3 Illustration of the range of effective emissivity (N*emiss in % in the vertical scale) for semi-transparent clouds having their cloud top pressure retrieved by the intercept method (left) and radiance ratioing technique (right).....	18
Figure 4 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from lidar (LNA) for semi-transparent clouds using the intercept method. PDF is the probability density function.....	19
Figure 5 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from radar/lidar (RALI) for semi-transparent clouds using the radiance ratioing method. PDF is the probability density function.....	20

Figure 6 Geographical distribution of SYNOP stations ,left initial set of 593 selected stations, right set of 500 stations really used in the statistics	24
Figure 7 Distribution of LNA dataset (number of 15 min slots of observation each month).	25
Figure 8 Cloud mask derived from the lidar backscattered power (green: lidar off, yellow: noise, blue: cloud, white: no cloud). Vertical scale in km.	26
Figure 9 Relationship between temperature and lidar depolarization ratio for the phase delineation algorithm applied to the SIRTA LNA data. In the “mixed phase” zone (within the dashed lines), the ice fractions at a given temperature level are assumed to be a linear function of the depolarization ratio between the two temperature-depolarization ratio lines (slanted dashed lines). For example, a pixel with a temperature of -20°C and a depolarization ratio of 0.2 will have an ice fraction of: $(0.2-0.1)/(0.4-0.1)\approx 0.33$	27
Figure 10 Combined lidar and radar retrievals for an ice cloud over SIRTA on 14 April 2004.	27
Figure 11 Distribution of RASTA dataset (number of 15 min slots of observation each month)... ..	28
Figure 12 Cloud mask derived from the radar reflectivity (green: radar off, yellow: drizzle or rain, blue: cloud, white: no cloud). Vertical scale in km.	28
Figure 13 Cloud mask derived from radar-lidar synergy (violet: drizzle or rain, blue: cloud, white: no data or no cloud). The temporal resolution is 30 s. Vertical scale in km.	29

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 7/31
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eumetsat “Satellite Application Facilities” (SAF) are dedicated centres of excellence for processing satellite data, and form an integral part of the distributed EUMETSAT Application Ground Segment (<http://www.eumetsat.int>). This documentation is provided by the SAF on Support to Nowcasting and Very Short Range Forecasting, SAFNWC. The main objective of SAFNWC is to provide, further develop and maintain software packages to be used for Nowcasting applications of operational meteorological satellite data by National Meteorological Services. More information can be found at the SAFNWC webpage, <http://www.nwcsaf.org>. This document is applicable to the SAFNWC processing package for Meteosat Second Generation satellites meteorological satellites, SAFNWC/MSG.

1.1 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

An extensive validation of PGE01-02-03 v1.2 has been performed in 2005 and documented in a validation report ([AD. 1]).

The algorithm has remained unchanged in v1.3 (included in the release2007 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package) and was tuned to use “effective radiance “ instead “spectral radiances” in v1.4 (included in the release2008 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package) (see the corresponding validation report [AD. 2]).

The algorithms included in the release2009 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package (CMA-PGE01 v2.0, CT-PGE02 v1.5, CTTH-PGE03 v2.0) have been improved as detailed in a scientific report [AD. 3].

The algorithms included in the release2010 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package (CMA-PGE01 v3.0, CT-PGE02 v2.0, CTTH-PGE03 v2.1) have been improved as detailed in corresponding scientific report [AD. 5].

The CMA algorithm included in the release2011 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package (CMA-PGE01 v3.1, CT-PGE02 v2.1, CTTH-PGE03 v2.2) has been improved as detailed in corresponding scientific report, whereas CT and CTTH algorithms remain unchanged.

The CMA, CT and CTTH algorithms included in the release2012 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2, CTTH-PGE03 v2.2) have remained unchanged since the previous release (v2011).



This document is the cloud products validation report applicable to SAFNWC/MSG v2012. As the algorithms remained unchanged since v2011 version, the content of this document is derived to the validation report applicable to v2011 ([AD.7]).

1.2 SOFTWARE VERSION IDENTIFICATION

The validation results presented in this document apply to the algorithms implemented in the release2012 of the SAFNWC/MSG SW package (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2, CTTH-PGE03 v2.2). It must be kept in mind that the algorithm remain unchanged since previous (v2011) version ([AD.7]).

1.3 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARPEGE	French weather forecast model
BUFR	Binary Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data
CALIOP	Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization
CDOP	Continuous Development and Operational Phase

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 8/31
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

CMA	Cloud Mask (also PGE01)
CMS	Centre de Météorologie Spatiale (Météo-France, satellite reception and processing centre in Lannion)
CT	Cloud Type
CTH	Cloud Top height
CTTH	Cloud Top Temperature and Height
FAR	False Alarm Ratio
GOES	Geostationary Operational Environment Satellite
IPSL	Institut Pierre Simon Laplace
IR	Infrared
LNA	Lidar Nuage Aérosol
MSG	Meteosat Second Generation
NWP	Numerical Weather Prediction
PC	Percentage Correct
POD	Percentage Of Detection
RASTA	Radar Aéroporté et Sol de Télédétection Atmosphérique
RTTOV	Rapid Transpission for TOV
SAFNWC	Satellite Application Facility for support to NoWcasting
SEVIRI	Spinning Enhanced Visible & Infrared Imager
SIRTA	Site Instrumental de Télédétection Atmosphérique (located near Paris)
SYNOP	Synoptic observation
SW	SoftWare
WMO	World Meteorological organisation

1.4 REFERENCES

1.4.1 Applicable Documents



Reference	Title	Code	Vers	Date
[AD. 1]	Validation report for the PGE01-02-03 (v1.2) (Cloud Products) of the SAFNWC/MSG	SAF/NWC/IOP/MFL/SCI/VAL/01	1.2	17/01/07
[AD. 2]	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMA-GE01, CT-PGE02 & CTTH-PGE03 v1.4)	SAFNWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/02	1.4	07/11/07
[AD. 3]	Scientific report on improving “Cloud Products” (CMA-PGE01 v2.0, CT-PGE02 v1.5 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.0)	SAFNCD/CDOP/MFL/SCI/RP/03	1.0	26/02/09
[AD. 4]	NWCSAF Product Requirements Document	SAF/NWC/CDOP/INM/MGT/PRD	1.0	28/07/09
[AD. 5]	Scientific report on improving “Cloud Products” (CMA-GE01 v3.0, CT-PGE02 v2.0 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.1)	SAFNWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/RP/04	1.0	17/05/10
[AD. 6]	Scientific report on improving “Cloud Products” (CMA-GE01 v3.1, CT-PGE02 v2.1 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	SAFNWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/RP/06	1.0	24/03/11
[AD.7]	Validation report for “Cloud products” ((CMA-GE01 v3.1, CT-PGE02 v2.1 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	SAFNWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/05	1.0	24/03/11

Table 1 List of Applicable Documents

1.4.2 Reference Documents

Reference	Title	Code	Vers	Date
[RD.1]	Scientific report on the validation of CTTH-PGE03 v2.0 with CALIOP measurements.	SAFNWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/RP/05	1.0	17/05/10
[RD.2]				

Table 2 List of Referenced Documents

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 9/31
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2. CLOUD MASK (CMA) VALIDATION

2.1 OVERVIEW

As CMA algorithm has remained unchanged between v3.2 and v3.1, and as CMA v3.1 already reached the target accuracy values for the CDOP period, this section is just a reminder of CMA algorithm accuracies that we obtained for v3.1.

2.1.1 General objectives of the validation

The main objective of this section is to document CMA accuracies and compare them to the target accuracies listed in the NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]. Additionally, CMA accuracies are compared to those obtained with the previous version.

2.1.2 Methodology outline

The following validation of the CMA product is performed:

- ✓ The CMA cloud detection (v3.2) is validated using SYNOP data gathered over Europe between 10/12/2010 and 21/03/2011, collocated with the PGE01 v3.2 produced at the Centre de Meteorologie Spatiale. The POD (Probability Of Detection) has been computed and compared to the target accuracy for the CDOP period (see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]). The CMA cloud detection has remained unchanged since last version (v3.1).
- ✓ The CMA dust detection (v3.2) is validated from interactively selected targets over seas and Africa for solar elevation larger than 20 degrees. The POD (Probability Of Detection) is computed and is compared to the target value for the CDOP period (see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]). The CMA dust detection has remained unchanged since last version (v3.1).

In all these validation studies, CMA is retrieved using NWP fields forecast by the French model ARPEGE four times per day (0h, 6h, 12h and 18h) at a 1.5 degree horizontal resolution.

2.2 CMA CLOUD MASK: COMPARISON WITH SURFACE OBSERVATION (SYNOP)

From the SYNOP data set, ground-based total cloud cover (N) and partial cloud cover from low, medium and high clouds are available. Satellite cloud coverage is estimated from CMA applied to the pixels of the satellite targets. To simulate the surface observations from the satellite pixels, no attempt is made to take into account the complexity of the observation, and the 25 pixels inside the satellite data target are used for the evaluation. The total cloudiness over SYNOP station is simply simulated from CMA results over the 5x5 target centred on the station by counting each pixel detected as cloud contaminated as 100% covered.

