



# **International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project**

## **Calibration Monitoring Build 5, Cal Add-on V1**

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# 1 Overview

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*This document is an expansion of the Build 5 Operations Guide Section 8, which documents the process by which NORM and ABS coefficients are derived for calibration of new satellites beyond the base period. This calibration process is needed in order to extend the data record.*

## 1.1 Components of radiances, their QC and calibration

The ISCCP physical radiances (IR brightness temperature, VIS scaled radiance) are formed from two pieces of information: the raw image count values obtained from the satellite operator and the ISCCP-generated calibration tables that convert the counts into radiances. Either of these components can change with time from image-to-image, month-to-month, and satellite-to-satellite. Even with on-board calibration, the raw counts may not correspond to the same physical radiance values over time. Changes in the calibration tables try to correct for any changes in instrument (or telemetry errors) so that the image radiance statistics, when viewing Earth, are relatively constant over time.

The ISCCP calibration procedures employ several steps: quality checks of raw count statistics (GAC and BIU QC), monitoring of current polar orbiter calibration (VIS-IR MONITOR), adjustment of current polar orbiters to reference standard polar orbiter (NORM, ABS COEFS) based on output from VIS-IR MONITOR, normalization of geostationary calibrations to the current polar orbiter (VIS-IR NORM), final adjustment of geostationary calibrations to the reference standard based (NORM, ABS COEFFS) based on output from VIS-IR NORM and VIS-IR MONITOR, and a final check and possible adjustment during Cloud Product processing (CALCOR). Calibration is also monitored during Cloud Product processing by B4PLOTS, which may indicate an anomaly, and by D1STATS, which monitors monthly statistics against the whole time record. These plots can indicate unusual changes in the results that could be caused by erroneous calibration.

## 1.2 Expectations

Experience over ISCCP leads to the expectation that image-to-image and month-to-month calibrations for a satellite should not change dramatically, defined to be no more than a few Kelvins for brightness temperatures and no more than a few times 0.01 for VIS scaled radiances. This expectation is also consistent with the fact that radiance distributions over the whole Earth as a target are relatively constant over time, especially radiance distributions over oceans. Any instance where unusually large, short-term changes in the QC, MONITOR or NORM results are found should be investigated to ensure that an error either in raw counts (e.g., wrong spectral channel, dropped bits) or the procedures producing the calibration tables (e.g., truncated images, insufficient sample size or radiance range coverage) has not occurred. B4PLOTS can also indicate such errors by sudden spikes in image total cloud amount.

