Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Positioning Service (SPS) Performance Analysis Report

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Executive Summary

The GPS Product Team has tasked the Navigation Branch at the William J. Hughes Technical Center to document the Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Positioning Service (SPS) performance in quarterly GPS Performance Analysis (PAN) Reports. The report contains the analysis performed on data collected at twenty-eight Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) Reference Stations. This analysis verifies the GPS SPS performance as compared to the performance parameters stated in the SPS Specification (September 2008).

This report, Report #80, includes data collected from 1 October through 31 December 2012. The next quarterly report will be issued April 30, 2013.

Analysis of this data includes the following standards and categories: PDOP Availability, NANU Summary and Evaluation, Service Availability, Position and Range Accuracy and Solar Storm Effects on GPS SPS performance.

PDOP availability is based on Position Dilution of Precision (PDOP). Utilizing the weekly almanac posted on the US Coast Guard navigation web site, the coverage for every 5[°] grid point between 180W to 180E and 80S and 80N was calculated for every minute over a 24-hour period for each of the weeks covered in the reporting period. For this reporting period, the global availability based on PDOP less than six for CONUS was 100%.

NANU summary and evaluation was achieved by reviewing the "Notice: Advisory to Navstar Users" (NANU) reports issued between 1 October and 31 December 2012. Using this data, we compute a set of statistics that give a relative idea of constellation health for both the current and combined history of past quarters. A total of ten outages were reported in the NANU's this quarter. Eight outages were scheduled while two were unscheduled.

The quarterly service availability standard was verified using 24-hour position accuracy values computed from data collected at one-second intervals. All of the sites achieved a 100% availability, which exceeds the SPS "average location" value of 99% and the "worst-case location" value of 90%.

Calculating the 24-hour 95% horizontal and vertical position error values verified the accuracy standards. The User Range Error standard was verified for each satellite from 24-hour accuracy values computed using data collected at the following six sites: Boston, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, San Juan and Juneau. This data was also collected in one-second samples. All sites achieved 100% reliability, meeting the SPS specification. The maximum range error recorded was 28.372 meters on Satellite PRN 15. The SPS specification states that the range error should never exceed 30 meters for less than 99.79% of the day for a worst-case point and 99.94% globally. The maximum RMS range error value of 3.443 was recorded on satellite PRN 22. The SPS specification states that RMS URE cannot exceed 6 meters in any 24-hour interval.

Geomagnetic storms had little to no effect on GPS performance this quarter. All sites met all GPS Standard Positioning Service (SPS) specifications on those days with the most significant solar activity.

The IGS is a voluntary federation of many worldwide agencies that pool resources and permanent GNSS station data to generate precise GNSS products. During the evaluation period, the maximum 95% horizontal and vertical SPS errors were 8.20 meters at Santiago, Chile and 7.41 meters at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka, Russian Federation respectively.

From the analysis performed on data collected between 1 October and 31 December 2012, the GPS performance met all SPS requirements that were evaluated. No GPS issues were noted this quarter.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Objective of GPS SPS Performance Analysis Report

In 1993, the FAA began monitoring and analyzing Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Positioning Service (SPS) performance data. At present, the FAA has approved GPS and WAAS for IFR operations and is developing Local Area Augmentation (LAAS), which is an additional GPS augmentation system. In order to ensure the safe and effective use of GPS and its augmentation systems within the NAS, it is critical that characteristics of GPS performance as well as specific causes for service outages be monitored and understood. To accomplish this objective, GPS SPS performance data is documented in a quarterly GPS Analysis report. This report contains data collected at the following twenty-eight WAAS reference station locations:

- Bethel, AK
- Billings, MT
- Fairbanks, AK
- Cold Bay, AK
- Kotzebue, AK
- Juneau, AK
- Albuquerque, NM
- Anchorage, AK
- Boston, MA
- Washington, D.C.
- Honolulu, HI
- Houston, TX
- Kansas city, KS
- Los Angeles, CA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis, MI
- Oakland, CA
- Cleveland, OH
- Seattle, WA
- San Juan, PR
- Atlanta, GA
- Barrow, AK
- Merida, Mexico
- Gander, Canada
- Tapachula, Mexico
- San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico
- Iqaluit, Canada

The analysis of the data is divided into the four performance categories stated in the Standard Positioning Service Performance Specification (September 2008). These categories are:

- PDOP Availability Standard
- Service Availability Standard
- Service Reliability Standard
- Positioning, Ranging and Timing Accuracy Standard

The results were then compared to the performance parameters stated in the SPS.

