



Performances of XBT systems in Mediterranean (2003-2010)

**Not a fall rate analysis, a small
contribution to the knowledge,
maybe**

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**IInd XBT Fall Rate Meeting
Hamburg, 25-27 August 2010**



**If the theory says...
Good Instruments +
Good working procedures +
Good QC
→ Good Data...**

**The question is: How
reliable is a XBT system?**

[illegible]

- Probe motion → parabolic equation (FRE) with (immediately) terminal speed → in average, good approximation, but not always
- (Estimated) Depth → being not directly measured, estimated error → in general reasonable agreement, but not always
- Electronic response (thermal, delay) → not included in the FRE → few analyses and tests, unknown
- Different recording system/probe types → needed daily calibration with test probes → slightly different recorded values, few analyses and tests, unknown
- Launching position + launching procedures + ship motion → not included in FRE → few analyses and tests, unknown
- XBT shape/dimensions → industrially constant ⇔ not constant ? → variations in the motion, few tests, unknown
- Influence of seawater characteristics on the probe dynamics → theoretically estimated → few tests, not included in FRE
- Metadata → as needed as data → often absent or incomplete.
- conclusion

Working hypothesis

Usually, we **assume** that the presently deployed probes do have the same physical dimensions (they should be the same) as the earlier manufactured XBTs. LM Sippican states this with two exceptions:

- change of the wire coating process (after 1996)
- the addition of a net on the spool within the afterbody.

Since the late 70's, TSK is the other official manufacturer, and based on the statement of the manufacturers, the probes should be indistinguishable.

The other well known changes occurred during the XBT age (for instance, the transition from a chart recorder to a digital device, after about 1985) should have had a zero-impact on the probe motion, but recorded values could be (slightly) different.

How realistic is this? Namely...

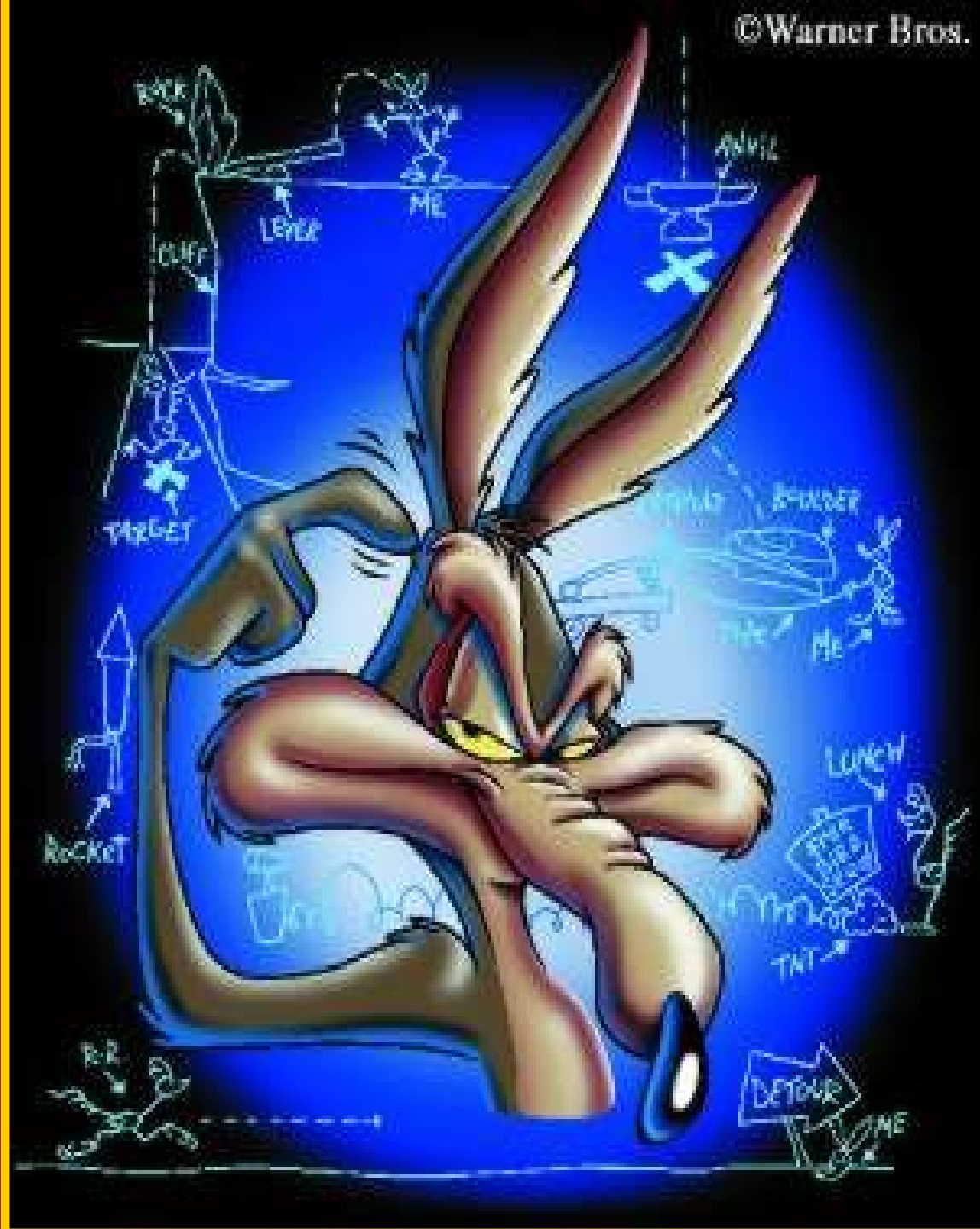
$$\text{Sippican(Old)} = \text{Sippican(New)} = \\ = \text{TSK(Old)} = \text{TSK(New)}?$$

Hic Rhodus, hic saltus

The range of the uncertainties of XBT measurements is hard to be quantified.

There are several (partially known) parameters inducing a (larger than unexpected) spread in the results.

But, the harder the play, the more interesting the challenge.



Acknowledgments (alphabetically...)

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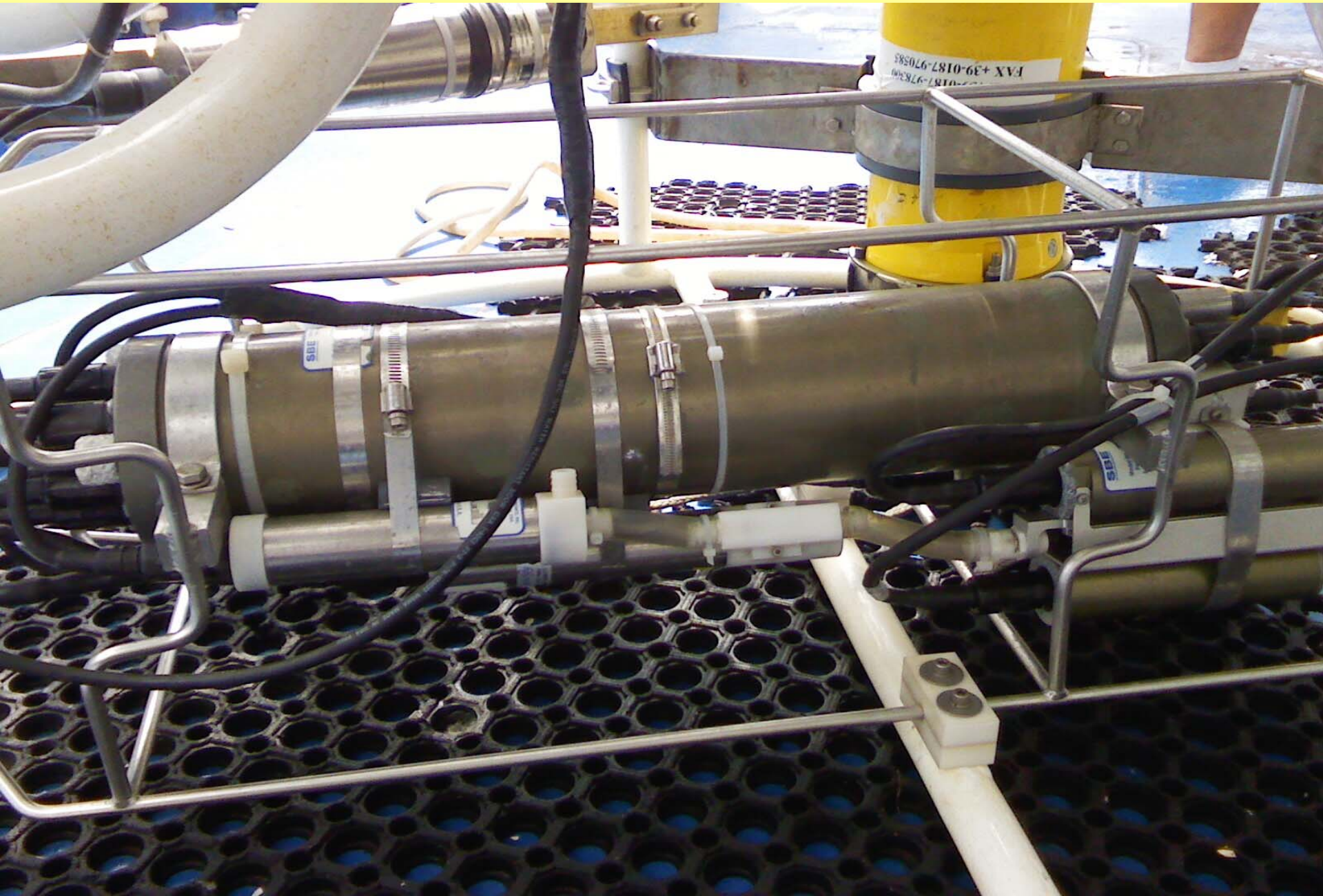
**THEN: the captains E. Gentile and V. Lubrano Lavadera and
technicians of RV *Urania*,**

**the captain I. Schetzberg of the cargo vessel *Stadt Weimar*,
D. Galletti & E. Molinari (NURC, La Spezia, Italy) for bath tests
A. Peirano (ENEA, Lerici, Italy) for the XBT video**

