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Ps-LAMBDA: Ambiguity Success Rate Evaluation Software for Interferometric Applications

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Abstract

Integer ambiguity resolution is the process of estimating the unknown ambiguities of carrier-phase observables as integers. It applies to a wide range of interferometric applications of which Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) precise positioning is a prominent example. GNSS precise positioning can be accomplished anytime and anywhere on Earth, provided that the integer ambiguities of the very precise carrier-phase observables are successfully resolved. As wrongly resolved ambiguities may result in unacceptably large position errors, it is crucial that one is able to evaluate the probability of correct integer ambiguity estimation. This ambiguity success rate depends on the underlying mathematical model as well as on the integer estimation method used. In this contribution, we present the Matlab toolbox Ps-LAMBDA for the evaluation of the ambiguity success rates. It allows users to evaluate all available success rate bounds and approximations for different integer estimators. An assessment of the sharpness of the bounds and approximations is given as well. Furthermore, it is shown how the toolbox

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can be used to assess the integer ambiguity resolution performance for design and research purposes, so as to study for instance the impact of using different GNSS systems and/or different measurement scenarios.

Keywords: Ambiguity Success Rate, GNSS, Interferometry, Integer Estimation, Ps-LAMBDA

1. Introduction

The range of applications depending on precise positioning in real-time with a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) has been growing dramatically in the past decades, and will continue to do so with the advent of more signals and systems by means of modernized GPS, the European Galileo and the Chinese Compass. The applications range from navigation and geodetic surveying to Earth observation, construction, and safety-of-life navigation.

All these applications have in common that they rely on the very precise GNSS carrier-phase observations for precise (and real-time) positioning. These observag tions are ambiguous by an unknown integer number of cycles. Only if the ambi-10 guities can be resolved correctly, is it possible to obtain accuracies at centimeter-11 level or below. It is therefore important to assess the probability of correct integer 12 estimation, called the success rate. Although a variety of success rate bounds have 13 been developed, no standard software exists to evaluate these bounds for different 14 integer estimation methods. In this contribution, we introduce the new Matlab 15 tool Ps-LAMBDA for the evaluation of interferometric ambiguity success rates. 16

Here we briefly address some specific examples of the broad-ranging geoscience applications for which correct integer ambiguity estimation is crucial.
For these applications, the success rate tool is valuable, not only for deciding

on whether or not to fix the ambiguities in (real-time) data processing algorithms,
but also for design and research purposes, so as to study for instance, the impact
or potential of using different GNSS systems, different measurement scenarios
and/or choice of signals, receivers or baseline lengths.

As a first example, we mention the GNSS Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) tech-24 nique, (Odijk, 2002; Li and Teunissen, 2011; Euler et al., 2004; Takac and Zelzer, 25 2008). It is widely used for mapping, geodetic surveying and network applica-26 tions, (Blewitt, 1989; Bock, 1996; Strang and Borre, 1997; Leick, 2004; Hofmann-27 Wellenhof et al., 2008; Teunissen and Kleusberg, 1998). With GNSS-RTK, centimeter-28 level positioning in real-time can be achieved based on relative positioning to one 29 or more base stations. Cancellation or mitigation of common error sources allows 30 for improved precision, but centimeter-level accuracies can only be achieved after 31 the successful estimation of the integer ambiguities. 32

Recently, the RTK-technique has been extended to the concept of Precise Point 33 Positioning (PPP), (Heroux and Kouba, 1995; Zumberge et al., 1997). With PPP, 34 satellite orbit and clock corrections from a global network of receivers are used to 35 enable subdecimeter accuracies. This has the advantage that PPP does not rely on 36 a dense network of receivers, and thus can be used anywhere on Earth. The newly 37 developed PPP-RTK technique allows to exploit the precise GNSS carrier-phase 38 measurements, such that higher precisions and shorter convergence times become 39 feasible, (Odijk et al., 2012; Geng et al., 2012; Collins et al., 2009; Laurichesse 40 et al., 2009). Hence, also for PPR-RTK, reliable integer estimation is crucial. 41

Another example is GNSS-based georeferencing as used in many remote sens ing applications. The remote sensing platforms range from survey ships, to air borne and Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (Everaerts, 2008; Rieke et al., 2011),

and even spaceborne platforms, (Buist et al., 2010; Kroes et al., 2005; Leung and
Montenbruck, 2005; Huber et al., 2010; Nadarajah et al., 2012). GNSS allows for
precise positioning and attitude determination of the platforms, in real-time or in
post-processing mode. In either case, to enable precise georeferencing, successful
carrier-phase ambiguity resolution is needed.

Integer ambiguity resolution is also important in the quality control of GNSS data. Loss-of-lock and/or high receiver dynamics may cause integer cycle slips in the carrier phase data. Successful cycle slip detection and repair is therefore important to maintain the integrity of the data (deLacy et al., 2011; Dai et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2010).

Also several non-positioning applications of GNSS can be given as examples. 55 For instance, the use of GNSS stations at fixed locations for deformation moni-56 toring and change detection, e.g. in tectonic active regions, near volcanoes and in 57 areas susceptible to deformation, (Dong and Bock, 1989; Fernandes et al., 2004; 58 Michel et al., 2001). Or the use of observed GNSS path delays for atmospheric 59 profiling, integrated water vapor measurement and creating ionosphere maps, (Be-60 vis et al., 1992; Van der Hoeven et al., 2002; Schon and Brunner, 2008; Todorova 61 et al., 2008; Wickert et al., 2009). In all these applications, the precise carrier-62 phase observables are needed, but the signal of interest can only be extracted once 63 the unknown integer ambiguities are resolved. 64

Next to GNSS, Ps-LAMBDA also applies to all other interferometric techniques for which the integer ambiguity resolution problem plays a role. Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) is one example. The associated interferometric phase observations can be described by a linear function of topographic
height, surface deformation, and the integer ambiguity parameters. Precise esti-

mation of the surface deformation is thus dependent on successful resolution of 70 the integer parameters, (Hanssen et al., 2001). Similarly, the fringe phase obser-71 vations from Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) include unknown integer 72 ambiguities, which need to be resolved in order to achieve the 1 mm global posi-73 tioning accuracy, (Hobiger et al., 2009). As another example, we mention the use 74 of acoustic waves for precise positioning, e.g. for indoor and underwater applica-75 tions, (Das Neves Viegas and Cunha, 2007). Again integer ambiguity resolution 76 is the key. 77

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As the above examples show, the evaluation of the integer ambiguity success rate 79 is important for a wide range of interferometric applications. In this contribu-80 tion, we use GNSS and its models to present and describe the Matlab toolbox 81 Ps-LAMBDA. Section 2 presents the basic GNSS model and the essence of cor-82 rect integer ambiguity estimation. Section 3 reviews the three integer estimators 83 integer rounding (IR), integer bootstrapping (IB) and integer least squares (ILS). 84 In Section 4, the multivariate success rate is defined and the Ps-LAMBDA soft-85 ware to evaluate the success rate is described. In Section 5 the available success 86 rate bounds and approximations of IR, IB and ILS are presented, together with 87 an assessment of their performance. Section 6 presents an example of how the 88 toolbox can be used to assess the performance potential of the American GPS, the 89 European Galileo, and the Chinese Compass satellite systems. 90

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 Table 1: Overview of GNSS frequencies of open signals.