The CMA cloud mask validation examines only cases that show disagreement with SYNOP cloud cover, i.e. when CMA misses clouds reported almost overcast by the ground observer and when CMA detects clouds where SYNOP report no or insignificant cloud cover. For this purpose we build up two-by-two contingency tables counting “cloudy” and “clear” events. An observation is cloudy if N from SYNOP is strictly more than 5 octas, clear if N is strictly less than 3 octas. A detection is cloudy if more than 16/25 pixels are flagged cloud contaminated, clear if less than 8/25 are cloudy. Consequently all events with N=3,4,5 and equivalent CMA cloud covers expressed in octas are not taken into account in these statistics. This study relies on analysis of contingency tables and comparison of statistical scores.

	Cloud detected	Clear detected
Cloud observed	H	M
Clear observed	Fa	cr

Table 3 Contingency table conventions

Two following statistical indicators stratified by observation are computed (the POD (Probability Of Detection) should be as high as possible and the FAR (False Alarm Rate) as low as possible:

- $POD = [h / (h + m)]$, is the rate of correctly detected cloud observations, i.e. targets classified as cloudy and observed cloudy.
- $FAR = [fa / (fa + cr)]$, is the rate of missed clear observations or false flagging of clouds, i.e. the targets classified as cloudy but observed clear (it expresses cloud overdetection errors)

Contingency tables and statistical scores have been computed for different illumination conditions (day, night, twilight) for all European selected SYNOP stations (as done for the previous validation reports, see Figure 6), for the period from 10 December 2010 to 21 March 2011. The results are displayed in the following table.

	POD(%)	FAR(%)
All illumination : 366298	96.5	4.1
Daytime : 122784	98.1	1.7
Night-time : 189729	95.7	6,2
Twilight : 53785	95.5	1,9

Table 4 CMA v3.2 performance in the detection of fully cloudy and cloud-free events estimated from collocated SYNOP and MSG-2/SEVIRI observations over land on Europe from 10 December 2010 up to 21 March 2011 stratified by illumination

The CMA v3.2 cloud detection, which remained unchanged since last version (v3.1), reaches the target accuracy for the CDOP period. In fact the POD reached over the European area by CMA v3.2 is 96.5% which is larger than the target POD (95.0%) for the CDOP period, to be reached with SYNOP over European area (Figure 6).

The impact of missing NWP data has been analyzed in details and reported in [AD. 1]

2.3 CMA DUST FLAG VALIDATION

As CMA dust detection algorithm has remained unchanged between v3.2 and v3.1, and as CMA dust detection v3.1 already reached the target accuracy values for the CDOP period, this section is just a reminder of CMA dust detection algorithm accuracies that we obtained for v3.1.

The database available at CMS to quantify the CMA dust flag is the Interactive Target Database (see Annex 1) which gathers about 3800 targets corresponding to dust events located over Africa and adjacent seas (Figure 1 shows their location) in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

It must be noted that the validation is not fully independent as part of the database has been used to develop the algorithm’s improvement.

The satellite part of the dataset (described in Annex 2) allows the reprocessing of different version of CMA and also allows the simulation of “effective radiances” from the stored “spectral radiances”.

Statistical scores are indicators of how much the automated CMA dust flag agrees with the interactively manned targets types. Note that no attempt to quantify the thin dust clouds detection

over Europe has been performed as all the targets corresponds to dust storms over Africa or adjacent seas.

The following statistical scores stratified by observation are computed from contingency tables built from this database (see Table 5 for conventions; “dust detected” corresponds to more than half the pixels of the target flagged as dust by CMa; “no dust detected” corresponds to less than half the pixels of the target flagged as dust by CMa) :

- $POD = [h / (h + m)]$, is the rate of correctly detected dust observations, i.e. targets classified as dust and observed dust (it expresses the dust correct detection).
- $FAR = [fa / (fa + h)]$, is the rate of false flagging of dust, i.e. the targets classified as dust but observed without dust (it expresses dust over detection errors)

	Dust detected	No dust Detected
Dust observed	h	m
No dust observed	fa	Cr

Table 5 Contingency table conventions (h for hits, m for misses, fa for false alarm and cr for correct rejection)

The POD (Probability Of Detection) should be as high as possible and the FAR (False Alarm Rate) as low as possible.

Database is stratified according to land and sea and is limited to solar elevation larger than 20 degrees. Results are sum up in Table 6 and Table 7.

	Contingency table (over sea)		FAR (%)	POD (%)
CMa v3.2	728	583	4.5	55.5
	34	2643		

Table 6 Dust flag performance over sea estimated from the Interactive Target Database

	Contingency table (over land)		FAR (%)	POD (%)
CMa 3.2	1294	918	1.5	58.5
	20	3131		

Table 7 Dust flag performance over land estimated from the Interactive Target Database

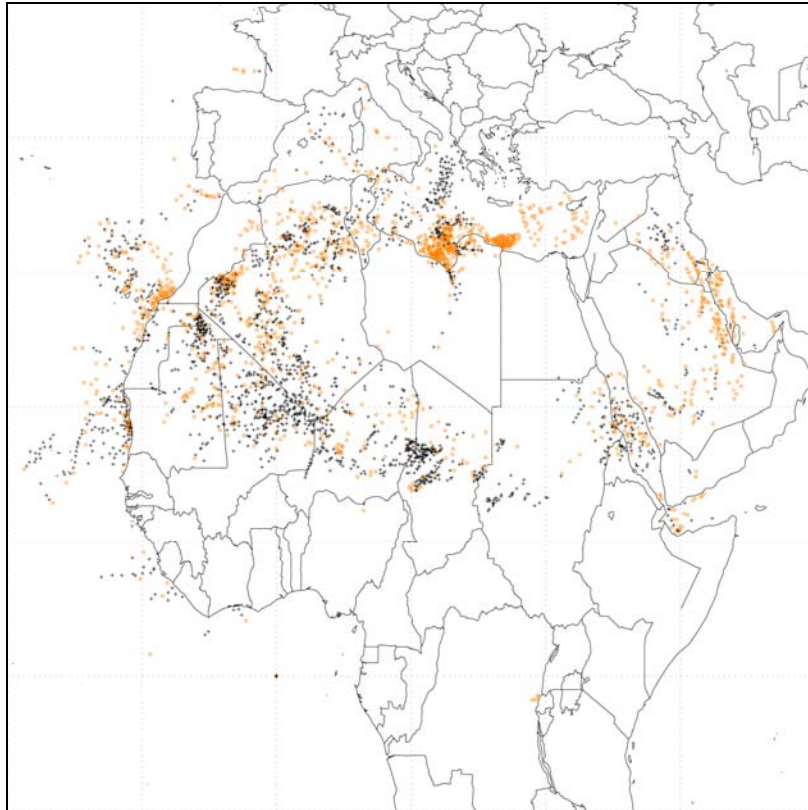


Figure 1 Localisation of the interactive targets corresponding to dust events. Black symbol and orange diamond correspond respectively to detected and non detected by the CMa dust flag.



Over land, the dust detection algorithm has remained unchanged and the POD reached by the CMA v3.2 dust detection over land (58.5%) is higher than the target POD for the CDOP period which is 50% (see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]).

Over sea, the dust detection algorithm has remained unchanged and the POD reached by the CMA v3.2 dust detection over sea (55.5%) is higher than the target POD for the CDOP period which is 50%, see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4].

2.4 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY

The CMA v3.2 cloud detection, which remained unchanged since last version (v3.1), reaches the target accuracy for the CDOP period. In fact the POD reached over the European area by CMA v3.2 is 96.5% which is larger than the target POD (95.0%) for the CDOP period, to be reached with SYNOP over European area (Figure 6).

The CMA v3.2 dust detection, which remained unchanged since last version (v3.1), reaches the target accuracy for the CDOP period over both Africa and the ocean: the v3.2 POD (55.5 over the ocean and 58.5% over Africa) are larger than the target accuracy for the CDOP period (50%).

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 13/31
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3. CLOUD TYPE (CT) VALIDATION

3.1 OVERVIEW

As CT algorithm has remained unchanged between v2.2 and v2.1, and as CT v2.1 already reached the target accuracy values for the CDOP period, this section is just a reminder of CT algorithm accuracies that we obtained for v2.1.

3.1.1 General objectives of the validation

The main objective of this section is to document CT cloud type accuracies and compare them to the target accuracies listed in the NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]. As the CT cloud type (v2.2) algorithm has remained unchanged between v2.2 and v2.1 we have not performed a new validation, we just recall the results.

3.1.2 Methodology outline

The following validation of the CT product is performed:

- ✓ The CT cloud type (v2.2) is validated for all seasons over European areas and adjacent seas using the Interactive Target database. The “User Accuracy” is computed and is compared to the target accuracy for the CDOP period (see the NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]).
- ✓ The CT cloud phase flag (v2.2) is validated with one year (September 2003-October 2004) of measurements from the ground-based lidar and radar from the SIRTa instrumented site (near Paris).

In all these validation studies, CT is retrieved using NWP fields forecast by the French model ARPEGE four times per day (0h, 6h, 12h and 18h) at a 1.5 degree horizontal resolution.

3.2 COMPARISON WITH INTERACTIVE TARGET DATABASE

The Interactive Target Database (see Annex 1) allows the comparison of the CT cloud types and the cloud class manually labelled from SEVIRI imagery. This comparison is an indicator of the CT algorithm’s quality but also of the separability of the cloud classes, and a way to understand how the CT algorithm manages classes. Although the interactive target have been gathered over the MSG full disk, the validation is restricted to European and adjacent seas.

The satellite part of the dataset (described in Annex 2) allows the reprocessing of different version of CT.

