Sub-daily antenna position estimates from the CONT11 campaign

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21st Meeting of the European VLBI Group for Geodesy and Astrometry (EVGA), Espoo, Finland 5-8 March 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

In this study,

- we divided the observation files of the 24 hour sessions of the CONT11 campaign into 2h sessions. The CONT11 campaign was observed by International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) during 15 days from 15 to 30 September 2011.
- Then, we analysed these sub-daily sessions with the Vienna VLBI Software (VieVS), version 2.1.
  - Station coordinates were estimated for every 2h session applying NNR and NNT conditions w.r.t. a terrestrial reference frame (TRF11, see Section 2) computed from all CONT11 sessions.
  - On the other hand, the Earth orientation parameters (EOP) during CONT11 were fixed to those values determined in global solutions (see Section 2).
  - The stations with less than 25 observations were excluded from the 2h sessions, because small numbers of observations per station cause large formal errors, even singularities.
- We found that the coordinate repeatability from the 2h sessions is clearly reflected in a change of the tropospheric parameters like zenith delays and gradients, an effect being boosted by the non-uniform sky distribution at the stations over 2h segments.

2. PARAMETERIZATION FOR THE ANALYSES 2 HOURLY CONT11 SESSIONS

A priori values	
TRF (antenna coordinates)	**TRF11[1] + geodynamic models + thermal antenna deformation (Nothnagel 2009)** [1] The TRF catalogue provided from a global TRF solution with the observations of CONT11. NNR and NNT conditions were introduced w.r.t. VTRF2008 (Böckmann et al. 2010). Velocities were fixed to those of VTRF2008. TSUKUB32, HOBART12, YEBES40M, and TIGOCONC were excluded from TRF datum since VTRF2008 coordinates of these antennas are not available for the CONT11 period.
CRF (source coordinates)	**ICRF2 (Fey et al. 2009)**
Nutation (CIP in CRF)	**IAU2006 + EOP11[2]** [2] The Earth orientation parameter series for CONT11 were estimated at 1 day intervals in a global solution of which a priori nutation offsets were taken from IAU2006 + IERS 08 C04 and a priori ERP from IERS 08 C04 + high frequency corrections.
ERP (CIP in TRF and Earth's phase of rotation)	**ERP11[3] + high frequency corrections** [3] The Earth rotation parameter (ERP) series for CONT11 were estimated at 2h intervals in a global solution of which nutation offsets were fixed to IAU2006 + EOP11[2] and a priori ERP were taken from EOP11[2] + high frequency corrections.
Antenna position corrections from geodynamic models	Solid Earth tides (IERS Conventions 2010, Petit and Luzum 2010). Tidal ocean loading (FES2004, Lyard et al. 2006). Tidal and non-tidal atmosphere loading (GSFC, Petrov and Boy 2004). Pole tide and ocean pole tide (IERS Conventions 2010).
Troposphere ZHD	Calculated from surface pressure (Saastamoinen 1972, Davis et al. 1985) and mapped with VMF_h (Böhm et al. 2006).
Troposphere gradients	No a priori gradients were used.
Observations	Outlier observations were excluded (v(i)>5*m0). Observations were not down-weighted.