Band	Frequency	GPS	Galileo	Compass
L1	1575.42 MHz	Х	Х	
B1	1561.098 MHz			Х
L2	1227.60 MHz	Х		
E5b/B2	1207.14 MHz		Х	Х
L5/E5a	1176.45 MHz	Х	Х	

91 2. GNSS model and integer estimation

92 2.1. GNSS observation equations

Precise GNSS positioning relies on the carrier-phase observations, which can
 be observed with millimeter precision versus decimeter precision for the pseudor ange observations. The frequencies of the GPS, Galileo and Compass open signals
 are given in Table 1. Glonass is not considered because ambiguity resolution is
 generally not applied as Glonass applies Frequency Division Multiple Access.

The pseudorange and carrier-phase observables on frequency *j* and satellitereceiver pair s - r at epoch *t* are denoted as $p_{r,j}^{s}(t)$ and $\phi_{r,j}^{s}(t)$, respectively. Their observation equations are formulated as , cf.(Hofmann-Wellenhof et al., 2001; Teunissen and Kleusberg, 1998; Leick, 2004; Strang and Borre, 1997; Misra and Enge, 2001):

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$$p_{r,j}^{s}(t) = \rho_{r}^{s}(t) + T_{r}^{s}(t) + \mu_{j}I_{r}^{s}(t) + cdt_{r,j}^{s}(t) + e_{r}^{s}(t)$$

$$\phi_{r,j}^{s}(t) = \rho_{r}^{s}(t) + T_{r}^{s}(t) - \mu_{j}I_{r}^{s}(t) + c\delta t_{r,j}^{s}(t) + \lambda_{j}M_{r,j}^{s} + \epsilon_{r}^{s}(t)$$
(1)

where ρ_r^s is the satellite-receiver range, T_r^s is the troposphere delay, I_r^s is the ionosphere delay, $dt_{r,j}^s$ and $\delta t_{r,j}^s$ are the pseudo-range and carrier-phase satellite-receiver clock biases, $M_{r,j}^s$ is the time-invariant carrier-phase ambiguity, c is the speed of light, λ_j is the wavelength for frequency j, $\mu_j = (\lambda_j/\lambda_1)^2$, and e_r^s and ϵ_r^s are the remaining error terms, respectively. The real-valued carrier-phase ambiguity $M_{r,j}^s = \phi_{r,j}(t_0) + \phi_j^s(t_0) + N_{r,j}^s$ is the sum of the initial satellite-receiver phases and the integer ambiguity $N_{r,j}^s$.

The structure of the observation equations of the pseudorange and carrierphase observables is the same, only that the latter contains an ambiguity term. This implies that if the ambiguities can be resolved, the carrier-phase observations will start to act as very precise pseudorange observations.

The initial phases and clock biases present in Eq.(1) can be eliminated through differencing the observation equations. The so-called double differenced (DD) observation equations, using simultaneous observations from two receivers and two satellites, take the form:

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$$p_{qr,j}^{ls}(t) = \rho_{qr}^{ls}(t) + T_{qr}^{ls}(t) + \mu_j I_{qr}^{ls}(t) + e_{qr}^{ls}(t)$$

$$\phi_{qr,j}^{ls}(t) = \rho_{qr}^{ls}(t) + T_{qr}^{ls}(t) - \mu_j I_{qr}^{ls}(t) + \lambda_j N_{qr,j}^{ls} + \epsilon_{qr}^{ls}(t)$$
(2)

where $p_{qr,j}^{ls}(t) = \left(p_{r,j}^{s}(t) - p_{r,j}^{l}(t)\right) - \left(p_{q,j}^{s}(t) - p_{q,j}^{l}(t)\right)$, and similar notation for the other DD variates. The DD troposphere slant delays are usually reduced to a single DD zenith delay T_{qr}^{zenith} by means of mapping functions. The DD ionosphere delays can usually be neglected for baselines shorter than 15 km. For longer baselines, a priori ionosphere corrections can be used. In that case the uncertainty of those corrections should be taken into account.

¹²⁶ Under the assumption that the error terms e_{qr}^{ls} and ϵ_{qr}^{ls} in Eq.(2) are zero-mean ¹²⁷ variables, the observation equations can be used to set up a mixed integer linear ¹²⁸ model, as some of the parameters are reals and others are integer.

¹²⁹ The observation equations in Eq.(2) are parameterized in terms of the satellite-

receiver ranges $\rho_{qr}^{ls}(t)$, which depend on both the satellite and receiver positions. Assuming the satellite orbits known, these ranges can be linearized with respect to the unknown receiver coordinates. The linearized observation equations obtained in this way are then parameterized in terms of the between-receiver baseline vector increments, and the model is an example of a mixed integer linearized model.

135 2.2. Solving the GNSS model

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¹³⁶ The mixed integer linear(ized) model can now be defined as:

$$\mathbf{y} \sim N(A\mathbf{a} + B\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}}), \ \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^n, \ \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^p$$
 (3)

The notation "~" is used to describe "distributed as". The *m*-vector y contains 138 the pseudorange and carrier-phase observables, the n-vector a contains the DD 139 integer ambiguities, \boldsymbol{b} is the real-valued parameter vector of length p, including 140 baseline or position components and possibly tropospheric and ionospheric delay 141 parameters. The coefficient matrices are $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$, with [A B]142 of full column rank. The variance-covariance (VC-) matrix Q_{yy} is an $m \times m$ pos-143 itive definite matrix. In most GNSS applications, the underlying distribution is 144 assumed to be the multivariate normal distribution. 145

In general, a three-step procedure is employed to solve model (3) based on the least squares criterion. In practice, a user may want to include a validation step after step 1 and step 2.

149 Step 1: Float solution

In the first step, the integer property of the ambiguities a is discarded and the so-called float solution can be obtained with standard least squares:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{a} \\ \hat{b} \end{bmatrix} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ B^T \end{bmatrix} Q_{yy}^{-1} [A \ B] \right)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ B^T \end{bmatrix} Q_{yy}^{-1} y$$
(4)

153 with:

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{a} \\ \hat{b} \end{bmatrix} \sim N \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} & Q_{\hat{a}\hat{b}} \\ Q_{\hat{b}\hat{a}} & Q_{\hat{b}\hat{b}} \end{bmatrix}$$
(5)

 $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ and $Q_{\hat{b}\hat{b}}$ are the VC-matrices of the float ambiguity and baseline estimators, respectively.

157 Step 2: Integer estimation

In the second step, the float ambiguity estimate \hat{a} is used to compute the corresponding integer ambiguity estimate, denoted as

$$\check{a} = \mathcal{I}(\hat{a}) \tag{6}$$

with $I : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^n$ the integer mapping from the *n*-dimensional space of reals to the *n*-dimensional space of integers. In this step, there are different choices of mapping function I possible, which correspond to the different integer estimation methods. Popular choices are integer least squares (ILS), integer bootstrapping (IB) and integer rounding (IR). Each of the methods will be discussed in more detail in the following subsections.

167 Step 3: Fixed solution

In the third step, the float solution of the remaining real-valued parameters solved in the first step are updated using the fixed integer parameters,

$$\check{\boldsymbol{b}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{b}} - \boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{b}}\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}} \boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}}^{-1} (\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} - \check{\boldsymbol{a}}) \tag{7}$$

171 This solution is referred to as the fixed baseline solution.



Figure 1: Position errors in East (dE), North (dN) and Up (dU) direction in meters for ambiguity float solutions (top panel), ambiguity fixed solutions (bottom panel). Note the different scales in the top and bottom panels.