The CT and the manually labelled cloud classes are first gathered into the main classes described in Table 8 before being compared. There is an agreement if the most probable CT main class (i.e. the most frequent main class among the 9 central pixels) is identical to the observer main class. As clear and cloud confusions have been analysed in CMA validation section, the database is limited to cases identified as cloudy by the observer and CT.

Contingency tables and statistical scores (user’s accuracy (probability of a pixel classified into a category on a picture to really belong to that category)) are then computed. They are associated with changes illumination (day, night, twilight, sunglint).

Main Classes name	Target type	CT type
-------------------	-------------	---------

Sea	Open sea, Sea with haze, Sea with shadow, Sea with sunglint	Sea not contaminated by clouds, aerosol or ice/snow
Land	Land, land with haze, land with shadow,	Land not contaminated by clouds, aerosol or snow
Ice	Ice, ice with shadow	Sea contaminated by ice/snow
Snow	Snow, snow with shadow	Land contaminated by snow
Low	Fog, stratus, small cumulus over land, small cumulus over sea Stratocumulus, stratocumulus with shadow	Very low clouds Low clouds
Mid-level cloud	Alto cumulus, Altostratus, cumulus congestus over land and sea	Medium clouds
Semitransparent	Thin cirrus above stratus or stratocumulus or cumulus Thin cirrus over sea, thin cirrus over land, thin cirrus over snow, thin cirrus over ice Cirrostratus	Cirrus above lower clouds Thin cirrus Mean and thick cirrus
High clouds	Cirrostratus over Alto cumulus or Altostratus. Thin cirrus over Ac As Isolated or merged Cb	High opaque clouds Very high opaque clouds

Table 8 Equivalence between manually labelled targets and CT types

CT v2.2	Low clouds	Mid-level clouds	Semitransparent	High clouds
All illumination	93.82 %	49.84 %	90.95 %	79.43 %
Daytime	90.75 %	52.71 %	94.08 %	78.40 %
Nighttime	95.53 %	49.78 %	85.12 %	80.15 %
Twilight	96.50 %	36.23 %	82.14 %	84.62 %

Table 9 Users accuracy for each main cloud classes estimated from the Interactive Target database stratified by illumination. For v2.2.

Table 9 shows that the users accuracies obtained by CT v2.2 for low clouds (93.82%), high clouds (79.43%) and semi-transparent clouds (90.95%) are above the target user accuracy for the CDOP period which was 70% (see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]).

3.3 CT CLOUD PHASE FLAG VALIDATION

The validation of the CT cloud phase flag quality with measurements from ground-based lidar and radar located near Paris is performed from a dataset gathering ground-based radar and lidar measurements (described in Annex 4) and satellite data (described in Annex 2, allowing the reprocessing of CT cloud phase and the simulation of effective radiance from the stored spectral radiances) and covering the period September 2003-October 2004.

The ground-based measurements used in this study are provided by SIRTa (Site Instrumental de Recherche par Télédétection Atmosphérique), an atmospheric observatory for cloud and aerosol research operated by the Institut Pierre Simon Laplace (IPSL). The SIRTa observatory is located on the campus of Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France with geographical coordinates: 48.7 N – 2.2 E. SIRTa is composed of an ensemble of state-of-the-art active and passive remote sensing instruments, including radars, lidars and radiometers. A detailed description of the radar and lidar measurements is given in Annex 4.

The following procedure is applied to SEVIRI, lidar and radar measurements to gather the validation dataset:

- Because of the difference in spatial resolution between the ground-based and satellite sensors, the approach is to perform a temporal average of the ground-based data over a

period of time and compare with spatially averaged SEVIRI cloud top height retrievals. In the present work, the cloud properties derived from observations at SIRTAs are averaged temporally over 30 minutes and the SEVIRI cloud properties are averaged spatially over 5x3 pixels.

- Because of inherent discrepancies in ground and spatial observational scales, focusing the comparison on homogeneous situations will minimize scale-induced variability. Hence, the comparison is restricted to the SEVIRI scenes showing a homogeneous cloud coverage having the same SEVIRI-retrieved cloud phase.
- Moreover, from radar/lidar data, we retain the highest layer having a thickness larger than 600m that lasts more 27 minutes and that is constituted at least at 90% of water or of ice (mixed layer are therefore removed thus allowing to compute contingency table for ice/water).
- Finally, due to the limitation of the ground-based lidar and radar measurements, the radar and lidar data from the SIRTAs database are respectively used to validate the low/mid-level/high opaque clouds and semi-transparent clouds. Fractional clouds and semi-transparent clouds above a lower cloud layer are excluded from the validation.

Contingency tables are constituted and statistical scores (kuiper skill score and the hit rate) as follows:

- $KSS = [(a*d - b*c) / ((a+b)*(c+d))]$, is the kuiper skill score which takes values between -1 and 1.
- $HR = [(a+d) / (a+b+c+d)]$, is the Hit Rate which takes values between 0 and 1.

Both the KSS (Kuiper Skill Score) and the HR (Hit rate) should be as high as possible.

	Water phase detected	Ice phase Detected
Water phase observed	a	b
Ice phase observed	c	d

Table 10 Contingency table conventions

Validation results in day-time conditions are sum up in Table 11.



	Contingency table		KSS	HR
CT(v2.2)Cloud phase flag	128	28	0.62	0.83
	64	337		

Table 11 Cloud phase flag performance in daytime conditions estimated from the SIRTAs database. Ground-based radar and lidar measurement from from the SIRTAs database are used to validate respectively low/midlevel/high clouds and semi-transparent clouds.

3.4 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY

The CT v2.2 cloud type reaches the target accuracy for the CDOP period: the user accuracies obtained by CT v2.2 for low clouds (93.82%), high clouds (79.43%) and semi-transparent clouds (90.95%) are far above the minimum value for the CDOP period which is 70%.

The CT cloud phase flag quality has been estimated using ground-based lidar and radar measurements, Hit Rate and Kuiper Skill Score being estimated at 0.83 and 0.62 respectively.

 	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 16/31
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4. CLOUD TOP TEMPERATURE AND HEIGHT (CTTH) VALIDATION

4.1 OVERVIEW

As CTTH algorithm has remained unchanged between v2.2 and v2.1, and as CTTH v2.1 already reached the target accuracy values for the CDOP period, this section is just a reminder of CTTH algorithm accuracies that we obtained for v2.1

4.1.1 General objectives of the validation

The general objective of this section is to document CTTH accuracies and compare them to the target accuracies listed in the NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]. As the CTTH cloud top temperature and height (v2.2) algorithm has remained unchanged between v2.2 and v2.1 we have not performed a new validation, we just recall the results.

4.1.2 Methodology outline

The following validation of the CTTH product is performed:

- ✓ The CTTH cloud height (v2.2) is validated with one year (September 2003-October 2004) of measurements from the ground-based lidar and radar from the SIRTAs instrumented site (near Paris). The biases and standard deviation are computed and compared to the target values for the CDOP period (see NWCSAF product requirements document [AD. 4]).

In all these comparisons, CTTH is retrieved using NWP fields forecast by the French model ARPEGE four times per day (0h, 6h, 12h and 18h) at a 1.5 degree horizontal resolution. Temperature and humidity are available on twenty pressure levels (10, 20, 30, 50, 70, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 850, 900, 925, 950, 1000).

4.2 VALIDATION OF CLOUD TOP TEMPERATURE AND HEIGHT (CTTH) WITH GROUND-BASED LIDAR AND RADAR

The validation of the CTTH (Cloud Top height) quality with measurements from ground-based lidar and radar located near Paris is performed from a dataset gathering ground-based radar and lidar measurements (described in Annex 4) and satellite data (described in Annex 2, allowing the reprocessing of CTTH and the simulation of effective radiance from the stored spectral radiances) and covering the period September 2003-October 2004.

The ground-based measurements used in this study are provided by SIRTAs (Site Instrumental de Recherche par Télédétection Atmosphérique), an atmospheric observatory for cloud and aerosol research operated by the Institut Pierre Simon Laplace (IPSL). The SIRTAs observatory is located on the campus of Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France with geographical coordinates: 48.7 N – 2.2 E. SIRTAs is composed of an ensemble of state-of-the-art active and passive remote sensing instruments, including radars, lidars and radiometers. A detailed description of the radar and lidar measurements is given in Annex 4.

The following procedure is applied to SEVIRI, lidar and radar measurements to gather the validation dataset:

- Because of the difference in spatial resolution between the ground-based and satellite sensors, the approach is to perform a temporal average of the ground-based data over a period of time and compare with spatially averaged SEVIRI cloud top height retrievals. In the present work, the cloud properties derived from observations at SIRTAs are averaged

temporally over 30 minutes and the SEVIRI cloud properties are averaged spatially over 5x3 pixels.

- Because of inherent discrepancies in ground and spatial observational scales, focusing the comparison on homogeneous situations will minimize scale-induced variability. Hence, the comparison is restricted to the SEVIRI scenes showing a large homogenous cloud coverage (low/middle or high/semi-transparent cloud fractions must be larger than 80 % within an area of 11x7 pixels and 50% within an area of 5x3 pixels).
- When more than one cloud layer is detected by the radar or the lidar, the SEVIRI CTH is systematically compared with the nearest layer of ground-based instrument dataset.
- Suspect cases have been manually analysed by displaying the full SEVIRI images and the full lidar and radar measurements. They often corresponds to multilayer clouds where the upper semi-transparent cloud layer was not automatically detected from the radar/lidar measurements. These cases have been removed from the study. There certainly still remains such cases, therefore part of the comparison errors certainly comes from the ground-based radar/lidar measurements themselves.

