International Earth Science Constellation
Mission Operations Working Group
September 27-29, 2016
Earth Observation System Covariance Realism Updates
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Mission Operations Working Group
September 27-29, 2016

Agenda

- CARA Synthesized vs. FDS Tuned Covariances
- EOS Covariance Realism QA and Tuning Flowchart
- Covariance QA Cadence
- Covariance QA Automation
- Automation Results to Date
- Covariance Propagation Implementation through Maneuvers
- Conclusion
Mission Operations Working Group
September 27-29, 2016

Purpose

• Aqua and Aura Owner/Operator covariances are being used in operations to compute $P_C$:
  – Software has been delivering tuned covariance since 14 Jun 2016.
  – Software ensures both covariances are tuned for periods devoid of persistently high and extreme solar activity as well as post maneuver propagation errors.

• Describe and demonstrate the operation of the following items:
  1. Automation of covariance Quality Assurance (QA) (monitor) and Outlier Identification.
  2. Method to periodically tune (maintain) the covariance.
  3. Method to inflate covariance at burn start based on historical maneuver execution error.

• Describe automation results to date:
  – What Realism Pass Percentages have we encountered and what outliers have been identified since the software’s release?
Prior to Jun 14, 2016, both Aqua and Aura used synthesized covariances that were averaged JSpOC covariances over fixed quarterly timespans:

- These covariances do not account for historical maneuver execution error and are not tested for realism.

The synthesized covariance is binned to durations between OCM creation time and the TCA of a conjunction.

O/O covariances are tuned to 3 days (timeframe at which ESMO starts risk mitigation maneuver planning).

A FDS analyst runs a script that automatically checks covariances for realism using a rolling 3-month period:

- The script notifies the analyst when realism percentages fall under a user-specified threshold (recommendation provided later).

EOS FDS is tuning O/O covariances to realistic distributions of O/O propagation errors (with proper outlier identification).

EOS FDS is adding realistic maneuver execution error to the O/O covariance for predicted post-maneuver conjunctions.

Therefore, the EOS FDS O/O covariances are the superior statistical representation of propagation errors for Pc evaluation.
This flowchart describes the peer-reviewed covariance realism QA and tuning technique demonstrated to ESMO on Nov 10, 2015

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**September 27-29, 2016**

**EOS Covariance Realism QA and Tuning Flowchart**

**Step 1:** Input RIC Component Acceleration Variances  
**Step 2:** Propagate Daily Definitive Ephemeris + Covariance using RIC Component Acceleration Variances  
**Step 3:** Collect Sets of Propagation Errors and Predictive Covariances  
**Step 4:** Compute the Chi-Square Statistic over multiple propagation points  
**Step 5:** Use the Normalized Standard In-Track Errors to Determine Outlier Propagations  
**Step 6:** Perform the 3-DOF Chi-Square Distribution Test to Determine Realism Pass Percentage  
**Step 7:** Tune Covariance if the Pass Percentage falls under a User Specified Threshold

- The acceleration variances in Step 1 can only be changed via a Configuration Management Request (CMR) with ESMO Management sign off.
- Step 2 is performed as part of the nominal daily product delivery.
- Steps 3 to 6 represent the QA of the covariance and are performed via automation using FreeFlyer and MATLAB.

The frequency of automated QA (currently set to daily) could change once the frequency of tuning is established.

A single Covariance QA and Tuning SOP has been created and reviewed to aid analysts in understanding how to QA and tune the covariance for a specific propagation timespan.
• QA of Aqua and Aura covariances is performed over a rolling 90-day timespan

• The Start Date of the First QA Ephemeris is set to 94 days prior to today’s current Product DOY and the Start Date of the Last QA Ephemeris is set to 4 days prior to today’s current Product DOY.

• For example, suppose the designation of the first ephemeris in the Covariance QA timespan is ‘Start DOY’ (= Product DOY – 94 days), then the ephemerides are tested in the following sequence:

  Set 1 (Containing 30 Ephemerides): Start DOY, Start DOY + 3, …, Start DOY + 87.

  Set 2 (Containing 30 Ephemerides): Start DOY + 1, Start DOY + 4, …, Start DOY + 88.