172 2.3. Essence of correct integer estimation

A very high positioning performance can only be guaranteed if the estimated integer ambiguities are correct. It is therefore very important to assess the probability of correct integer estimation. This probability is called the success rate and only if it is very close to 1, it is possible to rely on the integer solution without further validation. In that case the integer ambiguity solution can be assumed to ¹⁷⁸ be deterministic, and the VC-matrix of the fixed baseline solution is obtained by
¹⁷⁹ application of the propagation law of variances to Eq.(7):

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$$Q_{\check{b}\check{b}} = Q_{\hat{b}\hat{b}} - Q_{\hat{b}\hat{a}}Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}^{-1}Q_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}$$
(8)

In general $Q_{\tilde{b}\tilde{b}} \ll Q_{\tilde{b}\tilde{b}}$, since after successful ambiguity fixing the carrier-phase measurements start to act as very precise pseudorange measurements. Figure 1 shows a scatterplot of the float and fixed position errors based on 10,000 solutions with single epoch, dual-frequency GPS for a short baseline; the success rate is equal to 1. It can be observed that the precision is improved with a factor 100, in agreement with the difference in code and carrier-phase measurement noise.

However, incorrect integer ambiguity estimation may result in the opposite 187 effect in terms of positioning accuracy: rather than a dramatic precision improve-188 ment, a wrong ambiguity solution can cause very large position errors, exceeding 189 those of the float solution. This is illustrated in Figure 2, which shows a scatter-190 plot of horizontal float position errors for a case where the ambiguities are fixed 19 correctly in only 93% of the cases. The corresponding fixed solutions are shown 192 as either red or green dots: red if the ambiguities are fixed incorrectly, green if 193 they are fixed correctly. It can be seen that in all cases where the ambiguities 194 were fixed correctly, the position errors are very small. However, in case of un-195 successful integer estimation the corresponding position errors tend to be of the 196 same size or even much larger than the corresponding float position errors. The 197 figure shows only the horizontal positioning results, for the vertical component 198 the errors can be as large as 8 meters in this example. This clearly shows that 199 the fixed solution should only be used if the success rate is very high. Section 4 200 presents the Ps-LAMBDA toolbox which allows to evaluate the success rate of 20 integer estimation. 202



Figure 2: Scatterplot of horizontal position errors in meters for float solution (grey dots) and corresponding fixed solution. In this case, 93% of the solutions were correctly fixed (green dots), and 7% was wrongly fixed (red dots).

3. Admissible integer estimation

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As previously mentioned there are many ways of computing an integer ambiguity vector \check{a} from its real-valued counterpart \hat{a} . To each such method belongs a different mapping $I : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^n$. Due to the discrete nature of \mathbb{Z}^n , the map Iwill not be one-to-one, but instead a many-to-one map. This implies that different real-valued ambiguity vectors will be mapped to the same integer vector. One can therefore assign a subset $\mathcal{P}_z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ to each integer vector $z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$:

$$\mathcal{P}_{z} = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \mid \boldsymbol{z} = \boldsymbol{I}(\boldsymbol{x}) \}, \quad \boldsymbol{z} \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}$$
(9)

The subset \mathcal{P}_z contains all real-valued ambiguity vectors that will be mapped by *I* to the same integer vector $z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. This subset is referred to as the *pull-in region* of *z*. It is the region in which all ambiguity float solutions are pulled to the same fixed ambiguity vector *z*. Using the pull-in regions, one can give an explicit expression for the corresponding integer ambiguity estimator. It reads

²¹⁷
$$\check{\boldsymbol{a}} = \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^n} z \,\mathcal{P}_z(\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}), \quad \mathcal{P}_z(\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \hat{\boldsymbol{a}} \in \mathcal{P}_z \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(10)

Since the pull-in regions define the integer estimator completely, one can define
classes of integer estimators by imposing various conditions on the pull-in regions.
One such class is referred to as the class of admissible integer estimators. This
class was introduced in (Teunissen, 1999b) and it is defined as follows.

223 **Definition**

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The integer estimator $\check{a} = \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^n} z \mathcal{P}_z(\hat{a})$ is said to be *admissible* if

(i)
$$\bigcup_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathcal{P}_z = \mathbb{R}^n$$

(ii) $Int(\mathcal{P}_{z_1}) \cap Int(\mathcal{P}_{z_2}) = \emptyset, \quad \forall z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{Z}^n, \ z_1 \neq z_2$
(iii) $\mathcal{P}_z = z + \mathcal{P}_0, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$

This definition is motivated as follows. The first condition states that the pull-in 226 regions should not leave any gaps and the second that they should not overlap. 227 The absence of gaps is needed in order to be able to map any float solution $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 228 to \mathbb{Z}^n , while the absence of overlaps is needed to guarantee that the float solution 229 is mapped to just one integer vector. The third and last condition of the definition 230 follows from the requirement that $\mathcal{I}(x + z) = \mathcal{I}(x) + z, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n, z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. It states 23 that when the float solution is perturbed by $z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, the corresponding integer 232 solution is perturbed by the same amount. This property allows one to apply the 233 *integer remove-restore* technique: $I(\hat{a} - z) + z = I(\hat{a})$. 234

Integer rounding, integer bootstrapping and integer least squares are all exam ples of admissible integer estimation methods.

237 3.1. Z-transformations

It will be explained later that it may be useful to apply a so-called Z-transformation to the ambiguity parameters. A matrix is called a Z-transformation if it is one-toone (i.e. invertible) and integer (Teunissen, 1995a). Such transformations leave the integer nature of the parameters in tact. If a certain integer estimator is Zinvariant it means that if the float solution is Z-transformed, the integer solution transforms accordingly. Hence:

$$\check{\boldsymbol{z}} = \boldsymbol{Z}^T \check{\boldsymbol{a}} \quad \text{if} \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} = \boldsymbol{Z}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{a}} \tag{11}$$

A very useful Z-transformation is the decorrelating Z-transformation, (Teunissen, 1993, 1994, 1995a,b). It results in a more diagonal VC-matrix:

$$Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}} = Z^T Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} Z \tag{12}$$

248 3.2. Integer rounding

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The simplest way to obtain an integer vector from the real-valued float solution is to round each of the entries of \hat{a} to its nearest integer. The corresponding integer estimator reads

$$\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\mathrm{IR}} = ([\hat{a}_1], \cdots, [\hat{a}_n])^T \tag{13}$$

where $[\cdot]$ stands for rounding to the nearest integer.

The pull-in regions for rounding are *n*-dimensional unit cubes centred at the integer grid points:

$$\mathcal{P}_{z,\mathrm{IR}} = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \left| \boldsymbol{c}_i^T(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{z}) \right| \le \frac{1}{2}, \ i = 1, \dots, n \}, \ \boldsymbol{z} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$
(14)



Figure 3: 2D Pull-in regions for integer rounding (IR) and 50,000 float solutions. Top: original ambiguities \hat{a} [cycles]; Bottom: Z-decorrelated ambiguities \hat{z} [cycles].

with c_i the unit vector have a 1 as its *i*th entry and 0's otherwise.

In general, the rounding estimator is not Z-invariant, i.e. $\check{z}_{IR} \neq Z^T \check{a}_{IR}$. Only if Z is a permutation matrix, and thus the transformation is a simple reordering of the ambiguities, the estimator is Z-invariant. Note that the pull-in regions of rounding remain unaffected by the Z-transformation.