Validation results are presented for low opaque clouds, medium and high opaque clouds, semi-transparent clouds using either intercept or radiance ratioing methods.

4.2.1 Opaque clouds

In this section, we analyse SEVIRI CTH retrieval for opaque clouds. Although lidar is the best instrument to measure cloud boundaries, lidar measurements are strongly attenuated by most of opaque clouds and therefore, the signal often does not reach the cloud top. Radar measurements are therefore needed to measure the top height of opaque clouds. For opaque clouds, we therefore use RALI measurements (synergie of radar and lidar, described in Annex 4) during radar time acquisition (operational mode 0).

	Bias (km)	Standard deviation (km)	Number of cases
CTTH v2.2 (low clouds)	0.28	0.93	1068
CTTH v2.2 (high or mid-level clouds)	-0.05	1.14	1025

Table 12 Low opaque and mid-level/high opaque clouds statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.

All opaque clouds	Bias (km)	Standard deviation (km)	Number of cases
CTTH v2.2	0.12	1.05	2093

Table 13 Opaque clouds statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.

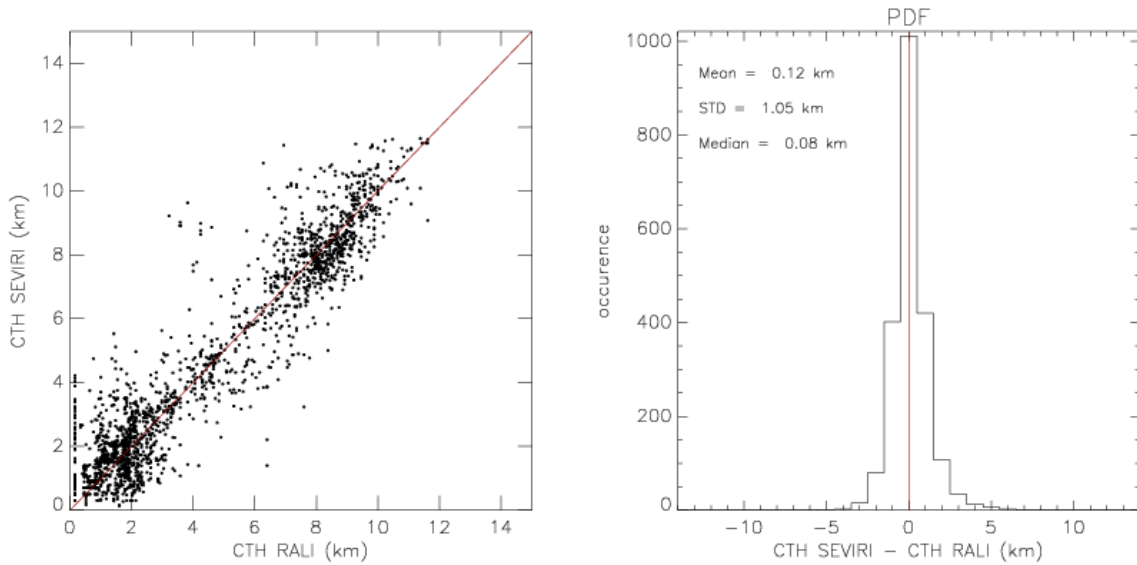


Figure 2 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from lidar/radar (RALI) for opaque clouds. PDF is the probability density function.

Bias and standard deviation for the current version are given in Table 12 and Table 13, whereas the scatter between SEVIRI and RALI CTH is illustrated in Figure 2.

The opaque clouds bias and standard deviation values obtained with CTTH v2.2 (0.12km and 1.05km) are lower than the target values for the CDOP period (0.5km and 1.5km).

4.2.2 Semi-transparent clouds

Two types of methods can be applied to retrieve the cloud top pressure or height of semi-transparent clouds: the intercept method and the radiance ratioing technique which is only applied to the thickest semi-transparent clouds. Figure 3 illustrates the typical range of effective emissivities for clouds having their top pressure retrieved by the intercept or the radiance ratioing technique.

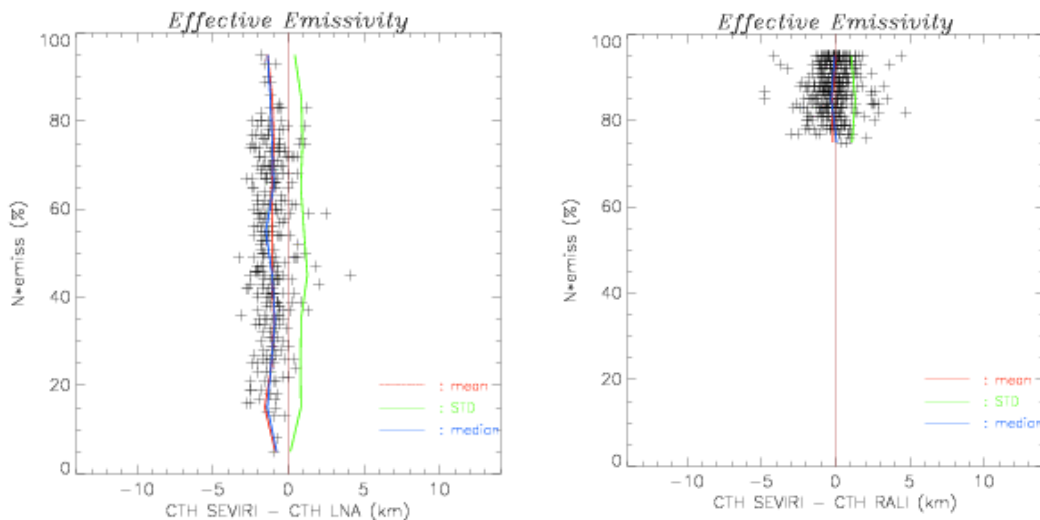


Figure 3 Illustration of the range of effective emissivity ($N \cdot emiss$ in % in the vertical scale) for semi-transparent clouds having their cloud top pressure retrieved by the intercept method (left) and radiance ratioing technique (right).

The accuracy of each method will be evaluated separately, the intercept method corresponding to the thinnest semi-transparent clouds and the radiance ratioing being applied to the thickest semi-transparent clouds.

4.2.2.1 Semi-transparent clouds with intercept method

In general, radar instruments are able to detect most cloud, except thin cirrus and thin strato-cumulus, however the lidar is ideally suited to this task. For the study of semi-transparent cloud, we only used lidar measurements to perform the validation. In case of the presence of a low cloud layer with a high optical depth, a thin cirrus could be not detected by the lidar. Because the lidar is subject to attenuation, we imposed that the mean range of LNA instrument during the 30 minutes time period was higher than 8 km. Most of multi-layer cloudy scene are therefore excluded for this study.

	Bias (km)	Standard deviation (km)	Number of cases
CTTH v2.2	-1.02	0.94	299

Table 14 Statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_LNA) when the intercept method is used. Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.

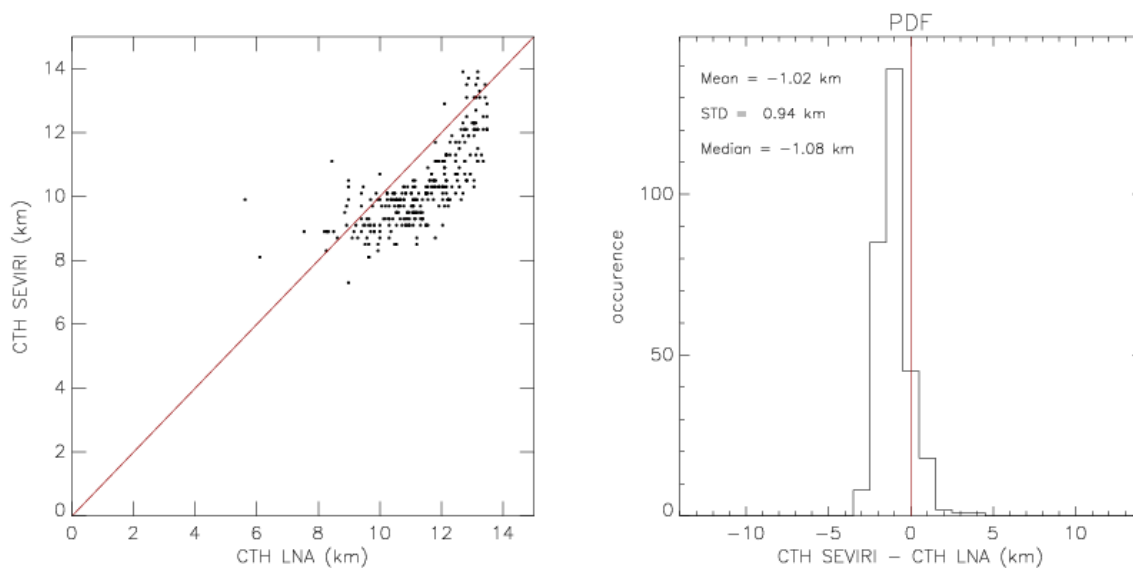


Figure 4 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from lidar (LNA) for semi-transparent clouds using the intercept method. PDF is the probability density function.

Bias and standard deviation for the current version are given in Table 14, whereas the scatter between SEVIRI and RALI CTH is illustrated in Figure 4.