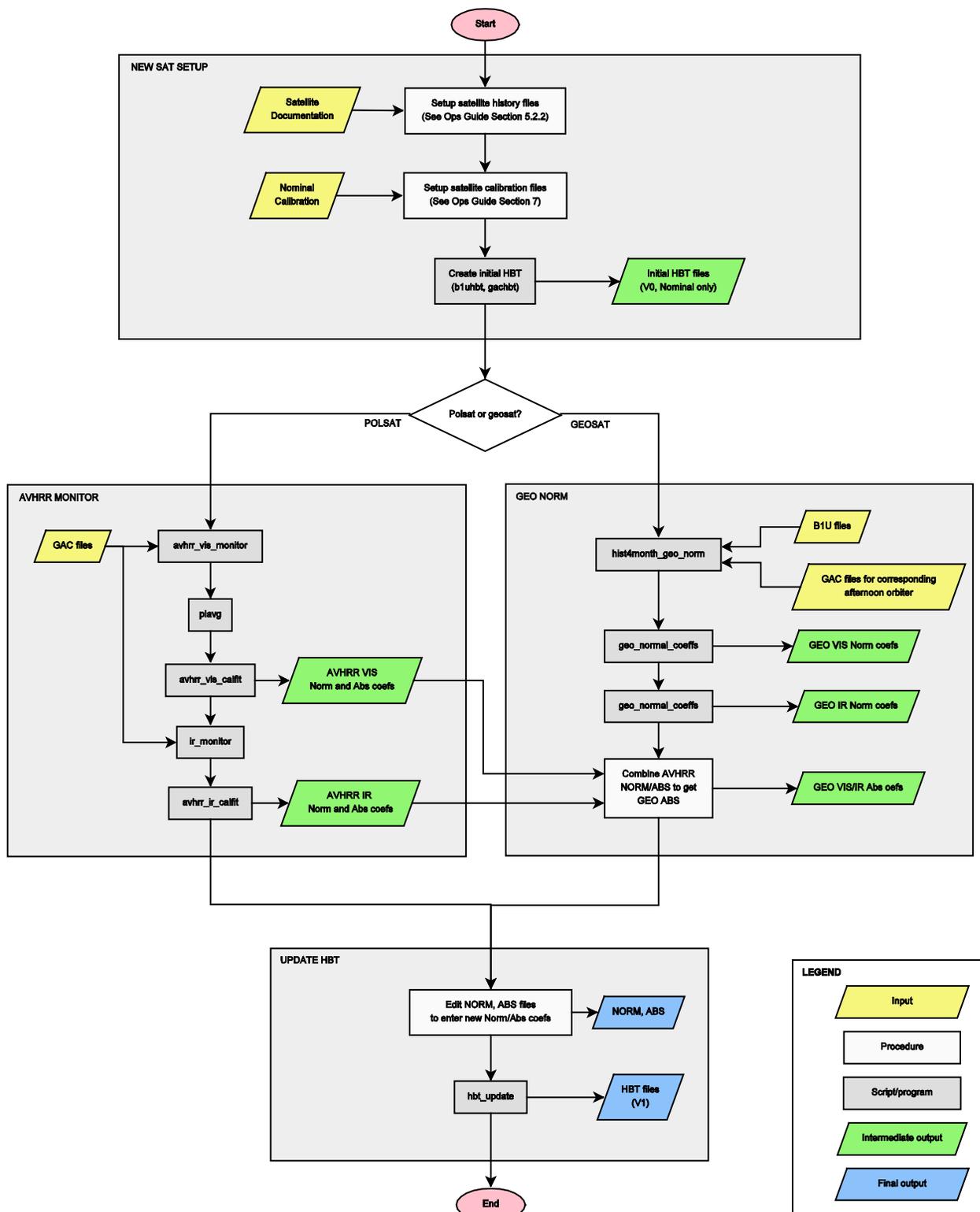
## 1.3 Things to watch for and consistency checks

When examining the results of the QC, MONITOR and NORM programs, if there are large changes in the statistics or derived coefficients, then some additional things should be checked, especially by comparison to adjacent-in-time images and/or months of data from the same satellite. These include whether the pixel sample population has changed or whether the

extreme values in the counts or radiance distributions have changed (in particular if the lower/higher extremes have increased/decreased). These changes should be evaluated by application of the calibration coefficients to very low and very high count values to see if the changes in IR brightness temperature or VIS scaled radiances are actually significant in magnitude. In addition during Cloud Product processing, B4PLOTS should be checked for sudden spikes of cloud amount (to 0 or 100%), usually indicating an incorrect spectral channel, bad raw image counts or bad calibration tables. After Cloud Product processing the response of CALCOR should also be checked (did it ask for unusually large corrections?) and DISTATS should be checked to see if the Cloud Product statistics are similar to the rest of the time record. All of these checks are to determine where the problem lies: (1) raw image counts are bad – fix if possible or quarantine the image, (2) calibration coefficients from MONITOR and NORM are bad – investigate cause but possibly replace them by interpolation between adjacent months, or (3) HBT is bad – redo and replace.