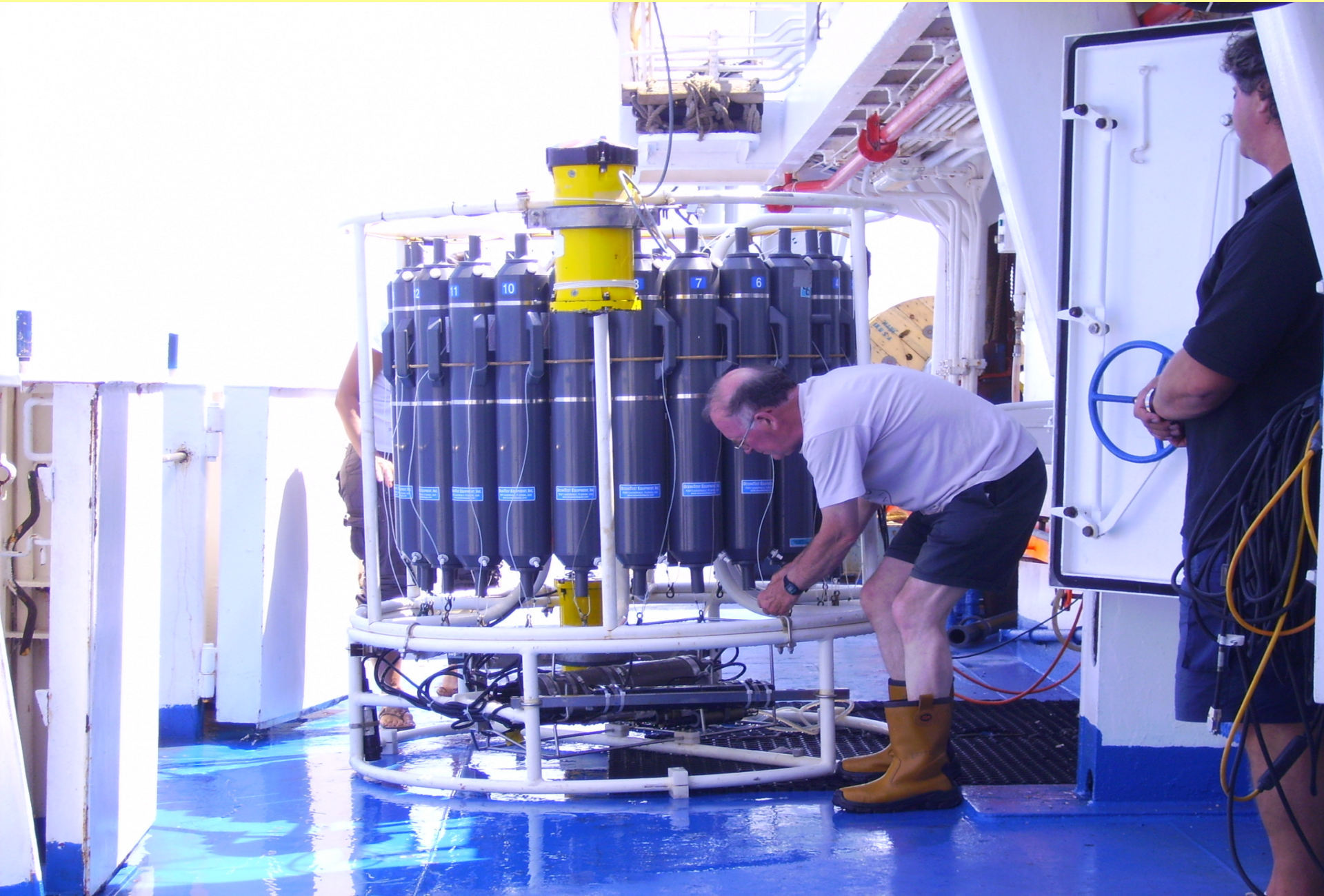
What we did? (but statistics is poor)

- Since 2003, comparison between CTD casts and co-located and contemporaneous (LM Sippican) XBT probes deployed from a motionless ship (RV URANIA),
- CTD profiles: SEABIRD 911 *Plus*, calibrated (before and after each cruise) at NURC Laboratory (La Spezia, I). CTD data processed with standard SEABIRD software.
- < 20070101: LM Sippican MK-12, launcher LM3A, junction box, cable, hard-top
- > 20070101: LM Sippican MK21-USB, laptop
- 20100801: QUOLL/TSK/LM SIPPICAN + XBT&XCTD
- ALL T values are “*in-situ*” Temperatures.

What we did? (but statistics is poor)



What we did? (but statistics is poor)



What we did? (but statistics is poor)



What w

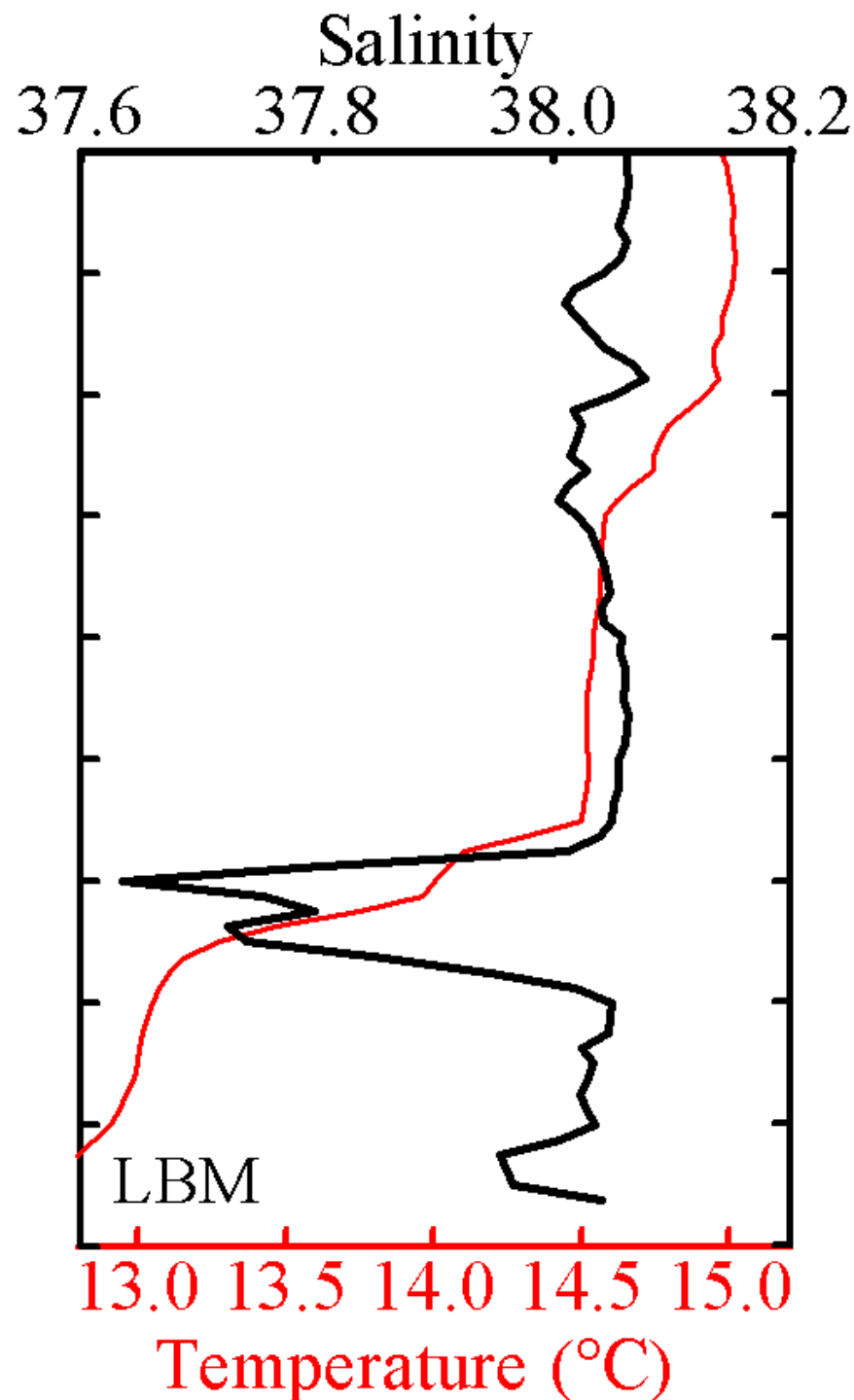
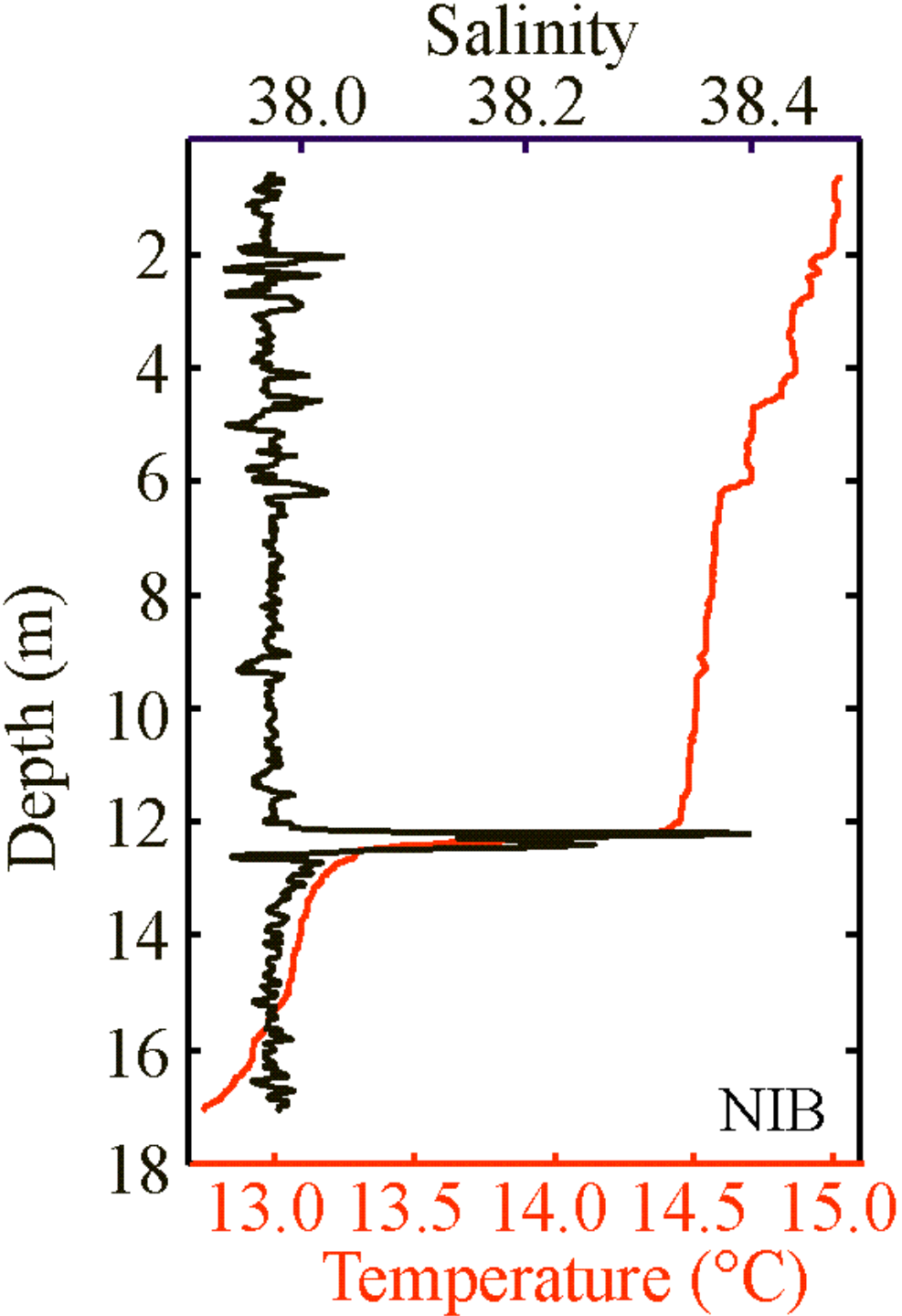


poor)

How good can be a CTD profile?

