

Delayed Mode Quality Control of Argo float WMO 3902004

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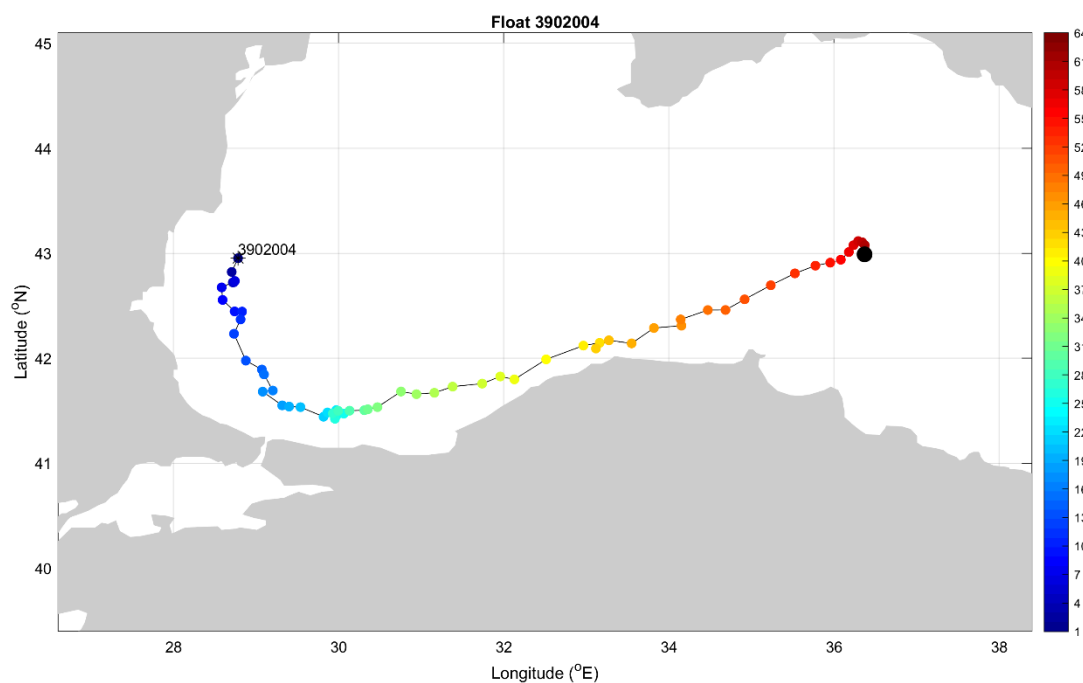
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1 Introduction

This report includes the delayed mode analysis performed for the WMO 3902004 float. It was deployed in Black Sea in October 2021 and performed 64 cycles. It is still active. Before the analysis, real-time QC flags were visually inspected. The list of flags applied is QC=1 to cycles from 1 to 44 and cycle 64, QC=3 to cycles from 45 to 63. Then, the satellite altimeter comparison plot between the sea surface height and dynamic height anomaly, constructed for this float by Ifremer, was analyzed. Plots of temperature and salinity time series and plots of temperature, salinity and density plotted against the nearby historical CTD profiles was generated. This visual analysis can help in detecting sensor salinity anomalies and spikes.

The reference dataset used is composed of the following CTD and Argo historical datasets:

CTD:

- CMEMS: INSITU_GLO_TS_REP_OBSERVATIONS_013_001_b
- Coriolis: CTD_for_DMQC_2021V01
- Historical CTD profiles provided through personal contact

Argo:

- ARGO_for_DMQC_2020V03

Float 3902004 is the Arvor float where the pressure sensor is auto corrected and no adjustment is required. The OWC was run to estimate a salinity offset and a salinity drift (Cabanès et al., 2016).

2 Quality Check of Argo Float Data

2.1 Verification of Real-time Mode QC flags

The list of flags applied to the float in real-time mode is as follows.

Cycle number:

1-44 PSAL QC=1

45-63 PSAL QC=3

64 PSAL QC=1

2.2 Satellite Altimeter Report

3902004 - 900 db

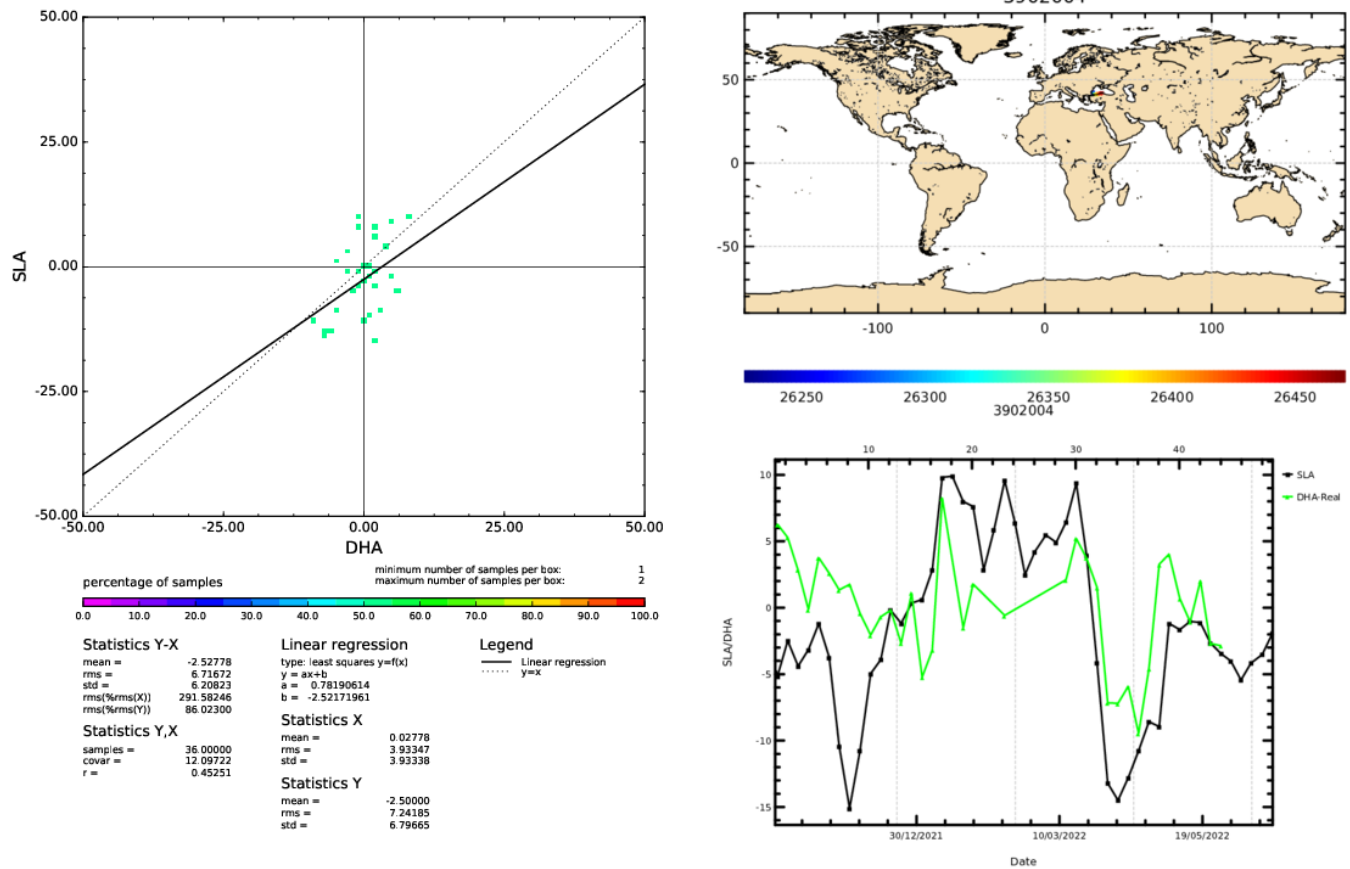


Figure 1: Float 3902004. The comparison between the sea surface height (SSH) from the satellite altimetry and dynamic height anomaly (DHA) extracted from the Argo float temperature and salinity. The figure is created by the CLS/Coriolis and distributed by Ifremer (<ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/argo/etc/argo-ast9-item13-AltimeterComparison/figures/>).