1.2 Report Overview

Section 2 of this report summarizes the results obtained from the coverage calculation program developed by the GPS test team. The SPS coverage area program uses the GPS satellite almanacs to compute each satellite position as a function of time for a selected day of the week. This program establishes a 5-degree grid between 180 degrees east and 180 degrees west, and from 80 degrees north and 80 degrees south. The program then computes the PDOP at each grid point (1485 total grid points) every minute for the entire day and stores the results. After the PDOP's have been saved the 99.99% index of 1-minute PDOP at each grid point is determined and plotted as contour lines (Figure 2-1). The program also saves the number of satellites used in PDOP calculation at each grid point for analysis.

Section 3 summarizes the GPS constellation performance by providing the "Notice: Advisory to Navstar Users" (NANU) messages to calculate the total time of forecasted and actual satellite outages. This section also evaluates the Service Availability Standard using 24-hour 95% horizontal and vertical position accuracy values.

Section 4 summarizes service reliability performance. It will be reported at the end of the first year of this analysis because the SPS standard is based on a measurement interval of one year. Data for the quarter is provided for completeness.

Section 5 provides the position accuracies based on data collected on a daily basis at one-second intervals. This section also provides the statistics on the range error, range error rate and range acceleration error for each satellite. The overall average, maximum, minimum and standard deviations of the range rates and accelerations are tabulated for each satellite.

In Section 6, the data collected during solar storms is analyzed to determine the effects, if any, of GPS SPS performance.

Section 7 provides an analysis of GPS-SPS accuracy performance from a selection of high rate IGS stations around the world.

Section 8 provides a summary of GPS Test NOTAMs.

Section 9 provides four appendices to summarize the data found in this report and provide further information.

Appendix A provides a summary of all the results as compared to the SPS specification.

Appendix B provides the geomagnetic data used for Section 6.

Appendix C provides a PAN Problem Report.

Appendix D provides a glossary of terms used in this PAN report. This glossary was obtained directly from the GPS SPS specification document (September 2008).

1.3 Summary of Performance Requirements and Metrics

Table 1-1 over the next four pages lists the performance parameters from the SPS and identifies those parameters verified in this report.

Table 1-1 SPS SIS Performance Requirements Standards

2 PDOP Availability Standard

PDOP Availability: The percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the PDOP value is less than or equal to its threshold for any point within the service volume.

Dilution of Precision (DOP): The magnifying effect on GPS position error induced by mapping GPS range errors into position within the specified coordinate system through the geometry of the position solution. The DOP varies as a function of satellite positions relative to user position. The DOP may be represented in any user local coordinate desired. Examples are HDOP for local horizontal, VDOP for local vertical, PDOP for all three coordinates, and TDOP for time.

Almanacs for GPS weeks used for this coverage portion of the report were obtained from the Coast Guard web site (www.navcen.uscg.mil). Using these almanacs, an SPS coverage area program developed by the GPS test team was used to calculate the PDOP at every 5[°] point between longitudes of 180W to 180E and 80S and 80N at one-minute intervals. This gives a total of 1440 samples for each of the 2376 grid points in the coverage area. Table 2-1 provides the global averages and worst-case availability over a 24-hour period for each week. Table 2-1 also gives the global 99.9% PDOP value for each of the thirteen GPS Weeks. The PDOP was 2.799 or better 99.9% of the time for each of the 24-hour intervals.