## 2 Calibration process flowchart

### ISCCP Procedures for NEW-Satellite Calibration



### 3 Contents of CAL Add-on V1 Package

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The CAL Add-on V1 Package is a tar file that is to be unpacked in the location of <ISCCP\_ROOT>. It adds sub-directories to the <ISCCP\_ROOT>/calibration directory as follows:

calibration/bin	(Perl run scripts)	
initial_hbt.run		Run script for bluhbt.f90
avhrr_vis_monitor.run		Run script for avhrr_vis_monitor.f90
ir_monitor.run		Run script for avhrr_ir_monitor.f90
hist4month_geo_norm.run		Run script for hist4month_geo_norm.f90
hbt_update.run		Run script for hbt_update.f90
idl/	(IDL programs)	
read_clb.vegmap.pro		Sample program to plot contents of vegmap
solbandw.pro		Compute solar constant and bandwidth
plavg.pro		Compute means for avhrr_vis_calfit
avhrr_vis_calfit.pro		Compute AVHRR VIS NORM, ABS coefs
avhrr_ir_calfit.pro		Compute AVHRR IR NORM coefs
geo_normal_coeffs.pro		Compute geosat VIS, IR NORM coefs
solar_irrad_spectrum_0p3_4p0.sav		Solar spectral irradiance spectrum used by solbandw.pro
savemulti.pro, closemulti.pro		3 <sup>rd</sup> party IDL utils
getcolor.pro, colour_ps.pro		3 <sup>rd</sup> party IDL utils
limage_plot.pro, tvscale.pro		3 <sup>rd</sup> party IDL utils
calibration/doc		
ISCCP_Calibration_Addon.pdf		This document
calibration/src	(Fortran programs)	
Makefile		Compiles f90 and installs in ../bin
avhrr_vis_monitor.f90		AVHRR VIS monitor
ir_monitor.f90		AVHRR IR monitor
monitor_module.f90		Used by AVHRR monitor
calcheck_module.f90		Used by AVHRR monitor
gacdata_module.f90		Modified copy of production gacread to return scan times
hist4month_geo_norm.f90		Geosat VIS, IR NORM procedure

hbt_update.f90	Update HBT using new NORM, ABS coefs
add2sattab_radtmp.f90	Update SATTABLE for new satellite
read_sattable.f90	Check contents of SATTABLE
bluhbt.f90	Create initial HBT for geosats (updated from Build 5 version to include satellites beyond the base period)
calibration/tables	(static table data files)
clb.vegmap	Used by avhrr_vis_monitor.f90
inten.merge	Used by avhrr_vis_monitor.f90
spc.osptrans_new	Used by avhrr_vis_monitor.f90
spc.solarcon	Used by avhrr_vis_monitor.f90
SATTABLE.ALL	Updated thermal RAD,TMP tables for new sats
calibration/sat_response_functions	
response.sss-nn	Updated response functions, new sats added
calibration/prdenv.cal	Script to set environment variables
calibration/README_cal.txt	Compiling instructions

The programs in this add-on package also use production modules. Paths are set in the “prdenv.cal” shell script which should be run to set the environment before using the Makefile in the calibration/src directory. Build this add-on by running “make; make install” from the calibration/src directory. Similarly, use “prdenv.cal” shell script to set the environment in any working directory in order to access the codes in this package from that directory.

This package is provided as an add-on that is separate from the production src directory because these codes are subject to change. When finalized, the contents of the calibration add-on directories of bin, src and tables could be merged with production directories.

## 4 New-Satellite Set-up

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The calibration process requires that the following new satellite setup procedures first be completed:

### 4.1 Creation of Sat.pm entry

The new satellite must be added to Sat.pm by creating a new entry in the hash structure which specifies the satellite characteristics. See Ops Guide Section 5.2.2 for details.

### 4.2 Initial calibration setup (NOMINAL)

#### 4.2.1 Response functions

The instrument response functions are obtained from the satellite operator and stored in a text file that is edited by hand. See Ops Guide Section 7.2.1 for details.

#### 4.2.2 Solar constant (SOLCON) and IR bandwidth

The solar constant is computed manually for the VIS channel and entered into Sat.pm. See Ops Guide Section 7.2.2 for details.

An IDL procedure is provided (calibration/bin/idl/solbandw.pro) which calculates the solar constant and also the IR bandwidth. The bandwidth is entered into the nominal calibration file (SATINFO) which is used to create the thermal channel lookup tables in SATTABLE if it is necessary to convert radiance units:  $W/m^2*sr*cm^{-1} \times \text{bandwidth} = W/m^2*sr$ .

