



INSTITUTE OF  
SPACE TECHNOLOGY & **SPACE APPLICATIONS**

der Bundeswehr  
**Universität München**

## Demonstration of meta-signal positioning using LAMBDA ambiguity fixing method within a bit-true simulation

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# Presentation Outline



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# 1. Motivation



## 1.1 Meta-signals : tracking of wide-band signals for improved positioning

- *Meta-signal* : corresponds to the prospect of tracking two signals on different carrier frequencies as one wideband signal.
- Enables ‘sub-carrier’ tracking exhibiting a performance with low tracking jitter due to extremely narrow correlation peak.
- Sub-carrier tracking produces ‘sub-carrier’ phase observations – precise up to cm level but ambiguous up to integer multiple of sub-carrier wavelength.
- Sub-carrier tracking realizes positioning with improved accuracy especially under urban canyon multipath conditions without the requirement of a reference station.
- Meta-signals can be approximated as high-order BOC signals, invoking interest in optimal high-order BOC tracking schemes.

# 1.2 High-order BOC tracking schemes



Problem statement : *For BOC modulation, besides the tracking point on the main peak, the ACF consists of several other stable tracking points due to the presence of side-peaks. For meta-signals, approximated as high-order BOC signals, the amplitudes of consecutive side-peaks only slightly differ resulting in false locks.*

## **Bump Jump:**

- Besides the three E-P-L correlators, it employs two additional correlators: the Very Early (VE) and Very Late (VL) correlators.
- A false lock is said to be occurring if there exists a significant difference between VE and VL correlator values over a given time duration.
- Scheme fails for high-order BOC signals.

## **Double-estimator**

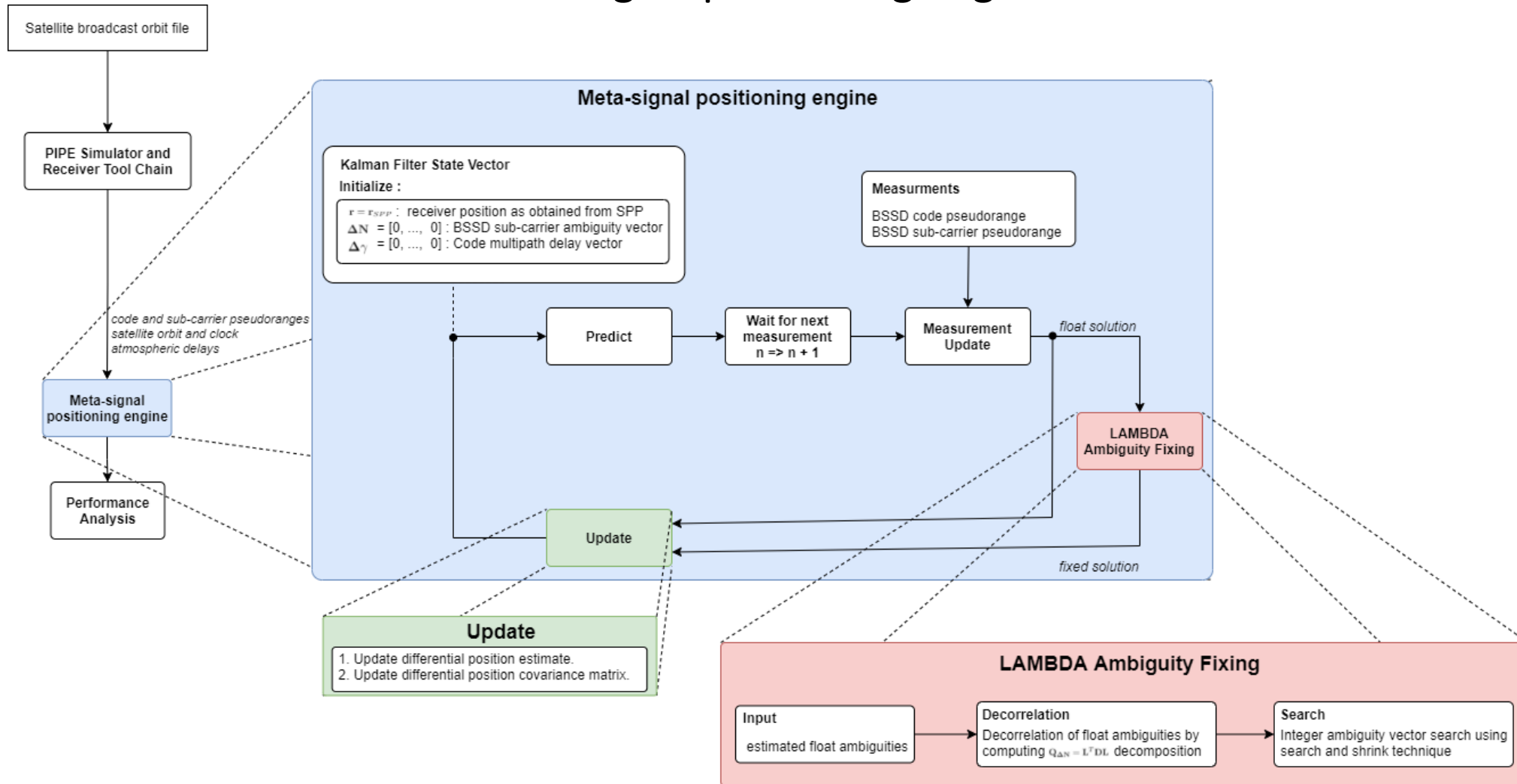
- Besides DLL and PLL, a Sub-carrier Lock Loop (SLL) is implemented which uses a sub-carrier replica for correlation after the PRN code is wiped-off by the DLL.
- Using SLL code phase, pseudoranges are obtained which are very precise but ambiguous i.e the tracking jitter in the SLL output is very small but the tracked sub-carrier position within a given PRN code sequence is not known.
- If DLL measurement noise is within a half sub-carrier wavelength, then code observations can be directly be used to resolve sub-carrier ambiguity.
- Ineffective alone in absence of ambiguity fixing filter especially when there is high code noise for e.g in urban canyon environment.