Figure 2-1 is a contour plot of PDOP values over the entire globe. Inside each contour area, the PDOP value is greater than or equal to the contour value shown in the legend for that color line. That areas' value is also less than the next higher contour value, unless another contour line lies within the current area. A single "DOP hole" where the PDOP value is greater than 6 was evaluated for satellite visibility for one 24-hour interval from the week shaded in Table 2-1. The histogram in figure 2-2 shows the satellite visibility at the DOP hole position for the 24 hour interval in question.

The GPS coverage performance evaluated met the specifications stated in the SPS.

Table 2-1 PDOP Availability Statistics

Figure 2-1 World GPS Maximum PDOP

11/28/12 World GPS Maximum PDOP

Figure 2-2 Satellite Visibility Profile for Worst-Case Point

3 NANU Summary and Evaluation

NANU: Notice Advisory to NAVSTAR Users – A periodic bulletin alerting users to changes in the satellite system performance.

3.1 Satellite Outages from NANU Reports

Satellite availability performance was analyzed based on published "Notice: Advisory to Navstar Users" messages (NANU's). During this reporting period, 1 October through 31 December 2012, there were a total of ten reported outages. Eight of these outages were maintenance activities and were reported in advance while two were unscheduled. A complete listing of outage NANU's for the reporting period is provided in Table 3-1. A complete listing of the forecasted outage NANU's for the reporting period can be found in Table 3-2. Canceled outage NANU's (if any) are provided in Table 3-3. The minimum duration a scheduled outage was forecasted ahead of time was 36.3 hours. Although this did not meet the 48-hour requirement, the outage did not result in a loss of continuity. The maximum response time for a NANU issued for an unscheduled outage was 7 minutes.

Table 3-1 NANUs Affecting Satellite Availability

GENERAL NANUs

NANU 2012064 stated that the L-band signal would resume transmitting from PRN27 (SVN 49) on October 12, 2012. The satellite would not be included in the almanac.

Table 3-2 NANUs Forecasted to Affect Satellite Availability

Table 3-3 Cancelled NANUs

Satellite Reliability, Maintainability, and Availability (RMA) data is being collected based on published "Notice: Advisory to Navstar Users" messages (NANU's). This data has been summarized in Table 3-4. The "Total Satellite Observed MTTR" was calculated by taking the average downtime of all satellite outage occurrences. Scheduled downtime was forecasted in advance via NANU's. All other downtime reported via NANU was considered unscheduled. The "Percent Operational" was calculated based on the ratio of total actual operating hours to total available operating hours for every satellite.

Table 3-4 GPS Satellite Maintenance Statistics

3.2 Service Availability Standard

Service Availability: The percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% position error is less than the threshold at any given point within the service volume.

• Horizontal Service Availability: The percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% horizontal error is less than its threshold for any point within the service volume.

• **Vertical Service Availability:** The percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% vertical error is less than its threshold for any point within the service volume.

To verify availability, the data collected from receivers at the twenty-eight WAAS sites was reduced to calculate 24 hour accuracy information and reported in Table 3-5. The data was collected at one-second intervals between 1 October and 31 December 2012.

Table 3-5 Accuracies Exceeding Threshold Statistics

4 Service Reliability Standard

Service Reliability: The percentage of time over a specific time interval that the instantaneous SIS SPS URE is maintained within a specified reliability threshold at any given point within the service volume, for all healthy GPS satellites.

Table 4-1 shows a comparison to the service reliability standard for range data collected at a set of six receivers across North America. Although the specification calls for yearly evaluations, we will be evaluating this SPS requirement at quarterly intervals. Additional range analysis results can be found in table 5-2. The maximum User Range Error recorded this quarter was 28.372 meters on satellite PRN 15.

Table 4-1 User Range Error Accuracy

5 Accuracy Standard

Positioning Accuracy: The statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

• **Horizontal Positioning Accuracy**: The statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between horizontal position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

• **Vertical Positioning Accuracy**: The statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between vertical position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

5.1 Position Accuracy

The data used for this section was collected for every second from 1 October through 31 December 2012 at the selected WAAS locations. Table 5-1 provides the 95% and 99.99% horizontal and vertical error accuracies for the quarter. Every twenty-four hour analysis period this quarter passed both the worst-case and global position accuracy requirements set forth by the SPS specification.