The semi-transparent clouds bias (1.02km) and standard deviation (0.94km) values obtained with CTTH v2.2 (intercept method) are lower than the target values for the CDOP period (1.5km).

4.2.2.2 Semi-transparent clouds with radiance ratioing method

The radiance ratioing method is applied to semi-transparent clouds whose effective emissivity is higher than .77 (nearly opaque cloud) and is giving results at pixel scale. This method is only applied to semi-transparent clouds if no reliable retrieved cloud top pressure is found using intercept method. Clouds analysed in this section are therefore much thicker than in case the cloud

top is retrieved by intercept method. In order to increase the number of available cases, we used RALI ground-based measurements when at least one of the two instruments operated (optional mode 3).

	Bias (km)	Standard deviation (km)	Number of cases
CTTH v2.2	-0.10	1.05	320

Table 15 Statistical scores for (CTH_SEVIRI-CTH_RALI) when in the radiance ratioing method is used. Negative bias values correspond to SEVIRI CTH underestimation.

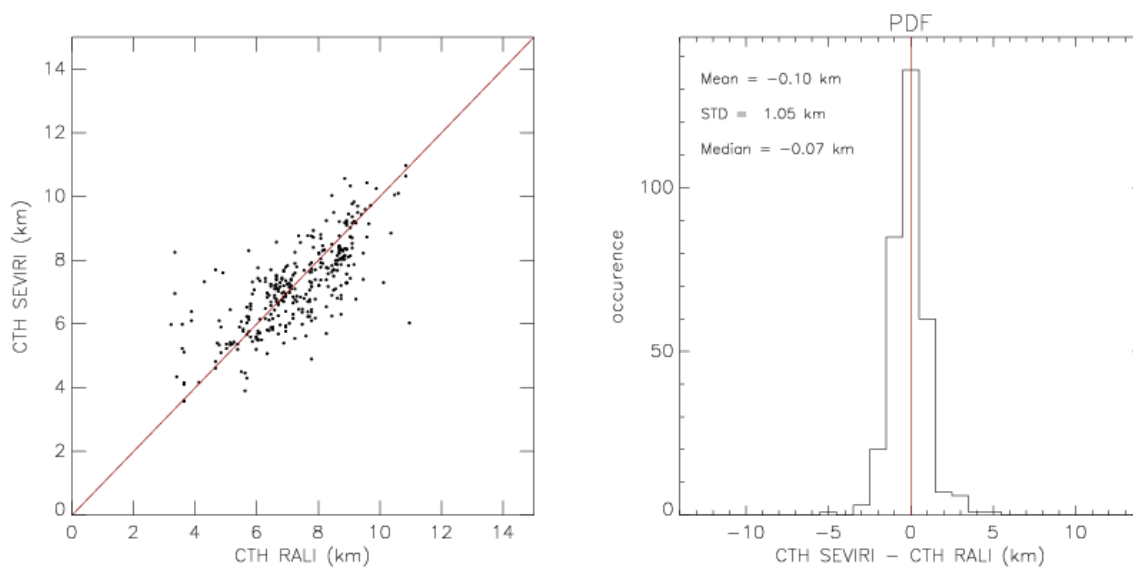


Figure 5 Comparison of CTH retrieved from SEVIRI and from radar/lidar (RALI) for semi-transparent clouds using the radiance ratioing method. PDF is the probability density function.

Bias and standard deviation for the current version are given in Table 15, whereas the scatter between SEVIRI and RALI CTH is illustrated in Figure 5.

The semi-transparent clouds bias (0.10km) and standard deviation (1.05km) values obtained with CTTH v2.2 (radiance ratioing technique) are lower than the target values for the CDOP period (1.5km).

4.3 ASSESSMENT OF ALGORITHM QUALITY

The CTTH v2.2 reaches the target accuracy for both opaque clouds and semi-transparent clouds. For opaque clouds, bias and standard deviation values obtained with CTTH v2.2 (0.12km and 1.05km) are much lower than the target values for the CDOP period (0.5km and 1.5km). Concerning semi-transparent clouds, bias and standard deviation values obtained with CTTH v2.2 are lower than the target values for the CDOP period, either when the intercept method is used [v2.2 bias (std): 1.02km (0.94km) to be compared to CDOP target bias (std):1.5km (1.5km)] or for the thickest semi-transparent clouds using the radiance ratioing technique [v2.2 bias (std): 0.10km (1.05km) to be compared to CDOP target bias (std):1.5km (1.5km)].

ANNEX: TEST AND VALIDATION DATASET

ANNEX 1 INTERACTIVE TARGET DATABASE

An interactive tool, based on the use of the commercial image processing software WAVE, has been used by experienced operators for the extraction of visually identified satellite targets in SEVIRI images (area : full disk). The result of this work is a dedicated database for spectral signature studies that we call the Interactive Target Database. Such a database has been already been gathered from GOES during prototyping activities. The interactive procedure allows :

- the display of various channels combination full resolution in satellite projection,
- the zoom of an area
- the choice of small square targets (configurable size, by default: 5*5 SEVIRI IR pixels)
- the labelling of the targets through a menu



The Interactive Target Database gathers the following information (detailed below) for each satellite target:

- the label given by the operator to the target (list displayed in Table 16 below),
- the full satellite information in the square targets together with satellite & solar angles and time information,
- the collocated and nearest in time meteorological information extracted from ARPEGE forecast fields,
- collocated atlas values.

Open sea	Sea with shadow	Sea with sand aerosols	Sea with ash
Sea with haze	Sea with sunglint	Sea with volcanic plume	
Land	Land with shadow	Land with sand aerosol	Land with ash
Land with Haze	Land with volcanic plume	Ice	Ice with shadow
Snow	Snow with shadow	Unclassified (cloudy or cloudfree)	Cloudy (unknown)
fog	stratus	Stratocumulus	shadow over low clouds
small cumulus over sea	Cumulus congestus over sea	small cumulus over land	Cumulus congestus over land
Cumulonimbus	Extensive cumulonimbus	Thin cirrus over sea	Thin Cirrus over ice
Thin cirrus over land	Thin cirrus over snow	Thin cirrus over St/Sc	Thin cirrus over Cu
Thin cirrus over Ac/As	Alto cumulus/Altostratus	Alto cumulus	Cirrostratus
Cirrostratus over Ac/As			

Table 16 List of cloud & earth types available in the Interactive Target Database

At present time, interactive target have been extracted from MSG1/SEVIRI imagery from 2003 until 2005.

 	Validation Report for "Cloud Products" (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 22/31
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ANNEX 2 FORMAT FOR SEVIRI SATELLITE TARGET



Satellite targets are gathered, either manually with the Interactive Target Database, either automatically around synoptic meteorological stations or around the SIRTAsite.

Each satellite target window will be have a configurable size, the default size being 5 columns by 5 rows (3km IR pixel) (33*33 for the SIRTAsite).

The satellite targets contain the following information that allows the reprocessing of PGE01-02-03 (for example to validate different versions) including the version using a temporal analysis as satellite data from previous slots are stored:

Full satellite information in the square targets, together with satellite & solar angles and time information :

type a*2 target type (in for interactive)
 observer a*10 user name of the person who has analysed the target
 lat i*4 latitude of the centre of the target (1000th of degrees)
 lon i*4 longitude of the centre of the target (1000th of degrees)
 date i*4 julian day (count from 00h, 1 Jan 1950)
 hour i*4 UTC time of day in milliseconds
 idsat i*4 satellite identification (1=MSG1, 2=MSG2, 3=MSG3)
 nbp i*2 number of columns expressed in 3km IR coordinates
 nbl i*2 number of rows expressed in 3km IR coordinates
 nbc i*2 number of channels (7,10 or 11, according to day/night consideration and HRV availability)
 valcan_VIS06 I*2 indicator of VIS0.6 availability
 valcan_VIS08 I*2 indicator of VIS0.8 availability
 valcan_IR16 I*2 indicator of IR1.6 availability
 valcan_IR38 i*2 indicator of IR3.8 availability [-1 =not in the file
 valcan_WV62 i*2 indicator of WV62 availability [0 =is missing
 valcan_WV73 i*2 indicator of WV73 availability [>0 =mean value in the
 valcan_IR87 i*2 indicator of IR87 availability [target(unit: 1/100 % or 1/100 K)]
 valcan_IR97 i*2 indicator of IR97 availability
 valcan_IR108 i*2 indicator of IR108 channel availability
 valcan_IR120 i*2 indicator of IR120 channel availability
 valcan_IR134 i*2 indicator of IR134 channel availability
 valcan_HRV I*2 indicator of HRV availability
 canal_VIS06 x i*2 window from VIS06 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 %
 canal_VIS08 x i*2 window from VIS08 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 %
 canal_IR6 x i*2 window from IR16 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 %
 canal_IR38 x i*2 window from IR38 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_WV62 x i*2 window from WV62 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_WV73 x i*2 window from WV73 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_IR87 x i*2 window from IR87 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_IR97 x i*2 window from IR97 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_IR108 x i*2 window from IR108 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_IR120 x i*2 window from IR120 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_IR134 x i*2 window from IR134 (x = nbp*nbl) in 1/100 K
 canal_HRV x i*2 window from HRV (x = 3*nbp*3*nbl) in 1/100 %
 solzen i*2 solar zenith angle (100th of degrees)
 satzen i*2 satellite zenith angle (100th of degrees)
 daz i*2 local azimuth angle (100th of degrees)
 typ_cloud i*2 target code (given by the observer , or -9999 if automatically fed)