2.3 Time Series of Argo Float Temperature and Salinity

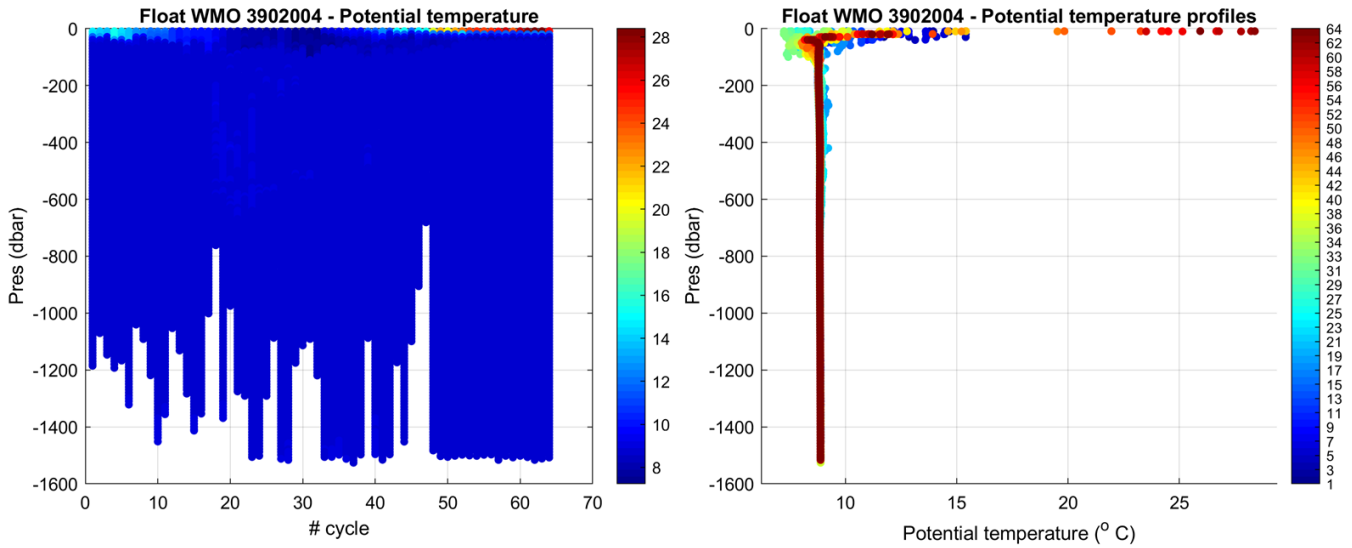


Figure 2: Float 3902004. Time series of Argo float potential temperature (°C) on the left, and potential temperature profiles color-coded per cycle number on the right.

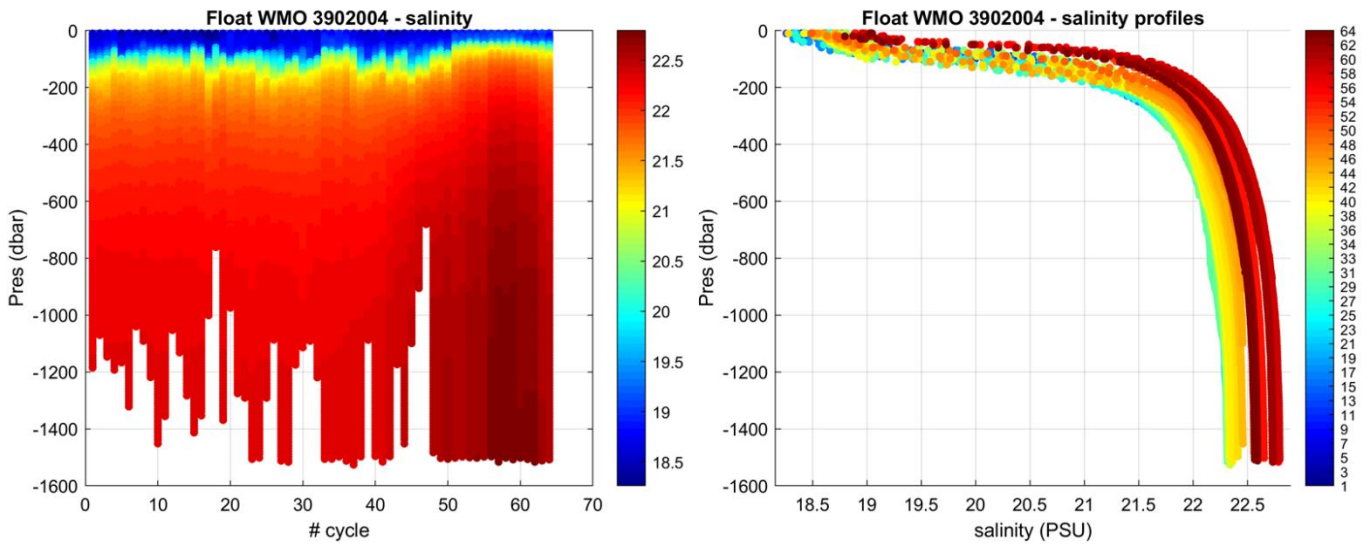


Figure 3: Float 3902004. Time series of Argo float potential salinity (PSS-78) on the left, and salinity profiles color-coded per cycle number on the right.

Before running the Owens and Wong method, referred to as OW hereafter, the theta-salinity (θ -S) diagram of the float is analyzed (Figure 4) and in particular the area where the θ -S relationship is the tightest (Figure 5). A significant salinity drift is observed.

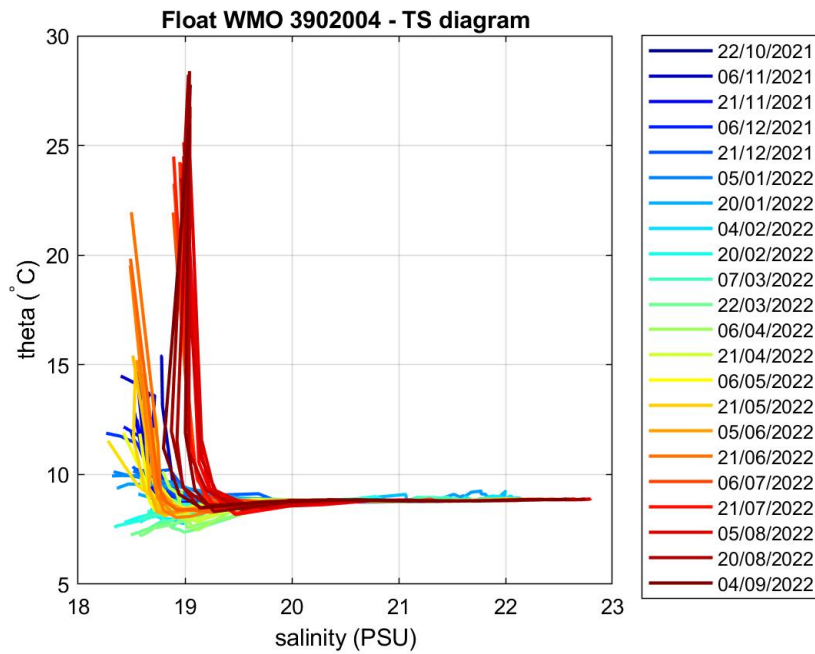


Figure 4: Float 3902004. θ -S diagram color-coded per cycle number.

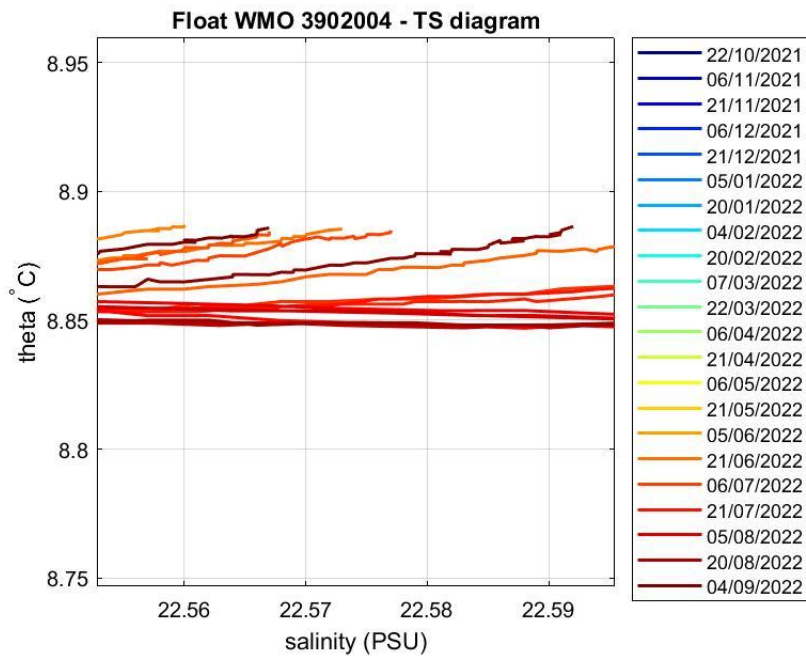


Figure 5: Float 3902004. Area of the θ -S diagram (color-coded per cycle number) where the θ -S relationship is more uniform.

2.4 Comparison Between Argo Float and Climatology

Three salinity float profiles are selected to perform a comparison (in time and space) with the historical data. In figure 6, 7 and 8 each selected profile is compared with all reference data used in this analysis. The salinity float profile is depicted in black while other colors represent the salinity reference profiles. The red color means that

the historical data are more recent with respect to the float ones, while magenta states that the float data are more recent than the historical ones (the maximal difference is 6 years). A time difference between 3 and 6, 6 and 9 and larger than 9 years is depicted in green, cyan and blue, respectively.