Table 5-1 Horizontal & Vertical Accuracy Statistics for the Quarter

Figures 5-1 and 5-2 are the combined histograms of the vertical and horizontal errors for all twenty-eight WAAS sites from 1 October to 31 December 2012.

Figure 5-1 Global Vertical Error Histogram

Horizontal Position Error Histogram: 1 October - 31 December 2012

5.2 Time Transfer Accuracy

The GPS time error data between 1 October and 31 December 2012 was down loaded from USNO Internet site. The USNO data file contains the time difference between the USNO master clock and GPS system time for each GPS satellites during the time period. Over 10,000 samples of GPS time error are contained in the USNO data file. In order to evaluate the GPS time transfer error, the data file was used to create a histogram (Fig 5-3) to represent the distribution of GPS time error. The histogram was created by taking the absolute value of time difference between the USNO master clock and GPS system time, then creating data bins with one nanosecond precision. The number of samples in each bin was then plotted to form the histogram in Fig 5-3. The mean, standard deviation, and 95% index are within the requirements of GPS SPS time error.

Figure 5-3 Time Transfer Error

5.3 Range Domain Accuracy

Tables 5-3 through 5-5 provide the statistical data for the range error, range rate error and the range acceleration error for each satellite. This data was collected between 1 October and 31 December 2012. A weighted average filter was used for the calculation of the range rate error and the range acceleration error. All Range Domain SPS specifications were met.

Table 5-2 Range Error Statistics

(Meters)

Table 5-3 Range Rate Error Statistics

(Millimeters/ Second)

Table 5-4 Range Acceleration Error Statistics

(Micrometers/Second²)

Figures 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6 are graphical representations of the distributions of the maximum range error, range rate error and range acceleration error for all satellites. The highest maximum range error occurred on satellite 15 with an error of 28.372 meters. Satellite 21 had the lowest maximum range error of 15.722 meters.

Daily Max Range Rate Error Histogram: 1 October - 31 December 2012

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Figure 5-8 Maximum Range Error Per Satellite

Figure 5-10 Maximum Range Acceleration Error Per Satellite

6 Solar Storms

Solar storm activity is being monitored in order to assess the possible impact on GPS SPS performance. Solar activity is reported by the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) , a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). When storm activity is indicated, ionospheric delays of the GPS signal, satellite outages, position accuracy and availability will be analyzed.

The following article was taken from the SEC web site [http://swpc.noaa.gov.](http://swpc.noaa.gov/) It briefly explains some of the ideas behind the association of the aurora with geomagnetic activity and a bit about how the 'K-index' or 'K-factor' works.

The aurora is caused by the interaction of high-energy particles (usually electrons) with neutral atoms in the earth's upper atmosphere. These high-energy particles can 'excite' (by collisions) valence electrons that are bound to the neutral atom. The 'excited' electron can then 'de-excite' and return back to its initial, lower energy state, but in the process it releases a photon (a light particle). The combined effect of many photons being released from many atoms results in the aurora display that you see.

The details of how high energy particles are generated during geomagnetic storms constitute an entire discipline of space science in its own right. The basic idea, however, is that the Earth's magnetic field (let us say the 'geomagnetic field') is responding to an outwardly propagating disturbance from the Sun. As the geomagnetic field adjusts to this disturbance, various components of the Earth's field change form, releasing magnetic energy and thereby accelerating charged particles to high energies. These particles, being charged, are forced to stream along the geomagnetic field lines. Some end up in the upper part of the earth's neutral atmosphere and the auroral mechanism begins.