To run:

```
$ . prdenv.cal
$ idl
IDL> solbandw, 'response_filename', nchans, ispolr

response_filename= name of response function file
nchans= number of channels in the response function file
ispolr=1 for NOAA-10 and later orbiters, or 0 for all other satellites
```

Output:

satid_SRF_bandw.ps	Plot for each channel
satid_solbandw.txt	Text file containing solar constant and bandwidth values

#### 4.2.3 Polar orbiter nominal calibration (SATINFO)

The information required for nominal calibration of polar orbiters must be obtained and entered by hand into a text file. See Ops Guide Section 7.2.3 for details. Although the operational nominal VIS calibration may change over time, the ISCCP procedure fixes the nominal VIS calibration to a constant value from the first month of data.

#### **4.2.4 Thermal channel lookup tables (SATTABLE)**

The SATTABLE.ALL file contains lookup tables for converting radiances to brightness temperatures, brightness temperatures to radiances, or counts to radiances. See Ops Guide Section 7.2.4 for details.

For new satellites beyond 2009 the prd/tables/SATTABLE.ALL file must be updated by adding the RAD(TMP) and TMP(RAD) lookup tables for the satellite. The program to generate these new tables is provided in calibration/src/add2sattab\_radtmp.f90. This program must be modified by hand for each new satellite. The sections to be modified are identified by EDIT and END EDIT comments inside the code. Make sure the order of the channels is as expected, with two tables for each channel (first RAD(TMP) and then TMP(RAD)).

Historically, the order of the tables was dependent on the B2 format which varied by satellite and SPC. For newer satellites the first channel is always IR 10.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and all other channels follow in increasing wavelength order. The index of the table to be used in production is specified in prd/src/sattable\_module.f90. For new satellites beyond the base period this index will be 1. For older satellites it varies. The spectral identity of the IR channel should be verified; it should have a central wavelength of approximately 10.5 microns.

To run, first edit the program in sections marked EDIT and compile using “make install”:

```
$ add2sattab_radtmp
```

To check results use the program read\_sattable.f90. Edit the path to the new SATTABLE file in the program and “make install” before running.

```
$ read_sattable
```

When results have been verified, copy the new table to the production location in prd/tables/SATTABLE.ALL.

#### **4.3 Initial coefficient files (NORM, ABS)**

The NORM and ABS coefficients are stored as tables in text files. Initially these files are created with coefficients of 1.0 and 0.0 for slope and intercept (no correction). See Ops Guide Section 7.3 for details.

#### **4.4 Initial HBT V0 files**

The V0 HT files are created using the NOMINAL calibration obtained from the input data headers and/or the SPC. See Ops Guide Section 7.4 for details. For geosats beyond the base period, an updated version of bluhbt.f90 is included in this package with a revised initial\_hbt.run script.

## 5 Monitoring Polar Orbiter Calibration (MONITOR)

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This process requires 2.0 whole years of GAC input data at a minimum, but a longer period is preferred. It requires that all satellite set-up procedures have been run including initialization of the HBT calibration tables with the nominal calibrations for the polar orbiter. The results of this process are NORM and ABS coefficients for the polar orbiter VIS and IR channels.

### 5.1 VIS channel monitor

The VIS monitor step reads GAC files (run for polar orbiter satellites only, single satellite at a time), applies HBT nominal calibration table 4, (but the code can use any table which can be used for later checking), retrieves the reflectance for each pixel after correcting for absorption through ozone and makes two maps, one for clear sky reflectance and one for total reflectance including clouds, using surface types with limits to define a set of targets on Earth. This information is used to investigate the VIS calibration if later results indicate a problem of consistency in the data record. The resulting map for clear sky reflectances is averaged over the globe for each month. When sufficient data are available (2 whole years or more), the global monthly mean reflectances are differenced with the NOAA-9 climatology. A linear fit is made to the time series of the reflectance differences. The reflectance differences are multiplied by a variable factor (K) until the offset of the linear fit is a minimum. The K-factor becomes the NORM coefficient for the current afternoon polar orbiter satellite. The slope (S) of the linear fit to the reflectance differences without the K-factor determines the ABS coefficient, which equals  $1.0 + S/K$ . The trend is removed by applying an exponential correction,  $(ABS)^{*(month-1)}$ .