## 1.3 Sub-carrier ambiguity fixing in position domain

- Sub-carrier phase : a navigation observable similar to carrier phase → precise but ambiguous upto an integer multiple of sub-carrier wavelength.
- Sub-carrier wavelength → in order of a few meters → ambiguity can be resolved by conditioning sub-carrier observations on filtered code observations → no requirement of a reference receiver.
- Ambiguity resolved using a combined code and sub-carrier observation model.
- Obtained position solution accurate upto cm level.
- High-applicabilty in urban canyon multipath environments for commercial receiver market.
- To demonstrate this, this research is conducted by ISTA UniBwM in collaboration with Airbus Defence & Space as part of FUNTIMES II project within the H2020 Framework funded by the Eurpoean Commision.

## 2. Meta-signal positioning engine





# 2.1 Observation model

## Code and sub-carrier observation equations

The following code  $\tilde{\rho}^k$  and sub-carrier  $\tilde{\phi}^k$  observation models are considered:

$$\tilde{\rho}^k = \left\| \mathbf{r}^k - \mathbf{r} \right\| + c \left( \delta\tau - (\delta\tau^k + \delta\tau_{rel}^k) \right) + T^k + I^k + \boxed{\gamma^k} + \nu_{\rho}^k$$

non-standard extension

$$\tilde{\phi}^k = \left\| \mathbf{r}^k - \mathbf{r} \right\| + c \left( \delta\tau - (\delta\tau^k + \delta\tau_{rel}^k) \right) + N^k \lambda + T^k + I^k + \nu_{\phi}^k$$

## BSSD observations

To eliminate receiver clock offset, BSSD observations are considered:

$$\bar{\rho}^k = (\tilde{\rho}^k - \rho^k) - (\tilde{\rho}^0 - \rho^0) = - \left( \left( \mathbf{e}^k \right)^T + \left( \mathbf{e}^0 \right)^T \right) \mathbf{r} + \Delta \gamma^k + \nu_{\rho}^k - \nu_{\rho}^0$$

$$\bar{\phi}^k = \left( \tilde{\phi}^k - \phi^k \right) - \left( \tilde{\phi}^0 - \phi^0 \right) = - \left( \left( \mathbf{e}^k \right)^T + \left( \mathbf{e}^0 \right)^T \right) \mathbf{r} + \Delta N^k \lambda + \nu_{\phi}^k - \nu_{\phi}^0$$

- $\mathbf{r}^k$  : satellite position
- $\mathbf{r}$  : receiver position
- $\delta\tau$  : receiver clock offset
- $\delta\tau^k$  : satellite clock offset
- $\delta\tau_{rel}^k$  : satellite clock relativity term
- $T^k$  : tropospheric delay in meters
- $I^k$  : ionospheric delay in meters
- $\nu_{\rho}^k$  : code noise
- $\nu_{\phi}^k$  : sub-carrier noise
- $N^k$  : integer ambiguity
- $\lambda$  : sub-carrier wavelength





# 2.1 Observation model contd.

## Combined BSSD code and sub-carrier observation model for K satellites

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\vec{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta\mathbf{N} \\ \Delta\boldsymbol{\gamma} \end{pmatrix} + \epsilon_{\mathbf{y}} \quad \text{: combined observation model}$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\rho}^1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{\rho}^k \\ \bar{\phi}^1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{\phi}^k \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: measurement vector}$$

$$\Delta\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta N^1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta N^{K-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: BSSD sub-carrier ambiguity vector}$$

$$\Delta\boldsymbol{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta\gamma^1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta\gamma^{K-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: BSSD code multipath vector}$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -\left(\left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{1}}\right)^T + \left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{0}}\right)^T\right) \\ \vdots \\ -\left(\left(\mathbf{e}^{K-1}\right)^T + \left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{0}}\right)^T\right) \\ -\left(\left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{1}}\right)^T + \left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{0}}\right)^T\right) \\ \vdots \\ -\left(\left(\mathbf{e}^{K-1}\right)^T + \left(\mathbf{e}^{\vec{0}}\right)^T\right) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: geometry matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{(K-1)(K-1)} \\ \lambda\mathbf{I}_{(K-1)(K-1)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: ambiguity state coefficient matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{(K-1)(K-1)} \\ \mathbf{0}_{(K-1)(K-1)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{: code multipath state coefficient matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{A}_{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}_{\gamma})$$





## 2.3 LAMBDA-method based sub-carrier ambiguity resolution

### LAMBDA ambiguity fixing

The integer ambiguity within the sub-carrier pseudorange observations are resolved using LAMBDA ambiguity fixing method:

#### 1. Decorrelation of float ambiguities

- a) Cholesky decomposition

Decomposition of the float ambiguity covariance matrix  $\mathbf{Q}_{\Delta N}$  into a lower triangular matrix  $\mathbf{L}$  and a diagonal matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  as:

$$\mathbf{Q}_{\Delta N} = \mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{L}$$

- b) Reparameterization using Z-transform

A reparameterization of the ambiguities is then done by computing the Z-transform matrix  $\mathbf{Z}$  through an iterative process

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{z}} &= \mathbf{Z}^T \Delta \bar{\mathbf{N}} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{z}} &= \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Q}_{\Delta N} \mathbf{Z}\end{aligned}$$

#### 2. Search of integer ambiguity vector

The integer estimate is obtained through a search over the integer grid points of an n-dimensional hyper-ellipsoid which has a size defined by a positive constant  $X^2$ , is centred at  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  and is shaped by the covariance matrix  $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{z}}$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{z}} &= \arg \min (\bar{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{z})^T \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{z}}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{z}) \\ F(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}) &= (\bar{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{z})^T \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{z}}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{z}) \leq X^2\end{aligned}$$

#### 3. Back-transformation of fixed ambiguities

After the search process is completed, the fixed ambiguity vector is finally obtained by taking the inverse Z-transform of the searched solution

$$\widetilde{\Delta \mathbf{N}} = \mathbf{Z}^{-T} \tilde{\mathbf{z}}$$



## 2.3 LAMBDA-method based sub-carrier ambiguity resolution contd.

### 3. Fixed solution validation

The ratio and difference are compared against their thresholds respectively. Whenever, the thresholds are crossed, **a simple rounded solution of the float ambiguity vector (before decorrelation)** is taken as the fixed.