An instrument called a magnetometer may also measure the disturbance of the geomagnetic field. At NOAA's operations center magnetometer data is received from dozens of observatories in one-minute intervals. The data is received at or near to 'real-time' and allows NOAA to keep track of the current state of the geomagnetic conditions. In order to reduce the amount of data NOAA converts the magnetometer data into three-hourly indices, which give a quantitative, but less detailed measure of the level of *geomagnetic activity. The K-index scale has a range from 0 to 9 and is directly related to the maximum amount of fluctuation (relative to a quiet day) in the geomagnetic field over a three-hour interval.*

The K-index is therefore updated every three hours. The K-index is also necessarily tied to a specific geomagnetic observatory. For locations where there are no observatories, one can only estimate what the local K-index would be by looking at data from the nearest observatory, but this would be subject to some errors from time to time because geomagnetic activity is not always spatially homogenous.

Another item of interest is that the location of the aurora usually changes geomagnetic latitude as the intensity of the geomagnetic storm changes. The location of the aurora often takes on an 'oval-like' shape and is appropriately called the auroral oval.

Figures 6-1 through 6-3 show the K-index for three time periods with significant solar activity. Although there were other days with increased solar activity, these time periods were selected as examples. (See Appendix B for the actual geomagnetic data for this reporting period.)

Estimated Planetary K index (3 hour data) Begin: 2012 Oct 12 0000 UTC Table 6-1 shows the position accuracy information for the day corresponding to Figure 6-1. The GPS SPS performance met all requirements during all storms that occurred during this quarter.

Table 6-1 Horizontal & Vertical Accuracy Statistics for October 1, 2012

7 IGS Data

GPS SPS accuracy performance was evaluated at a selection of high rate IGS stations⁽¹⁾. The IGS is a voluntary federation of many worldwide agencies that pool resources and permanent GNSS station data to generate precise GNSS products.

High data rate (1 Hz) sites with good availability that were outside of the WAAS service area, and provided a good geographic distribution have been selected. To facilitate differentiating between GPS accuracy issues and receiver tracking problems, an automatic data screening function excluded errors greater than 500 meters and or times when VDOP or HDOP were greater than 10. See Figure 7-4 to 7-5 for example plots. The remaining receiver tracking issues are still included in the processing and are forced into the 50.1 meter histogram bin and are believed to influence the outliers in the 99.99% statistics.

High quality broadcast navigation data and Klobachar model data is created by voting across all available IGS high rate RINEX navigation data.

Table 7.1 and Figure 7-1 show the IGS site information and locations. Table 7.2 shows the GPS SPS Accuracy Performance observed at a selection of High Rate IGS sites. Figure 7-2 shows the 95% horizontal accuracy trends at these sites. Figure 7-3 shows the 95% vertical accuracy trends at these sites. A value of zero indicates no data. SANT being an outlier in Figure 7-2 is believed to be due to limitations of the Klobuchar model.

Figure 7-4 shows an example of a suspected receiver tracking issue (IISC outlier on Day 350). Figure 7-5 shows an example of SANT increased ionosphere errors due to the limitations of the Klobuchar model (trend in first part of the plot Figure 7-5) and tracking issues caused by scintillation associated with the magnetic equatorial anomalies (outlier glitches).

(1) J.M. Dow, R.E. Neilan, G. Gendt, "The International GPS Service (IGS): Celebrating the 10th Anniversary and Looking to the Next Decade," Adv. Space Res. 36 vol. 36, no. 3, pp. 320-326, 2005. Doi: 10.1016/j.asr.2005.05.125

Table 7-1 Selected IGS Site Information

Figure 7-1 Selected IGS Site Locations

Figure 7-2 GPS SPS 95% Horizontal Accuracy Trends at Selected IGS Sites

Figure 7-3 GPS SPS 95% Vertical Accuracy Trends at Selected IGS Sites

Figure 7-4 Example Receiver Tracking Problem

8 GPS Test NOTAMs Summary

GPS test NOTAM: Global Positioning System test Notices to Airmen - GPS test NOTAMs are issued in the event that GPS is predicted to be unreliable and/or unavailable at a defined location for specific times, as indicated in the NOTAM, due to scheduled testing events.