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Figure 3 shows an example for a 2-dimensional (2D) ambiguity vector. 50,000

samples of float ambiguities for a given VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ were simulated; these are 263 shown as the red and green dots. The top panel shows the original float samples 264 (before Z-decorrelation), and the pull-in region $\mathcal{P}_{0,IR}$, in which all the green sam-265 ples reside. Hence, for all those samples the 0-vector is obtained after rounding. 266 The bottom panel shows the corresponding Z-decorrelated float ambiguity sam-26 ples, as well as the surrounding pull-in regions. In this case, many more float 268 samples reside in $\mathcal{P}_{0,IR}$: 95% versus 23% before Z-decorrelation. This shows that 269 the choice for the parameterization of the float ambiguity vector is very important 270 in case of integer rounding. 27

272 3.3. Integer bootstrapping

The integer bootstrapping (IB) estimator still makes use of integer rounding, 273 but it takes some of the correlation between the ambiguities into account. The IB 274 estimator follows from a sequential least squares adjustment and it is computed as 275 follows. If *n* ambiguities are available, one starts with the most precise ambiguity. 276 Let the *n*th ambiguity be the most precise one, hence we start with rounding \hat{a}_n 277 to the nearest integer. The remaining float ambiguities are corrected by virtue of 278 their correlation with the last ambiguity. Then the last-but-one, but now corrected, 279 real-valued ambiguity estimate is rounded to its nearest integer and all remaining 280 (n-2) ambiguities are then again corrected, but now by virtue of their correlation 28 with this ambiguity. This process is continued until all ambiguities are considered. 282



Figure 4: 2D pull-in regions for integer bootstrapping (IB) and 50,000 float solutions. Top: original ambiguities \hat{a} [cycles]; Bottom: **Z**-decorrelated ambiguities \hat{z} [cycles].

²⁸³ The components of the bootstrapped estimator \check{a}_{IB} are given as

$$\check{a}_{n;\mathrm{IB}} = [\hat{a}_n]
\check{a}_{j;\mathrm{IB}} = [\hat{a}_{j|J}] = [\hat{a}_j - \sum_{i=j+1}^n \underbrace{\sigma_{\hat{a}_j \hat{a}_{i|I}} \sigma_{\hat{a}_{i|I}}^{-2}}_{l_{i,j}} (\hat{a}_{i|I} - \check{a}_{i;\mathrm{IB}})],$$

$$\forall j = 1, \dots, n-1$$
(15)

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The short-hand notation $\hat{a}_{i|I}$ stands for the *i*th ambiguity obtained through a conditioning on the previous $I = \{i + 1, ..., n\}$ sequentially rounded ambiguities. The real-valued sequential least squares solution can be obtained by means of the triangular decomposition of the variance-covariance matrix of the ambiguities: $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} = L^T DL$, where *L* denotes a unit lower triangular matrix with entries $l_{i,j}$ (see Eq.(15)) and *D* a diagonal matrix with the conditional variances $\sigma_{\hat{a}_{i|I}}^2$ as its diagonal elements.

²⁹² The pull-in regions for integer bootstrapping are given as:

$$\mathcal{P}_{z,\mathrm{IB}} = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \left| \boldsymbol{c}_i^T \boldsymbol{L}^{-T} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{z}) \right| \le \frac{1}{2}, \ i = 1, \dots, n \}, \ \boldsymbol{z} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$
(16)

with c_i the unit vector have a 1 as its *i*th entry and 0's otherwise.

Like rounding, bootstrapping suffers as well from a lack of Z-invariance, i.e. $\check{z}_{IB} \neq Z^T \check{a}_{IB}$ if $\hat{z} = Z^T \hat{a}$. From Eq.(15) can be seen that changing the order will already result in a different outcome with bootstrapping.

Figure 4 shows a 2D example of the pull-in regions for integer bootstrapping, which in 2D are parallelograms. It can be clearly seen how bootstrapping is affected by the decorrelating **Z**-transformation. Here 96% of the **Z**-decorrelated float samples resides in $\mathcal{P}_{0,\text{IB}}$ versus 29% of the original ambiguity samples.

302 3.4. Integer least squares

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When solving the GNSS model of Eq.(3) in a least squares sense, but now with the additional constraint that the ambiguity parameters should be integer-valued, the integer estimator of the second step in the procedure becomes:

$$\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\mathrm{ILS}} = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{z}\in\mathbb{Z}^n} \|\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} - \boldsymbol{z}\|_{\hat{\boldsymbol{Q}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}}}^2 \tag{17}$$



Figure 5: 2D pull-in regions for integer least squares (ILS) and 50,000 float solutions. Top: original ambiguities \hat{a} [cylces]; Bottom: **Z**-decorrelated ambiguities \hat{z} [cylces].

with $\|\cdot\|_{Q}^{2} = (\cdot)^{T} Q^{-1}(\cdot)$. The ILS pull-in region is defined by:

$$\mathcal{P}_{z,\mathrm{ILS}} = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |w| \le \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{\boldsymbol{Q}\hat{a}\hat{a}}, \, \forall \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \}$$
(18)

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$$w = \frac{u^{T} Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}^{-1} (x - z)}{\|u\|_{Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}}}$$
(19)

Table 2: Percentage of float solutions that is correctly fixed for the three integer estimation methods (corresponding to Figures 3 to 5).

	IR	IB	ILS
Original ambiguities \hat{a}	23	29	97
Z-decorrelated ambiguities \hat{z}	95	96	97

the orthogonal projection of (x - z) onto the direction vector u. Hence, $\mathcal{P}_{z,\text{ILS}}$ is the intersection of banded subsets centered at z and having width $||u||_{O_{\hat{u}\hat{v}}}$.

In contrast to integer rounding and integer bootstrapping, the ILS estimator is \mathbf{Z} -invariant: $\mathbf{\check{z}}_{\text{ILS}} = \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{\check{a}}_{\text{ILS}}$ if $\mathbf{\hat{z}} = \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{\hat{a}}$.

Figure 5 shows an example of the 2D pull-in regions for integer least squares. For the original VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ (top panel) the ILS pull-in region follows the distribution of the float samples much better than in case of rounding and bootstrapping, compare with the corresponding Figures 3 and 4. Due to the Z-invariance the percentage of float samples in $\mathcal{P}_{0,\text{ILS}}$ (the green dots) is 97% both for the original and Z-decorrelated ambiguities. The percentages for all three integer estimators are summarized in Table 2.

An integer search is needed to determine \check{a}_{ILS} . The ILS procedure is effi-322 ciently mechanized in the LAMBDA (Least squares AMBiguity Decorrelation 323 Adjustment) method. A key element of the LAMBDA method is the decorrelating 324 Z-transformation, see Section 3.1, which results in largely reduced search times. 325 For more information on the LAMBDA method and its wide-spread applications 326 see e.g. (Teunissen, 1993, 1995b; Li and Teunissen, 2011; Chang et al., 2005; 327 De Jonge and Tiberius, 1996; Hofmann-Wellenhof et al., 2001; Teunissen and 328 Kleusberg, 1998; Leick, 2004; Strang and Borre, 1997; Misra and Enge, 2001). 329

4. Success Rate: definition and evaluation tool

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In Section 2.3 the essence of correct integer estimation was described. It is thus important to have means available to evaluate the ambiguity success rate, i.e., the probability of correct integer estimation, P_s . This success rate is equal to the probability that \hat{a} resides in the correct pull-in region \mathcal{P}_a with a the true but unknown ambiguity vector:

$$P_{s} = P(\check{a} = a) = P(\hat{a} \in \mathcal{P}_{a}) = \int_{\mathcal{P}_{a}} f_{\hat{a}}(\mathbf{x}|a) d\mathbf{x}$$
(20)

The probability density function (PDF) of the float ambiguities, $f_{\hat{a}}(x|a)$, is assumed to be the normal PDF with mean a:

$$f_{\hat{a}}(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{a}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det(2\pi Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}})}} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{a})^T Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{a})\}$$
(21)

As the pull-in regions of the integer estimators are integer-translation invariant, the success rate can also be evaluated as:

$$P_s = \int_{\mathcal{P}_s} f_{\hat{a}}(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{0}) d\boldsymbol{x}$$
(22)

An illustration is given in Figure 6 for the ILS estimator: in the top panel the PDF of a 2D float ambiguity vector is shown, with the corresponding ILS pullin regions underneath. The bottom panel shows the probability masses for each integer grid point, equal to the integral of the PDF over the corresponding pull-in regions. In this case, the success rate is equal to the probability mass at $[0 \ 0]^T$.

