

GOES-18 MAG Level 1b (L1b) Release
Provisional Data Quality
Read-Me for Data Users
January 17, 2023

The GOES-18 Peer Stakeholder Product Validation Review (PS-PVR) for MAG L1b Provisional Validation Maturity was held on September 16, 2022. The result of this review was the PS-PVR panel chair recommending that the MAG L1b data be declared Provisional Validation maturity. GOES-18 became the operational GOES West satellite on January 4, 2023.

The L1b data products derived from Goddard Magnetometer (GMAG) are vector measurements of the geomagnetic field sampled at 10 Hz from the inboard and outboard magnetometers.

The GOES-18 MAG Level 1b (L1b) Provisional maturity data products are suitable for operational use with documented known considerations and implementation of critical fixes. Product performance has been demonstrated through analysis of a number of independent measurements obtained from select locations, periods, and comparisons to nearby spacecraft and magnetic field models. The product was calibrated and validated to the extent allowed within resources available. Users bear all responsibility for inspecting the data prior to use and for the manner in which the data are utilized.

The L1b GOES-18 data set released on the NCEI website (listed below) includes a correction for arcjet contamination. However, it is highly recommended that users use the arcjet flag described below to flag the periods contaminated by arcjet firings. The correction matrices may not effectively remove all arcjet firing effects, so corrected variables should be used with caution. For details on the arcjet contamination and correction algorithm see Califf et al., (2019, 2020).

Provisional Validation means:

- Validation, Q&A, and anomaly resolution activities are ongoing;
- Solutions to severe algorithms anomalies are in development and testing;
- Incremental product improvements may still be occurring;
- Users are engaged and user feedback is assessed;
- Product performance has been demonstrated through analysis of independent measurements obtained from select locations, periods and associated ground truth or field campaign efforts;
- Product analysis is sufficient to communicate product performance to users relative to expectations (Performance Baseline);
- Documentation of product performance exists and testing has been documented;
- The product is ready for operational use in comprehensive cal/val activities and product optimization.

We recommend that persons using the GOES-18 MAG Provisional Validation maturity L1b products for scientific and technical investigations, particularly model validation, model development, and plasma

waves analysis, contact the responsible NOAA scientists before making definitive scientific or technical conclusions derived directly from the GMAG data.

Cautions, known issues, and issues under work for resolution at Provisional maturity status:

1. Data files that are dated prior to December 14, 2022 have timestamps in the MAG L1b product that occur at irregular intervals in the 10Hz datasets. The difference between consecutive timestamps varies throughout the dataset. This causes issues in the L2+ processing. Caution should be used when using 1) L1b 10Hz datasets prior to December 14, 2022 and 2) L2 Hires products produced prior to October 19,2022. The data values in mag L1b products are not affected by the irregular timestamps (i.e. this does not cause fill values). This issue was corrected in the L1b products on December 14, 2022 and the L2 processing algorithms were corrected on October 19,2022.
2. Users should note that calibrations and corrections to GOES-18 magnetometer data products have been done incrementally. Below is a list of when certain calibrations and corrections were included in the L1b products. Data prior to the date listed will NOT include the calibration or update. All data after the date listed WILL include the calibration or update.
 - a. August 8, 2022 : zero-offset and alignment calibrations applied
 - b. November 11, 2022 : arcjet correction matrices optimized and applied to ob / ib *_corrected variables
 - c. December 14, 2022 : irregular timestamp (above) correction applied
3. The outboard and inboard sensors (OB_* or IB_* variables in the L1b files) can be used for science and technical investigations.
4. The L1b files contain magnetic field variables that have “uncorrected” or “corrected” added to the variables name. In addition, an arcjet flag was added to the data quality flag (DQF) variable that covers the period where arcjets are fired and contaminate the magnetic field observations. Hence, it is highly recommended that users use the arcjet flag data quality bit named potentially_degraded_due_to_arcjet_firing_qf to flag the periods contaminated by arcjet firings.
5. The amb_mag_* variables in the L1b files refer to the best observation of the geomagnetic field, which is currently set to the outboard sensor values. This product is being further studied for Full maturity validation. This variable should be the default magnetic field observation used by users for science and technical investigations.

More information concerning the available variables and flags can be found at the netCDF file metadata. Data inquiries can be submitted to goesr.mag@noaa.gov. NCEI contact for specific information on the MAG L1b data:

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NCEI website for GOES-R Space Weather data: <https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/satellite/goes-r.html>

References:

- Califf, S., Early, D., Grotenhuis, M., Loto'aniu, T. M., and Kronenwetter, J. (2020) Correcting the arcjet thruster disturbance in GOES-16 magnetometer data. *Space Weather*, 18, doi:10.1029/2019SW002347.
- Califf, S., Loto'aniu, T. M., Early, D., and Grotenhuis, M. (2019) Arcjet Thruster Influence on Local Magnetic Field Measurements from a Geostationary Satellite, *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 57, No. 1, doi:10.2514/1.A34546