Nansen Bott.	(0.01 °C; 1.5-6% FS)	(1897)
STD	(0.1 °C; 0.2 PPT)	(1957?)
CTD	(0.001 °C; 0.015% FS)	(1967)
MBT	(0.2 °C; > 1% Z)	(1940)
XBT	(0.2 °C; 2% Z)	(1966)

**CTD is usually adopted as reference instrument
ARGOs and GLIDERS use the same sensors as CTD**



Depth	E.R. (O.S.316)	LBM (O.S.316)	NIB *	CIM (SBE23)	IZOR(SBE23)
5 m	14.750 ± 0.140	14.86 ± 0.12	14.806 ± 0.037	14.71 ± 0.03	14.865 ± 0.080
	37.935 ± 0.004	38.04 ± 0.02	37.966 ± 0.008	37.98 ± 0.01	37.981 ± 0.004
10 m	14.521 ± 0.017	14.52 ± 0.05	14.495 ± 0.017	14.52 ± 0.05	14.602 ± 0.006
	37.942 ± 0.001	38.05 ± 0.01	37.977 ± 0.001	37.98 ± 0.01	37.984 ± 0.002
15 m	12.998 ± 0.020	13.04 ± 0.07	13.001 ± 0.014	12.98 ± 0.01	13.006 ± 0.010
	37.932 ± 0.002	38.05 ± 0.01	37.960 ± 0.004	37.97 ± 0.01	37.977 ± 0.001

Low. Speed 0.2 - 0.3 m/s

CTD inter-comparison, May 2003 – Adriatic Sea

Depth	E.R.	LBM	NIB	CIM	IZOR
5 m	14.647 ± 0.112	14.84 ± 0.05	14.733 ± 0.014	14.95 ± 0.3	14.977 ± 0.032
	37.934 ± 0.003	38.02 ± 0.01	37.987 ± 0.017	37.98 ± 0.1	37.978 ± 0.001
10 m	14.519 ± 0.006	14.58 ± 0.01	14.519 ± 0.006	14.55 ± 0.02	14.569 ± 0.025
	37.936 ± 0.011	38.06 ± 0.01	37.980 ± 0.002	37.98 ± 0.01	37.984 ± 0.001
15 m	13.024 ± 0.015	13.06 ± 0.02	13.056 ± 0.004	13.01 ± 0.03	13.032 ± 0.002
	37.935 ± 0.005	38.03 ± 0.01	37.970 ± 0.003	37.98 ± 0.01	37.984 ± 0.002

Low. Speed 0.4 - 0.5 m/s

Depth	E.R.	LBM	NIB	CIM	IZOR
5 m	14.703 ± 0.098	14.82 ± 0.15	14.718 ± 0.017	14.92 ± 0.07	14.935 ± 0.065
	37.886 ± 0.043	38.05 ± 0.01	37.968 ± 0.003	37.98 ± 0.01	37.978 ± 0.001
10 m	14.514 ± 0.027	14.52 ± 0.07	14.519 ± 0.013	14.57 ± 0.01	14.593 ± 0.007
	37.935 ± 0.009	38.05 ± 0.01	37.974 ± 0.006	37.98 ± 0.01	37.986 ± 0.002
15 m	13.003 ± 0.010	13.00 ± 0.01	13.018 ± 0.018	13.00 ± 0.03	13.024 ± 0.010
	37.915 ± 0.009	38.05 ± 0.01	37.971 ± 0.002	38.00 ± 0.01	37.995 ± 0.002

Low. Speed 1.0 m/s

EUROFLEETS research cruise

RV Urania (within the EU project **EUROFLEETS** <http://www.eurofleets.eu/np4/home.html>) has carry out an inter-comparison among sensors of oceanographic instruments (July 31, 2010 - August 16, 2010). The ship has traveled across the Western Mediterranean Sea from Sicily toward Strait of Gibraltar and beyond.

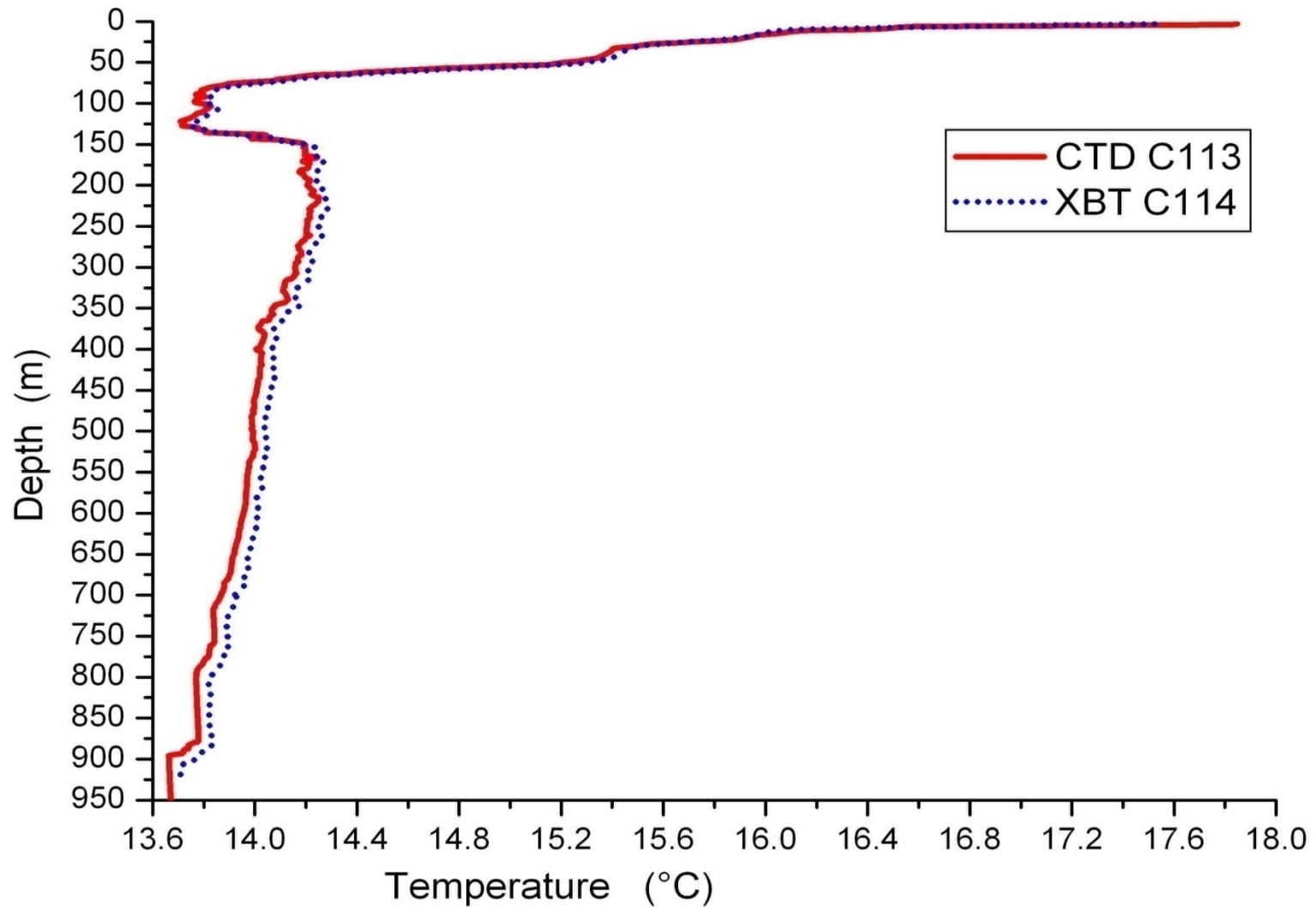
EUROFLEETS research cruise

-) **SEABIRD** 911 plus CTD with:
 -) 2 sensors for Temp/Cond/Oxy/F
 -) 1 sensor as Transmissometer
 -) **IDRONAUT** automatic recording CTD with:
 -) 2 sensors for Temp/Cond
 -) 1 sensor for Oxygen
 -) **CHELSEA** Fluorometer (1 sensor)
 -) **AANDERAA** Oxygen fast (2 sensors)
 -) **L-ADCP** 2 sensors + 2 hull-mounted ADCP (at 75 and 300 kHz)
 -) **LM Sippican** MK21-USB with LM Sippican DB+T5 probes
 -) **TSK** MK150n, with T7+XCTD-1 + XCTD-2 probes
 -) **TURO** QUOLL recorder for expendable probes
- On board instrumentation also includes: **Salinometer**, **Winkler**, **HPLC**,...