From the definition (22) it follows that the success rate depends on the integer estimation method (IR, IB or ILS) as well as on the float ambiguity precision captured by VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$. From Eq.(4) follows that:

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$$Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} = \left(A^T Q_{yy}^{-1} A - A^T Q_{yy}^{-1} B (B^T Q_{yy}^{-1} B)^{-1} B^T Q_{yy}^{-1} A\right)^{-1}$$
(23)



Figure 6: Top: PDF and 2D pull-in regions for ILS. Bottom: corresponding probability mass function.



Figure 7: Ps-LAMBDA: overview of available methods and options in routine SuccessRate. Default option is indicated with (*). Names of underlying routines are shown as well. AP = approximation (blue), LB = lower bound (green), UB = upper bound (red).

From this it can be seen that the following factors drive the ambiguity float precision:

- receiver-satellite geometry (depends on time and location, as well as on which GNSS is used) $\rightarrow B, Q_{yy}$
- measurement noise (depends on GNSS signal and receiver quality) $\rightarrow Q_{yy}$
- assumptions on atmospheric delays (depends on atmosphere models and/or between-receiver baseline length) $\rightarrow B, Q_{yy}$
- frequencies used (depends on GNSS and receiver) $\rightarrow A$
- number of observation epochs $\rightarrow B$

Note that the satellite geometry only affects Q_{yy} if elevation-dependent weighting is applied to the observations. The influence of the atmosphere delays depends on whether the delays are estimated and thus included as unknown parameters in b, and what uncertainty is assigned to the corrections if applied.

Since the success rate can be computed once the float ambiguity VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ is known, it can be computed without the need for actual data. As such, the success rate can be used as a very important performance measure for:

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• planning purposes (design computations): what is the performance to be expected given a certain measurement set-up at a given time and location;

• deciding whether or not to fix the ambiguities to the integer estimates during the actual data processing (in real-time or post-processing mode);

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375 376 • research purposes, e.g. to study the impact of receiver noise characteristics, availability of more signals / satellites, baseline length, etcetera.

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As mentioned, the success rates also depend on the selected integer estimation method, since the pull-in region is different for IR, IB and ILS. In (Teunissen, 1999a) it was proven that:

$$P(\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\mathrm{IR}} = \boldsymbol{a}) \le P(\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\mathrm{IB}} = \boldsymbol{a}) \le P(\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\mathrm{ILS}} = \boldsymbol{a})$$
(24)

The ordering is thus the same as the ordering in terms of complexity, since IR is the simplest and ILS the most complex method. This means that if IR or IB provides a very sharp lower bound, a user could decide to use the simpler integer estimation method if their success rate is close to 1 and still obtain (close to) optimal performance.

The success rate cannot be evaluated exactly in all cases due to the complex 38 integration over the pull-in region. It is of course important to be able to have 388 good approximations of the success rate in case exact evaluation is not feasible. 389 A lower bound is an approximation of the success rate, which is guaranteed to be 390 smaller than or equal to the actual success rate. As such it is particularly useful. 39 However, if the lower bound is not tight, this may result in a unnecessarily high 392 rejection rate as the success rate is deemed too low. An upper bound can be useful 393 as well, especially in combination with a lower bound, since it then tells the user 394 in which range the success rate will be. If the upper bound is below a user-defined 395 threshold, one cannot expect ambiguity resolution to be successful. In addition, 396 for IR and IB it may be useful to have an upper bound which is invariant for the 39 class of admissible ambiguity transformations. 398

Different approximations and bounds were proposed in literature, an evaluation of some of the bounds was made in (Verhagen, 2005; Thomsen, 2000). All bounds and approximations are now implemented in a newly developed Matlab toolbox, called Ps-LAMBDA. Figure 7 gives an overview of the structure. The main routine is SuccessRate which needs as input:

Qa the VC-matrix of the float ambiguities $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ method 1 = ILS [DEFAULT], 2 = IB, 3 = IR option the approximation / bound to compute (see Figure 7) decor 1 = decorrelation [DEFAULT]

404

nsamp number of samples

0 = no decorrelation

only used for simulation-based approximation

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The choice for decor is only relevant for IR and IB, since these estimators are not Z-invariant. Decorrelation is always applied for ILS to ensure computational efficiency.

The toolbox also includes a Graphical User Interface which allows the user to select an input file which contains the VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ and to compute all the desired bounds and approximations for different integer estimation methods simultaneously.

In the next section the bounds and approximations for each of the three estimators are presented. The performance of the bounds and approximations will be assessed for different GNSS models, where the different factors affecting the float ambiguity precision are varied as shown in Table 3. An exponential elevationdependent weighting is applied (more noise is assumed for observations from

system	GPS -
	combined GPS+Galileo
times	49 different epochs
frequencies	L5 - L1+L5 -
	L1+L5+L2/E5b
standard deviations of	code: 15 cm
undifferenced observations	phase: 1 mm
VC-matrix scale factors	0.25 - 0.5 - 1 - 2 - 4
standard deviation of	
ionosphere corrections	5 - 15 mm

Table 3: Measurement scenarios used in Section 5 (standard deviations apply to zenith direction).

low-elevation satellites) to the standard deviations of the observations and of the ionosphere corrections. The scale factors applied to the VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ can either be interpreted as representing a different number of epochs, or a different measurement precision due to different receiver quality.

422 **5. Success Rate: bounds and approximations**

423 5.1. Approximation based Monte Carlo simulations

The success rate of integer estimation can be approximated by means of Monte Carlo simulation. The procedure is as follows. It is assumed that the float solution is normally distributed $\hat{a} \sim N(a, Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}})$, and thus the distribution is symmetric about the mean *a*. Hence, we may shift the distribution over *a* and draw samples from the distribution $N(0, Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}})$.



Figure 8: Examples of simulation-based success rate as function of number of samples. Each panel shows the results for a different GNSS model.

The first step is to use a random generator to generate *n* independent samples from the univariate standard normal distribution N(0, 1), and then collect these in a vector *s*. This vector is transformed by means of $\hat{a} = Gs$, with *G* equal to the Cholesky factor of $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} = GG^T$. The result is a sample \hat{a} from $N(0, Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}})$, and this sample is used as input for integer estimation. If the output of this estimator equals the null vector, then it is correct, otherwise it is incorrect. This process can be repeated an *N* number of times, and one can count how many times the null vector is obtained as a solution, say N_s times. The approximation of the success rate follows then as:

$$P_s \approx \frac{N_s}{N}$$

(25)

In order to get good approximations, the number of samples *N* must be sufficiently large (Teunissen, 1998a). The disadvantage is that it may be very time-consuming to evaluate Eq.(25), especially in case of ILS, since for each sample an integer search is required.

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The concept of approximating the success rate based on simulations was already applied in Sections 3.2-3.4, see Table 2.