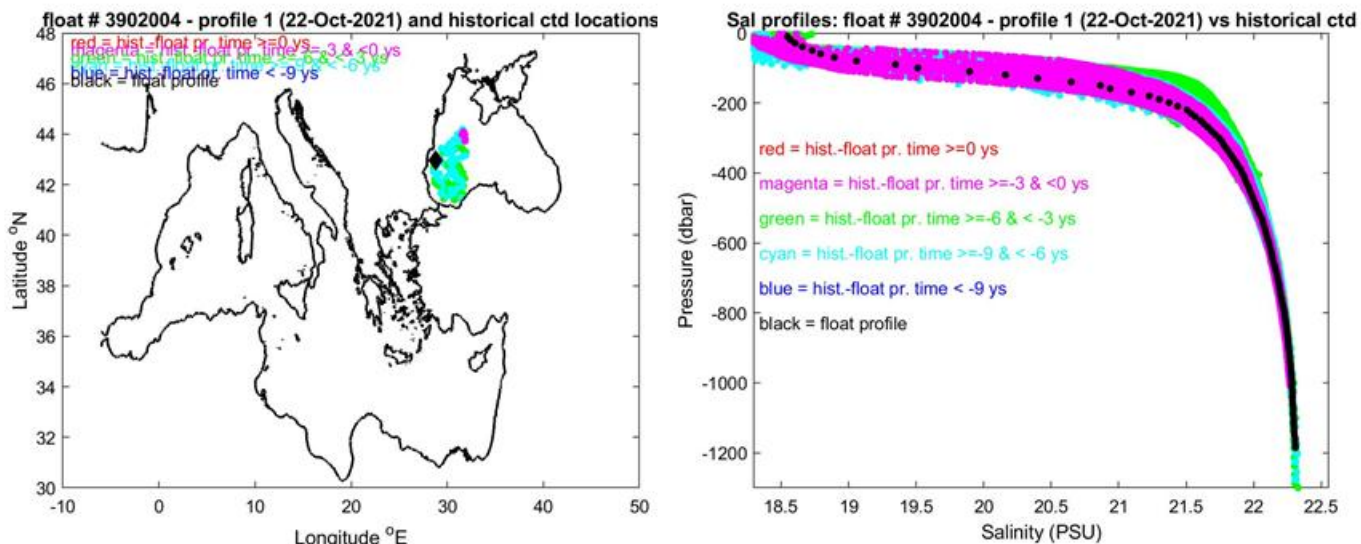


Figure 6: Float 3902004. Locations of the salinity float profile number 1 and historical CTD data (right panel) and the respective salinity profiles (left panel).

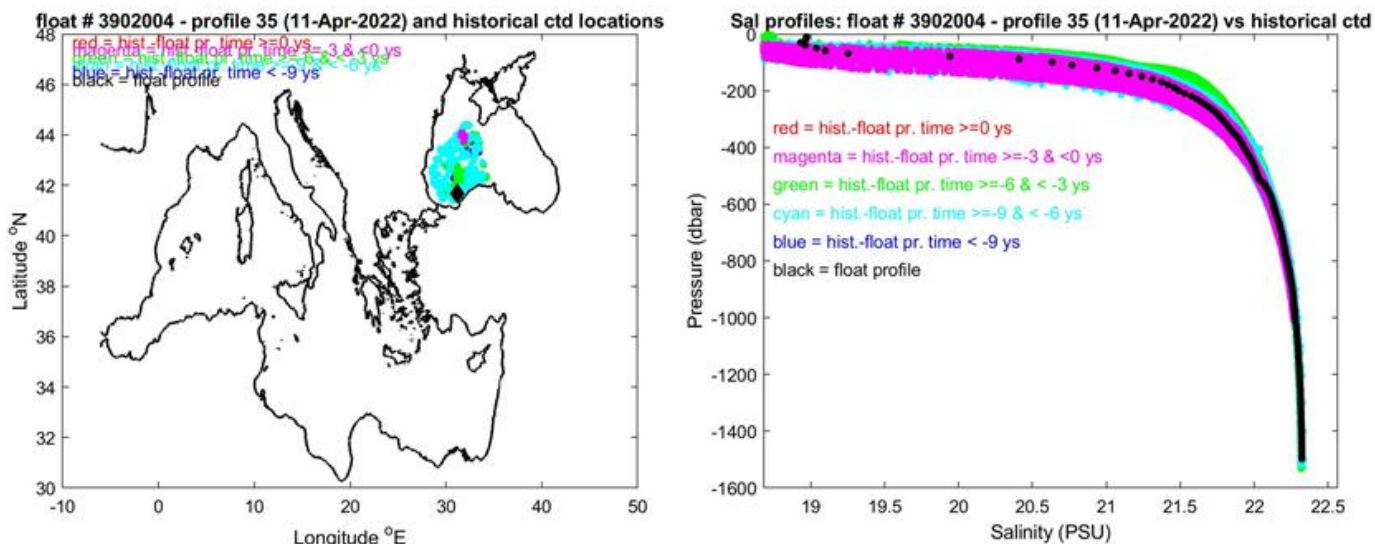


Figure 7: Float 3902004. Locations of the salinity float profile number 35 and historical CTD data (right panel) and the respective salinity profiles (left panel).

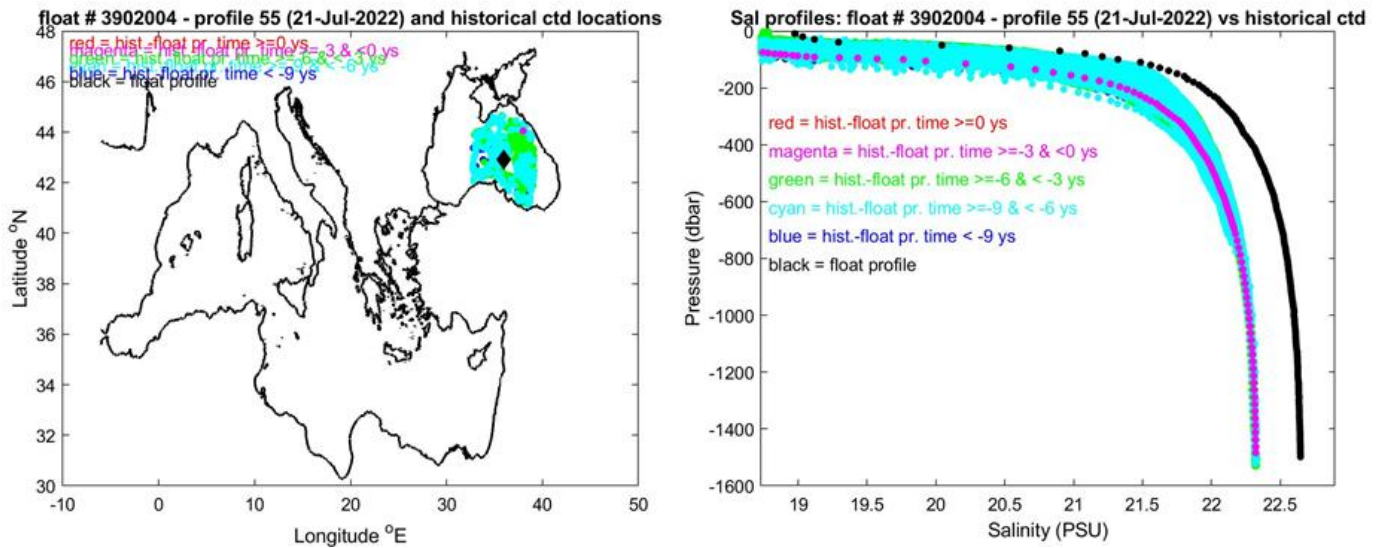


Figure 8: Float 3902004. Locations of the salinity float profile number 55 and historical CTD data (right panel) and the respective salinity profiles (left panel).

The comparison of these 3 selected salinity float profiles with the closest (in space and time) salinity reference profile is shown in Figures from 9 to 11. The temporal difference between the two datasets is about six years. The agreement between the selected float salinity profiles and the historical salinity profiles is good in the intermediate and deeper layers, where the water column is more stable, for cycles 1 and 35. The comparison is bad for cycle 55.