$$ratio = \frac{(\widetilde{\Delta N}_2 - \Delta N)^T Q_{\Delta N}^{-1} (\widetilde{\Delta N}_2 - \Delta N)}{(\widetilde{\Delta N}_1 - \Delta N)^T Q_{\Delta N}^{-1} (\widetilde{\Delta N}_1 - \Delta N)} > \mu_{ratio}$$

$$difference = (\widetilde{\Delta N}_2 - \Delta N)^T Q_{\Delta N}^{-1} (\widetilde{\Delta N}_2 - \Delta N) - (\widetilde{\Delta N}_1 - \Delta N)^T Q_{\Delta N}^{-1} (\widetilde{\Delta N}_1 - \Delta N) > \mu_{diff}$$

$$\widetilde{\Delta N} = round(\Delta N)$$

If ambiguity validation is successful, the fixed solution is used to update the differential position states and its covariance matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta y \\ \delta z \end{pmatrix}^+ = (\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{Q}_y^{-1} \mathbf{H}) \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{Q}_y^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}_\lambda (\Delta \widetilde{N} - \Delta N))$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{[1,2,3;1,2,3]} = \mathbf{P}_{[1,2,3;1,2,3]} - \mathbf{Q}_{r\Delta N} \mathbf{Q}_{\Delta N}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}_{r\Delta N}^T$$

Absolute receiver position, BSSD sub-carrier ambiguities and BSSD code multipath estimates are updated using either float or fixed solution.

$$\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{r}_{i-1} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta y \\ \delta z \end{pmatrix}_i^+$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{N}_i = \Delta \mathbf{N}_{i-1} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta \Delta N^1 \\ \vdots \\ \delta \Delta N^{K-1} \end{pmatrix}_i^+$$

$$\Delta \gamma_i = \Delta \gamma_{i-1} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta \Delta \gamma^1 \\ \vdots \\ \delta \Delta \gamma^{K-1} \end{pmatrix}_i^+$$



### 3. Simulation set-up



# 3.1 Signal generation and tracking

- PIPE consists of a full constellation **bit-true GNSS signal simulator at IF sample level**.
- The PIPE simulator takes input a navigation data record file and for a user-defined receiver position it produces the output of meta-signal tracking in .csv format.
- PIPE\_csv file contains **timestamps, code and sub-carrier pseudoranges, satellite orbit and clock parameters and modelled atmospheric delay terms (broadcast group delay, ionosphere and troposphere)**.
- PIPE\_csv2rinex script was developed to perform the necessary file conversion.

```

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0.06000000, 14, 0.00400000, 0.00400000, 0.00000000, 0, 0.06205937,
0.08000000, 19, 0.00400000, 0.00400000, 0.00000000, 0, 0.08205917,
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0.38000000, 94, 0.00400000, 0.00400000, 0.00000000, 0, 0.38205610,
.....