 	Validation Report for "Cloud Products" (CMA-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 23/31
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Full CMA/CT/CTTH results in the square targets:

CMA main categories x i*1 window from CMA main categories (x = nbp*nbl)
 CMA tests x i*2 window from CMA tests (x = nbp*nbl)
 CMA quality flag x i*2 window from CMA quality flag (x = nbp*nbl)
 CT main categories x i*1 window from CT main categories (x = nbp*nbl)
 CT quality flag x i*2 window from CT quality flag (x = nbp*nbl)
 CTTH top pressure x i*1 window from CTTH top pressure (x = nbp*nbl)
 CTTH top temperature x i*1 window from CTTH top temperature (x = nbp*nbl)
 CTTH top height x i*1 window from CTTH top height (x = nbp*nbl)
 CTTH cloudiness x i*1 window from CTTH cloudiness (x = nbp*nbl)
 CTTH quality flag x i*1 window from CTTH quality flag (x = nbp*nbl)

Collocated atlas values and climatological values :

land/sea x i*1 land/sea atlas (space=0, sea=2, land=3), (x = nbp*nbl)
 land/sea/coast x i*1 land/sea/coast atlas (space=0, coast=1, sea=2, land=3), (x = nbp*nbl)
 height x i*2 height atlas value (in meters), (x = nbp*nbl)
 stt x i*2 sst climatological value (in 1/100 K), (x = nbp*nbl)
 albedo x i*2 visible reflectance climatological value (in 1/100 %), (x = nbp*nbl)
 h2o i*2 climatological integrated water vapor content (in 1/100 kg/m2)
 T1000 i*2 climatological air temperature at 1000hPa (in 1/100 K)
 T850 i*2 climatological air temperature at 850hPa (in 1/100 K)
 T700 i*2 climatological air temperature at 700hPa (in 1/100 K)
 T500 i*2 climatological air temperature at 500hPa (in 1/100 K)

Collocated and nearest in time meteorological information extracted from ARPEGE forecast fields (temperature & humidity vertical profile) [missing values : -9999] :

Modele a*7 name of modele (ARPEGE or ECMWF...)

Two set of forecast NWP fields are available (nearest in time before and after SEVIRI image):

date i*4 julian day of forecast day (count from 00h, 1 Jan 1950)
 res i*4 hour of forecast
 ech i*4 forecast term (in hour)
 HeightNWP I*4 height of NWP grid (in meters)
 psol i*4 ground pressure (1/100 hPa)
 tsol i*4 ground temperature (1/100 K)
 t2m i*4 2m air temperature (1/100 K)
 hu2m i*4 2m air relative humidity (1/100 %)
 nbniv I*4 number of pressure levels on the vertical
 pniv 20 i*4 nbniv pressure level (in hPa)
 tniv 20 i*4 temperature at nbniv pressure levels (1/100 K)
 huniv 20 i*4 relative humidity at nbniv pressure levels (1/100 %)
 ppropo i*4 pressure at tropopause level (1/100 hPa)
 tpropo i*4 temperature at tropopause level (1/100 K)
 W i*4 integrated water vapor content (in 1/100 kg/m2)

Spare values :

spare 30 i*4 spare data (not used)

ANNEX 3 SURFACE OBSERVATIONS (SYNOP)

The data used are the routine weather observations, coded by the observers into the WMO synoptic code, gathered at Toulouse and made available to users through a METEO-FRANCE data base. From this data base we extract all the synoptic reports (coded in BUFR) from a list of 593 selected land stations, over the European and Northern African area. These stations have been selected to cover European region. The SYNOP network status is permanently evolving because several nations are replacing human cloud cover observations by automatic systems delivering cloud covers. For this reason we decided to keep from the initial database only the SYNOP whose $i_x < 4$ (in $i_{R_i}hVV$ group of section 1 of SYNOP, coded according to table code 1860 of the WMO manual on codes) because they are assumed to be manned station. Our final set contains 500 stations, their spatial distribution is displayed on right part of Figure 6. This set is the basis retained for our statistics

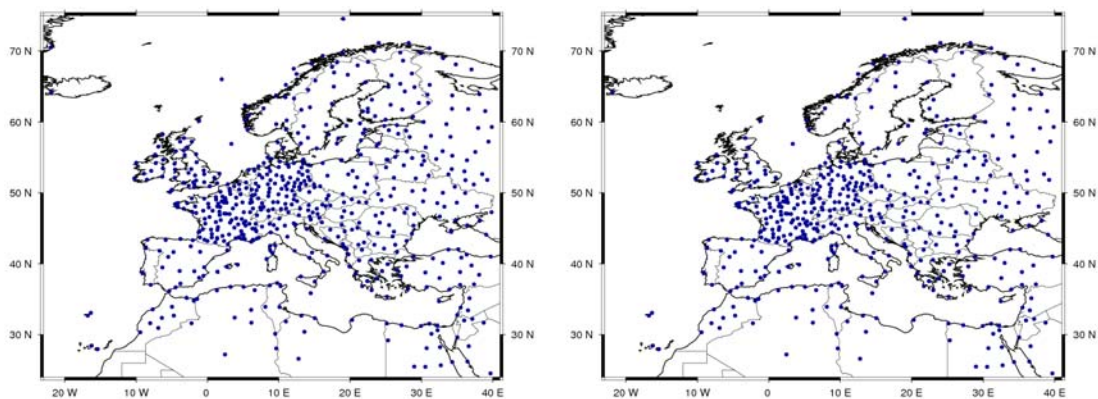



Figure 6 Geographical distribution of SYNOP stations ,left initial set of 593 selected stations, right set of 500 stations really used in the statistics

To avoid cases where solar intrusion in IR 3.9 μm at night-time is significant, we also rejected from the selection all the matchups presenting a mean reflectance in SEVIRI VIS 0.6 μm greater than .9% with a sun zenithal angle greater than 93 degrees.

	Validation Report for "Cloud Products" (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 25/31
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ANNEX 4 GROUND-BASED RADAR AND LIDAR MEASUREMENTS AT SIRT A SITE (PARIS)

LIDAR instrument (LNA)

The lidar instrument, called Lidar Nuages Aerosols (LNA) is a backscattered lidar developed at LMD for cloud and aerosol remote sensing. It can detect aerosol and cloud layers with visible optical thickness ranging from 0.05 to 3, above which the signal is completely attenuated.

The LNA is an Nd-Yag pulsed lidar emitting at 532 and 1064 nm and linearly polarized. The pulse frequency is 20 Hz while the nominal temporal resolution is 10 s. Backscattered photons are collected through two telescopes: a narrow-field-of-view one (0.5 mrad) with range 2-15 km and a wide-field-of-view one (5 mrad) with range 0.1-5 km. The backscattered signal is sampled with a vertical resolution of 15 meters. Vertical distributions of particles are characterized from the ground to about 15 km and the structure of the atmosphere such as the boundary layer height and the altitudes of aerosol and cloud layer is derived by the STRAT algorithm (described below).

The LNA operates on routine schedules from Mondays through Fridays, 8am to 8pm local time. However, the LNA instrument is turned off in case of precipitation. Figure 7 shows the number of 15 min slots of LNA observation each month during the study period.

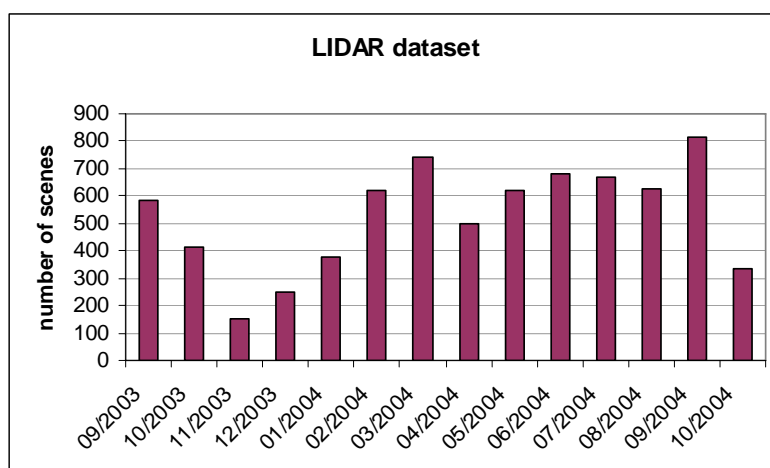


Figure 7 Distribution of LNA dataset (number of 15 min slots of observation each month).

The lidar datasets used for the validation study are pre-processed datasets. They are the output of the STRAT (STRucture of the ATmosphere) algorithm developed at SIRT A.

For cloud top height validation:

Raw lidar data gives the amount of backscattered photons as a function of altitude for every profile. The LNA product used in this study is the output of the STRAT (STRucture of the ATmosphere) algorithm. It identifies the different layers crossed by the laser beam. In the v1 version of the STRAT algorithm, each pixel can be classified as:

- No significant power return (NSPR): the backscattered signal is considered too noisy for identification. A signal is considered too noisy when the signal to noise ratio is smaller than 3. The noise, caused by optical and electronic variations is considered constant along the profile. It is estimated by taking the standard deviation of the signal where there is no lidar return in the highest range (i.e. where the signal is totally due to sky radiance). The NSPR flag occurs in case the lidar beam is attenuated by the atmosphere underneath it.
- Boundary layer: the pixel is part of the boundary layer. It is the lowest layer of the atmosphere and is generally located between 1000 and 2000 meters altitude, depending on

the intensity of the turbulent mixing (normally lower during night than during day). In this layer, where turbulence induced by the ground is very strong, the dynamics are different than in the higher layers. Most of the aerosols from the ground, mixed by turbulent flow, are found inside this layer. In the STRAT algorithm, the boundary layer is identified by a threshold test applied on the ratio of the backscattering signal between two heights.