Figure 8 shows for four GNSS models how the approximation performs de-445 pending on the number of samples used (similar results were obtained for many 446 other GNSS positioning models). It follows that at least 10⁵ samples should be 447 used to get a good approximation. At the same time it can be seen that using more 448 samples generally only has a small effect, in the order of 10^{-3} , especially in cases 449 where the success rate is close to 1. With 10^6 samples the approximation will be 450 very close to the true value. In the remainder of this contribution the simulation-45 based success rates will be compared to other bounds and approximations. The 452 number of samples used is 10^6 . 453

Ps-LAMBDA allows to evaluate the simulation-based success rates for IR and
ILS (option 1 in Figure 7), where the user may specify the number of samples to
be used. The option is not available for IB, as its success rate can be evaluated
exactly, as will be shown in Section 5.3.

458 5.2. Integer Rounding success rates

The *n*-fold integral over the IR pull-in region defined in (14) is difficult to evaluate. Only if the VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ is diagonal will the success rate become equal to the *n*-fold product of the univariate success rates. In (Teunissen, 1998b) it was shown that this also provides a lower bound in case $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ is not diagonal:

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$$P_{s,\mathrm{IR}} = P(\check{a}_{\mathrm{IR}} = a) \ge \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sigma_{\hat{a}_{i}}}) - 1 \right)$$
(26)

with $\Phi(x)$ the cumulative normal distribution function:

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{x} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}t^2\} dt$$

In Section 3.2 it was mentioned that IR is not Z-invariant. This holds for the IR success rates as well, since the pull-in regions are unaffected by a Ztransformation, while the distribution of the transformed ambiguities is changed to $\hat{z} \sim N(Z^T a, Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}})$. If IR is applied to the Z-decorrelated ambiguities, the success rate will increase due to the improved precision of the decorrelated ambiguities, i.e.

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$$P(\check{z}_{\mathrm{IR}} = z) \ge P(\check{a}_{\mathrm{IR}} = a) \tag{27}$$

According to Eq.(24), IB will always result in a success rate higher than or equal to the IR success rate if the same parameterization of the float ambiguities is used. Hence, the IB success rate can be used as an upper bound for IR. In the next subsection it will be shown that the IB success rate can in fact be evaluated exactly.

Figure 9 shows the lower bound and upper bound versus the actual IR success rates (all for the decorrelated ambiguities). It can be seen that the lower bound is very tight, whereas the upper bound based on the IB success rate is not as



Figure 9: IR success rates: upper bound based on IB (red) and lower bound based on diagonal VC-matrix (green) versus the actual IR success rate for the models from Table 3.



Figure 10: IB success rates: ADOP-based upper bound versus the exact IB success rate for the models from Table 3.

tight, thus indicating that integer bootstrapping may still significantly outperforminteger rounding.

483 5.3. Integer Bootstrapping success rates

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In case of bootstrapping the success rate can be evaluated exactly using (Teunissen, 1998b):

$$P_{s,\text{IB}} = P(\check{a}_{\text{IB}} = a) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sigma_{\hat{a}_{i|l}}}) - 1 \right)$$
(28)

The IB success rate is not Z-invariant. Bootstrapping may perform close to optimal if applied to the decorrelated ambiguities \hat{z} , (Teunissen, 1998b; Verhagen, 2005), and as with rounding we have:

$$P(\check{z}_{\rm IB} = z) \ge P(\check{a}_{\rm IB} = a) \tag{29}$$

For bootstrapping we thus have an exact and easy-to-compute formula for the success rate. Still it can be useful to have an upper bound, which is **Z**-invariant, since if this upper bound is too small, it can be immediately concluded that neither bootstrapping, nor rounding, will be successful for *any* parameterization of the ambiguities. In Teunissen (2000) it was proven that such an upper bound is given by:

$$P_{s,\mathrm{IB}} \le \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2ADOP}) - 1\right)^n \tag{30}$$

⁴⁹⁸ with ADOP being the Ambiguity Dilution of Precision given by:

$$ADOP = \sqrt{\det(\boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}})^{\frac{1}{n}}}$$
(31)

with units of *cycles*. The ADOP is a diagnostic that captures the main characteristics of the ambiguity precision. It was introduced in (Teunissen, 1997), described and analyzed in (Teunissen and Odijk, 1997; Odijk and Teunissen, 2008) and is widely used, see the introduction of (Odijk and Teunissen, 2008). The ADOP is invariant for the class of admissible ambiguity transformation, i.e. ⁵⁰⁵ det($Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$) = det($Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}}$). When the ambiguities are completely decorrelated, the ⁵⁰⁶ ADOP equals the geometric mean of the standard deviations of the ambiguities, ⁵⁰⁷ hence it can be considered as a measure of the average ambiguity precision.

Figure 10 shows that the upper bound is in these cases often significantly higher than the exact success rate $P(\check{z}_{IB} = z)$. Better bounding performance is obtained for lower dimensions *n*, which is due to the replacement of the *n* conditional standard deviations in Eq.(28) by a single value equal to ADOP.

512 5.4. Integer Least Squares success rates

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⁵¹³ Due to the complex geometry of the ILS pull-in region defined in Eq.(18), ⁵¹⁴ the multivariate integral in Eq.(22) can only be evaluated by using Monte Carlo ⁵¹⁵ simulation. In addition, several lower and upper bounds of the ILS success rate ⁵¹⁶ have been proposed. They will all be presented here.

517 Bounds and approximations based on IB and ADOP

Teunissen (1999a) proved that the ILS estimator is optimal, in the sense that it gives the maximum success rate. Furthermore, it was already mentioned that IB may perform close to optimal if applied to decorrelated ambiguities. Therefore the corresponding IB success rate can be used as a lower bound for the ILS success rate:

$$P_{s,\text{ILS}} = P(\check{\boldsymbol{a}}_{\text{ILS}} = \boldsymbol{a}) \ge \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sigma_{\hat{z}_{i|l}}}) - 1 \right)$$
(32)

The conditional standard deviations $\sigma_{\hat{z}_{i|l}}$ of the decorrelated ambiguities must be used (see Eq.(29)).

⁵²⁶ Consequently, the invariant upper bound of the IB success rate from Eq.(30) ⁵²⁷ may serve as an approximation of the ILS success rate.



Figure 11: ILS success rates: lower bound based on IB (green) and upper bound based on ADOP (red) versus the actual ILS success rate for the models from Table 3.



Figure 12: ILS success rates: ADOP-based approximation versus the actual ILS success rate for the models from Table 3.

528 Furthermore, an upper bound for the ILS success rate based on the ADOP can 529 be given as:

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$$P_{s,\text{ILS}} \le P\left(\chi^2(n,0) \le \frac{c_n}{ADOP^2}\right) \tag{33}$$

531 with

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$$c_n = \frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})\right)^{\frac{2}{n}}}{\pi}$$

This bound was introduced in Hassibi and Boyd (1998), while the proof was given
in Teunissen (2000).

Figure 11 shows how the IB success rate performs as a lower bound for ILS. In practice, the IB success rate is commonly used as the best known lower bound, and these results confirm that especially if the success rate is high, this is indeed the case. At the same time, it can be seen how ILS may still significantly outperform IB for lower success rates.

Figure 11 shows that for these cases the ADOP-based upper bound often gives a too optimistic value compared to the actual success rate. As is shown later, however, the bounding performance improves for lower dimensions (cf. Figure 17).

A similar conclusion can be given for the ADOP-based approximation of the ILS success rate as shown in Figure 12. Only in some of these cases can it be used as a coarse approximation. The approximation improves in case of lower dimensions (cf. Figure 17).