```

PIPE CSV File



Code pseudorange measurements

```

RINEX File
-----
| 3.03      OBSERVATION DATA   Mixed(MIXED)  RINEX VERSION / TYPE
LAMBDA SIM TOOL                PGM / RUN BY / DATE
-----
BUILDING41                      MARKER NAME
ILDING41                        MARKER NUMBER
GEODETTIC                       MARKER TYPE
GNSS Observer                   OBSERVER / AGENCY
5628R50286                      AIRBUS-PIPE SIM      5.22
                                TRM57971.00        NONE
                                861029.3919      4723395.1598
                                0.0000          0.0000
E 2 CLK UIX
  1.000
  0
G L2X -0.25000
R L1P 0.25000
R L2C -0.25000
  18
DBHZ
> 2019 7 2 14 11 37.00000000 0 9
E01 26839131.920 26839130.510
E03 25406576.620 25406580.560
E05 27640367.210 27640364.050
E08 24356242.170 24356238.140
E13 23560848.080 23560845.190
E15 23956214.150 23956212.700
E21 25765985.470 25765982.200
E26 25924041.830 25924039.500
E27 27351772.090 27351773.040
> 2019 7 2 14 11 38.00000000 0 9
E01 26838952.390 26838952.950
E03 25406438.970 25406444.530
E05 27640699.340 27640701.550
E08 24355694.170 24355696.210
E13 23560672.960 23560669.120
E15 23956481.540 23956476.590
E21 25766318.700 25766314.100
E26 25923581.060 25923586.780
E27 27352383.840 27352377.490
> 2019 7 2 14 11 39.00000000 0 9
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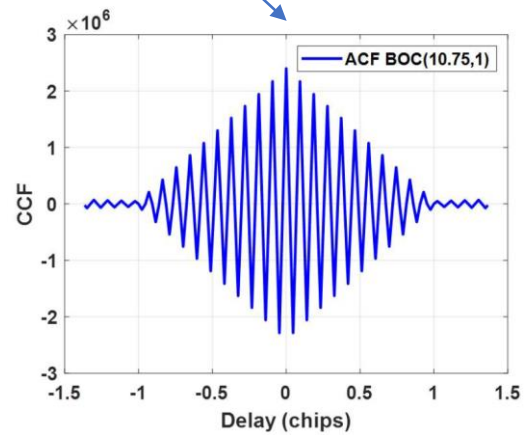
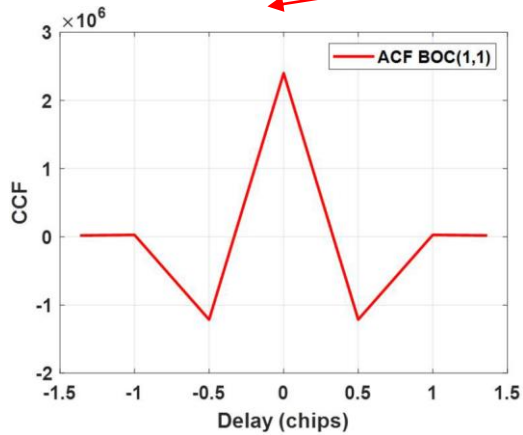
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Sub-carrier pseudorange measurements



# 3.2 Test cases

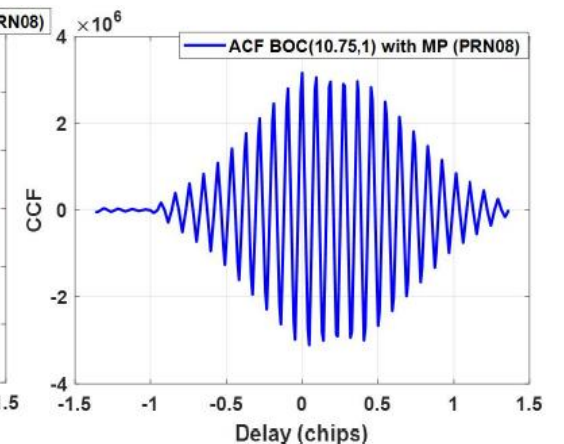
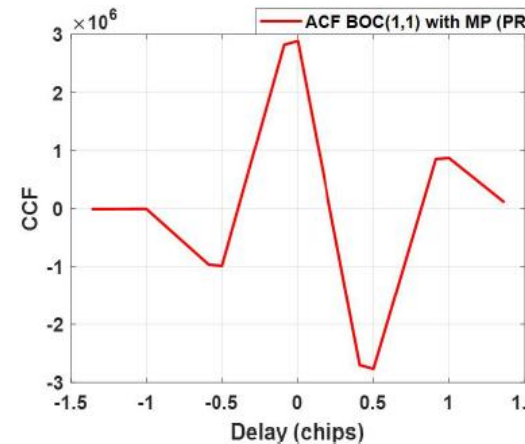