  Set 3 (Containing 30 Ephemerides): Start DOY + 2, Start DOY + 5, …, Start DOY + 89.

• Testing with a 3-day cadence is statistically required in order to isolate the affects of the 2 ½ days worth of rolling TDRS observations that go into daily FDF orbit determination runs.

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Example of rolling Covariance QA Ephemeris sets for the
These are the initial plots generated by the covariance QA automation for each set of covariances it is analyzing.

They give the analyst an idea of how far each component covariance is deviating from its mean RMS component error.

An empirical 3-DOF Chi-Square distribution for each propagation point is assessed against its parent distribution.

The Cramer-Von Mises EDF test is used to determine the likelihood each set of covariances represents a realistic distribution of the corresponding set of propagation errors tied to it – a Covariance Realism “Pass Percentage” will be provided in a text file (discussed later).
The next set of plots represent the Standard Component Errors.

These set of errors are tested against a normal Gaussian distribution.

The automation uses the in-track distribution to test potential outliers.

Any propagations outside of the $\pm 1\sigma$ bounds are tested for outlier identification.

If outliers are identified, the analyst is informed and must document a reason for dismissing the corresponding propagation.

Naturally, the analyst checks the solar activity in the timeframe of the propagation start date to determine if there was a peak or persistently high solar activity.

**Goal:** Apply and track a consider parameter to the variance in the drag coefficient until outlier propagations pass the realism test for the set in which they were discovered.
Periodicity in the Radial Propagation Error is causing low levels of realism between 0.5 to 1.25 days. The Covariance is Overestimated in this timeframe.

These are the final two files the automation generates for each set of covariances it is testing.

- The p-value vs. Propagation Time chart gives the analyst information regarding where in the propagation the covariances are passing the realism testing – the analyst is able to cross-reference these propagation times with the Time of Closest Approach of an imminent conjunction.
- The Chi-Square Distribution Test Text File contains the overall Pass Percentage of each set of covariances.

Based on seasonal covariance tuning from 2014 to 2016, FDS recommended this threshold be set to 60% – a statistically commendable result.
Outlier tests were performed manually to determine if the automation is correctly taking them out.

For example, the 30-day QA test from 21 Feb 2016 to 15 May 2016 automation set determined the 10 Mar 2016, 12 Apr 2016, and 06 May 2016 propagations were outliers.

The manual procedure performs the Rosner Outlier Test on the normalized In-Track standard errors – the test will detect outliers that are either much smaller or larger than the rest of the data and is designed to avoid the problem of masking, where an outlier close to another outlier goes undetected.

The outliers are entered into the test in order of most to least deviant.

The script confirms the 13th, 19th, and 6th propagations are outliers.

Independent outlier identification results show perfect agreement with outliers identified by automation.
Once the automated QA of the 3 sets of covariances is finished, the analyst will bring forth the Mean RMS Components Errors for each set to the tuning exercise.

The component acceleration variances are changed until the Pass Percentages for all three sets of covariances exceed the user specified threshold.

The analyst will tune the covariance to the largest Mean RMS Component Error in the Radial and In-Track directions at the final propagation point and to the mid propagation point in the Cross-Track direction (to achieve the highest level of realism).
Aqua Covariance Realism Pass Percentages have been tracked since 16 Jun 2016.

Each group contains a consistent set of propagations based on the 3-day cadence:
- Group A always contains propagations beginning on and overlapping the dates 3/14, 3/17, 3/20, etc.
- Group B always contains propagations beginning on and overlapping the dates 3/15, 3/18, 3/21, etc.
- Group C always contains propagations beginning on and overlapping the dates 3/16, 3/19, 3/22, etc.

From 28 Jun to 15 Jul 2016 Aqua incurred an outlier identification compounding error in which more than 4 outliers were being identified that artificially increased the realism pass percentages.

Group B produces zero outliers, Group A consistently produced at most 2 outliers (4/12, 5/6), and Group C is was impacted by the compounding error but consistently identified 4/13 as an outlier.