- **Molecular:** the atmosphere is cloud and aerosol free. A molecular backscattering profile is estimated from the comparison between pressure and temperature profiles (measured by daily atmospheric sounding or extracted from models) and the recording backscattered signal. Molecular layers correspond to zones that successfully passed a threshold test relevant of the similarity between the slopes of the simulated and measured profiles.
- **Cloud or aerosol:** the pixel is contaminated or filled by cloud or aerosol. Continuous Wavelet transform is used to detect singularities of the backscattering signal at layer boundaries (top, peak and base). A threshold test is also used to remove over detections due to noise fluctuations.
- **Aerosol/cloud separation:** based on the analysis of the particle backscatter distribution. A threshold on the average peak-to-base backscatter ratio of consistent particle layers is used to separate aerosol from cloud layers.

From this classification, a simplified cloud mask is derived as shown in Figure 8. The cloud mask reveals that the lidar provides a full characterization of the vertical extent of the cirrus cloud (07:00 to 12:00 UT), but as the cloud becomes optically thicker, the lidar signal is attenuated and the range is limited to the lowest 2 km of the cloud.

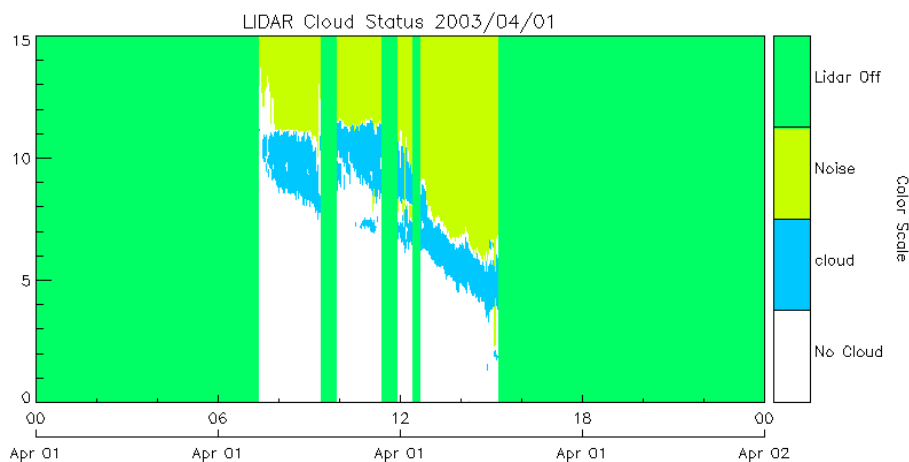


Figure 8 Cloud mask derived from the lidar backscattered power (green: lidar off, yellow: noise, blue: cloud, white: no cloud). Vertical scale in km.

For cloud phase validation:

In addition, a second set of algorithm is also providing the phase information for all cloudy pixels. This algorithm indicates the fraction of a cloud data volume of 30 seconds and 15 m along the vertical that contains ice particles, using the difference in signal given by non-spherical particles in the polarized returns. This algorithm assumes that ice particles exhibit a larger depolarization ratio than liquid droplets due to their non-sphericity. Temperature and depolarization ratio measurements are used for phase delineation (Figure 9) and the ice fraction per lidar pixel is obtained as follows: if the cloud temperature is less than 233 K, the cloud is assumed to be exclusively composed of ice while for temperatures greater than 273 K the cloud is assumed to be totally exempt of ice particles. Between these two temperatures, two linear relationships between the depolarization ratio and the temperature are used to separate pixels composed of liquid, a mixture of liquid and ice and pure ice. Figure 9 shows how liquid water is restricted to depolarization ratios less than 0.2 at 273 K down to zero at 233 K, and ice is restricted to

depolarization greater than 0.8 at 273 K and greater than 0 for temperatures less than 233 K. In between these two lines, mixed phase must be occurring and the ice fraction is assumed to be a linear function of the depolarization ratio between the two slanted lines at each temperature level.

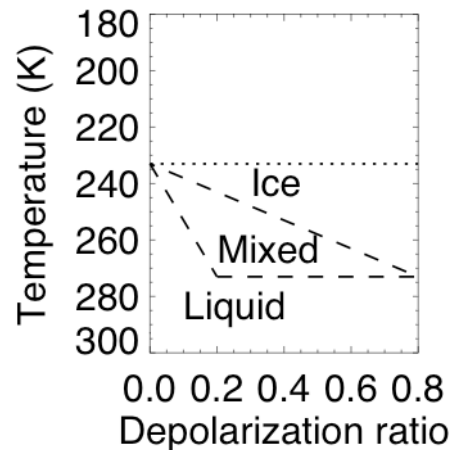


Figure 9 Relationship between temperature and lidar depolarization ratio for the phase delineation algorithm applied to the SIRTALNA data. In the "mixed phase" zone (within the dashed lines), the ice fractions at a given temperature level are assumed to be a linear function of the depolarization ratio between the two temperature-depolarization ratio lines (slanted dashed lines). For example, a pixel with a temperature of -20°C and a depolarization ratio of 0.2 will have an ice fraction of: $(0.2-0.1)/(0.4-0.1)\approx 0.33$.

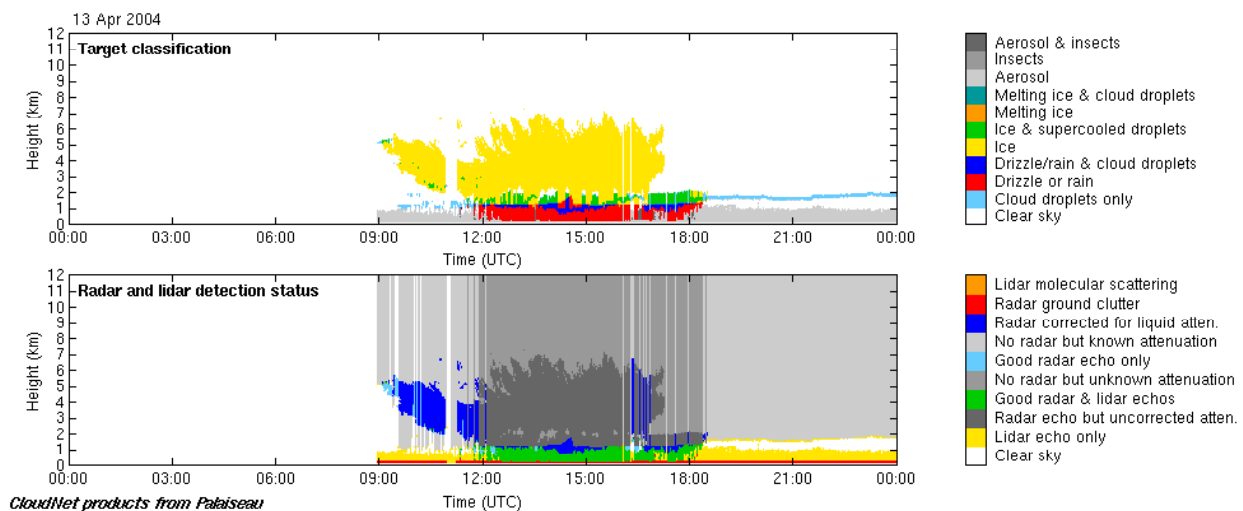


Figure 10 Combined lidar and radar retrievals for an ice cloud over SIRTALNA on 14 April 2004.

RADAR instrument (RASTA)

The cloud radar called RASTA (Radar Aéroporté et Sol de Télé-détection Atmosphérique) is a vertically-pointing single beam 95GHz Doppler radar with a range resolution of 60 meters and the temporal resolution is 1 s. This instrument is devoted to the investigation of cloud processes, through the documentation of the microphysical, radiative and dynamical properties of all type of non-precipitating clouds.

The ground-based configuration of the RASTA cloud radar operates routinely at SIRTa since October 2002 until September 2004. RASTA ceased functioning in October 2004. Figure 11 shows the number of 15 min slots of RASTA observation each month during the study period.

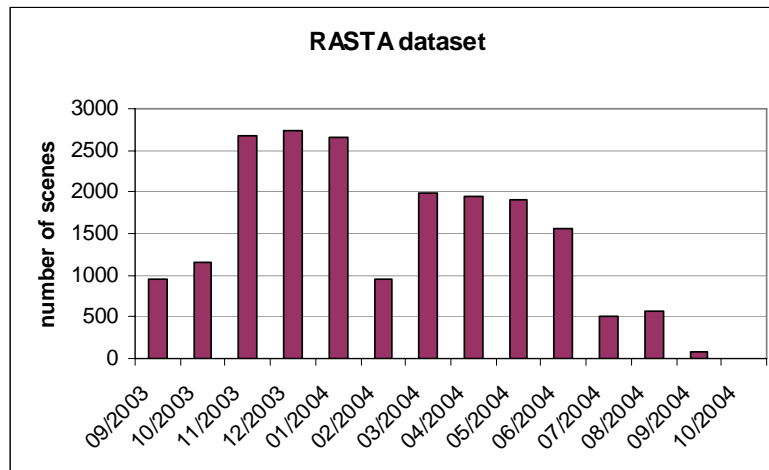


Figure 11 Distribution of RASTA dataset (number of 15 min slots of observation each month).