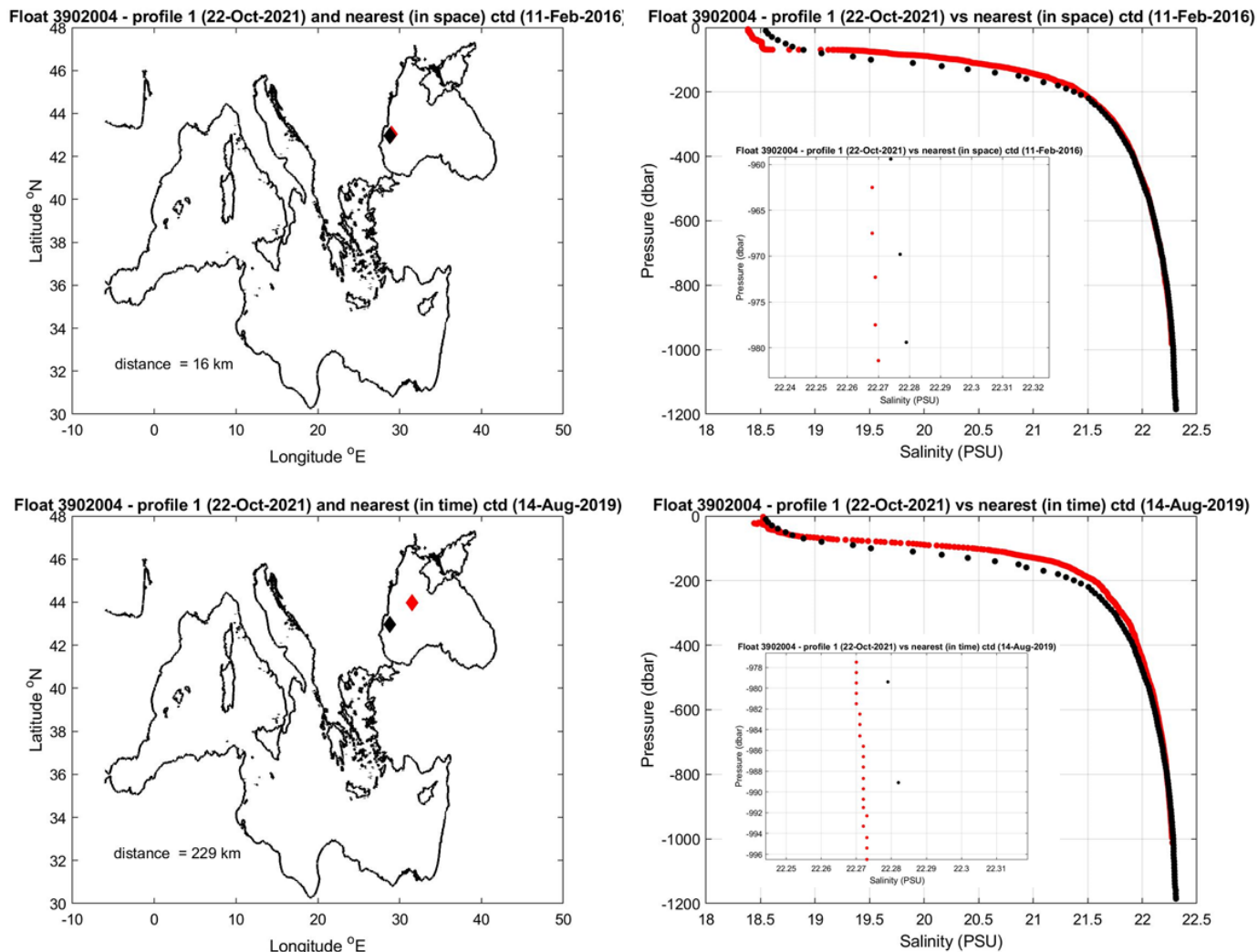


Figure 9: Float 3902004. The salinity float profile number 1 (black dots) are compared to the nearest in space (top) and in time (bottom) reference profile (red dots). The locations of the two profiles and their distance is given in the left panel.

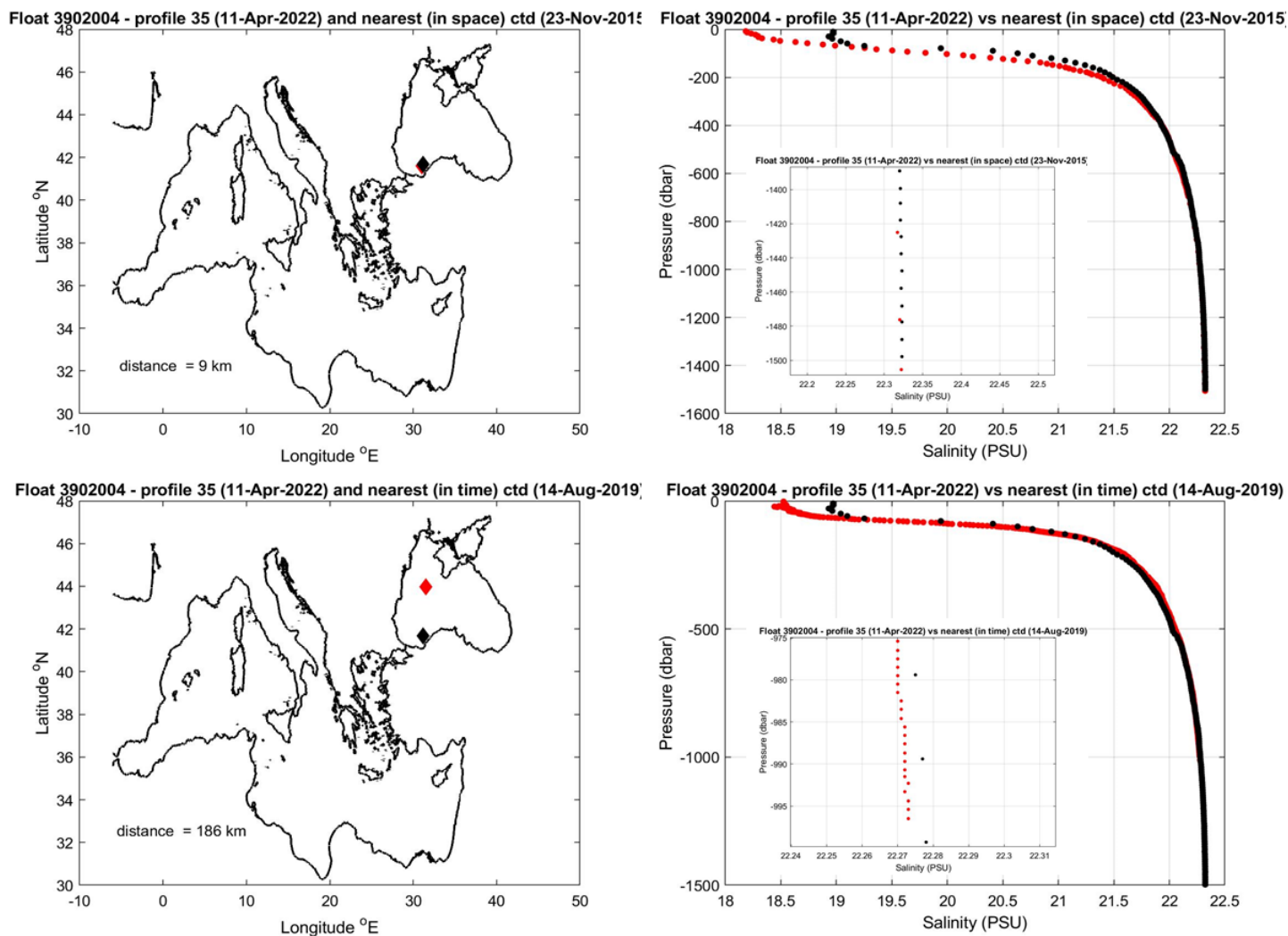


Figure 10: Float 3902004. The salinity float profile number 35 (black dots) are compared to the nearest in space (top) and in time (bottom) reference profile (red dots). The small plots show the comparison in the deeper layers. The locations of the two profiles and their distance is given in the left panel.