8.1 GPS Test NOTAMs Issued

GPS test NOTAMs were tracked and trended from GPS test NOTAMs posted on the FAA PilotWeb website (https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/PilotWeb/). During this reporting period, October 1 through December 31 2012, there were a total of 27 GPS test NOTAMs. The total number of days affected in this reporting period is 33. Tables 8.1 and 8.2 below list the statistics of areas affected and durations. Note that the durations are on a per GPS test NOTAM basis.

Table 8-1 GPS test NOTAM Durations

Table 8-2 GPS Test NOTAM Affected Areas (Square Miles) by Altitude

8.2 Tracking and Trending of GPS Test NOTAMs

The GPS Test NOTAMs that are tracked and trended for this reporting period were done with a specialized software analysis tool that is designed to not only trend but also archive GPS Test NOTAMs. It is designed to trend archived GPS Test NOTAMs for any specified time frame. In addition to the data provided in this report, this tool provides all affected RNAV routes and procedures for each NOTAM in a web interface format. It can be accessed at the following link: **http://waas.faa.gov/ess/gps_test_outage/index.html**

The four plots below illustrate a visual depiction of the affected areas at their corresponding altitudes along with the impacted RNAV routes (indicated in red). Note that some GPS Test NOTAMs occupy the same area and position but differ in effective dates and/or durations.

Figure 8-1 GPS Test NOTAMs @ FL400

Figure 8-2 GPS NOTAMs @ FL250

Figure 8-3 GPS NOTAMs @ 10k Feet

Figure 8-4 GPS NOTAMs @ 4k Feet

Figure 8-5 GPS NOTAMs @ 50 Feet

GPS Test Outages and impacted RNAV T Routes at 50 feet AGL

8.3 GPS Availability

The impacts to GPS availability are listed below for the corresponding locations and times. The percentage impact to GPS availability indicates that GPS is impacted for *X* % of the total time that the GPS Test NOTAM is active within the indicated area, centered at the indicated latitude/longitude. The radius column indicates the distance from the latitude/longitude for which the impacted GPS availability extends. Note that the radius listed is for an altitude of 40,000 feet. The impact to GPS availability at lower altitudes is the same. Each row of the following table represents one GPS Test NOTAM. The remaining tables each represent one GPS Test NOTAM.

Table 8-3 NOTAM Impact to GPS Availability

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix A: Performance Summary

Table 9-1 Performance Summary

9.2 Appendix B: Geomagnetic Data

Prepared by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Weather Prediction Center

Current Quarter Daily Geomagnetic Data

9.3 Appendix C: Performance Analysis (PAN) Problem Report

In 1993, the FAA began monitoring and analyzing Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Positioning Service (SPS) performance data. At present, the FAA has approved GPS for IFR and is developing WAAS and LAAS, both of which are GPS augmentation systems. In order to ensure the safe and effective use of GPS and its augmentation systems within the NAS, it is critical that characteristics of GPS performance as well as specific causes for service outages be monitored and understood. To accomplish this objective, GPS SPS performance data is documented in a quarterly GPS Performance Analysis (PAN) report. The PAN report contains data collected at various National Satellite Test Bed (NSTB) and Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) reference station locations. This PAN Problem Report will be issued only when the performance data fails to meet the GPS Standard Positioning Service (SPS) Signal Specification.

Problem Description:

The minimum duration a scheduled satellite outage was forecasted ahead of time by a NANU was 36.3 hours. Although this did not meet the 48-hour requirement, the outage did not result in a loss of continuity. This value was calculated from a rescheduled event. The original forecast NANU met the requirement, but the rescheduling did not. Please see NANUs 2012082, 2012085 and 2012086.

9.4 Appendix D: Glossary

The terms and definitions discussed below are taken from the Standard Positioning Service Performance Specification (October 2001). An understanding of these terms and definitions is a necessary prerequisite to full understanding of the Signal Specification.

General Terms and Definitions

Almanac Longitude of the Ascending Node (.**o):** Equatorial angle from the Prime Meridian (Greenwich) at the weekly epoch to the ascending node at the ephemeris reference epoch.