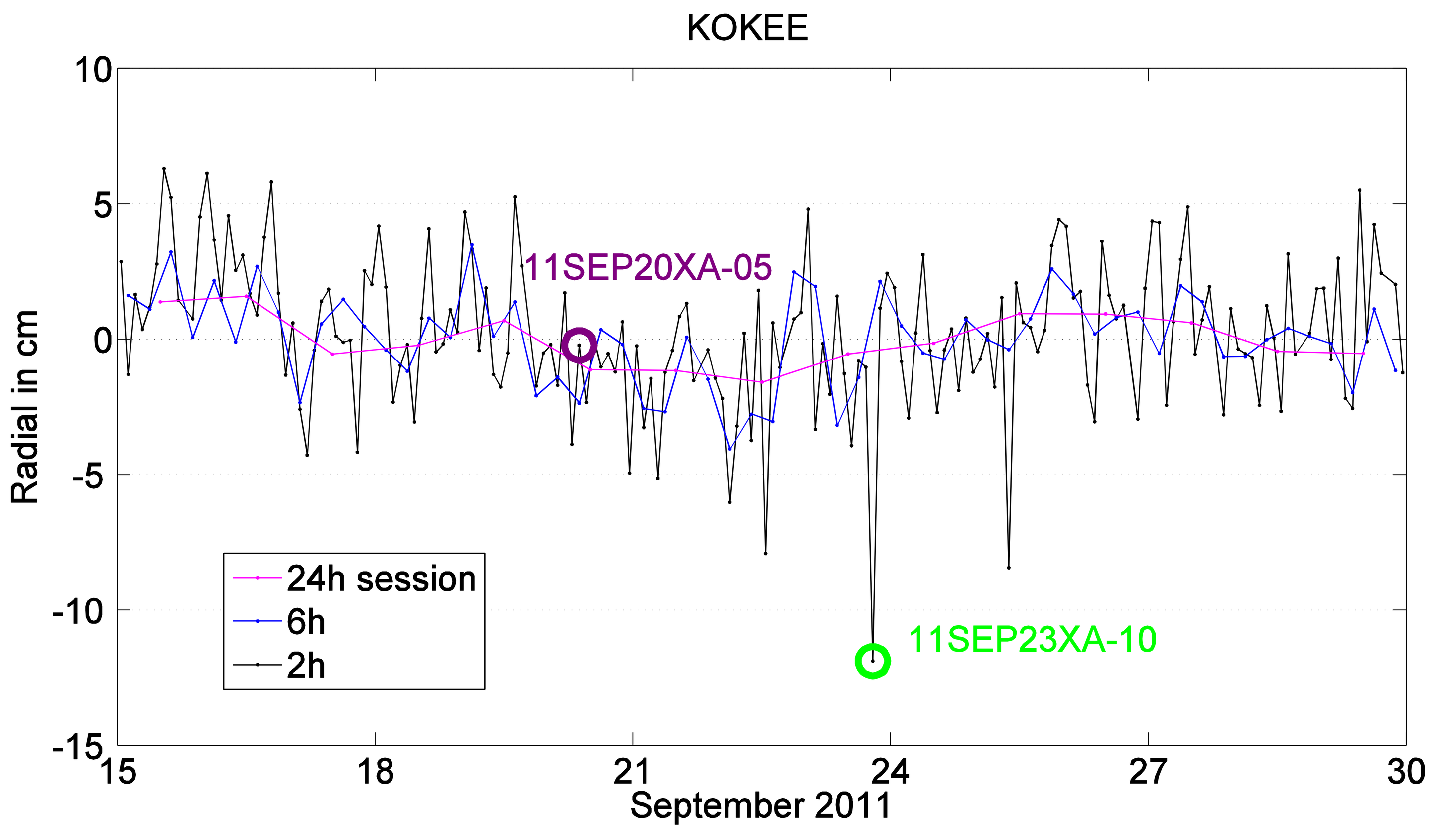
Estimated parameters	
Clocks (First LS)	One offset and rate per-clock for each 2h session were estimated and reduced from the observations
Clocks (Main LS)	Continuous piece-wise linear offsets (CPWLO) (2h intervals, loose relative constraints as 2.1 cm after 2h)
ZWD	CPWLO estimated with VMF_w (1h intervals, loose relative constraints as 1.5 cm after 1h).
Troposphere east and north horizontal total gradients	CPWLO estimated with the gradient mapping function from Chen and Herring (1997). (2h intervals, absolute constraints as 1 mm in addition to tight relative constraints as 0.01 mm after 2h)
Nutation	fixed to a priori nutation offsets i.e. EOP11[2]
ERP	fixed to a priori ERP i.e. ERP11[3]
Antenna TRF coordinates	• One offset for each 2h sessions (NNR and NNT w.r.t. TRF11[1]) were estimated at epochs e.g. 1, 3, 5, ..., 21, 23 UT. • NNR and NNT conditions were imposed on all antennas participating in 2h sessions.

CONCLUSIONS and OUTLOOK

- All negative correlations between the ΔZWD , [ZWD(2h)-ZWD(24h)] and Δradial, [radial(2h)-radial(24h)] at the VLBI sites are statistically significant (p values < 0.05).
- 1 cm ΔZWD variation corresponds to approximately 2 to 4 cm Δradial when 2h sessions are analysed.
- Troposphere delays and antenna TRF positions are highly correlated when inhomogeneous sky distribution of the observations are in 2h sessions. Due to this large correlations, troposphere delays propagate into antenna positions in parameter estimation. Correlations between the two parameter can be mitigated if homogeneously distributed adequate number of observations are carried out at each antenna at each sub-daily session e.g. 2h.
- We are planning for the future to reduce troposphere delays estimated from 24h sessions from the observations of 2h sessions before the parameter estimation. Thus, other effects than troposphere on the antenna coordinates will be unveiled e.g. residual displacements to the a priori geodynamic effects on the antenna positions at sub-daily tidal frequencies.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Sky distribution of the observations and antenna radial position estimates at KOKEE