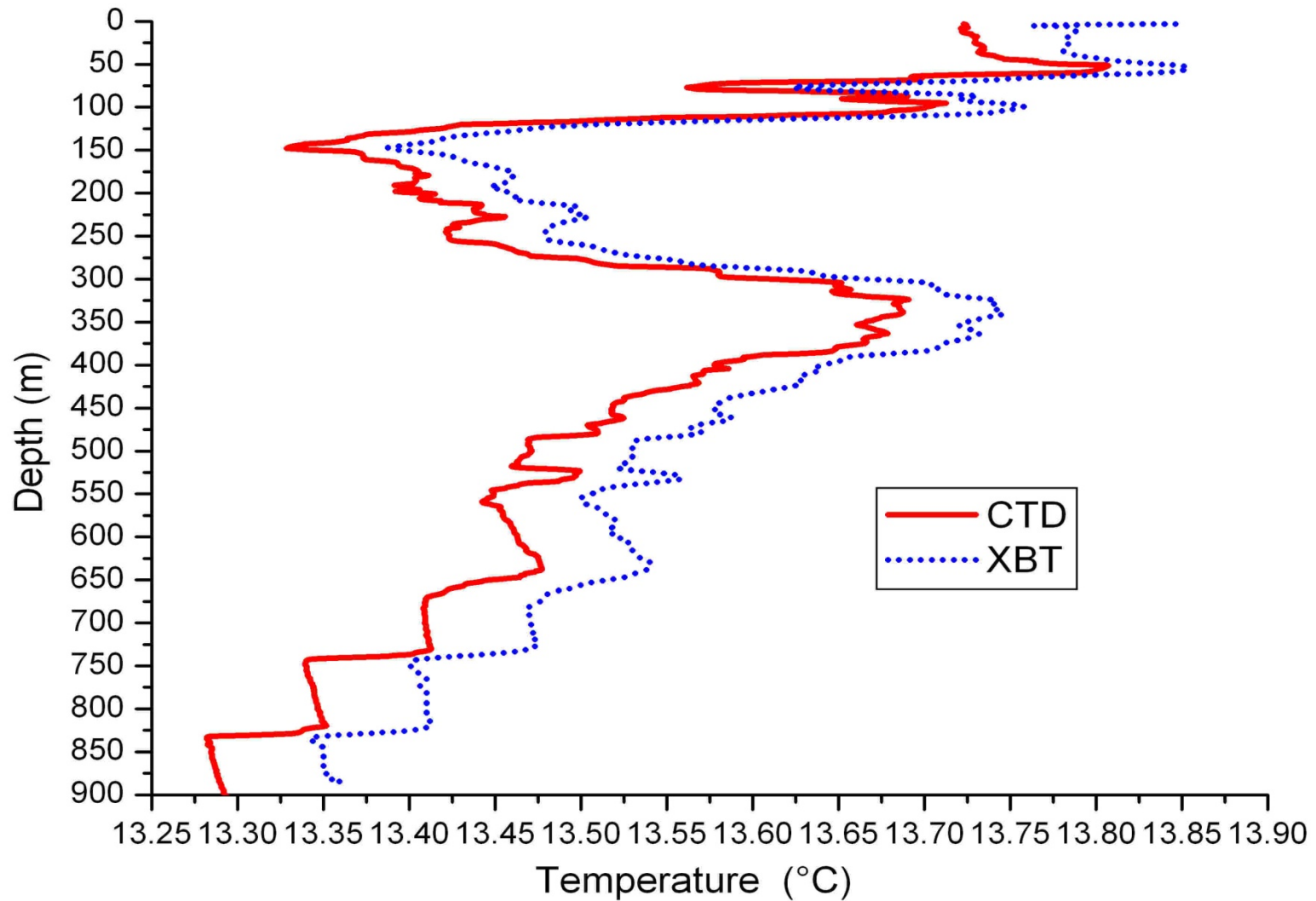
Where?