Coarse/Acquisition (C/A) Code: A PRN code sequence used to modulate the GPS L1 carrier.

Corrected Longitude of Ascending Node (Ωk) and Geographic Longitude of the Ascending Node (GLAN): Equatorial angle from the Prime Meridian (Greenwich) to the ascending node, both at arbitrary time T_k .

Dilution of Precision (DOP): The magnifying effect on GPS position error induced by mapping GPS ranging errors into position within the specified coordinate system through the geometry of the position solution. The DOP varies as a function of satellite positions relative to user position. The DOP may be represented in any user local coordinate desired. Examples are HDOP for local horizontal, VDOP for local vertical, PDOP for all three coordinates, and TDOP for time.

Equatorial Angle: An angle along the equator in the direction of Earth rotation.

Geometric Range: The difference between the estimated locations of a GPS satellite and an SPS receiver.

Ground track Equatorial Crossing (GEC, λ, 2 SOPS GLAN): Equatorial angle from the Prime Meridian (Greenwich) to the location a ground track intersects the equator when crossing from the Southern to the Northern hemisphere. GEC is equal to Ωk when the argument of latitude $(Φ)$ is zero.

Instantaneous User Range Error (URE): The difference between the pseudo range measured at a given location and the expected pseudo range, as derived from the navigation message and the true user position, neglecting the bias in receiver clock relative to GPS time. A signal-in-space (SIS) URE includes residual orbit, satellite clock, and group delay errors. A system URE (sometimes known as a User Equivalent Range Error, or UERE) contains all lineof-sight error sources, to include SIS, single-frequency ionosphere model error, troposphere model error, multipath and receiver noise.

Longitude of Ascending Node (LAN): A general term for the location of the ascending node – the point that an orbit intersects the equator when crossing from the Southern to the Northern hemisphere.

Longitude of the Ground track Equatorial Crossing (GEC, λ, 2 SOPS GLAN): Equatorial angle from the Prime Meridian (Greenwich) to the location a ground track intersects the equator when crossing from the Southern to the Northern hemisphere. GEC is equal to Ωk when the argument of latitude $(Φ)$ is zero.

Mean Down Time (MDT): A measure of time required to restore function after any downing event.

Mean Time Between Downing Events (MTBDE): A measure of time between any downing events.

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF): A measure of time between unscheduled downing events.

Mean Time to Restore (MTTR): A measure of time required to restore function after an unscheduled downing event.

Navigation Message: Data contained in each satellite's ranging signal and consisting of the ranging signal time-oftransmission, the transmitting satellite's orbital elements, an almanac containing abbreviated orbital element

information to support satellite selection, ranging measurement correction information, and status flags. The message structure is described in Section 2.1.2 of the SPS Performance Standard.

Operational Satellite: A GPS satellite which is capable of, but is not necessarily transmitting a usable ranging signal.

PDOP Availability: Defined to be the percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the PDOP value is less than or equal to its threshold for any point within the service volume.

Positioning Accuracy: Defined to be the statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

• **Horizontal Positioning Accuracy:** Defined to be the statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between horizontal position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

• **Vertical Positioning Accuracy:** Defined to be the statistical difference, at a 95% probability, between vertical position measurements and a surveyed benchmark for any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

Position Solution: An estimate of a user's location derived from ranging signal measurements and navigation data from GPS.

Position Solution Geometry: The set of direction cosines that define the instantaneous relationship of each satellite's ranging signal vector to each of the position solution coordinate axes.

Pseudo Random Noise (PRN): A binary sequence that appears to be random over a specified time interval unless the shift register configuration and initial conditions for generating the sequence are known. Each satellite generates a unique PRN sequence that is effectively uncorrelated (orthogonal) to any other satellite's code over the integration time constant of a receiver's code tracking loop.

Representative SPS Receiver: The minimum signal reception and processing assumptions employed by the U.S. Government to characterize SPS performance in accordance with performance standards defined in Section 3 of the SPS Performance Standard. Representative SPS receiver capability assumptions are identified in Section 2.2 of the SPS Performance Standard.