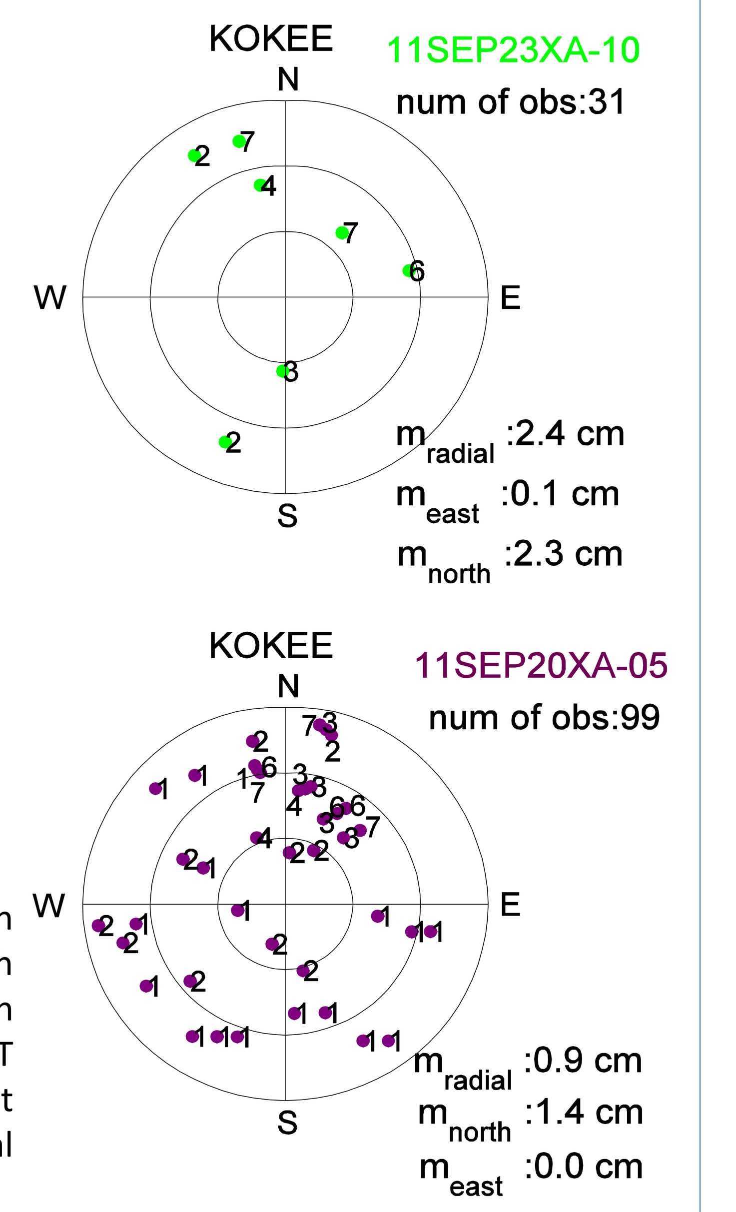


Figure 1 The magenta, blue, and black dotted lines (upper plot) show antenna TRF position estimates in radial direction from 24h, 6h, and 2h sessions of CONT11, respectively. The 2h sessions names in green and purple provide inaccurate and better antenna radial position estimates, respectively. Sky plots of KOKEE for these sessions observed during 18 - 20 UT (green) and 8 - 10 UT (purple) are shown on to the right. The number of observations at KOKEE per scan with the total number of the observations of the sessions and the formal errors of the estimated antenna coordinates are written on the sky plots.