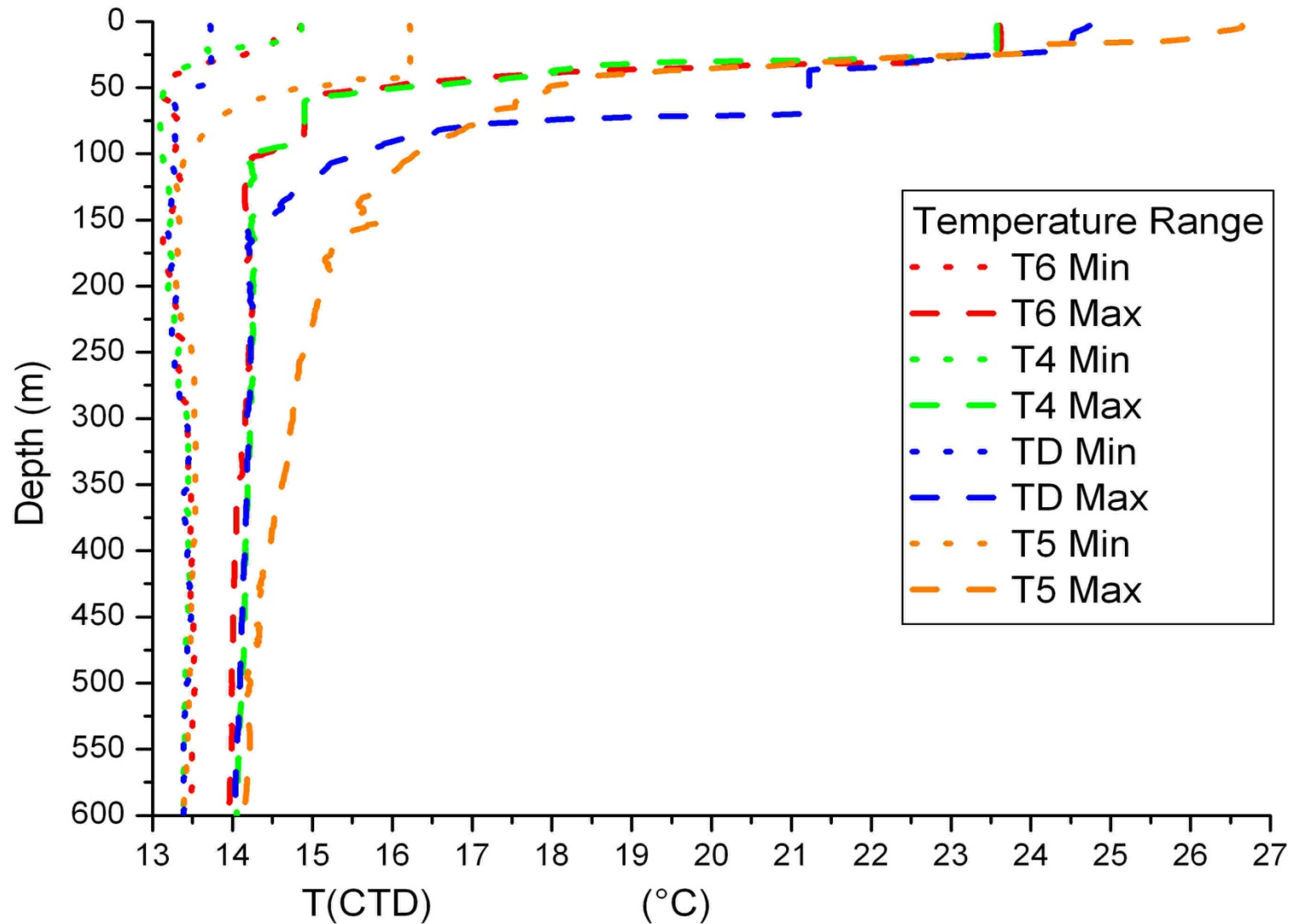
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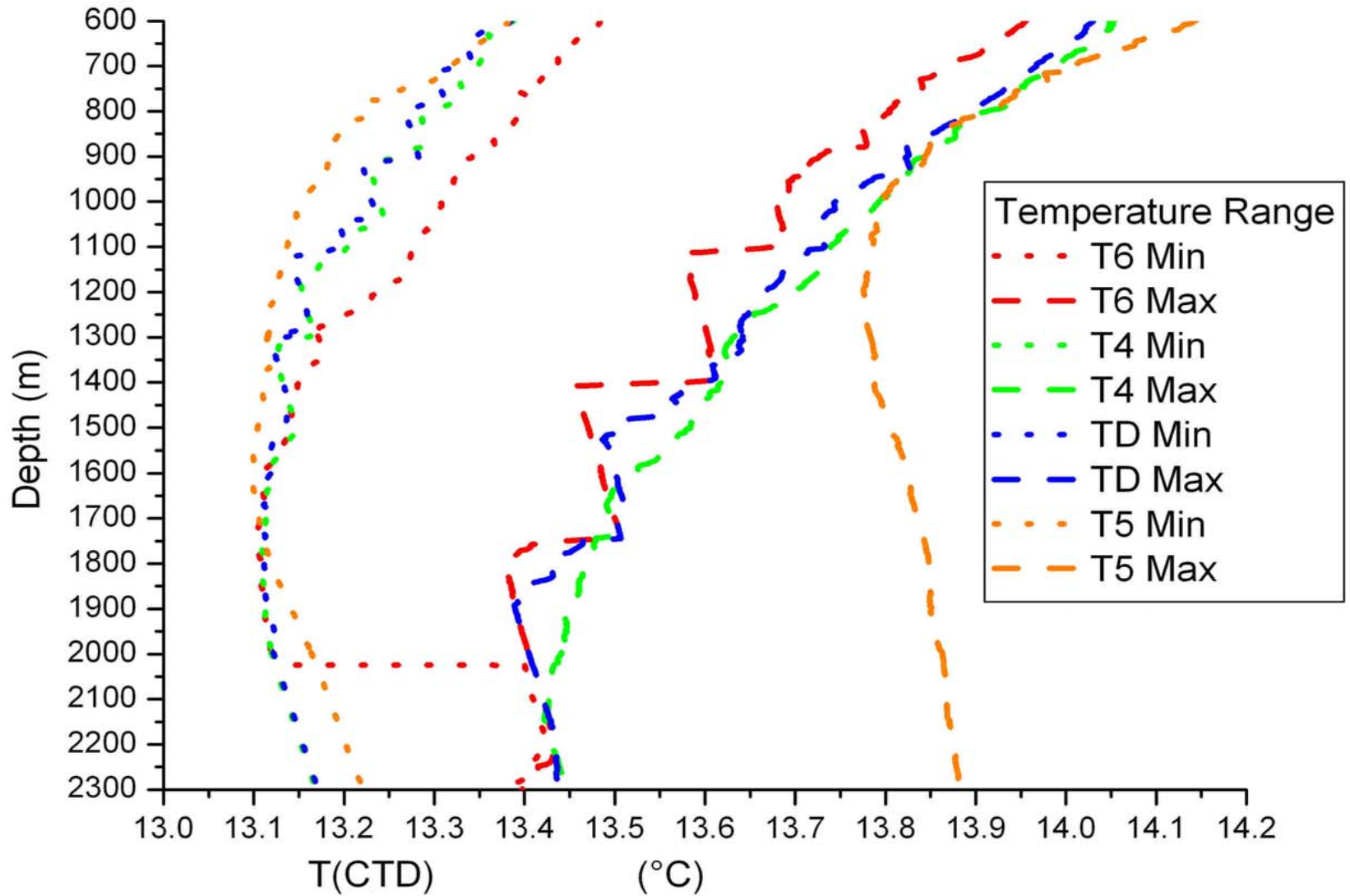
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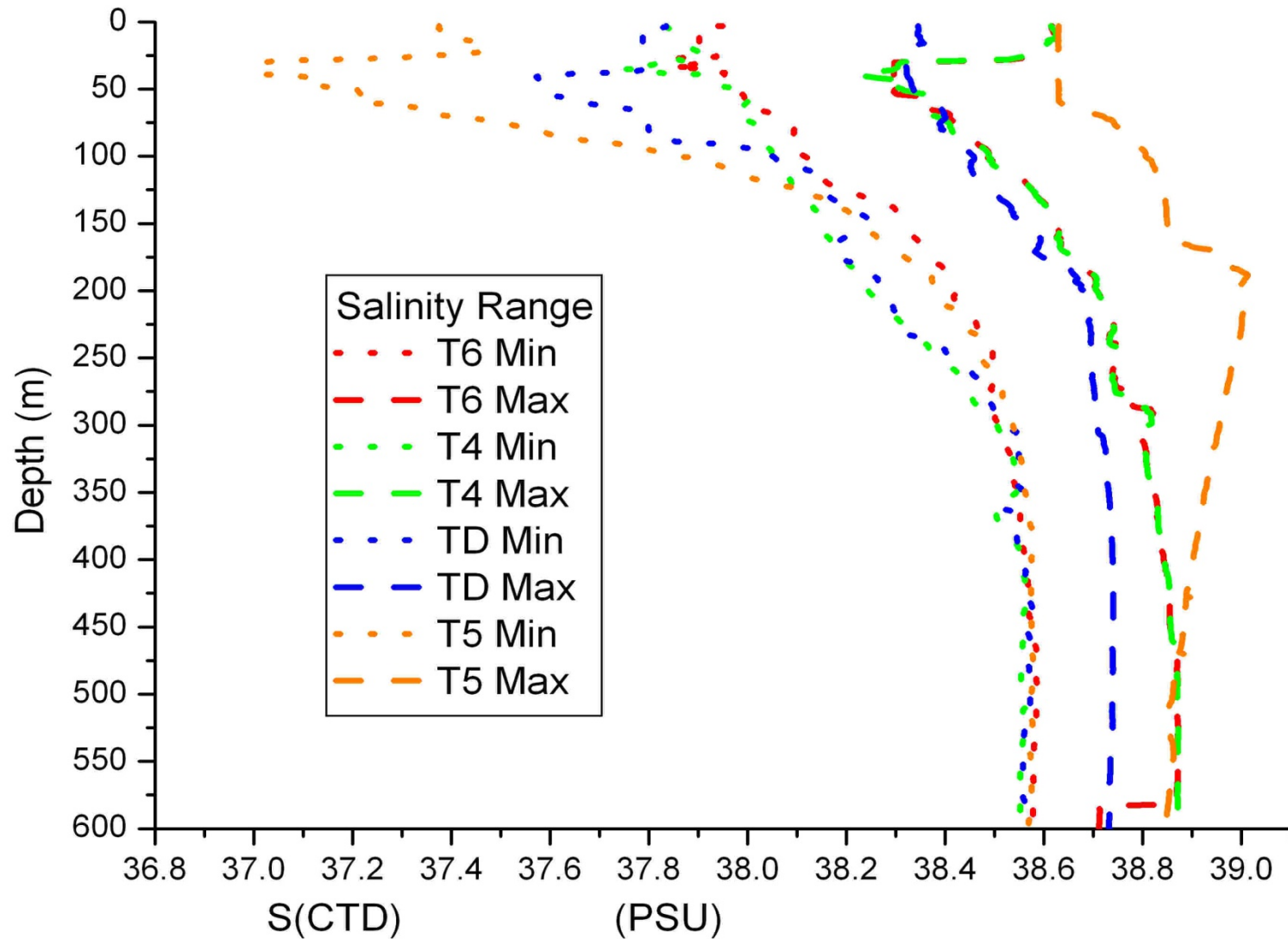
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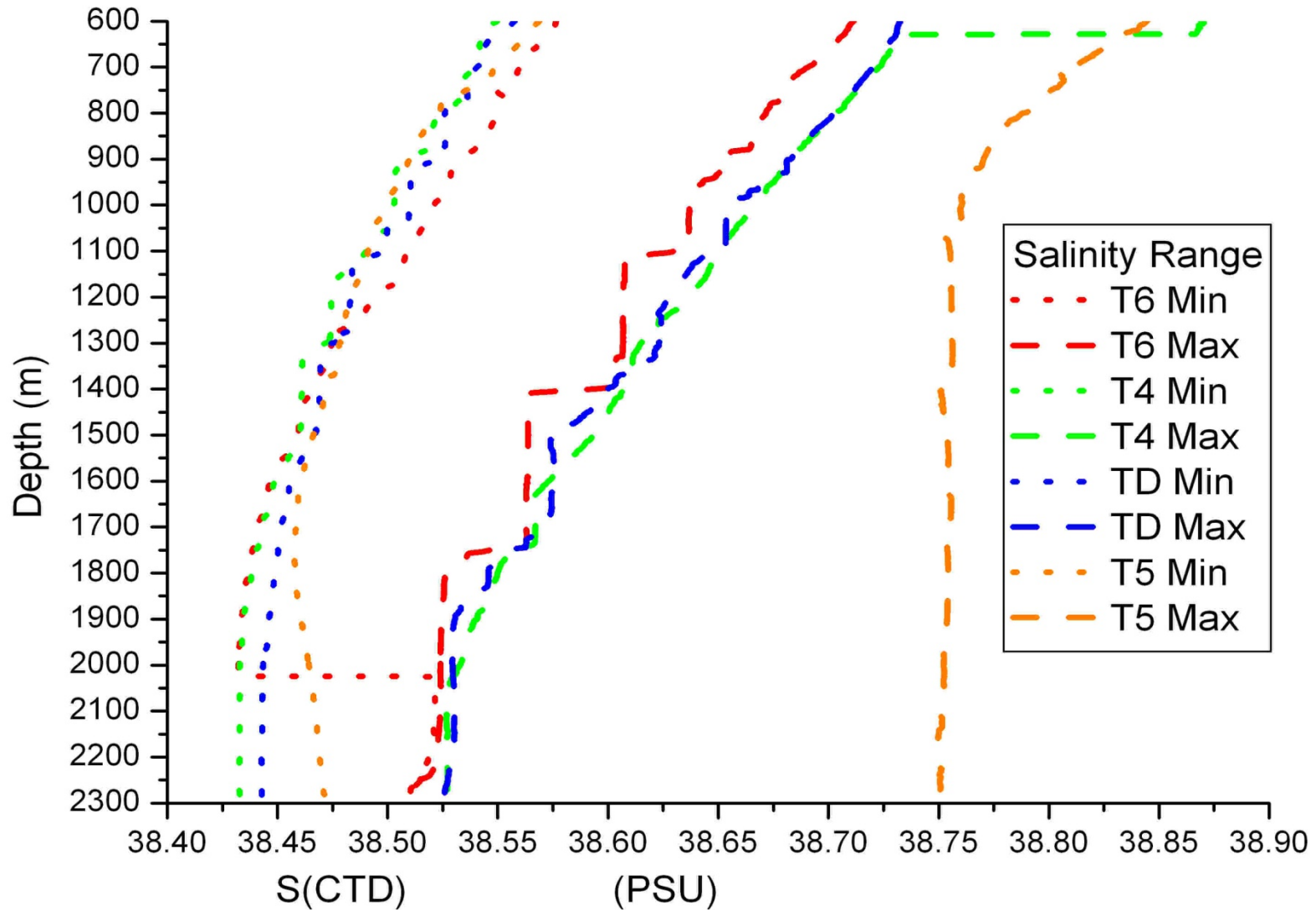
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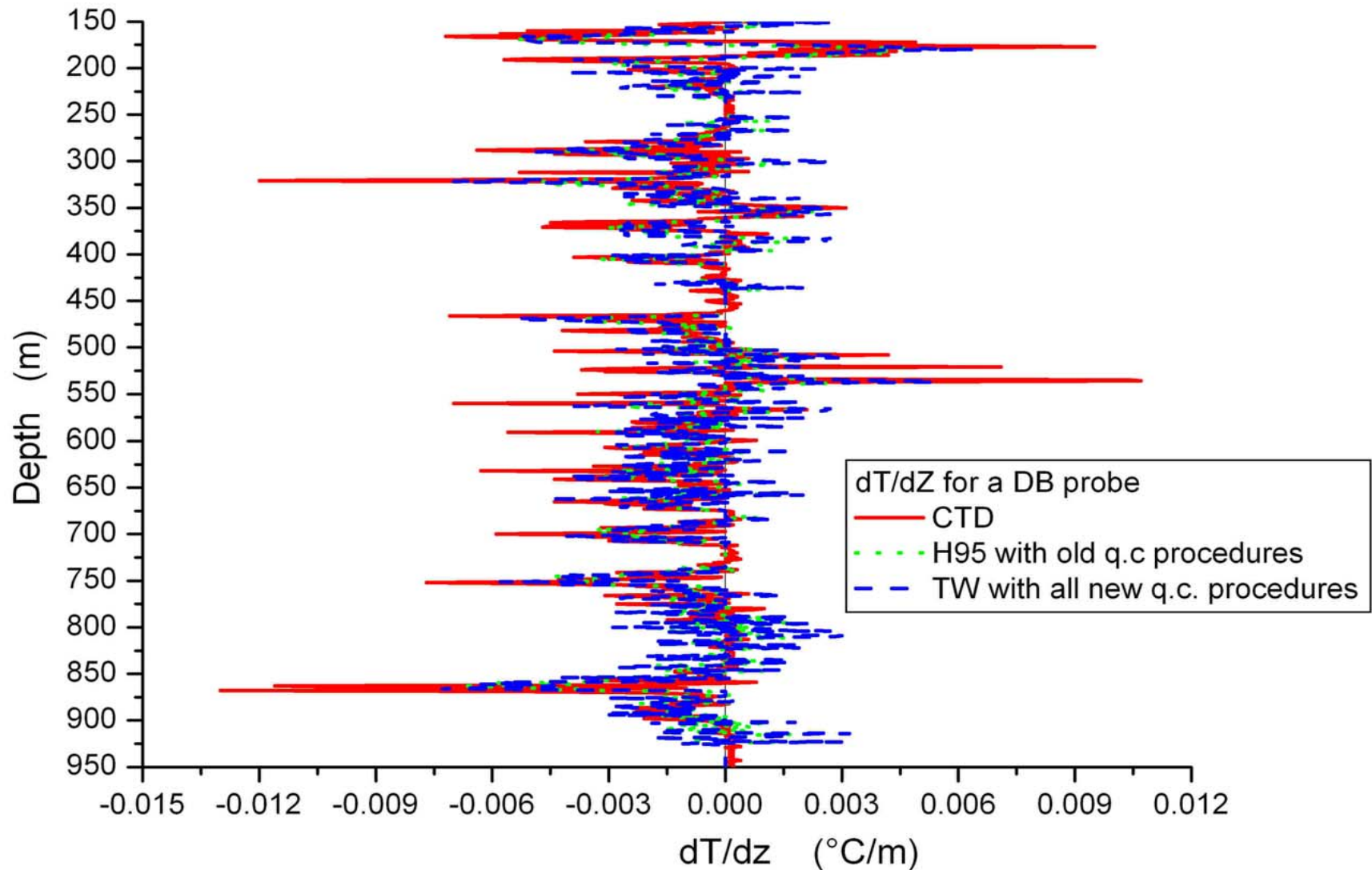
Where?



Where?