548 Bounds based on bounding the integration region

In (Teunissen, 1998a) lower and upper bounds for the ILS success rate were obtained by bounding the integration region. Obviously, a lower bound is obtained if the integration region is chosen such that it is completely contained by the pullin region, and an upper bound is obtained if the integration region is chosen such that it completely contains the pull-in region. The integration region can then be chosen such that the integral is easy-to-evaluate. In ibid the integration region for



Figure 13: Two examples of the ellipsoidal region (green) contained by the pull-in region $\mathcal{P}_{0,\text{ILS}}$ (different shape of pull-in regions is due to different VC-matrices $Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}}$).



Figure 14: Integration region (red) containing $\mathcal{P}_{0,ILS}$ and defined by the intersection of two banded subsets.

the lower bound is chosen as an ellipsoidal region $E_a \subset \mathcal{P}_{a,\text{ILS}}$. The probability $P(\hat{a} \in E_a)$ can be evaluated based on the χ^2 -distribution:

$$P_{s,\text{ILS}} \ge P(\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} \in E_{\boldsymbol{a}}) = P\left(\chi^{2}(n, 0) \le \frac{1}{4} \min_{\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{Z}^{n} \setminus \{0\}} \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{\boldsymbol{Q}\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}}^{2}\right)$$
(34)

The concept is illustrated in Figure 13 for two different pull-in regions, corresponding to different VC-matrices $Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}}$.

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The upper bound can thus be obtained by defining a region $U_a \supset \mathcal{P}_{a,\text{ILS}}$. Given the definition of the ILS pull-in region $\mathcal{P}_{a,\text{ILS}}$ in Eq.(18), it follows that any finite intersection of p < n banded subsets defined by w of Eq.(19) will enclose $\mathcal{P}_{a,\text{ILS}}$. The idea is illustrated in Figure 14 for the 2D case where U_a is chosen as the intersection of two banded subsets. The probability $P(\hat{a} \in U_a)$, however, cannot be evaluated exactly either, but can be bounded from above to obtain (Teunissen, 1998a):

$$P_{s,\text{ILS}} \le P(\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} \in U_{\boldsymbol{a}}) \le \prod_{i=1}^{p} \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sigma_{v_{i|l}}}) - 1 \right)$$
(35)

with the conditional standard deviation $\sigma_{v_{i|l}}$ of vector v. These are equal to the square root of the diagonal elements of D from the $L^T DL$ -decomposition of Q_{vv} with its elements given by:

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$$\sigma_{v_i v_j} = \frac{\boldsymbol{u}_i^T \boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}^{-1} \boldsymbol{u}_j}{\|\boldsymbol{u}_i\|_{\boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}} \|\boldsymbol{u}_j\|_{\boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}}}, \quad \boldsymbol{u}_i, \boldsymbol{u}_j \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$

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where the u_i , i = 1, ..., p need to be linearly independent. How to evaluate this upper bound is described in (Teunissen, 1998a; Verhagen, 2005). Note that in the higher dimensional case many subsets are necessary to obtain a tight upper bound, and selection of the subset is rather complicated. In addition, it is computationally demanding, since the determination of the subset involves the evaluation of many integer candidates to be obtained with LAMBDA.

Kondo (2003) presented a lower bound of the ILS success rate by replacing the conditional standard deviation $\sigma_{v_{i|l}}$ in Eq.(35) by the unconditional standard deviation σ_{v_i} . In Verhagen (2005) it was explained that this is only guaranteed to be a lower bound under certain conditions, which are difficult to fulfill.

Figure 15 shows the lower and upper bound of the ILS success rate based on bounding the integration region. It can be seen that the upper bound performs reasonably well, whereas the lower bound is generally not tight at all - it will be close to zero unless the success rate is very close to 1. The bad performance can be explained based on the 2D example on the right-hand side of Figure 13: the ellipsoidal region may leave a large part of the ILS pull-in region uncovered. This



Figure 15: ILS success rates: lower and upper bounds based on bounding the integration region versus the actual ILS success rate for the models from Table 3.

will be the case when there is a large variation in the variances $\sigma_{\hat{z}_i \hat{z}_i}$ (making the ellipsoidal region elongated).

⁵⁹⁰ Bounds based on bounding the VC-matrix

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It is also possible to obtain a lower and an upper bound by bounding the actual VC-matrix from above and below by diagonal matrices, and then to compute the probability of correct integer estimation belonging to these diagonal matrices, (Teunissen, 1998a). The simplest way is to bound the actual VC-matrix with:

$$\lambda_{\min} \boldsymbol{I}_n \le \boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{z}}\hat{\boldsymbol{z}}} \le \lambda_{\max} \boldsymbol{I}_n \tag{36}$$

where λ_{\min} and λ_{\max} are the minimum and maximum eigenvalues of $Q_{\hat{z}\hat{z}}$, and I_n is an identity matrix of order *n*. The ILS success rate bounds follow as:

$$(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda_{\max}}}) - 1)^n \le P_{s,\text{ILS}} \le \left(2\Phi(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda_{\min}}}) - 1\right)^n$$
(37)

⁵⁹⁹ Figure 16 shows the lower and upper bound of the ILS success rate based ⁶⁰⁰ on bounding the VC-matrix. It can be seen that both bounds perform poorly.



Figure 16: ILS success rates: lower and upper bounds based on bounding the VC-matrix versus the actual ILS success rate for the models from Table 3.

Similarly as with the ADOP-based approximation of the ILS success rate, this is especially true for large n due to the replacement of the n conditional standard deviations in Eq.(32) by the square root of the minimum or maximum eigenvalue, respectively.

605 Examples with other models

So far, the performance of the success rate bounds and approximations was 606 analyzed based on the linearized DD GNSS model parameterized in terms of the 607 baseline unknowns. However, it is also possible to use the observation equations 608 (1) directly, and hence parameterize the DD model in terms of the satellite-receiver 609 ranges. This model is referred to as the geometry-free model, and is used for 610 example for integrity monitoring or as a first step in the data processing. Here, we 61 will show an example based on a dual-frequency GNSS model for one satellite-612 receiver pair (i.e. one DD code and phase observation per frequency). The GPS 613 L1 and L2 frequencies, see Table 1, have been considered. The undifferenced 614



Figure 17: ILS success rate bounds for 2-frequency geometry-free model with 2 ambiguities, f is the scale factor applied to the VC-matrix (bottom panel shows same results, but only for smaller f).

⁶¹⁵ code and phase standard deviations were set to 15 cm and 1.5 mm, respectively.

⁶¹⁶ The float ambiguity VC-matrix (units are $cycles^2$) obtained in this way is:

$$\boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.2429 & 0.9683\\ 0.9683 & 0.7547 \end{bmatrix}$$
(38)

In addition, a scaling is applied to analyze the performance for different precisions:

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$$\boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a},f} = f \times \boldsymbol{Q}_{\hat{a}\hat{a}} \tag{39}$$

The ILS success rate approximations and bounds are shown in Figure 17 as a function of the scale factor f. The lower bound based on the exact IB success rate is very sharp. Interestingly, this also holds for the ADOP-based upper bound and approximation (the orange line is hardly visible, as it is plotted below the graph of the simulation-based success rate). In this case the bounds based on bounding the integration region are quite sharp if the success rate is high, but become less tight as the scale factor increases, and consequently the success rate decreases.

In all results shown so far, the bounds based on bounding the VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ are generally not tight at all. An example where also these bounds will work well is when all variances are equal to a certain value *v* and all the covariances equal to a value *c*, with v >> c:

$$\sigma_{\hat{a}_i\hat{a}_i}^2 = \nu, \ \sigma_{\hat{a}_i\hat{a}_j} = c, \quad \forall i, j = 1, \dots, n; \ i \neq j$$

$$\tag{40}$$

Figure 18 shows the bounds for an example with n = 2, v = 0.02 and c = 0.0005. Again the scaling according to Eq.(39) is applied.