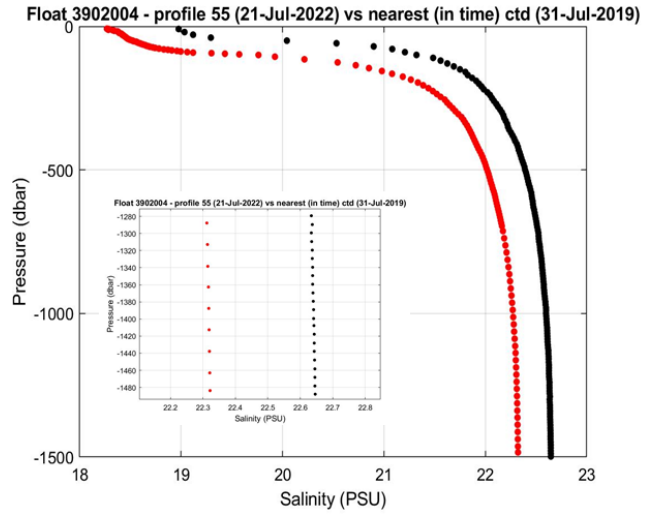
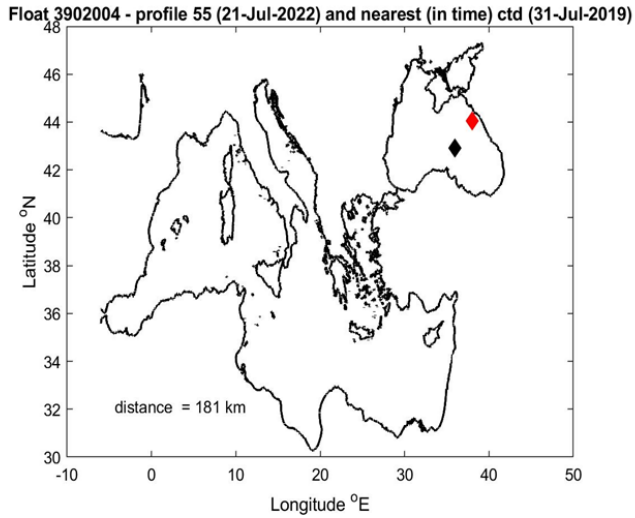
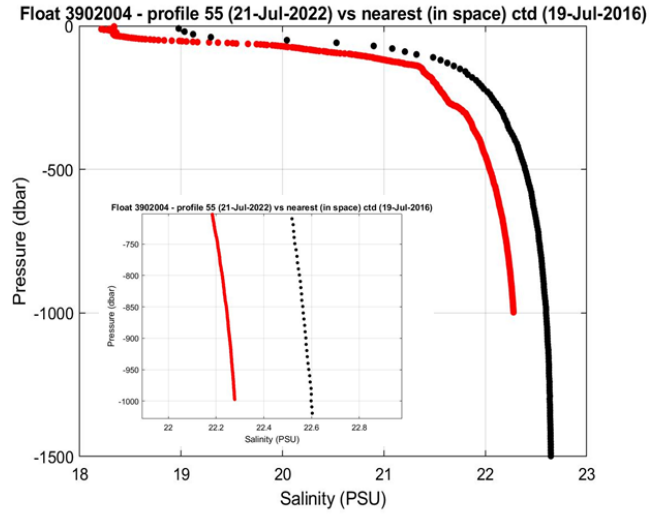
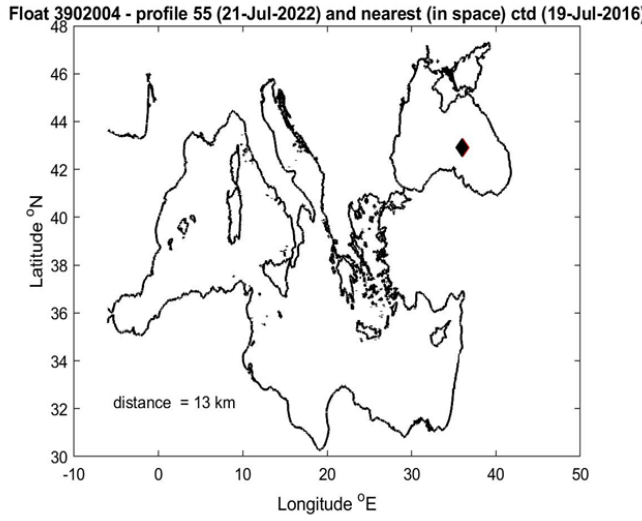


Figure 11: Float 3902004. The salinity float profile number 55 (black dots) are compared to the nearest in space (top) and in time (bottom) reference profile (red dots). The small plots show the comparison in the deeper layers. The locations of the two profiles and their distance is given in the left panel.

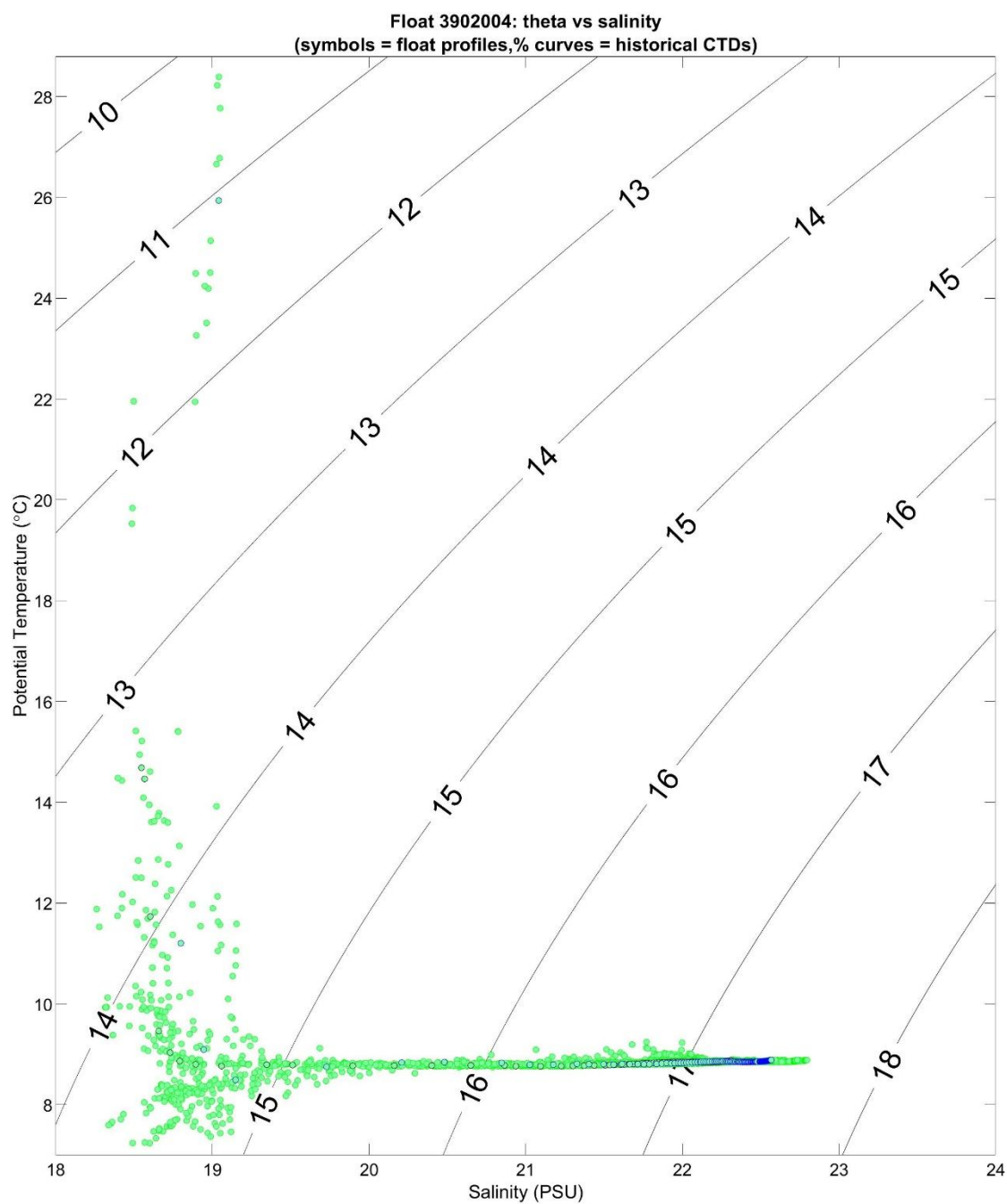


Figure 12: Float 3902004. T/S diagram plotted with and data from WMO boxes of CTD reference data $\pm 10^\circ$ of latitude and longitude. The black and blue cycles indicate the first and the last Argo profile, respectively. Green symbols represent other Argo profiles from this float. The thin colours lines indicate the reference data.

3 Correction of Salinity Data

3.1 Comparison between Argo Float and CTD Climatology

3.1.1 Configurations

Parameters	Value
CONFIG_MAX_CASTS	300
MAP_USE_PV	1
MAP_USE_SAF	0
MAPSCALE_LONGITUDE_LARGE	4
MAPSCALE_LONGITUDE_SMALL	1.33
MAPSCALE_LATITUDE_LARGE	4
MAPSCALE_LATITUDE_SMALL	1.33
MAPSCALE_PHI_LARGE	0.5
MAPSCALE_PHI_SMALL	0.1
MAPSCALE_AGE	10
MAP_P_EXCLUDE	900
MAP_P_DELTA	100
USE_THETA_LT	8.86
USE_THETA_GT	8.84

3.1.2 Results

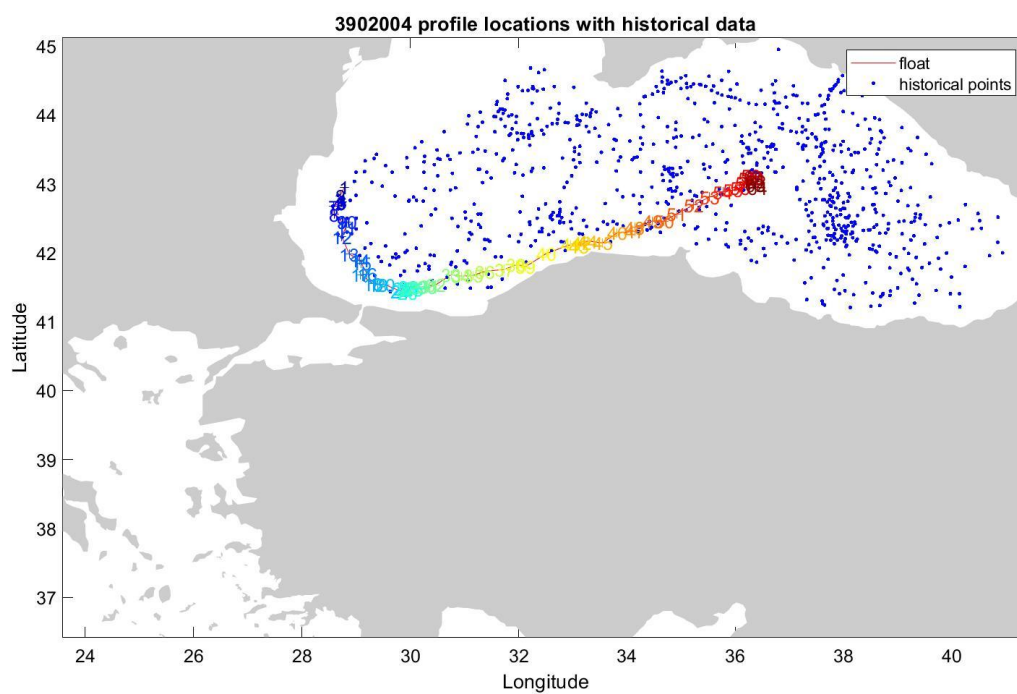


Figure 13: Float 3902004. Location of the float profiles (red line with colored numbers) and the reference data selected for mapping (blue dots).