The average Geomagnetic Index (Ap) between 14 Mar 2016 to 3 Aug 2016 was 11 and it rose to 26 (~2σ) on 13 Apr 2016 and 70 (>3σ) on 8 May 2016.
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September 27-29, 2016

Automated Covariance QA Results to Date (2 of 2)

- Group B has not produced any outliers to date.
- Group A has been consistently identifying 13 Apr 2016 as an outlier.
- A compounding error in Group C produced up to 8 outliers between 28 Jun and 15 Jun 2016.
  - Specifically, the automated outlier identification test incorrectly runs the Rosner Outlier Test recursively; it identifies 4 outliers from a set, eliminates them, and then reruns the test using the remaining set.
  - The correct usage of the test is to identify up to 4 potential outliers in the set and only run the test on those candidates against the entire set.
- Since Group A and B were producing good results, we elected to continue using the software as designed – plans to update the test are imminent.
The EOS FDS team has adopted a method to characterize the maneuver execution errors for the Aqua and Aura spacecraft.

The motivation of this implementation is to strengthen the validity of the Pc computation.

The Pc computation uses two major components for two objects in conjunction:

1. Miss Distance
2. Predicted Covariances at the TCA

The miss distance must take into account the state change a maneuver introduces while the covariances must accurately represent the expected errors in the maneuver execution process – neither is represented by CARA synthesized covariances.

The method that EOS FDS has adapted to account for maneuver execution error includes the following stages:

1. Gaussian distribution testing and outlier investigation of the Delta-V component errors
2. Creation of a Error Covariance Matrix using the preceding Delta-V component errors
3. Error Covariance Matrix Scaling using RIC Scale Factors
4. Application of Dataset Biases (An Enhancement to the Maneuver Planning Process)

The preceding method is tested by propagating the Error Covariance Matrix through historical maneuvers and performing a covariance realism analysis on the resulting predicted post-maneuver propagation errors.
Testing for Normality

- Radial, In-Track, and Cross-Track ΔV components for all Aqua and Aura no-slew DMU maneuvers are passed through the Cramer – von Mises EDF test to gauge conformity to a Gaussian distribution.
- A resampling investigation is performed in which 1,000 random 10-point samples are chosen and tested.
- A total p-value indicates likelihood of normality for the entire set of 1,000 test results.
- The test for normality is segregated into Day/Night maneuvers for Aqua and Over/Under 21 sec for Aura to eliminate potential systematic error and to maintain the current planning strategy.

Validation: Component Errors conform to a Gaussian distribution thus allowing the covariance to represent the error distribution.
• Linearized Covariance Propagation – The standard formula for linearly propagating a covariance is:

\[ P(t_n) = \Phi(t_n, t_{n-1})P(t_{n-1})\Phi^T(t_n, t_{n-1}) + Q(t) \]

where
- \( P(t_n) \) = Initial Covariance Matrix
- \( \Phi(t_n, t_{n-1}) \) = State Transition Matrix
- \( Q(t) \) = Process Noise Matrix

• The Process Noise Matrix can be broken down further to represent error due to environmental forces and error due to the execution of the maneuver:

\[ Q(t) = \Gamma Q_e(t)\Gamma^T + Q_m(t) \]

where
- \( Q_m(t) \) is non-zero only during the execution of the maneuver
- \( Q_e(t) \) is a diagonal matrix containing RIC acceleration variances
- \( \Gamma = \text{Process Noise Transition Matrix} = \Delta t \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta t}{2} & [I]_{3\times3} \\ [I]_{3\times3} \end{bmatrix} \)

• If \( \bar{X}, \bar{Y}, \text{and} \bar{Z} \) are vectors containing Radial, In-Track, and Cross-Track \( \Delta V \) Component errors of historical maneuvers and \( \bar{X}, \bar{Y}, \text{and} \bar{Z} \) are the means of those vectors, then each column of the Maneuver Execution Error Matrix, \( Q_m(t) \), is computed as follows:

\[ \frac{1}{N} (\bar{X} - \bar{X}) \times (\bar{Y} - \bar{Y}) \]
The Maneuver Error Execution Matrix is scaled as follows:

$$P_{ES} = \Lambda P_{error} \Lambda^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_3 \end{bmatrix} P_{error} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

$$\Lambda = \text{Diagonal Matrix with RIC Scale Factors } \beta_1, \beta_2, \text{ and } \beta_3$$

Since $\Lambda$ is diagonal it will scale $P_{error}$ by the square of the appropriate scale factor and the off-diagonal terms by the appropriate combination of scale factors.