3.2. Correlations between ΔZWD(2h-24h) and Δradial(2h-24h) during CONT11 at TIGOCONC

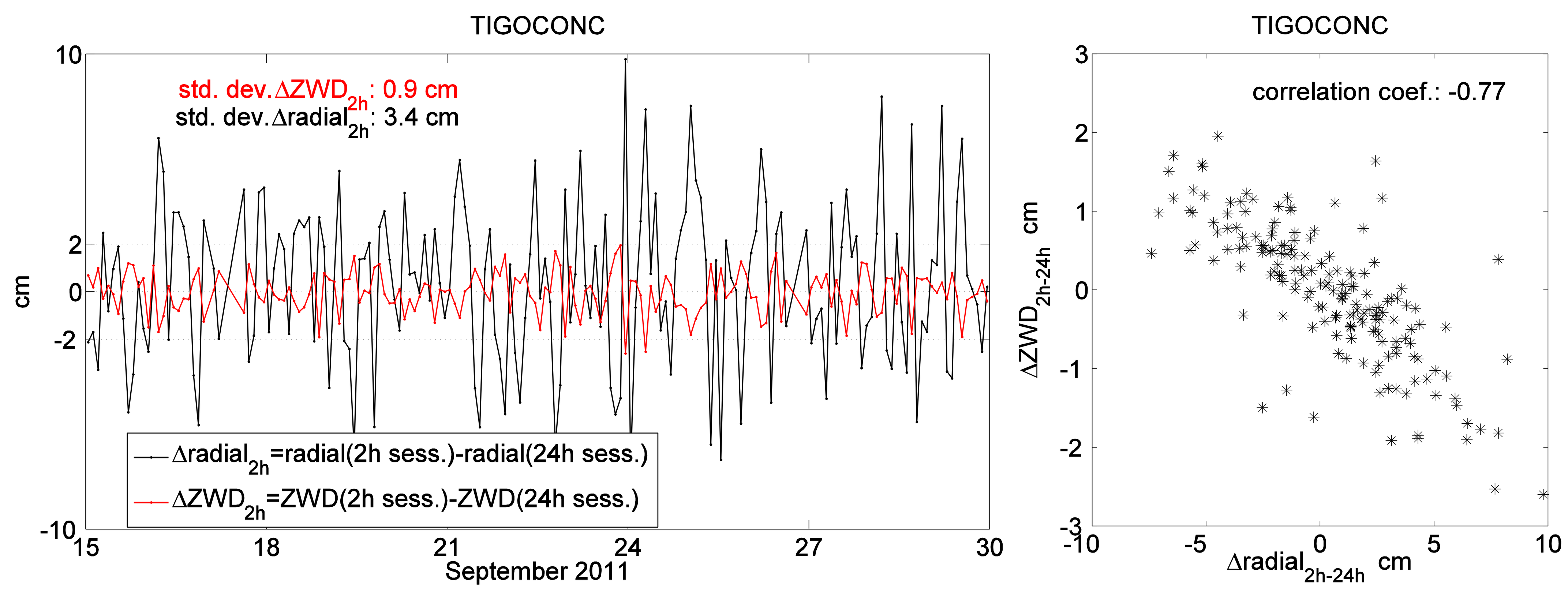


Figure 2 The red and black dotted lines (left-side plot) show ZWD and antenna radial coordinate differences between those estimated from 2h and 24h sessions of CONT11 campaign at TIGOCONC. The black stars (right-side plot) show the correlations between ZWD and radial position differences estimated once for each 2h session at common epochs of e.g. 1, 3, 5, ..., 23 UT.

3.3. Correlations between ΔZWD(2h-24h) and Δradial(2h-24h) at the VLBI sites of CONT11

Acronyms of CONT11 VLBI antennas (ordered by latitude)	Standard deviations of		Correlation coefficients between ΔZWD and Δradial
	ΔZWD (cm)	Δradial (cm)	
NYALES20	0.4	1.5	-0.54
ONSALA60	0.7	1.8	-0.52
BADARY	0.7	2.3	-0.71
WETTZELL	0.5	1.5	-0.51
WESTFORD	0.7	2.2	-0.61
YEBES40M	0.6	1.7	-0.50
TSUKUB32	0.8	2.4	-0.35
KOKEE	0.7	2.5	-0.38
FORTLEZA	1.5	4.3	-0.77
HARTRAO	0.8	2.6	-0.68
TIGOCONC	0.9	3.4	-0.77
HOBART12	1.1	4.0	-0.70

- We subtracted the 24h radial coordinates from those estimated at 2h (radial(2h)-radial(24h)) and did the same for zenith wet delays, ZWD(2h)-ZWD(24h).
- The differences of radial coordinates vary in [-2 +2] cm to [-8 +8] cm and the differences of ZWD in [-1 +1] cm to [-4 +4] cm for all VLBI sites for CONT11.
- Due to few observations (less than 30) and inhomogeneous sky distribution (see e.g. Figure 1) the least squares adjustment can not de-correlate the parameters of troposphere delays and antenna TRF positions completely.
- Thus, troposphere delays propagate into antenna TRF positions.
- 1 to 2 cm ZWD propagate to antenna radial coordinate in opposite direction from 2 to 8 cm (see e.g. Figure 2) for a 2h session depending mainly on the sky distribution of the observations.

Acknowledgements: This work is supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) projects of P20902-N10 (GGOS Atmosphere) and P23143-N21 (Integrated VLBI).
One of the authors, Kamil Teke, acknowledges Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Tübitak) for the financial support of the postdoctoral research programme, 2219.