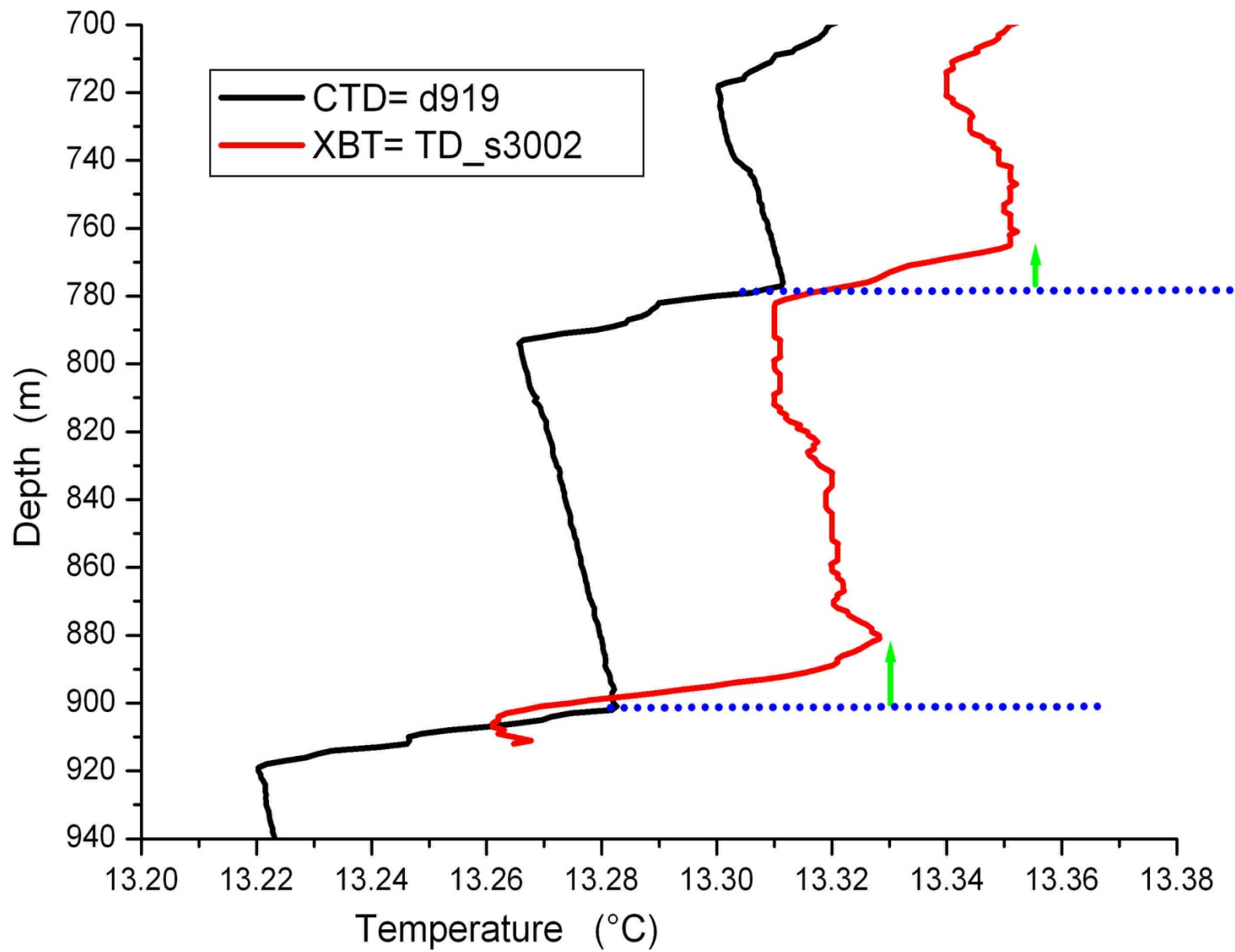
In Mediterranean, H95 method could have problems