Program: avhrr\_vis\_monitor.f90  
Input: GAC, HBT  
Output: sssnn.yyyymm.t.REGMONF Clear-sky surface reflectance for targets  
          sssnn.yyyymm.t.TOTMONF Total surface reflectance, includes clouds

where “t” is N, R, A depending on table selection (N=4 nom, R=5 norm, A=6 abs)

When running the VIS monitor to develop NORM and ABS coefficients for the polar orbiters, HBT Table 4 (NOM) calibration is used. However, there may occasions when the effect of the NORM and ABS needs to be checked, especially to see if long-term trends have been removed. This can be done by choosing either Table 5 (NORM) or Table 6 (ABS) but only after those coefficients have been applied to generate an updated HBT.

To run from the wrkdir, set the environment and start the run script with args:

```
$ ./prdenv.cal  
  
$ avhrr_vis_monitor.run wrkdir yyyy mm ddbeg ddend satpos tablenumber
```

For example, to run July 2007 NOA using NOMINAL calibration (table 4):

```
$ cd wrkdirs/2007_07
```

```
$ ./prdenv.cal  
$ avhrr_vis_monitor.run . 2007 7 1 31 noa 4
```

This creates two output files:

```
NOA18.200707.N.REGMONF  
NOA18.200707.N.TOTMONF
```

## 5.2 Deriving NORM coefficients and ABS coefficients for VIS AVHRR

When enough data (\*.N.REGMONF ) files are available(at least 1.5 to 2.0 years) generate monthly means using the IDL procedure plavg.pro.

Create a text file that lists all of the output files from the VIS monitor that will be input to the IDL program plavg.pro.

```
IDL> plavg,'input_file_list'
```

Where “input\_file\_list” lists all output files for the satellite. The IDL routine will write out a text file input\_file\_list\_plavg.txt which will contain monthly means.

Example output: input\_file\_list\_plavg.txt

```
200701 glb_clrskysrf_mmean= 10.4852  
200702 glb_clrskysrf_mmean= 10.3517  
200703 glb_clrskysrf_mmean= 10.5507  
200704 glb_clrskysrf_mmean= 9.66581  
200705 glb_clrskysrf_mmean= 7.80806  
...
```

Enter these values into the “n18nom” array in the IDL routine avhrr\_vis\_calfit.pro. Make sure you fill in the NOAA-9 corresponding month climatology (yymm) in the “n9clim” array. Edit the prefix for the output file name, and then run the script.

```
IDL> avhrr_vis_calfit
```

The output will be prefix\_avhrr\_vis\_calfit.ps, which will contain the fit plots and the AVHRR NORM and ABS calibration coefficients.

Results can be checked by re-running the monitor with Table 5 (NORM) or Table 6 (ABS) selected from updated (using the above coefficients) HBT files. As the record grows, the monitor can be used to check for revised trend corrections.

## 5.3 IR channel monitor

The IR monitor manual step reads GAC data and applies HBT nominal (Table 4) calibration and generates statistics.

Program: ir\_monitor.f90  
Inputs: GAC, HBT  
Outputs: monitorssnn.yyyymm

To run from the wrkdir, set the environment and start the run script with args:

```
$ ./prdenv.cal  
$ ir_monitor.run wrkdir yyyy mm ddbeg ddend satpos
```

For example, to run July 2007 NOA

```
$ cd wrkdirs/2007_07  
$ ./prdenv.cal  
$ ir_monitor.run . 2007 7 1 31 noa
```

This creates an output file ir\_monitor.NOA-18.YYYYMM which is used to derive calibration coefficients in an IDL process.