- Meta-signal generated as a **BOC(1,1)** + **BOC(10.75,1)** signal using Airbus PIPE simulator.



Testcase index	Multipath set-up
1	Multipath free test case with 08 satellites characterized by no multipath on code and sub-carrier observations
2	Dynamic multipath on all of the 08 satellites simulated as White Gaussian noise characterized by $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_C)$ for code and $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{SC})$ for sub-carrier observations where $\sigma_C = 10$ m and $\sigma_{SC} = 0.03$ m
3	Strong static multipath on 05 out of 08 satellites with code bias upto 40 m

### Testcase 3 – Strong static multipath

PRN Number	Relative Amplitude	Relative Delay [m]	Relative Phase [rad]
01	0.9	90.0	0.0
03	0.9	100.0	0.0
08	0.9	120.0	$\pi$
15	0.9	70.0	$\pi$
21	0.9	60.0	0.0





## 4. Positioning results

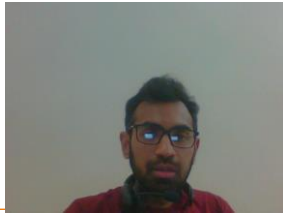




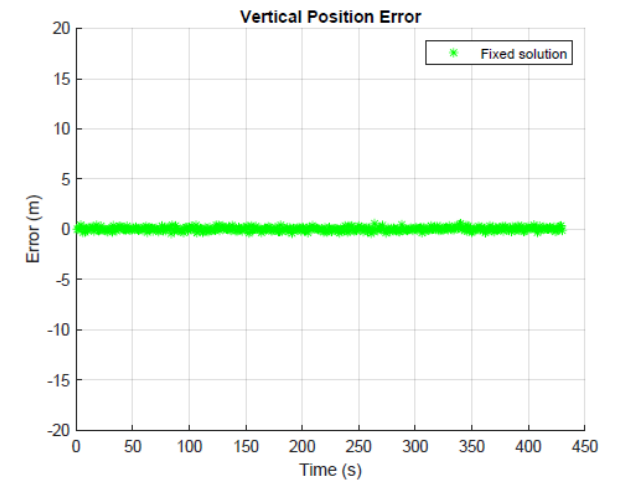
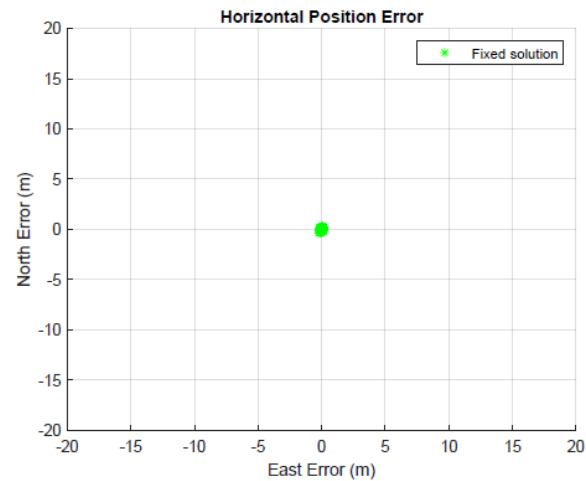
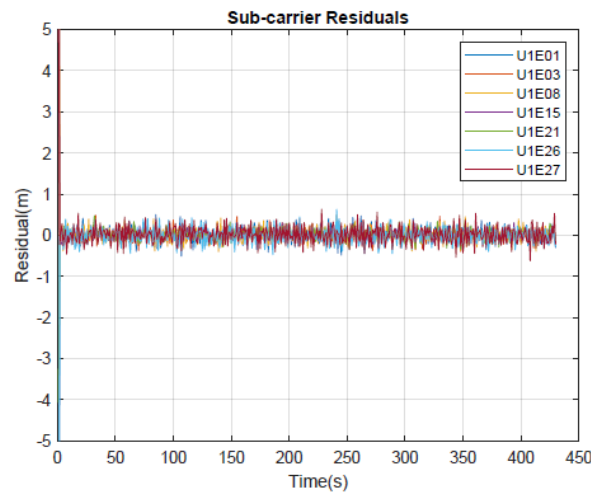
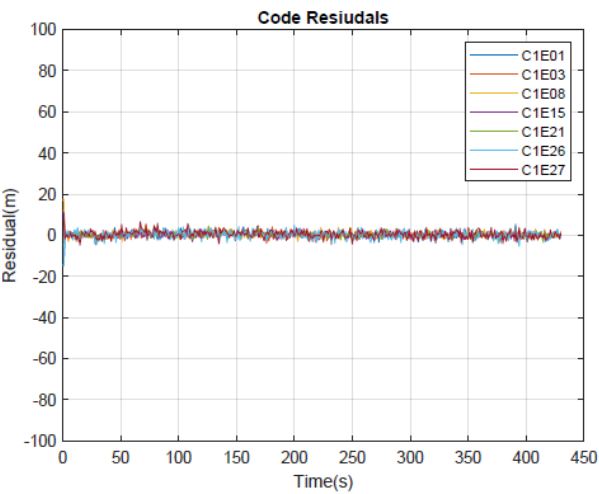
# 4.1 Filter parameters

Parameter	Symbol	Value		
		Testcase 1	Testcase 2	Testcase 3
Initial position state variance	$\sigma_{dx}^2, \sigma_{dy}^2, \sigma_{dz}^2$	$20^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$20^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$20^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Initial ambiguity state variance	$\sigma_{N^k}^2$	$(10\lambda)^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$(10\lambda)^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$(10\lambda)^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Initial