3902004 uncalibrated float data (-) and mapped salinity (o) with objective errors

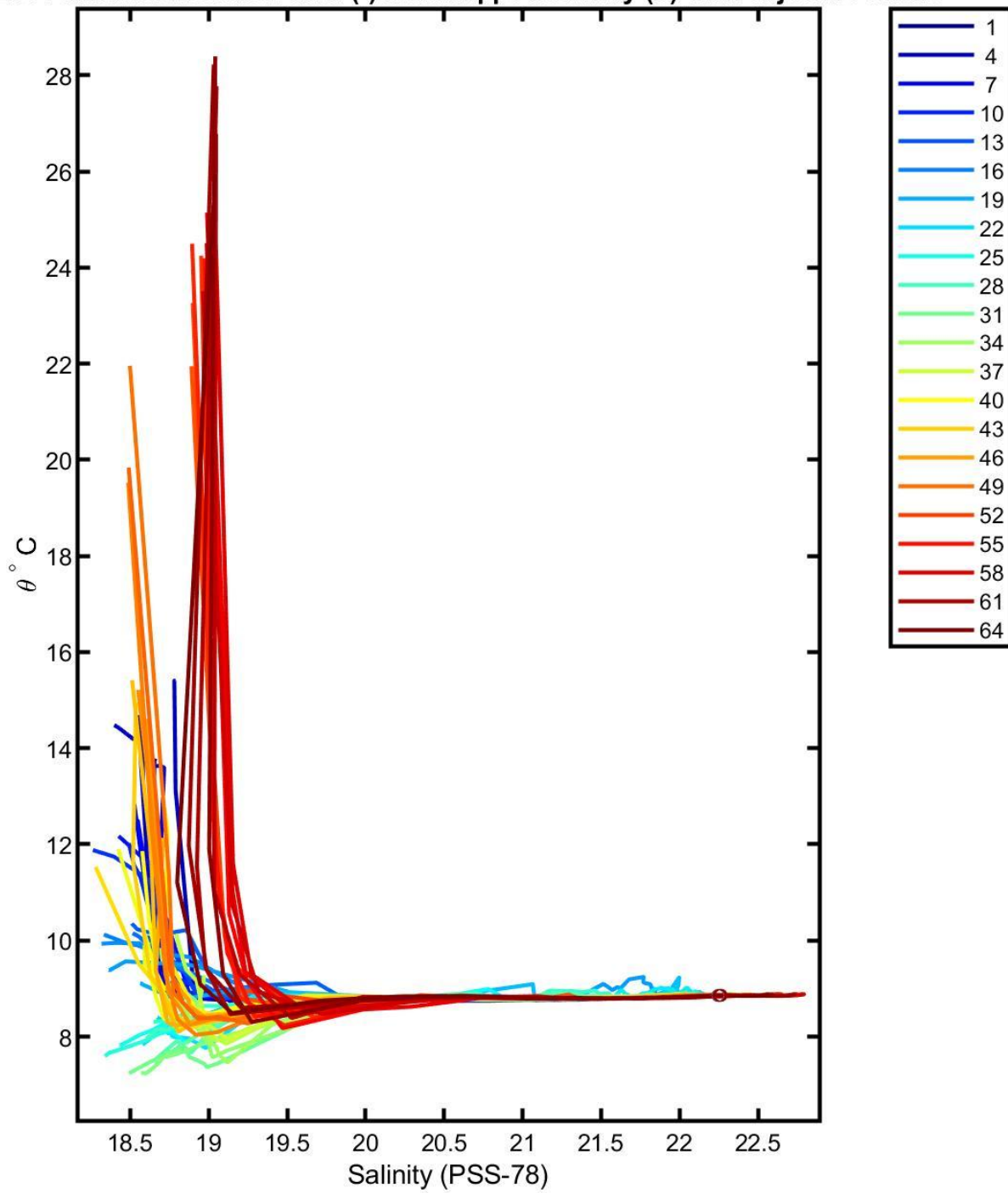


Figure 14: Float 3902004. Plot the original float salinity and the objectively estimated reference salinity at the 10 float theta levels that are used in calibration.

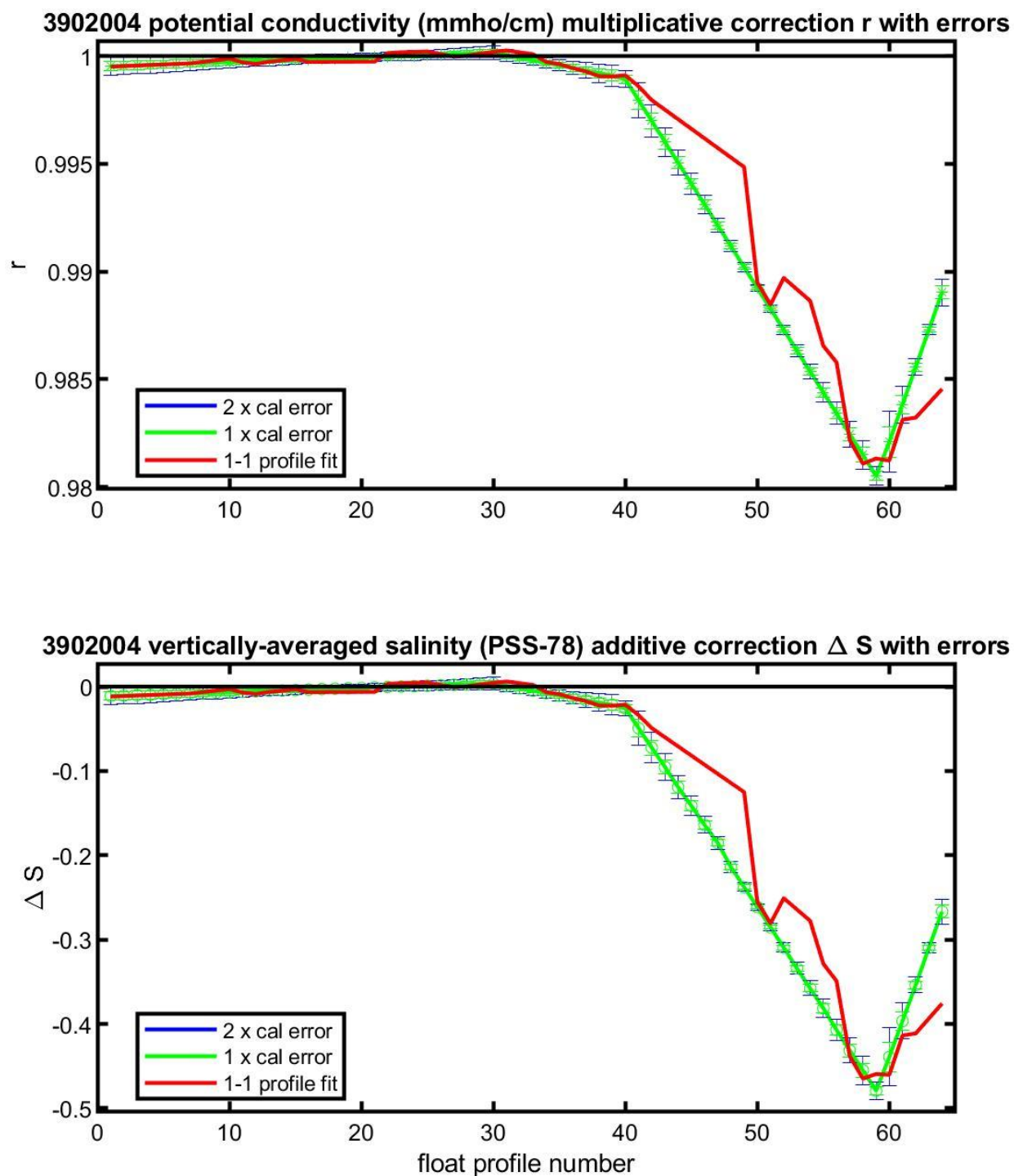


Figure 15: Float 3902004. Evolution of the suggested adjustment with time. The top panel plots the potential conductivity multiplicative adjustment. The bottom panel plots the equivalent salinity additive adjustment. The red line denotes one-to-one profile fit that uses the vertically weighted mean of each profile. The red line can be used to check for anomalous profiles relative to the optimal fit.