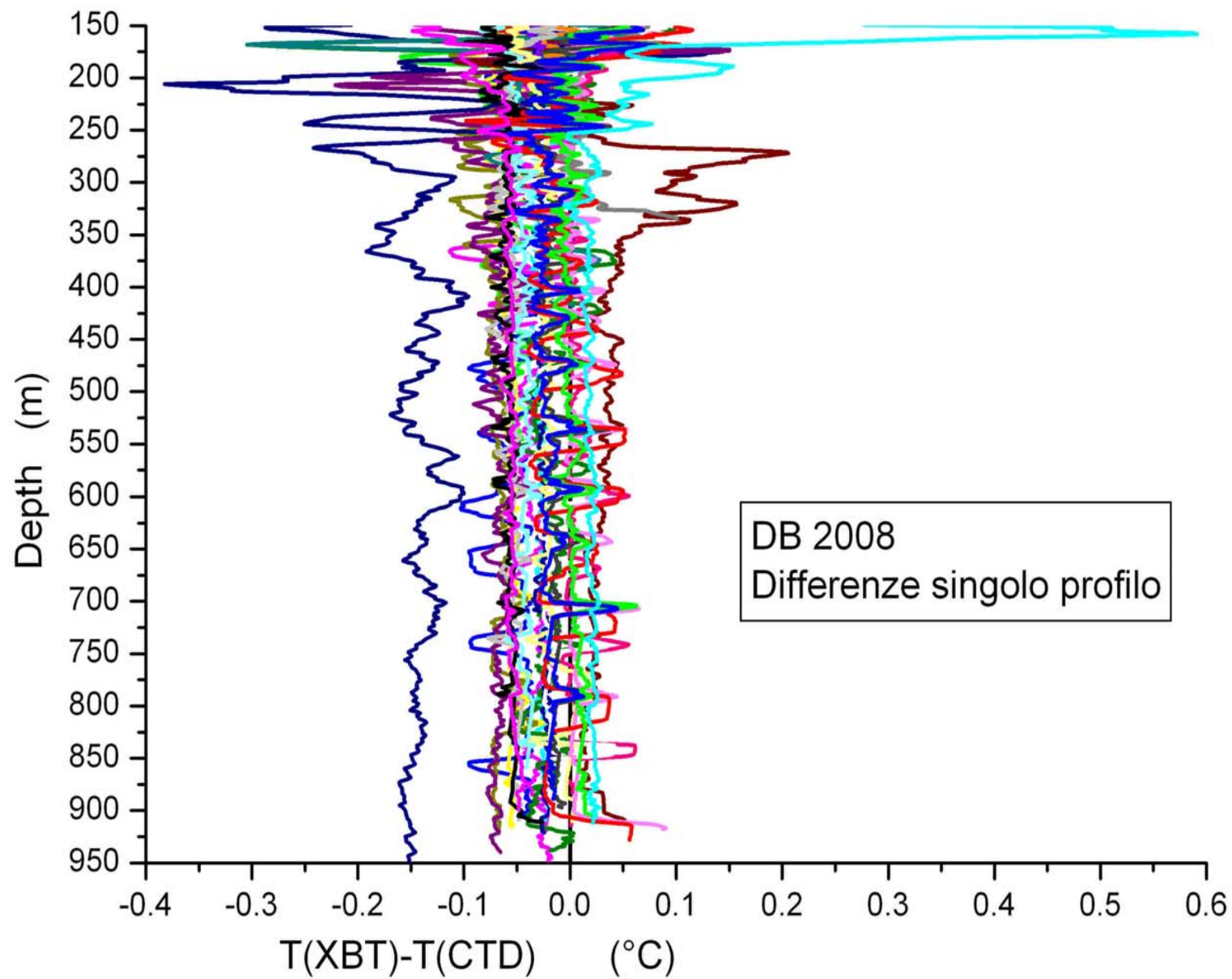


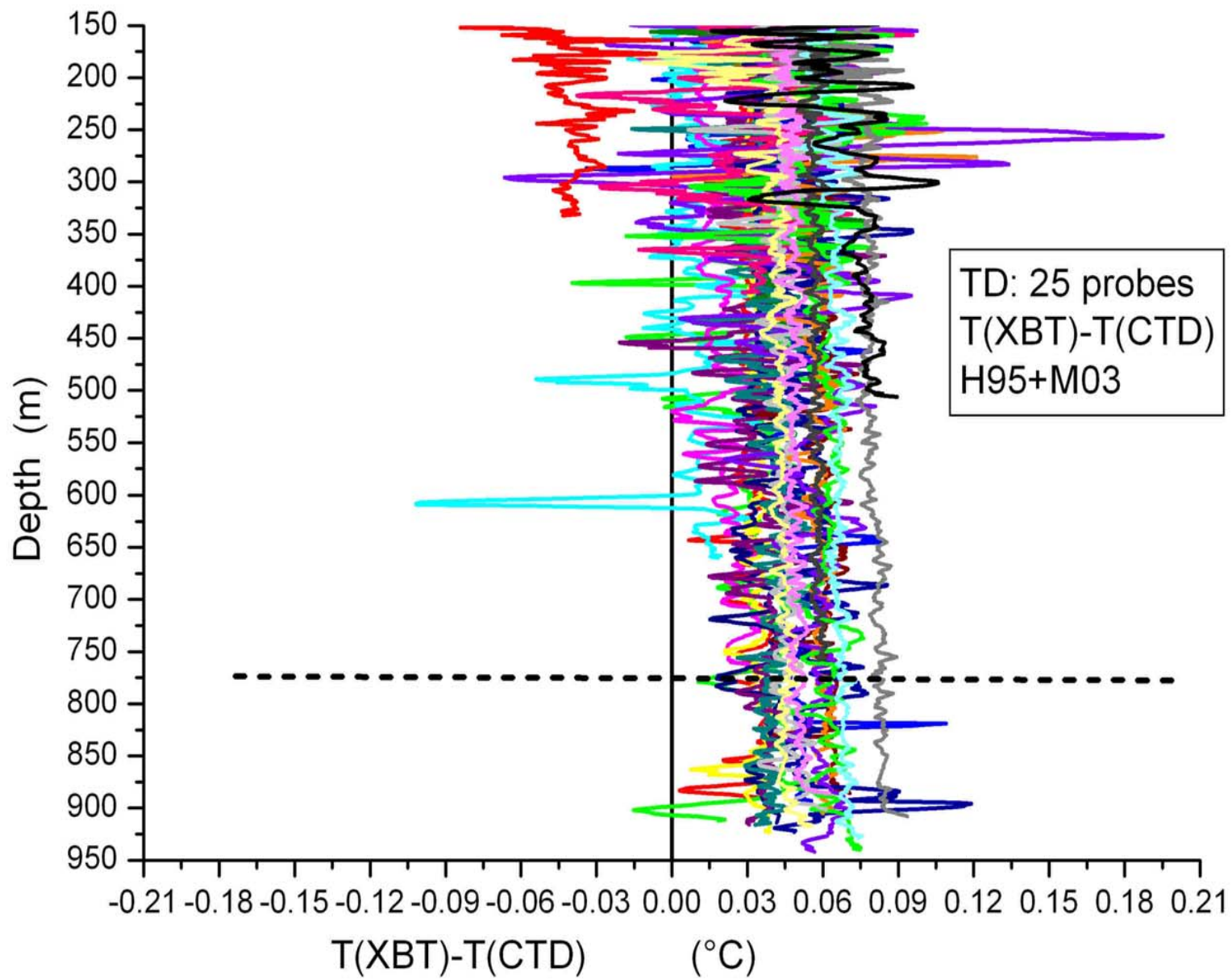
Full wire acquisition

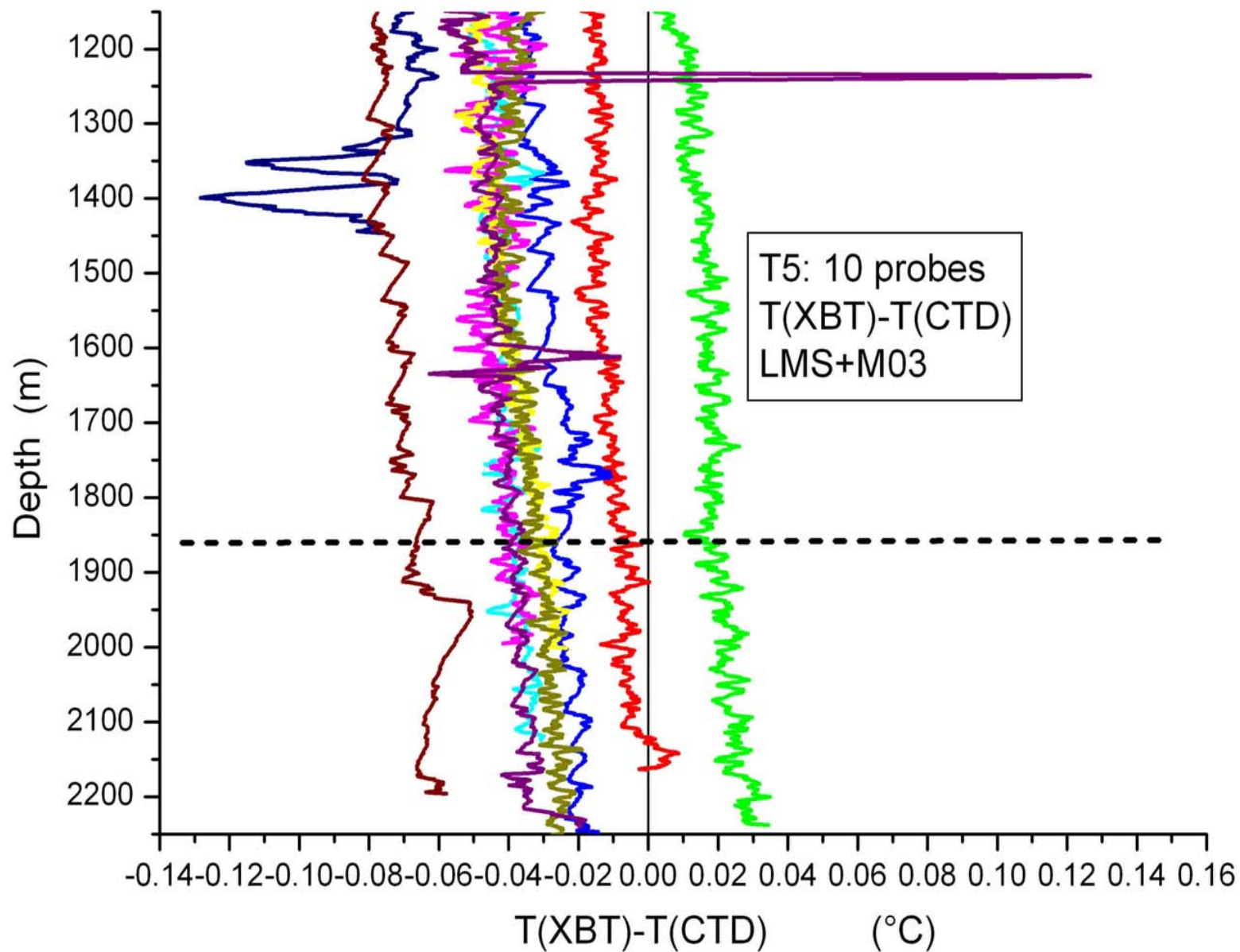
- Acquisition with free terminal depth for different XBT types.
- No evident differences in the last part of the acquisition.
- Statistically speaking, results are good up to the wire break.
- Depending on the probe batch, and within the same batch, a certain variability

XBT Type	Max Speed (kn)	Real Speed (kn)	Depth (m)	AT (s)	<AT> (s)	Range (s)	Average Depth (m)	Range (m)	No. XBT
T4	30	0	460	70.5	87.3 ± 2.0	83.0-90.7	567 ± 12	540-588	22
T4	30	21-27	460	70.5	80.6 ± 1.1	76.8-84.9	525 ± 7	500-552	230
T6	15	≤ 10	460	70.5	85.2 ± 4.1	77.7-90.5	554 ± 26	506-587	11
T5 (1830) = 354.9 ± 11.3 s (320.9-368.0 s) 2194 ± 63 m (2004-2266 m) 27									
T7	15	≤ 15	760	118.3	142.5 ± 2.2	138.6-150.9	908 ± 14	884-958	68
T7	15	17	760	118.3	136.3 ± 1.4	133.2-138.2	870 ± 9	851-881	15
DB	20	0	760	118.3	143.9 ± 2.4	139.3-148.5	916 ± 14	888-944	18
DB	20	≤ 20	760	118.3	140.9 ± 1.8	126.3-149.6	898 ± 11	809-951	1312
DB	20	21	760	118.3	137.6 ± 1.9	136.3-140.5	878 ± 12	870-896	4
DB	20	22	760	118.3	134.2 ± 2.2	130.9-140.3	857 ± 13	837-894	27
DB	20	23	760	118.3	127.5 ± 2.3	124.3-132.8	817 ± 14	797-849	35
DB	20	24	760	118.3	122.1 ± 2.9	115.6-127.0	783 ± 18	743-813	31
DB	20	25	760	118.3	118.0 ± 2.3	113.0-123.8	758 ± 14	727-794	48
DB	20	26	760	118.3	114.2 ± 2.5	109.3-118.6	735 ± 15	704-762	37
DB	20	27	760	118.3	111.1 ± 1.2	109.8-113.5	716 ± 8	707-730	9



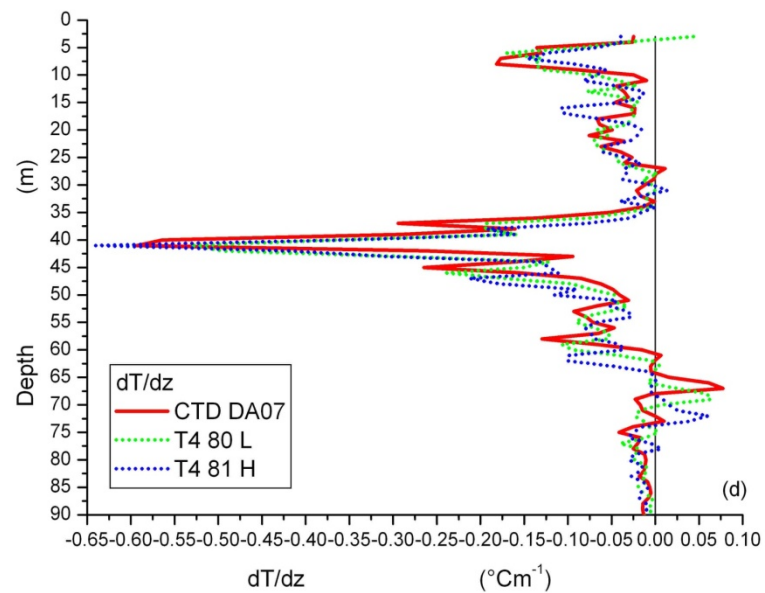
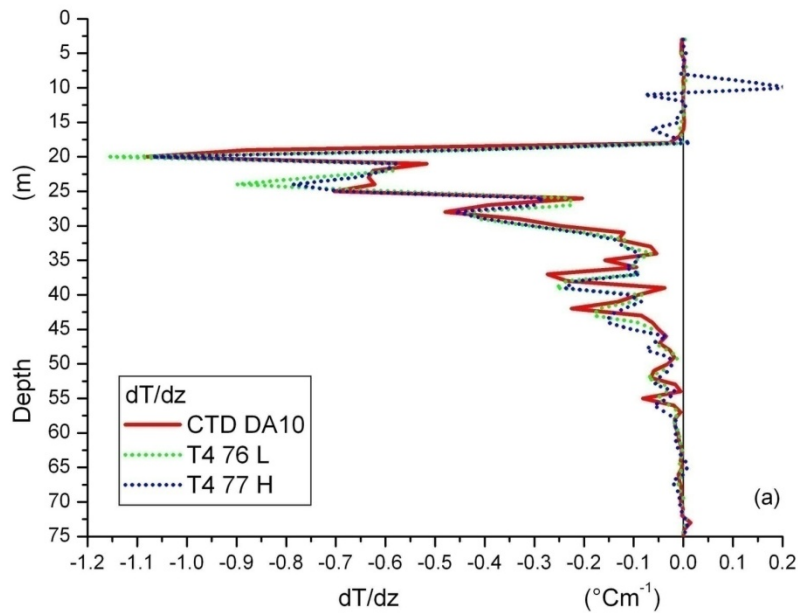
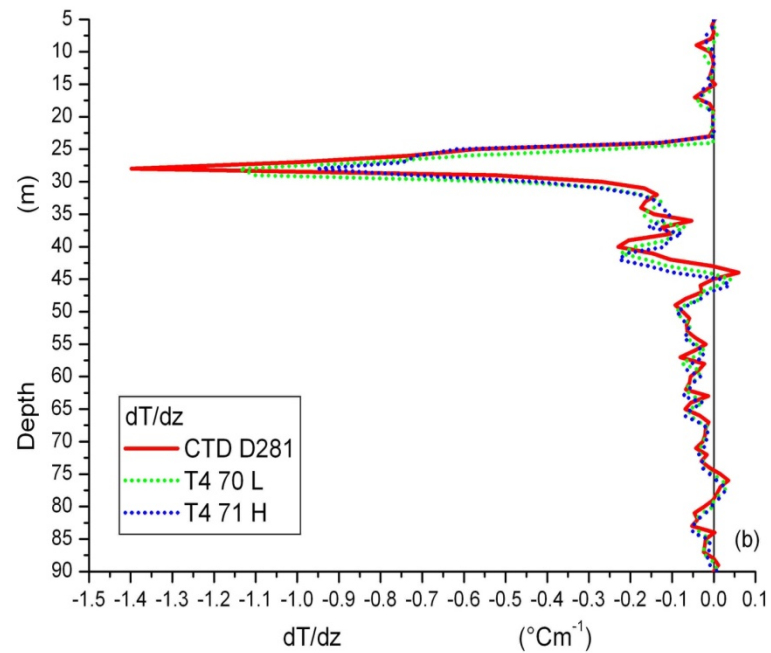
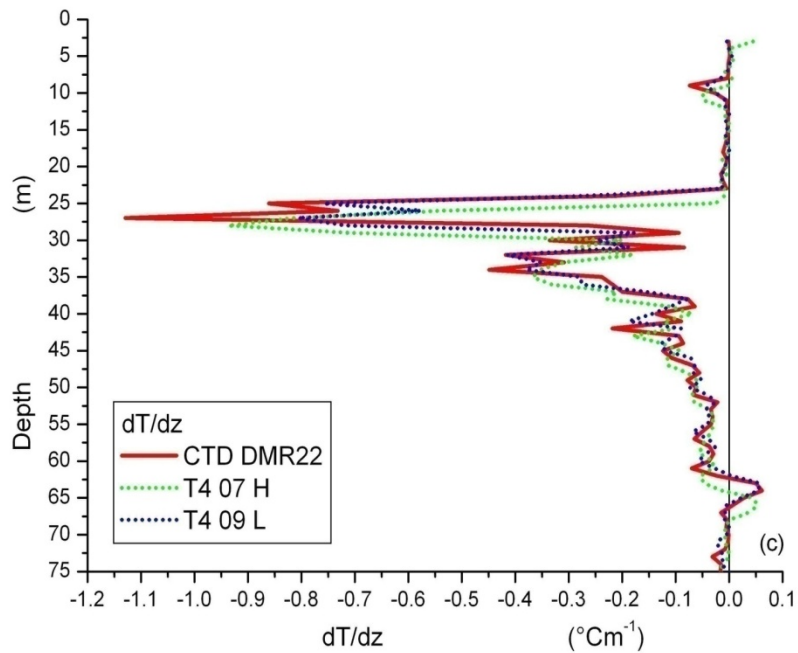