Right Ascension of Ascending Node (RAAN): Equatorial angle from the celestial principal direction to the ascending node.

Root Mean Square (RMS) SIS URE: A statistic that represents instantaneous SIS URE performance in an RMS sense over some sample interval. The statistic can be for an individual satellite or for the entire constellation. The sample interval for URE assessment used in the SPS Performance Standard is 24 hours.

Selective Availability: Protection technique formerly employed to deny full system accuracy to unauthorized users. SA was discontinued effective midnight May 1, 2000.

Service Availability: Defined to be the percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% positioning error is less than its threshold for any given point within the service volume.

• **Horizontal Service Availability:** Defined to be the percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% horizontal error is less than its threshold for any point within the service volume.

• **Vertical Service Availability:** Defined to be the percentage of time over any 24-hour interval that the predicted 95% vertical error is less than its threshold for any point within the service volume.

Service Degradation: A condition over a time interval during which one or more SPS performance standards are not supported.

Service Failure: A condition over a time interval during which a healthy GPS satellite's ranging signal exceeds the Not-to-Exceed (NTE) SPS SIS URE tolerance.

Service Reliability: The percentage of time over a specified time interval that the instantaneous SIS SPS URE is maintained within a specified reliability threshold at any given point within the service volume, for all healthy GPS satellites.

Service Volume: The spatial volume supported by SPS performance standards. Specifically, the SPS Performance Standard supports the terrestrial service volume. The terrestrial service volume covers from the surface of the Earth up to an altitude of 3,000 kilometers.

SPS Performance Envelope: The range of nominal variation in specified aspects of SPS performance.

SPS Performance Standard: A quantifiable minimum level for a specified aspect of GPS SPS performance. SPS performance standards are defined in Section 3.0.

SPS Ranging Signal: An electromagnetic signal originating from an operational satellite. The SPS ranging signal consists of a Pseudo Random Noise (PRN) C/A code, a timing reference and sufficient data to support the position solution generation process. A description of the GPS SPS signal is provided in Section 2. The formal definition of the SPS ranging signal is provided in ICDGPS-200C.

SPS Ranging Signal Measurement: The difference between the ranging signal time of reception (as determined by the receiver's clock) and the time of transmission derived from the navigation signal (as defined by the satellite's clock) multiplied by the speed of light. Also known as the *pseudo range*.

SPS SIS User Range Error (URE) Statistic:

• A satellite SPS SIS URE statistic is defined to be the Root Mean Square (RMS) difference between SPS ranging signal measurements (neglecting user clock bias and errors due to propagation environment and receiver), and "true" ranges between the satellite and an SPS user at any point within the service volume over a specified time interval.

• A constellation SPS SIS URE statistic is defined to be the average of all satellite SPS SIS URE statistics over a specified time interval.

Time Transfer Accuracy Relative to UTC (USNO): The difference at a 95% probability between user UTC time estimates and UTC (USNO) at any point within the service volume over any 24-hour interval.

Transient Behavior: Short-term behavior not consistent with steady-state expectations.

Usable SPS Ranging Signal: An SPS ranging signal that can be received, processed, and used in a position solution by a receiver with representative SPS receiver capabilities.

User Navigation Error (UNE): Given a sufficiently stationary and ergodic satellite constellation ranging error behavior over a minimum sample interval, multiplication of the DOP and a constellation ranging error standard deviation value will yield an approximation of the RMS position error. This RMS approximation is known as the UNE (UHNE for horizontal, UVNE for vertical, and so on). The user is cautioned that any divergence away from the stationary and ergodic assumptions will cause the UNE to diverge from a RMS value based on actual measurements.

User Range Accuracy (URA): A conservative representation of each satellite's expected (1σ) SIS URE performance (excluding residual group delay) based on historical data. A URA value is provided that is representative over the curve fit interval of the navigation data from which the URA is read. The URA is a coarse representation of the URE statistic in that it is quantized to levels represented in ICDGPS200C.