code multipath state variance	$\sigma_{\gamma^k}^2$	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$10^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Position process noise	$\Phi_{\delta x}, \Phi_{\delta y}, \Phi_{\delta z}$	$0.00015^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$0.00015^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$0.00015^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Code multipath process noise	$\Phi_{\gamma}$	$1^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$1^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Code measurement noise variance	$\sigma_{\rho}^2$	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$5^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Sub-carrier measurement variance	$\sigma_{\phi}^2$	$0.088^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$0.088^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	$0.088^2$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Ambiguity resolution ratio threshold	$\mu_{ratio}$	1	1	1
Ambiguity resolution difference threshold	$\mu_{diff}$	0	$2.5e3$	$1e3$

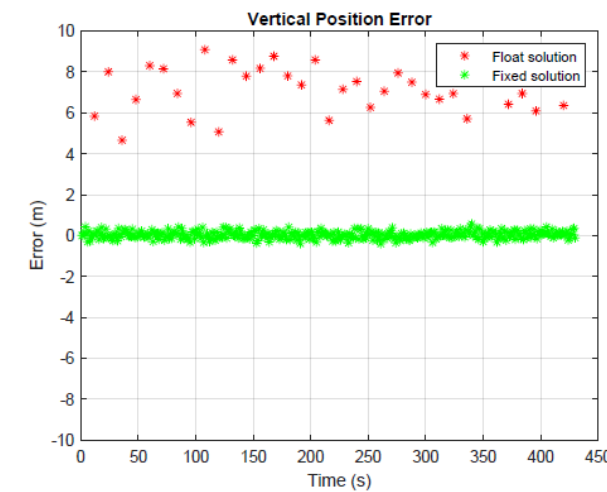
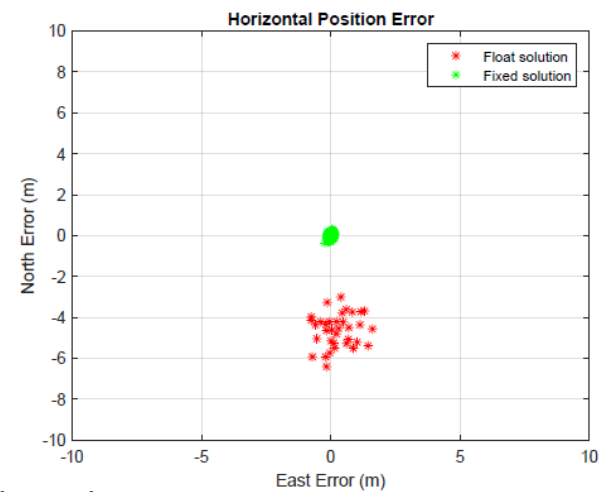
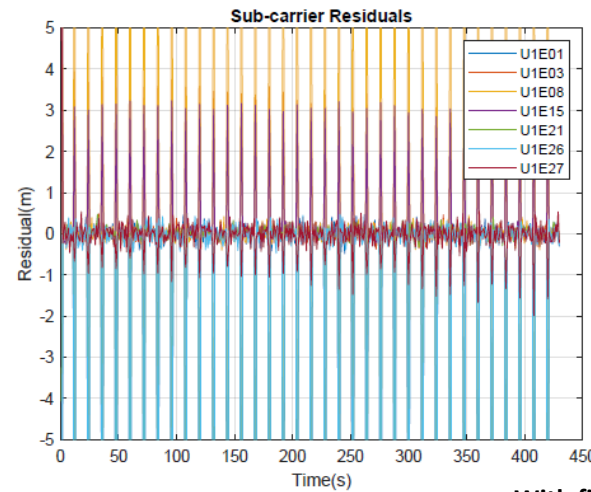
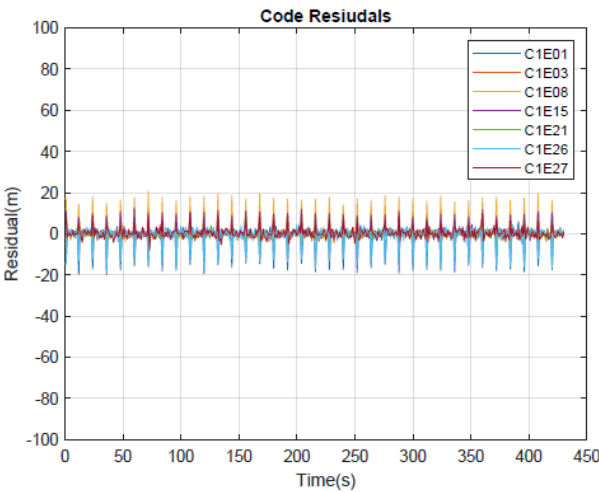
- Parameters optimized for a static user in severe multipath conditions
- Only Galileo constellation taking into account
- For each test case, in a separate experimental run, the filter is reset after 10 secs every time a position fix is achieved to analyse filter stability.
- KPIs: time to successful subcarrier fixing, position accuracy after subcarrier fixing