The radar products have been derived from an algorithm developed by the Department of Meteorology from the University of Reading (UK). This algorithm uses a multiple threshold tests on radar reflectivity and vertical Doppler velocity to classify pixels as : clear-sky, ice particles, melting ice particles, cloud liquid droplets, drizzle/rain, aerosols, or insects.

For cloud top height validation:

We derive a simpler classification for cloud top height estimation consisting of number 0 to 3 defined as :

- 0 : clear-sky, aerosol and insect pixels are deemed to be 'clear-sky'
- 1 : ice/water hydrometeor pixels are deemed to be 'cloud'
- 2 : precipitating hydrometeor pixels are deemed to be 'drizzle/rain'
- 3 : radar instrument turned off

Information of the retrieval algorithm can be found at <http://www.met.rdg.ac.uk/radar/cloudnet/data/products/categorize.html>.

Figure 12 shows the cloud mask derived from this algorithm.

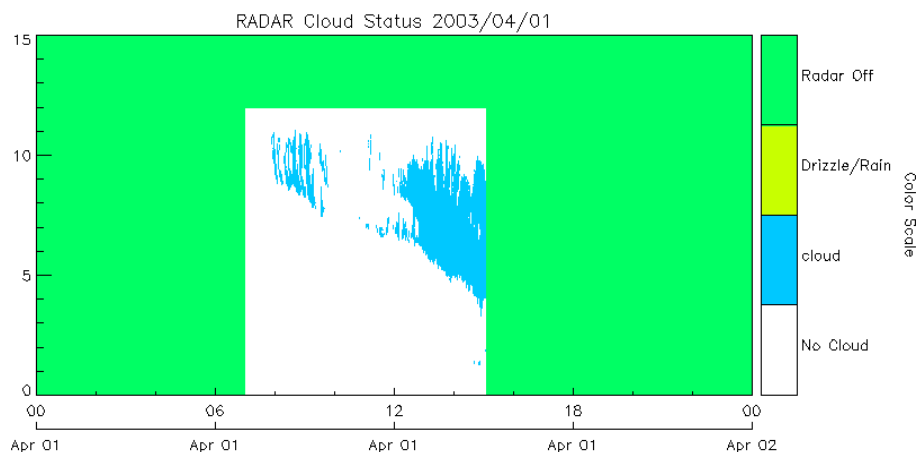



Figure 12 Cloud mask derived from the radar reflectivity (green: radar off, yellow: drizzle or rain, blue: cloud, white: no cloud). Vertical scale in km.

	Validation Report for “Cloud Products” (CMa-PGE01 v3.2, CT-PGE02 v2.2 & CTTH-PGE03 v2.2)	Code: SAF/NWC/CDOP/MFL/SCI/VR/06 Issue: 1.0.1 Date: 25 November 2013 File: SAF-NWC-CDOP-MFL-SCI-VR-06_v1.0.1 Page: 29/31
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For cloud phase validation:

We derive a Cloud Phase classification consisting of number 0 to 3 defined as:

- 0 : liquid water cloud = “Cloud droplets only” category
- 1 : ice water cloud = “Ice” category
- 2 : mixed phase cloud = “Melting ice & cloud droplets + Melting ice + Ice & supercooled droplets” categories
- 3 : radar instrument turned off

Radar & Lidar synergy (RALI)

Data products retrieved from the synergy between the radar and lidar are called the RALI data in this study. The radar and lidar measurements are averaged over a 30 s timeframe and then are independently analysed to retrieve cloud mask product.

Figure 13 shows a cloud mask derived from the combined analysis of the radar reflectivity and the lidar backscattered power. Clouds shown in blue correspond to areas where one of the instruments detects clouds. The cloud mask reveals that radar-lidar synergy is particularly suited to extend the range of observable cloud layers. The vertical resolution is 60 m and the RALI measurements give a maximum range of 15 km.

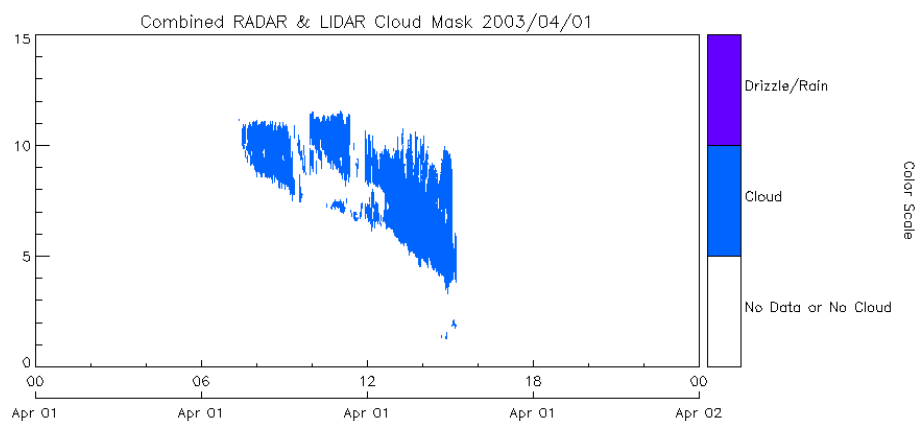


Figure 13 Cloud mask derived from radar-lidar synergy (violet: drizzle or rain, blue: cloud, white: no data or no cloud). The temporal resolution is 30 s. Vertical scale in km.

RALI cloud mask datasets are available for 4 modes of measurement:



- Mode 0: measurement during radar data acquisition time
- Mode 1: measurement during simultaneous radar and lidar data acquisition time
- Mode 2: measurement during lidar data acquisition time
- Mode 3: measurement during radar and/or lidar data acquisition time

Remote sensing of clouds by lidar and radar : limitations

Active remote sensing by lidar only (mode 2):

Lidar back-scattering at 532 nm is sensitive to the number of scattering particles and second moment of the particle size distribution (D^2). The lidar beam is scattered by both liquid water and ice clouds. At each level of the atmosphere, scattering produces lidar signal (the back-scattered portion) but also lidar signal attenuation for the higher levels. For the LNA lidar we consider that the lidar signal is completely extinguished beyond an optical depth of about 3. We also consider that a cloud can be detected as long as its optical depth is greater than 0.01.

According to Morille et al. (2005), for clouds with optical depth ranging between 0.01 and 3, the analysis of lidar back-scattered power by the STRAT algorithm will yield CTH values with a bias

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ranging from 0 to –60m (underestimation of CTH). In the following situations the lidar alone will not provide reliable CTH estimates for:

- Optically thick water clouds
- Ice clouds overlying a solid continuous layer of optically thick water clouds

The algorithm developed for phase retrieval has the following known limitations:

- Considering the possibility of particles smaller than the lidar wavelength. On such small scales, light scattering is dominated by diffraction, which do not modify the light state of polarization. Thus extremely small ice crystals could possibly produce low depolarization that would wrongly identify them as liquid clouds. However, in-situ observations in cirrus clouds only show particles larger than 2 microns, so this problem should only affect a minority of clouds, if at all.
- At temperatures warmer than 0°C and colder than –42°C, depolarization is no longer considered for phase determination. Temperature alone governs the phase.

In the validation exercise, one should stay away from situations where the min, max and mean Lidar range are incoherent by more than 1 km. This indicates high variability in the instrument range and potentially strong attenuation. Hence cloud top information will likely not be consistent with the satellite view.

Active remote sensing by radar only (mode 0):

Radar reflectivity at 94 GHz is driven by the number of particle and the sixth moment of the particle size distribution (D^6). The radar reflectivity is much more sensitive to particle size than particle concentration. Hence the radar will be efficient to detect clouds that contain a high amount of liquid or ice water in which cloud droplets and ice crystals have reached a significant size. Contrary to the lidar, the radar signal in clear air (outside the cloud) is virtually zero hence the cloud boundaries are easily found with a signal threshold. The only ambiguity is that if the cloud particles are too small or if the cloud is too thin and too far (> 10 km), the sensitivity of the radar is not sufficient to produce a reflectivity above the threshold.

In the following situations the radar alone will not provide reliable CTH estimates for:



- Optically thin clouds above 10 km
- Fair weather cumulus clouds at the top of the boundary layer

Cloud phase determination will be limited by the accuracy of temperature, pressure and humidity provided by reanalysis model data. They are used to determine the wet bulb temperature as falling ice melts when the wet bulb temperature becomes positive. This supercooled layer detection is refined by analyzing the radar reflectivity and Doppler velocity profiles that both provide distinct steps.

Active remote sensing by lidar and radar (mode 1):

By combining the retrievals from lidar and radar observations, we are able to significantly decrease the number of clouds that are missed by the ground-based station. The combination of wavelengths allows us to observe the entire range of optical depth and cloud types. However, in the following situations the combination of lidar and radar at the ground may not be able to provide reliable CTH or cloud phase estimates for:

- Multi-layer situation with solid continuous layer of optically thick water clouds underlying a layer of optically thin ice clouds at a high altitude.

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For all CTH and cloud phase validation studies, mode 1 is by far the most reliable data source, but the number of combined lidar/radar observation is smaller than lidar alone (mode 2) or radar alone (mode 0). Hence, to validate CTH values for:

- Opaque clouds, we use the mode 0 dataset.
- Semi-transparent clouds: we use the mode 2 dataset