#### **5.4 Deriving NORM coefficients and ABS coefficients for IR AVHRR**

The AVHRR NORM coefficients are derived using the output from ir\_monitor.f90. Create a text file that lists the output files from the IR monitor that will be input to the IDL script avhrr\_ir\_calfit, and then run the script.

```
IDL> avhrr_ir_calfit, 'input_file_list'
```

This will read all input files and calculate the record mean for 25<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> water percentile for current AVHRR and fit a line through the regression plot against NOAA-9 record values already calculated. The printed output is the slope and intercept of the fitted line and these are the NORM calibration coefficients for IR AVHRR.

The AVHRR ABS IR calibration coefficients are slope and intercept, 1.0 and 0.0 K, respectively, for all AVHRRs on satellites before NOAA-15 and 0.9767 and +5.667 K, respectively, afterwards.

## 6 Geostationary Calibration (NORM)

---

This process requires one month of B1U input data plus the contemporaneous month of afternoon orbiter GAC data. It requires that all satellite set-up procedures have been run including initialization of the HBT calibration tables with the nominal calibrations for both the polar orbiter and the geostationary satellites. The results of this process are the NORM coefficients for the geostationary satellite VIS and IR channels. Combining the NORM and ABS coefficients from the reference polar orbiter makes the ABS coefficients for geostationary satellites.

The procedure consists of finding the matching pixels of both satellites, matching being conditioned by limits on the cosine of the satellite zenith angles ( $MUE \geq 0.5$ ) and the difference of observation times ( $< 1.25$  hr), as well as the minimum number of matched pixels ( $\geq 2500$ ). The number of matches found will vary and there may not be matches found every day. Only the GAC images whose starting time is within 30 minutes of the geosat nominal time are searched. For each set of matching pixels, a histogram is made for nominally calibrated reflectance (VIS channel) and brightness temperature (IR channel). Nine percentiles are calculated 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup>. A linear fit is done using the two extreme percentile values for each set of polar and geostationary histograms. The resulting gain and offset are used as NORM calibration coefficients for the geostationary satellites.

To run, set the production environment by sourcing `prdenv.cal`. In a working directory run the `hist4month_geo_norm.run` script:

```
$ ./prdenv.cal
$ hist4month_geo_norm.run wrkdir yyyy mm start_day end_day satpos min_mue
equator_cross_time_polar time_dif_fractional_hour
```

Where:

<code>wrkdir</code>	is the working directory (usually <code>.</code> )
<code>yyyy mm start_day end_day</code>	is the time period to run
<code>satpos</code>	is the 3-char satellite position
<code>min_mue</code>	is the minimum mue value to be used
<code>equator_cross_time_polar</code>	is the equator crossing time of the afternoon orbiter
<code>time_dif_fractional_hour</code>	is the maximum time difference between the orbiter scan time and the geostationary middle scan time.

Example:

```
$ hist4month_geo_norm.run . 2007 07 1 31 met 50 1500 1.25
```

The script creates a list of filenames of GAC and B1U pairs of images for the UTC timeslot corresponding to the equator crossing time of the afternoon orbiter and also for the adjacent UTC timeslots and includes both ascending and descending polar orbits. Then it calls `hist4month_geo_norm.f90` that will read each pair of images and match the 0.1 degree grid box

that has values for both satellites, taking in account the limiting conditions, and writes out the matched grid and the histogram percentiles for the pair

```
(array[2=geo/pol,13perc&stat,2=ch1/ch2,2=water/land])
```

The output files are:

```
geo_norm.muelim.hourdif.fractionhourdif.eq_cross_time.satid.yyyymm  
(example: geo_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707) Contains percentile data.
```

```
geo_norm.muelim.hourdif.fractionhourdif.eq_cross_time.satid.yyyymm.match_grid .  
Used for IDL plot of the matching region.
```

## 6.1 Deriving NORM coefficients

The output from the NORM procedure has the statistics for both VIS and IR channels. Use the IDL procedures for VIS and IR separately to derive the NORM coefficients by fitting a line through the two extreme percentile pair of points, in this case 1<sup>st</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup>.