635 Which bounds or approximations to use?

The results in this section show that the success rate bounds and approximations differ in their performance. The simulation-based approximations of the IR



Figure 18: ILS success rate bounds based on bounding the (2×2) scaled VC-matrix with both variances equal to 0.02, and covariance equal to 0.0005. The scale factor is equal to *f*.

and ILS success rates work well if enough samples are used. However, they may
not be suitable for real-time applications as their computation time may be long.
Computation time will also be an issue for real-time applications if the upper
bound of the ILS success rate based on bounding the integration is considered.
For design and research purposes, as well as for post-processing, computation
time will not be an issue. All other bounds and approximations can be used in
real-time.

For the IR success rate, the lower bound was shown to perform well. For the ILS success rate, the lower bound based on the exact IB success rate, and the upper bound based on bounding the integration region generally perform very well for the GNSS models considered here. Furthermore, it was shown that the other bounds and approximations may work well for certain applications where the dimension is lower or the structure of the VC-matrix $Q_{\hat{a}\hat{a}}$ is different, see for example Figures 17 and 18.

652 6. Success rates with GPS, Galileo and Compass

As an example on how the Ps-LAMBDA toolbox can be used to assess the (po tential) performance of GNSS, a comparative study will be presented for different
 GNSSs. Such a study is useful to:

- study the performance as obtained with the actual constellations for GPS
 and Compass;
- investigate what the potential of Galileo is, both as a stand-alone system or
 combined with GPS. The full nominal Galileo constellation (as planned) is
 used.

The current constellation of Galileo comprises only four satellites, and is therefore
 not considered in this study.

Here, the ILS success rates are evaluated for 25 different times on 22-March-2012, 0:00 - 12:00 UTC, for a 35km baseline in Perth, Australia. The same assumptions for noise as in Table 3 are used for all signals. The standard deviation of the zenith ionosphere corrections is 15mm, zenith troposphere delays are estimated. The following signals, see Table 1, are considered:

• GPS L1+L5;

• Galileo L1+L5;

• Compass B1+B2;

• GPS+Galileo L1+L5/E5a.



Figure 19: Skyplots of GPS (left), Galileo (middle) and Compass (right) for Perth, Australia on 22-March-2012, 0:00 - 12:00 UTC. The plots show the azimuth [deg] and elevation [deg] of the satellites; the dots correspond to the satellite positions at 6:00 UTC.



Figure 20: Number of visible satellites in Perth, Australia on 22-March-2012, 0:00 - 12:00 UTC.

Using almanac data for each of the GNSSs, satellite positions can be computed 672 and the matrices A and B in model (3) can be constructed, as well as the corre-673 sponding VC-matrix Q_{yy} . Figure 19 shows the skyplots for the three considered 674 constellations. Note that during this time window three geostationary satellites 675 and five Inclined Geo-Synchronous Orbit satellites of Compass were visible. The 676 GPS and Galileo constellations comprise of 32 and 30 Medium Earth Orbiting 67 satellites at inclinations of 55 and 56 degrees, respectively. This explains the dif-678 ferences in Figure 19. Figure 20 shows the number of visible satellites as function 679 of time for each system. 680

Figure 21 reports the following bounds and approximation of the ILS success 68 rate: the lower bound based on IB, the upper bound based on bounding the in-682 tegration region, and the simulation-based approximation with 10⁶ samples. The 683 top and bottom panels show the single-epoch and four-epoch results, respectively. 684 The single-epoch success rates are much lower (note the different scales in the 685 bottom and top panels), and then the bounds are not as tight. However, when us-686 ing 4 epochs of observations the success rates will improve significantly and also 68 the bounds become much sharper. 688

⁶⁸⁹ These results can now be used to analyze and compare the performance of the ⁶⁹⁰ different GNSSs.

691 Satellite geometry and number of epochs

In Section 4 an overview of the factors affecting the success rate was given. The results in Figure 21 clearly show some of these dependencies:

• Receiver-satellite geometry: success rates are generally higher if more satellites are visible, compare e.g. the number of visible Galileo satellites as function of time in Figure 20 with the 1-epoch success rates in Figure 21.
However, even with the same number of visible satellites, the success rate
may strongly fluctuate. See for example the results obtained for Compass:
from 0:00 - 3:30 UTC six satellites are visible, but the 1-epoch success rate
varies between 0.57 and 0.71. This is due to the dependence of the success
rate on the receiver-satellite geometry, since all other factors affecting the
success rate remain the same.

Number of observation epochs: more epochs will result in much improved
 success rates, as is clear by comparing the results from the top and bottom
 panels.

The dependency on measurement noise is not explicitly analyzed here, but the effect will be similar as when changing the number of observation epochs.

708 Choice of GNSS

For this scenario, GPS and Galileo would give similar performance. At times where more Galileo satellites are visible, the success rates with Galileo tend to be higher, as expected. Combined GPS+Galileo brings a great potential, as it significantly outperforms the single GNSSs.

The current Compass constellation provides on average 6 to 7 visible satellites at this location, which is generally lower than with the current GPS constellation. This causes the success rates to be lower on average. In addition, the receiversatellite geometry contributes to the lower success rates as well, since for Compass the satellite visibility is restricted to a smaller portion of the sky, as can be seen in Figure 19; with GPS and Galileo the satellites from Eastern and Western directions at different elevations will contribute to a better geometry.



Figure 21: ILS success rates with GPS, Galileo, Compass or combined GPS+Galileo (from left to right) for a 35km baseline in Perth, Australia on 22-March-2012, 0:00 - 12:00 UTC. Top: 1-epoch model. Bottom: 4-epoch model.

720 Further analysis

The example shown here could easily be extended to study for example the benefit of having more Compass satellites available in the future, the effect of using different signals (i.e. frequencies), or the effect of different baseline lengths.

724 7. Concluding remarks

In this contribution the Matlab toolbox Ps-LAMBDA is presented, which al-725 lows a user to compute different bounds and approximations of the success rate 726 of integer estimation. All bounds and approximations from Section 5 have been 72 included in the software since it was shown that it will depend very much on the 728 model at hand which bounds and approximations are sharpest. By default the tool 729 will calculate the exact IB success rate for the decorrelated ambiguities, since for 730 GNSS models this provides a sharp lower bound to the ILS success rate, and an 73 upper bound for the IR success rate. 732

We have focused here on GNSS models, but Ps-LAMBDA can be used for any 733 integer estimation problem; the only input required is the variance-covariance ma-734 trix of the real-valued estimates of the integer parameters. As such, Ps-LAMBDA 735 is a valuable tool for many applications that rely on the precise phase observa-736 tions from GNSS or other interferometric techniques. Firstly, Ps-LAMBDA can 73 be used for research and design purposes as to decide on which system and sig-738 nals to use, to select the best time to take measurements, to know beforehand how 739 many epochs of data will be required to ensure reliable ambiguity resolution, or 740 to analyze whether successful ambiguity resolution for a given baseline length is 74 feasible. Secondly, the tool can be used for deciding on acceptance of the integer 742 ambiguity solution in real data processing. 743

In the presence of unmodeled biases, such as multipath, the probability of correct integer estimation will be negatively affected. For studying the biasrobustness or -sensitivity of ambiguity resolution, it will be useful to analyze the impact of a given bias on the success rate. A future version of the Ps-LAMBDA will therefore include an option to evaluate the bias-affected success rates as well.

The Ps-LAMBDA toolbox is available upon request from the authors. 749

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756

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