3902004 calibrated float data (-) and mapped salinity (o) with objective errors

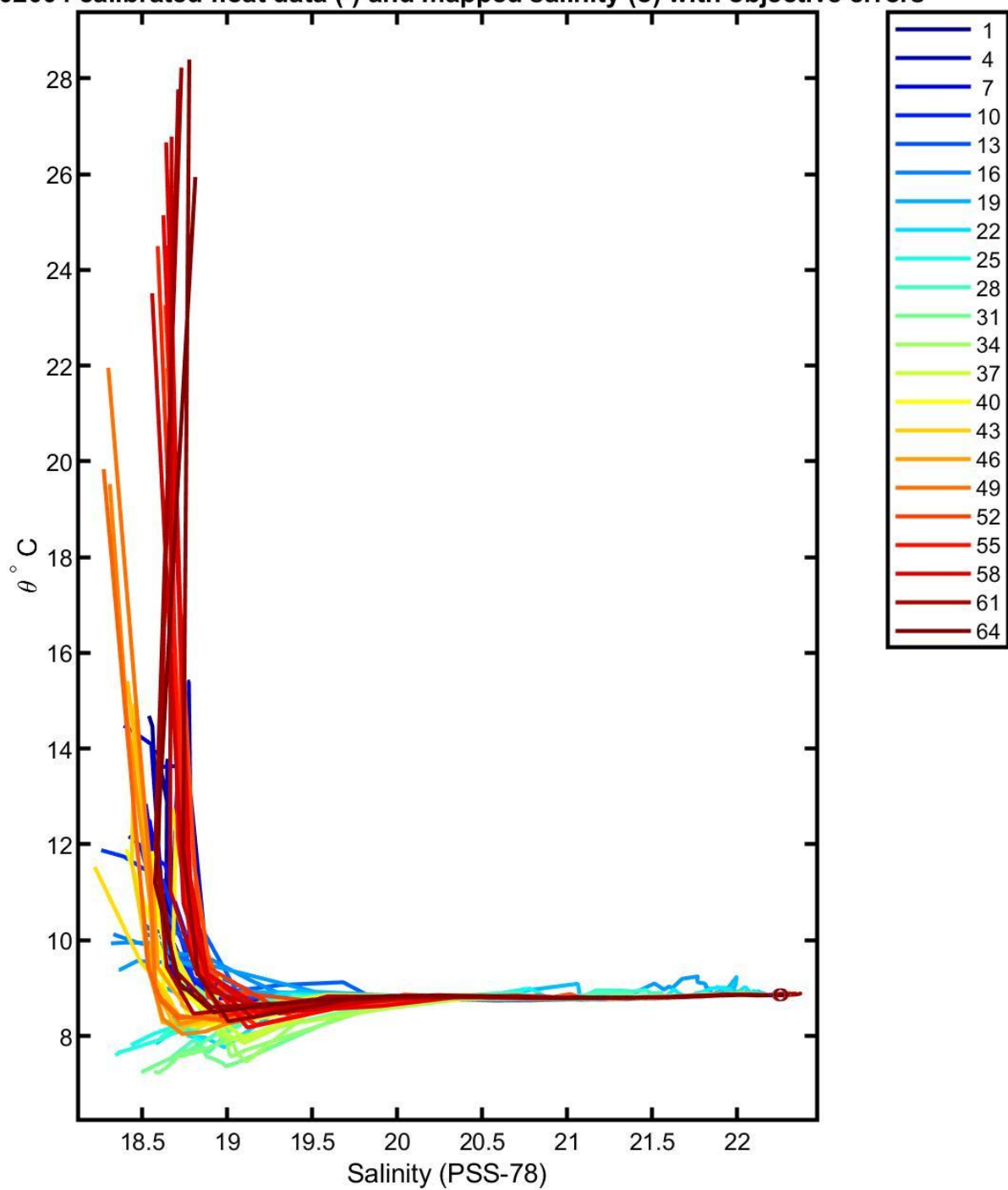


Figure 16: Float 3902004. The plot of calibrated float salinity and the objectively estimated reference salinity at the 10 float theta levels that are used in calibration.

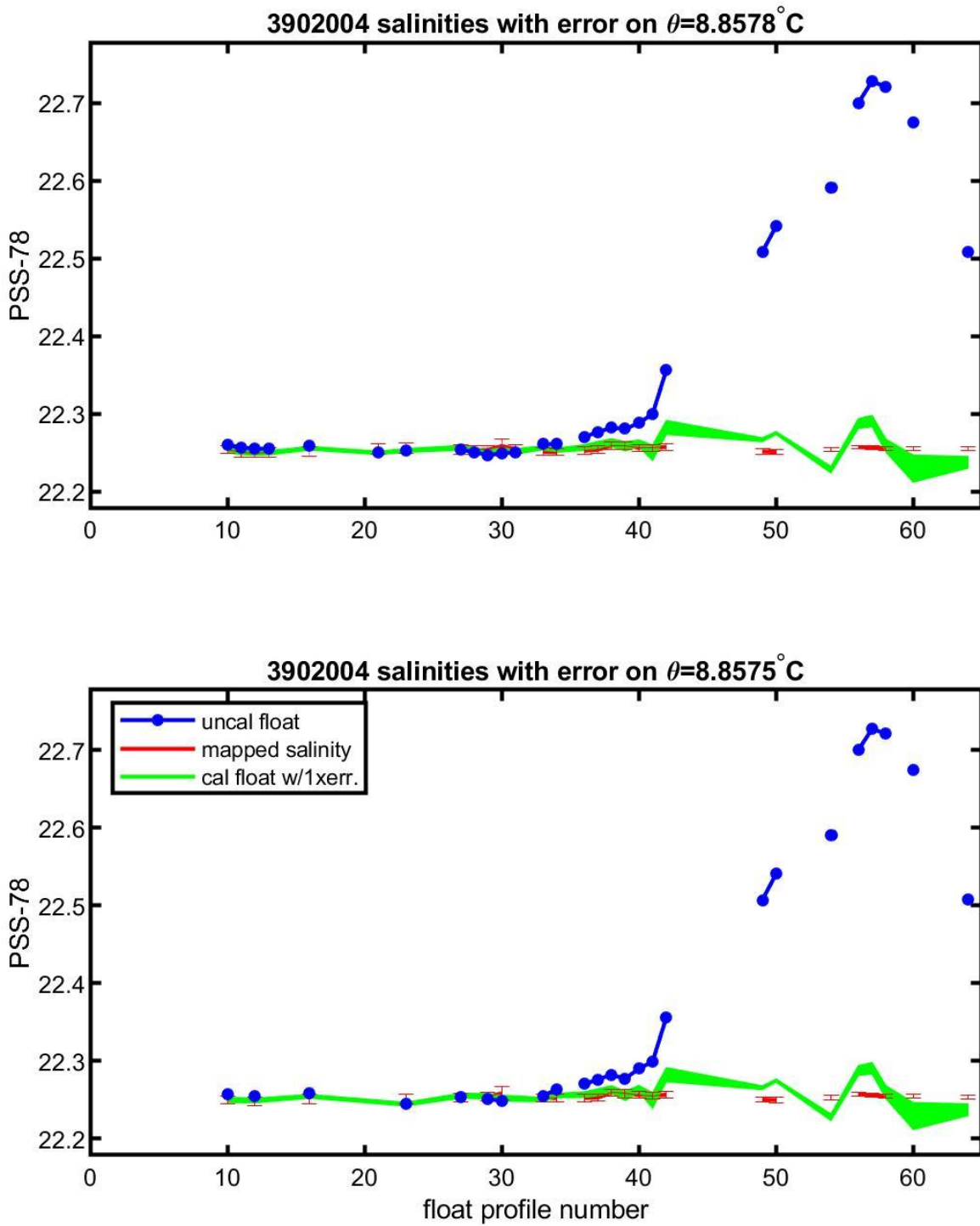


Figure 17: Float 3902004. Plots of the evolution of salinity with time along with selected theta levels with minimum salinity variance.

