

GOES-17 SEISS MPS-HI Level 1b (L1b) Data Release
Full Data Quality
October 13, 2021
Updated: February 1, 2022
Read-Me for Data Users

The Peer Stakeholder - Product Validation Review (PS-PVR) for the GOES-17 Space Environment In-Situ Suite (SEISS) Magnetospheric Particle Sensor – High Energy (MPS-HI) L1b Provisional Maturity was held on October 13, 2021. As a result of this review, NOAA has confirmed that the MPS-HI L1b data are at Full Validation Maturity as of October 13, 2021.

The MPS-HI L1b data product consists of 50 keV – 4 MeV electron fluxes and 80 keV – 12 MeV proton fluxes. MPS-HI consists of 5 electron solid-state (silicon detector) telescopes and 5 proton solid-state (silicon detector) telescopes with 30-degree full-width conical fields-of-view, arranged in a north-to-south fan with field-of-view centers separated by 35 degrees.

Each electron telescope reports 10 differential channels plus a >2 MeV integral channel. Each proton telescope reports 7 channels in the 80 keV – 1 MeV range and 4 channels in the 1-12 MeV range. The highest three energy channels generally register counts above backgrounds only during solar energetic particle (SEP) events.

In addition, there are two dosimeters that distinguish dose from particles depositing < 1 MeV and > 1 MeV under domes of 250 and 100 mil aluminum shielding.

Full validation maturity, by definition, means:

- Validation, quality assurance, and anomaly resolution activities are ongoing;
- Incremental product improvements may still be occurring;
- Users are engaged and user feedback is assessed;
- Product performance for all products is defined and documented over a wide range of representative conditions via ongoing ground-truth and validation efforts;
- Products are operationally optimized, as necessary, considering mission parameters of cost, schedule, and technical competence as compared to user expectations;
- All known product anomalies are documented and shared with the user community;
- Product is operational.

Users of the GOES-17 MPS-HI L1b data bear responsibility for inspecting the data and understanding the known caveats prior to use. Below is the list of caveats that have been identified and are under analysis. Solutions are in development and testing.

1. No MPS-HI L1b data prior to declaration of Provisional Maturity should be used. NCEI will reprocess and release the early mission data using up-to-date algorithms and look-up tables.

2. Cross-comparisons among the MPS-HI electron telescopes using five months of data (January-May 2021) give scale factors (SF) ranging from 0.768 to 1.126 depending on the energy and telescope. These SFs have not been applied to the data. An investigation into the temporal evolution of these SFs from 01/2019 to 03/2021, reveals mostly steady near-unity values for all telescopes.
3. Cross-comparisons among the MPS-HI proton telescopes using five months of data (January-May 2021) give SFs ranging from 0.474 to 1.449 depending on the energy and telescope. Some of these differences may be due to the finite gyroradii effects of the protons, particularly at higher energies, which has not been accounted for in the present analysis. These SFs have not been applied to the data. An investigation into the temporal evolution of these SFs from 05/2018 to 03/2021, reveals a steady decline toward unity for all telescopes.
4. Comparisons between >2 MeV electron fluxes observed by GOES-17 MPS-HI and GOES-14 EPEAD during the period June to September 2018 indicate reasonable agreement. Remaining differences may be due to the much larger field-of-view on GOES-14. Comparisons between >2 MeV electron fluxes observed by GOES-16 and -17 MPS-HI during the same period indicate excellent agreement. Finally, comparisons between >2 MeV electron fluxes observed by GOES-17 MPS-HI and GOES-15 EPEAD during a conjunction period, March to September 2019, when the two spacecraft were only 9.2 degrees longitude apart, show good agreement around the SWPC alert level of 1000 particle flux units.
5. Comparisons between GOES-17 MPS-HI electrons and GOES-14 MAGED electrons during the period June to September 2018 generally indicate good agreement, with some discrepancies, particularly between the lowest energy channels. A similar comparison between GOES-16 and GOES-17 MPS-HI electrons during the same period shows excellent agreement. An exception is channel E3 of telescope 4, for which the GOES-16 fluxes and spectral shape are out of family. Finally, comparisons between GOES-17 MPS-HI electrons and GOES-15 MAGED electrons during the conjunction period of March to September 2019 exhibit very good agreement with some discrepancies at the lowest energy channels.
6. Comparisons between GOES-17 MPS-HI protons and GOES-14 MAGPD protons during the period June to September 2018 indicate that MAGPD fluxes are a factor of 2-3 too low. GOES-14 has been on-orbit since June 2009, i.e. nine years at the time of comparison, so radiation damage may be a factor. Similar comparisons between GOES-16 and GOES-17 MPS-HI protons show that GOES-16 proton fluxes are lower by a similar factor. The possibility of degradation of the GOES-16 proton channels is currently investigated.
7. Solar proton observations by GOES-17 MPS-HI could not be evaluated at the time of the Full Validation review, due to the lack of a suitable SEP event since launch.
8. There is currently no sign of solar proton contamination of the electron channels. However, a large suitable SEP event with significant fluxes above 300 MeV would be needed to definitively determine this.

9. Comparisons between particle detectors with different energy channels must include careful estimation of the effective energies of the channels. The broader the channels, the more sensitive such estimates are to assumptions.

10. A preliminary analysis of GOES-17 proton data from channels 1-7 was performed after Post-Launch Test (PLT) over the quiet days (daily average $K_p \leq 1+$) between 11/14/2018 and 12/31/2020. PLT was excluded due to a difference in the magnetic latitude at 90° West vs 137° West geographic longitude. The analysis indicates a decline in all channels in the reported daily average flux of 10% to 37% per year, where the values differ with proton telescope and energy band. The source of the decline is being reviewed. Data will be compared with GOES-T/18 proton data after launch planned for March 1, 2022. For more detailed information on the observed decline for different telescopes and energy bands please contact Frederick Rich, frederick.rich@ll.mit.edu, or Brent Parham, jparham@ll.mit.edu.

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NCEI website for GOES-R Space Weather data (provides daily aggregations of MPS-HI L1b data):

<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/satellite/goes-r.html>