# 4.2 Testcase 1 : no multipath



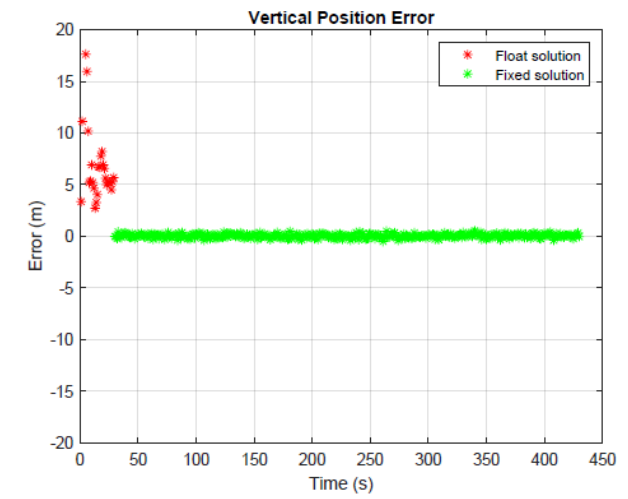
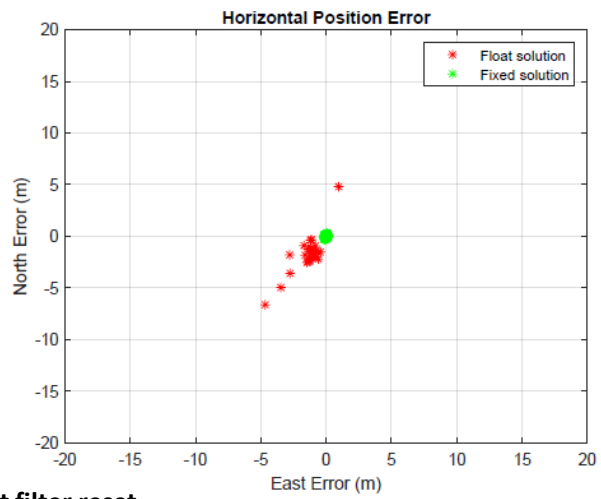
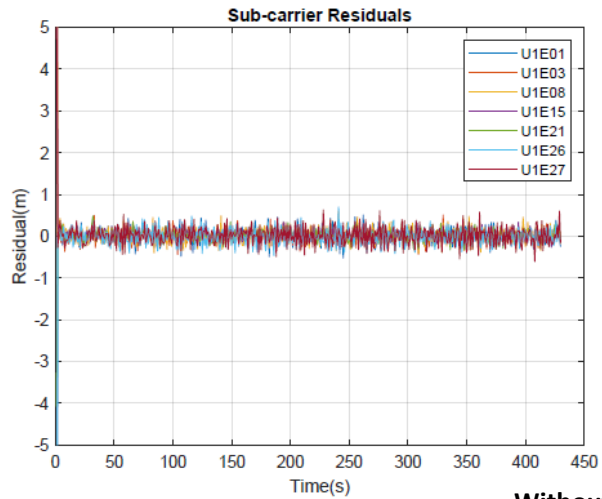
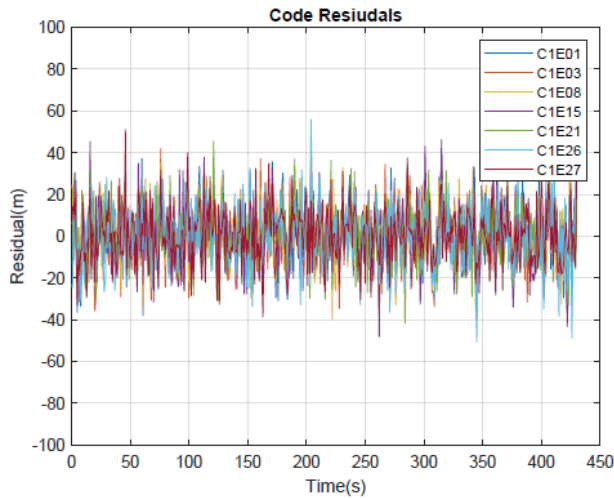
Without filter reset



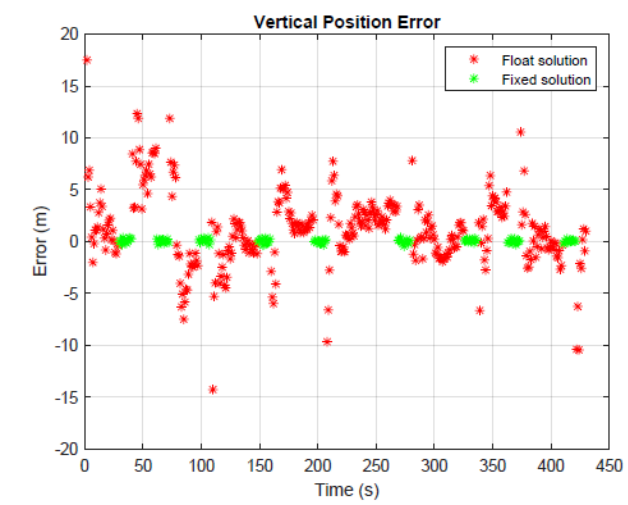
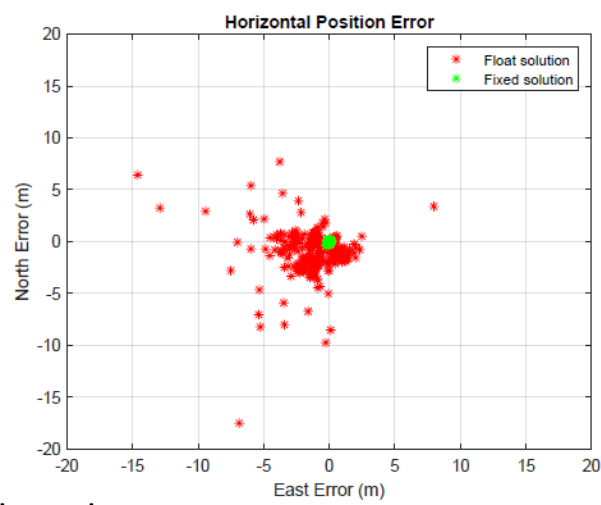
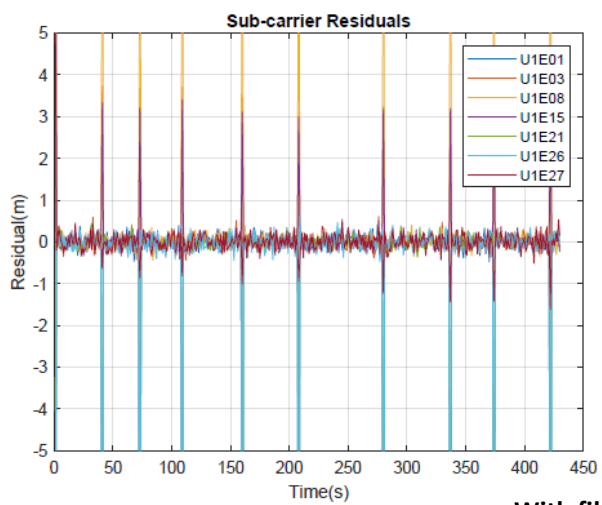
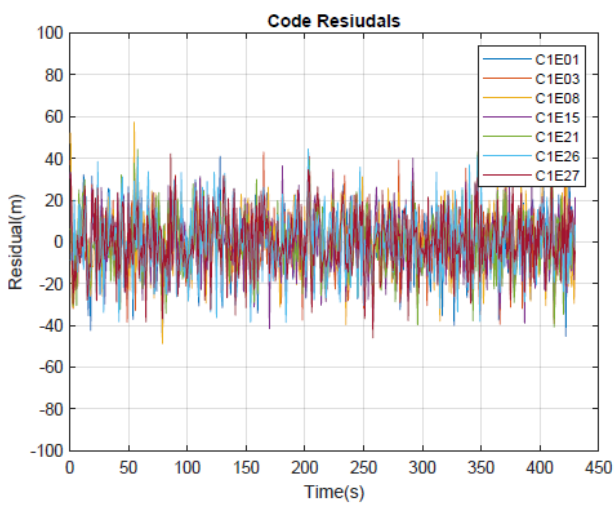
With filter reset



# 4.3 Testcase 2 : simulated dynamic multipath



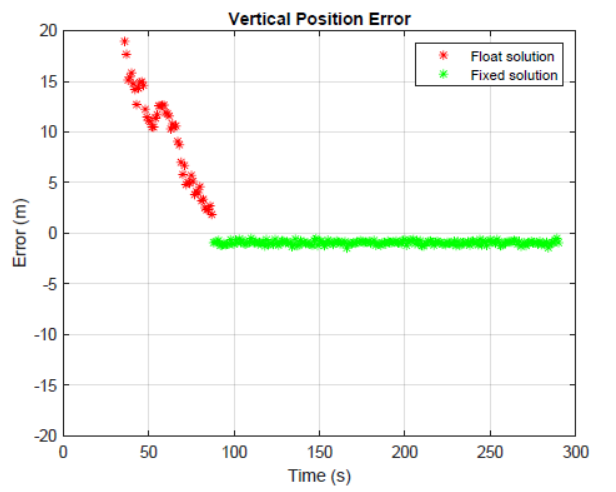
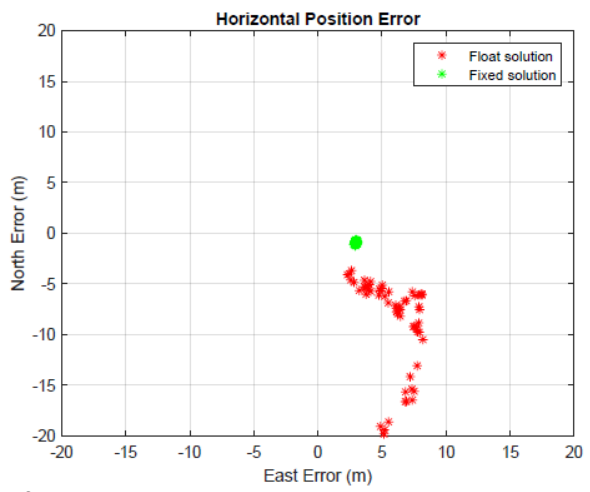
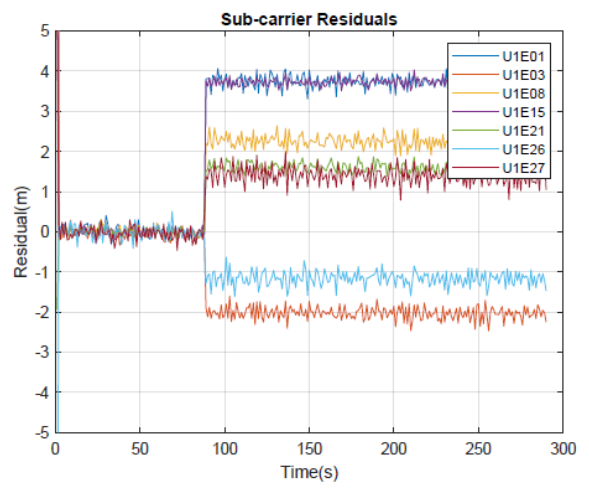
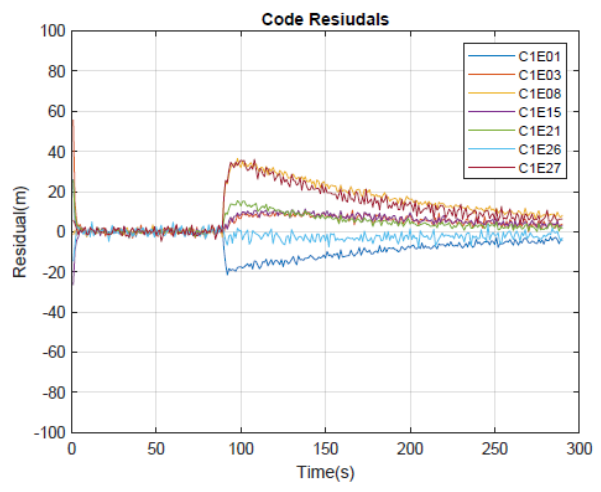
Without filter reset



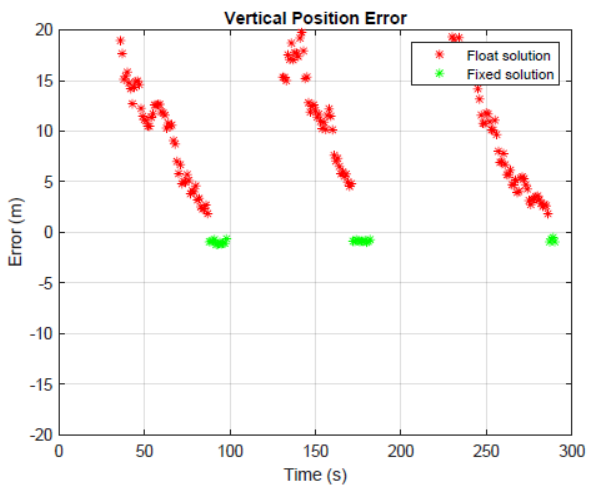
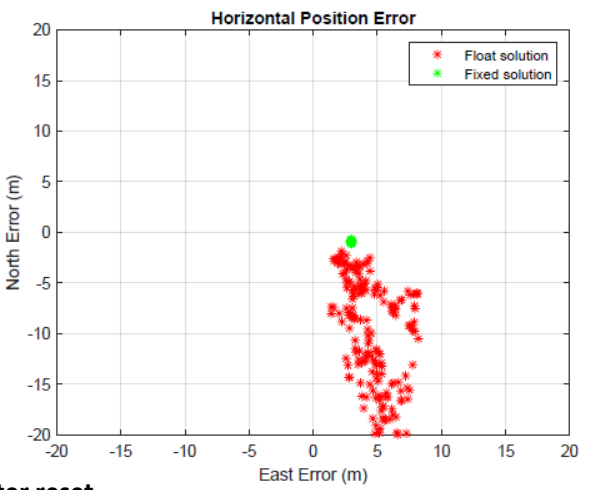
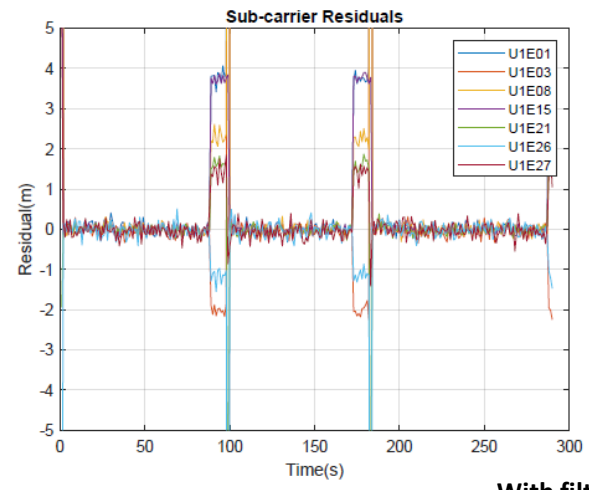
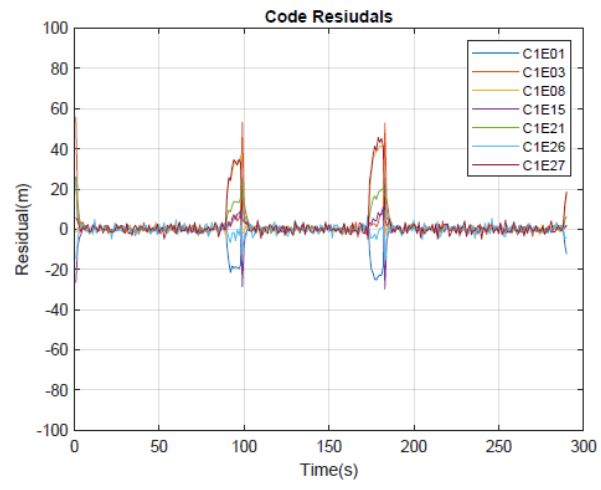
With filter reset



# 4.4 Testcase 3 : strong static multipath



Without filter reset



With filter reset

# 4.5 Analysis



## Testcase 1 (no multipath)

- With no reset, all ambiguities instantaneously fixed to 0. With reset, all ambiguities are correctly fixed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> epoch after reset. It takes at least one epoch to compute the float ambiguities that need to be added as offsets to the absolute float ambiguity before fixing can take place.

## Testcase 2 (dynamic – noise like – multipath)

- With no reset, all ambiguities instantaneously fixed to 0 at about  $t = 30$  s. The code residuals are dominated by the code-multipath delay which in this case is White Gaussian noise.