### 6.1.1 VIS channel

Run the IDL script `geo_normal_coeffs.pro` to compute the VIS NORM coefficients.

```
IDL> geo_normal_coeffs, file_name, low_percentile, high_percentile, 'vis'
```

Optional named arguments are:

```
grid_plot_flag=1    to plot match region on second plot page  
text_print=1       to create output text file with results
```

Example:

```
IDL> geo_normal_coeffs, 'geo_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707', '1st', '99th', 'vis'
```

The output will be :

```
visgeo_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707.1st99th.ps  
Contains fit plots for water, land and test results, and match region if grid_plot_flag=1
```

```
if text_print=1, visgeo_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707.1st99th.txt file contains result
```

The red line in the plot is the 2-point fit line, the black line is the all-points fit line. When the test of the coefficients on the extreme values modifies the value by more than 10% the result is printed in red.

The slope and intercept are added to `NORMCOEF.EUM.0707` or used to create new file.

### 6.1.2 IR channel

Run the IDL script `geo_norm_coeffs` to compute the IR NORM coeffs.

```
IDL> geo_normal_coeffs, file_name, low_percentile, high_percentile, 'ir'
```

Optional named arguments are:

grid\_plot\_flag=1 to plot match region on second plot page  
text\_print=1 to create output text file with results

Example:

```
IDL> geo_normal_coeffs, 'geo_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707', '1st', '99th', 'ir'
```

The output will be :

irgeo\_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707.1st99th.ps

Contains fit plots for water, land and test results, and match region if grid\_plot\_flag=1

if text\_print=1, irgeo\_norm.50.1.25.1500.MET-9.200707.1st99th.txt file contains result

The red line in the plot is the 2-point fit line, the black is the all-points fit line. When the test of the coefficients on the extreme values modifies the value by more than 10% the result is printed in red.

The slope and intercept are added to NORMCOEF.EUM.0707 or used to create new file.

## 6.2 Deriving ABS coefficients

The geostationary satellites ABS coefficients are a combination of the AVHRR NORM and ABS coefficients derived in 2.1 and 2.2.

### 6.2.1 VIS channel

Using the AVHRR coefficients derived in Section 5.2 above, calculate for each month the ABS correction for geostationary satellites:

ABS slope = (AVHRR NORM slope) \* (AVHRR ABS slope)

ABS intercept = (AVHRR ABS intercept) + (AVHRR ABS slope)\*(AVHRR NORM intercept)

The above coefficients are used to create new ABS COEFS.SPC.YYMM for the geostationary satellite.

### 6.2.2 IR channel

For each month use the AVHRR IR NORM coefficients derived in Section 5.4 above to create (or add to) to the ABS COEFS.SPC.YYMM channel 2 (IR). The coefficients are constant for all months for the life of the current AVHRR.

## **7 Updating HBT with new coefficients (hbt\_update)**

---

The results of the above MONITOR and NORM processes are the NORM and ABS coefficients. These coefficients are entered manually into the NORM and ABS files (created blank as part of initial satellite setup) and an updated version of HBT is created for use in production by running the hbt\_update program. During production, the ABS coefs may be updated further, based on the overlap statistics generated by CALCOR during the merge step (RECAL process)

The NORM and ABS files are updated using a text editor. These files should be kept in a version control system, such as svn, to track which version of the coefficients are used for production of each version of HBT.

To run:

After creating the wrkdir and sourcing prdenv.cal :

```
$ hbt_update.run wrkdir yyyy mm satpos actual_hbt_version
```

This script will read the updated ABSCOEF and NORMCOEF files from `../calibration/H_coefficients/` call `hbt_update.f90` , read the current HBT version and create a new version of HBT = `actual_hbt_version+1` in the wrkdir.

The results may be checked by re-running the monitor programs (polar orbiter VIS and IR, geostationary IR) using Table 5 (NORM) or Table 6 (ABS).

After checking the new HBT move it to `~prd/data/bt/satpos/`, it is now ready for production.

END OF DOCUMENT