Example of Scaled Maneuver Error Execution Matrix ($\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 1, \beta_3 = 3$):

$$P_{error} = \begin{bmatrix} 3.8101E-011 & -1.5669E-011 & 1.8424E-011 \\ -1.5669E-011 & 2.4318E-011 & 6.2863E-012 \\ 1.8424E-011 & 6.2863E-012 & 1.3024E-010 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_{unc} = 6.1726e-06 \text{ km/s}, I_{unc} = 4.9313e-06 \text{ km/s}, C_{unc} = 1.1411e-05 \text{ km/s}$$

$$P_{error \text{ scaled}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} P_{error} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 3.8101E-011 & -1.5669E-011 & 5.272E-011 \\ -1.5669E-011 & 2.4318E-011 & 1.8858E-011 \\ 5.272E-011 & 1.8858E-011 & 1.1719E-009 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_{unc} = 6.1726e-06 \text{ km/s}, I_{unc} = 4.9313e-06 \text{ km/s}, C_{unc} = 3.4232e-05 \text{ km/s}$$
The mean of each of the Radial, In-Track, and Cross-Track $\Delta V$ components constitutes the maneuver execution bias, $\mu$.

If the bias of a certain $\Delta V$ component is non-zero and random (systematic errors have been addressed) then the following can be said for that component:

- The error distribution fluctuates about some positive or negative value instead of being centered at zero
- The bias is the expected value of the error
- The satellite is commanded to execute a certain $\Delta V$ when the actual expectation of what will be realized is $\Delta V + \mu$

There are two approaches to make use of bias:

**Approach 1** – Add bias to the planned maneuver plan. For example, if an In-Track $\Delta V$ component of 10 cm/s is planned and the bias is +2.5 cm/s then this bias is added to the satellite’s state estimate propagation at the time of the maneuver.

**Approach 2** – Add bias to the commanded maneuver plan. For example, if an In-Track $\Delta V$ component of 10 cm/s is planned and the bias is +2.5 cm/s then the plan is changed to 7.5 cm/s prior to the propagation of the satellite’s state estimate.

**Disclaimer:** At this time EOS Maneuver Covariance is not centered around mean component errors (impact described in the next slides).
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September 27-29, 2016  

**Covariance Propagation through Maneuvers**  
**No-Slew DMU Maneuver Characterization Example**

- FDS has access to the following definitive covariances ranging from 2014 to 2016:
  - 29 Aura No Slew DMUs (13 with burn durations under 21 seconds and 16 over 21 seconds)
  - 24 Aqua No-Slew DMUs (16 during Orbital Day and 8 during Orbital Night)

- Additionally, there are 15 (8 under 21, 7 over 21) Aura and 7 (6 Day, 1 Night) Aqua No Slew DMUs from 2012 to 2013.

- To demonstrate the robustness of the maneuver covariance’s representation of maneuver execution errors, FDS performed 5 iterations of selecting 8 random Aura No-Slew DMUs to size the maneuver error covariance matrix, $Q_m(t)$, and propagate it through the remaining 8 No-Slew DMUs–thereby isolating the effects of the 8 remaining No-Slew DMUs on the maneuver error covariance matrix.

- Data from 2012 to 2013 is kept in sizing $Q_m(t)$ (but not used in propagation)

- The 5 test cases are given in the following table (No outliers were identified in normality testing):

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Mission Operations Working Group
September 27-29, 2016

Covariance Propagation through Maneuvers
Maneuver Characterization Goodness-of-Fit Results

Note:
High Levels of Covariance Realism without applying Dataset Biases

p-value threshold
• The EOS FDS team has been using tuned O/O covariance for Aqua and Aura:
  – The automation of the covariance QA has been established, tested, and working as expected.
  – Apart from a well-understood compounding outlier identification error for Aqua, the automation of outlier identification has been established, tested, and working as expected.

• The EOS FDS team has been using O/O covariance with maneuver execution error assuming zero-bias:
  – Gaussian distribution testing of the maneuver component errors has been established and working as expected.
  – Maneuver Execution Error Covariances to be updated on a bi-annual basis.