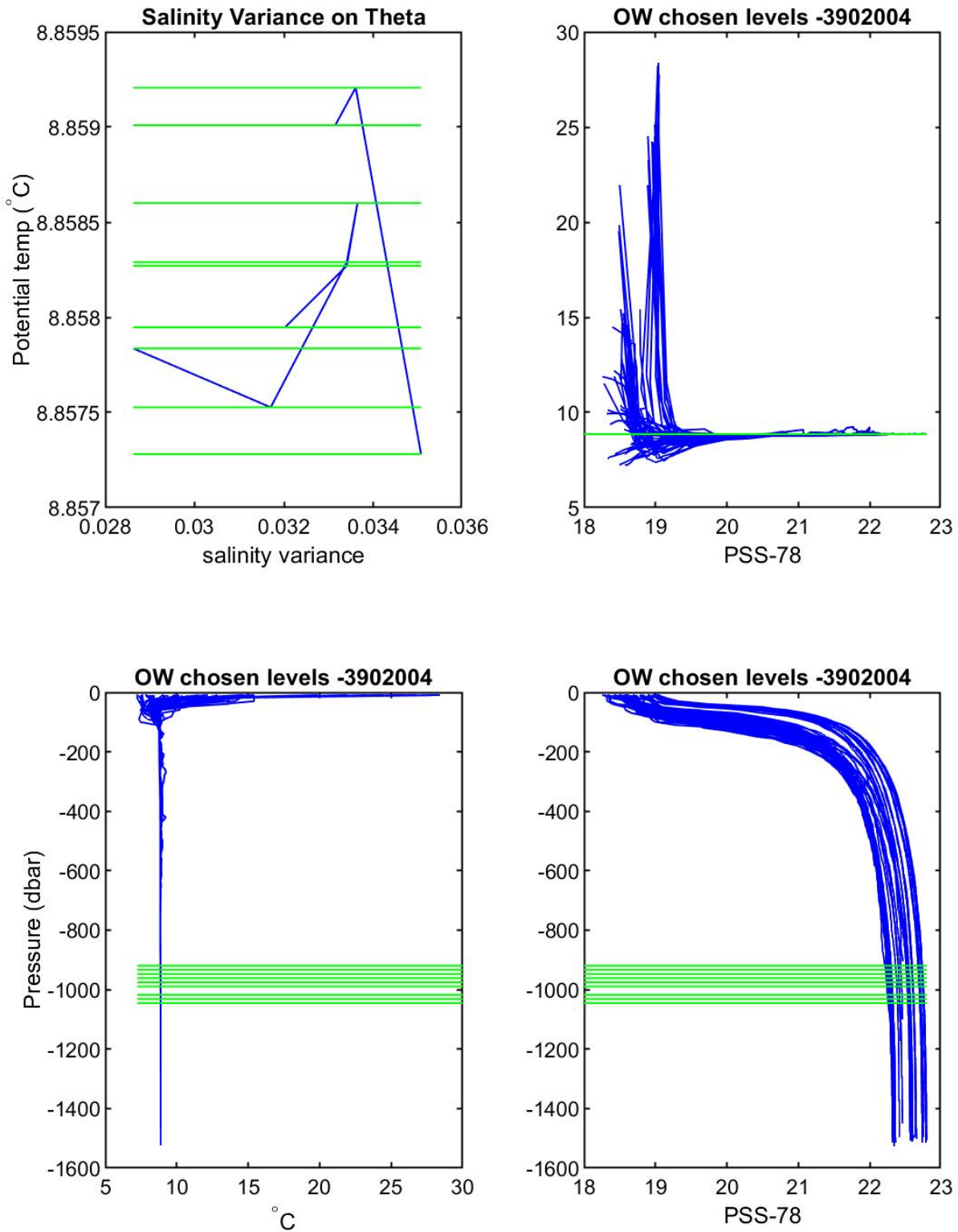


Figure 18: Float 3902004. Plots include the theta levels chosen for calibration: Top left: Salinity variance at theta levels. Top right: T/S diagram of all profiles of Argo float. Bottom left: potential temperature plotted against pressure. Bottom right: salinity plotted against pressure.

The analysis of the θ -S diagram of profile segments deeper than 700 dbar (Figure 19) shows that the OW method was run where the θ -S relationship is the tightest.

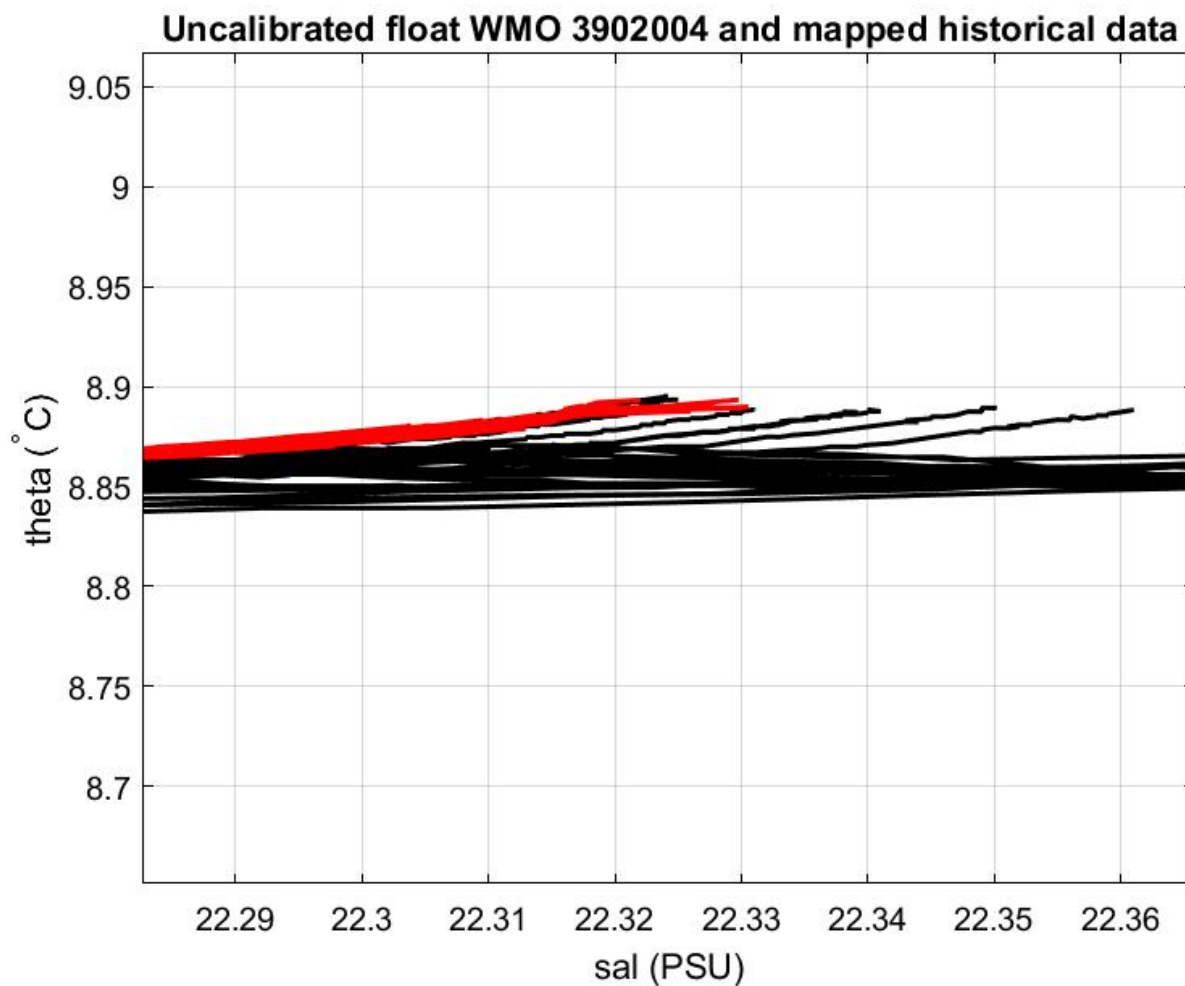


Figure 19: Float 3902004. Uncalibrated float salinity profile (black lines) and mapped historical data (red lines) in the most uniform part of the θ -S curve.

4 Summary

Float was deployed in the Black Sea. The most favorable water masses, which are useful for comparison with climatology is relatively stable intermediate and deep waters from around 900 m. The initial comparison between Argo float and reference data shows a significant salinity drift. This float was not DMQC-ed before. The OWC analysis showed a significant salinity offset/drift. Figure 15 reveals that the least square is quite good until cycle 40 then the least square fit could have uncertainties. Figure 17 shows a significant salinity drift on selected θ -levels. Profile-to-profile stability is good for cycles from 1 to 41, and the data are adjustable in delayed-mode. Starting from cycle 42 float salinity data drifted salty abruptly and rapidly, and then reverses direction (ASD). The salinity data of float WMO 3902004 needs a delayed mode correction from 1 to 41. QC 1 is applied. Data from cycle 42 to 64 are bad and unadjustable. QC=4 is applied.

Update 26/08/26

The float was not active. OWC applied to all profiles confirms correction from 1 to 41 cycles and bad data from cycle 42

PSAL_ADJUSTED=PSAL + ΔS from cycle 1 to 41

PSAL_ADJUSTED=PSAL from cycle 42 to 297

The quality flags applied are the following:

PSAL_ADJUSTED_QC='1' from cycle 1 to 41

PSAL_ADJUSTED_QC='4' from cycle 42 to 297

The delayed-mode files (Dfiles) have been created accordingly and sent to the Coriolis GDAC.

5 References

Cabanes, C., Thierry, V., & Lagadec, C. (2016). Improvement of bias detection in Argo float conductivity sensors and its application in the North Atlantic. *Deep-Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*, 114, 128–136.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2016.05.007>