## Testcase 3 (strong static multipath)

- As the ambiguities are fixed, all the error in the float solution is accumulated and distributed over the code MP states which produces a jump in the code residuals which then converges to the true static code MP values over time. After fixing, the position error is as accurate as the sub-carrier measurement noise.
- The sub-carrier residuals are biased after fixing due to the multipath delay present in the sub-carrier observations.
- With filter reset, the ambiguities are successfully fixed three times over the duration of the dataset. Since the code MP offset is in the order of 40m in this dataset, the filter convergence time is higher than the other two test cases.



## 5. Conclusions

- LAMBDA ambiguity fixing **can successfully resolve sub-carrier ambiguities even in high static-multipath scenarios** given that a suitable filter is employed.
- Filter convergence time for correct ambiguity fixing is highly dependent on the quality of code observations → higher code multipath results in higher convergence time.
- Sub-carrier ambiguity resolution in position domain can realize **dm level accurate position solutions** without RTK i.e without a reference receiver.
- For standardizing the use of sub-carrier pseudoranges, the RINEX file format has to be updated with a dedicated sub-carrier observation tag.
- Sub-carrier fixing at range level with e.g. bump-jump or rounding of double-estimator SLL/DLL did show equal results for low multipath; there seems to be an improved performance of LAMBDA in high multipath but this does require further consolidation with multiple datasets (dynamic user, more realistic channel models etc)

# 6. References

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**Thank you for your attention!**