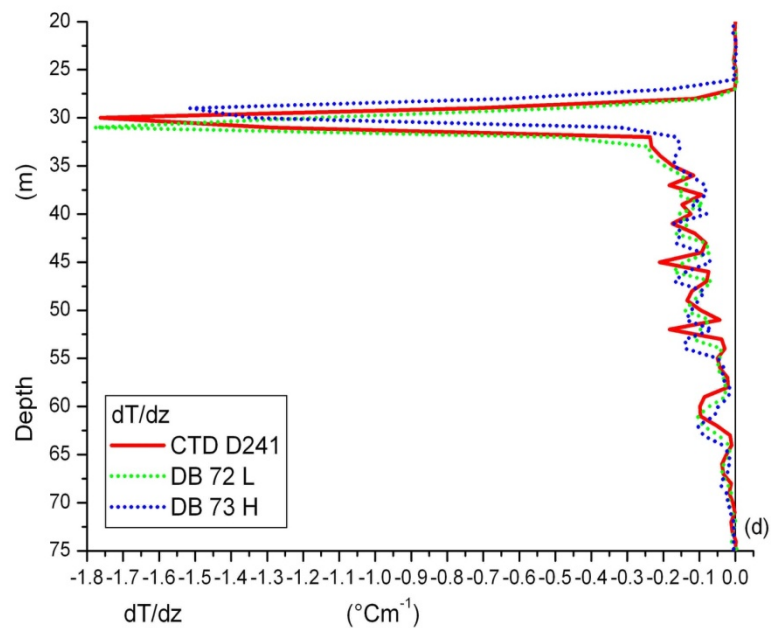
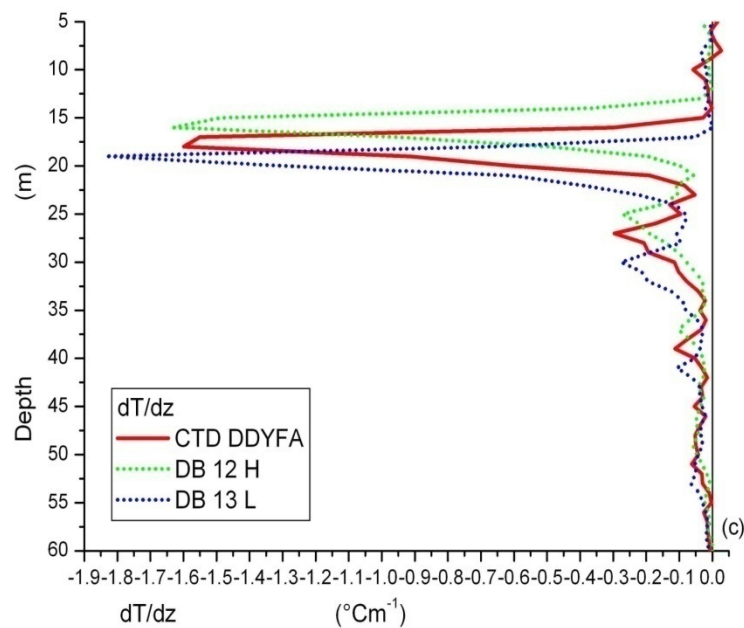
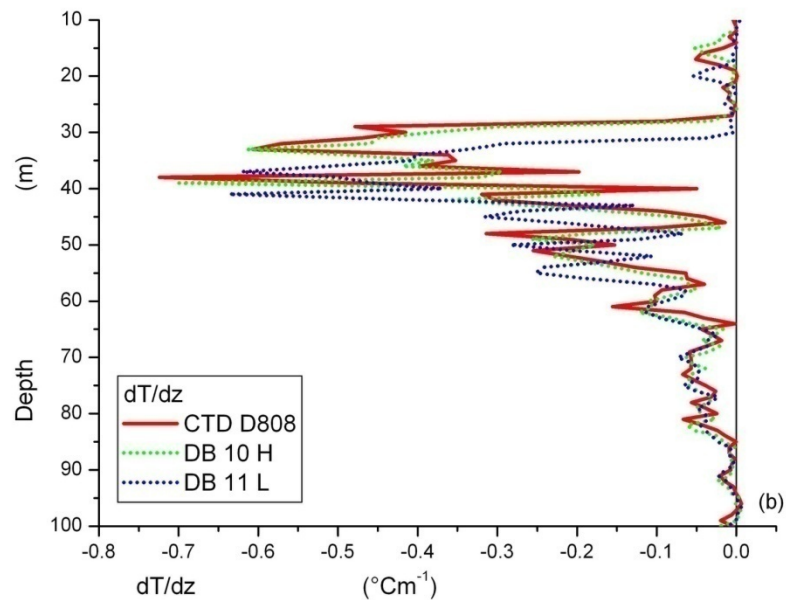
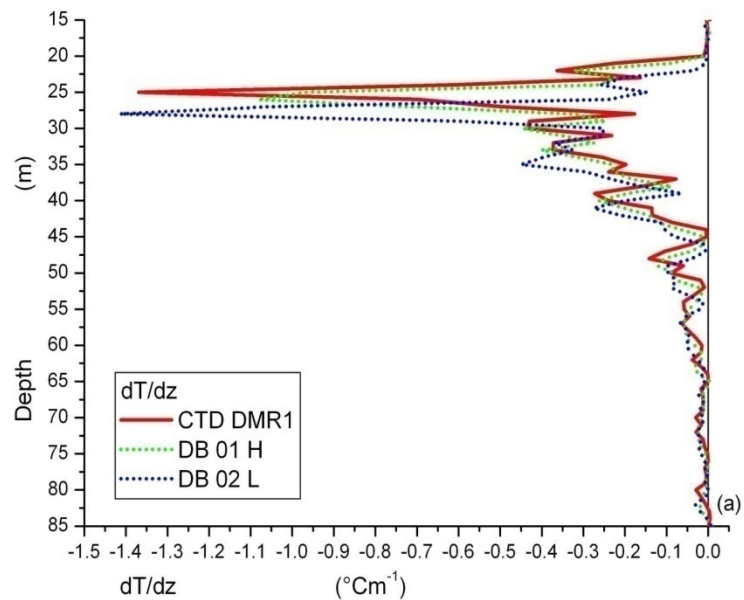


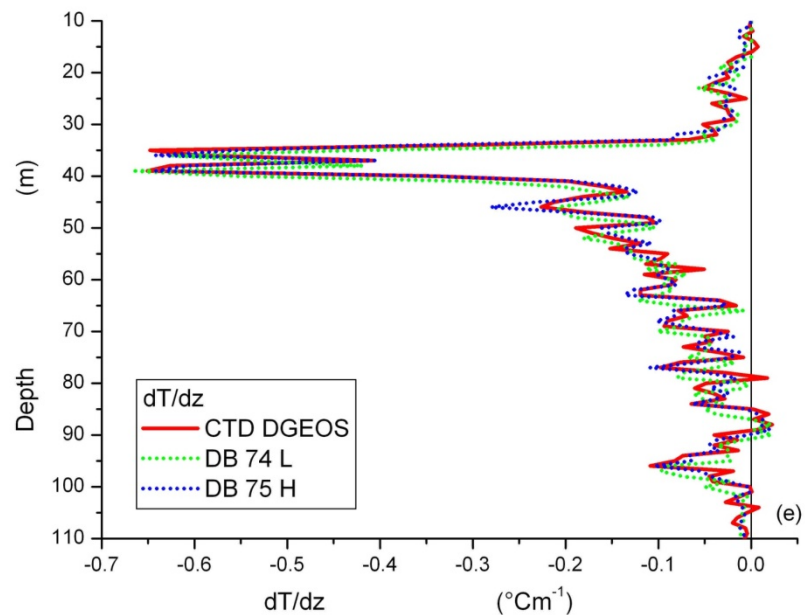
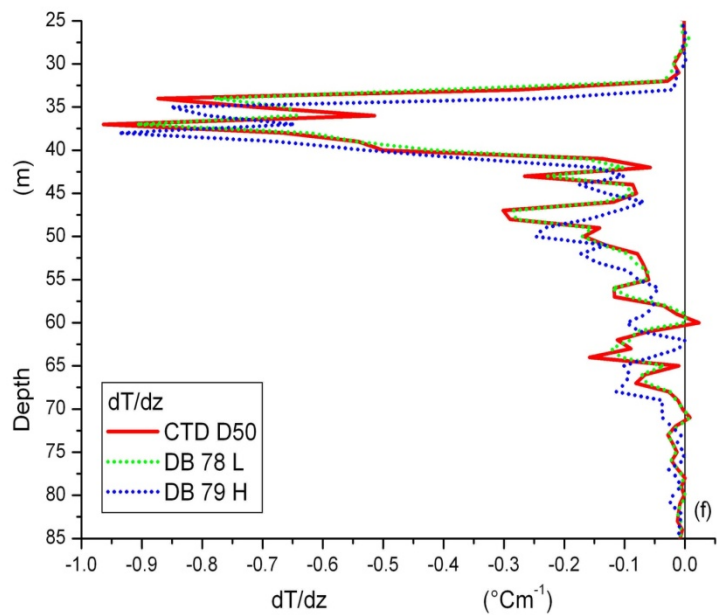
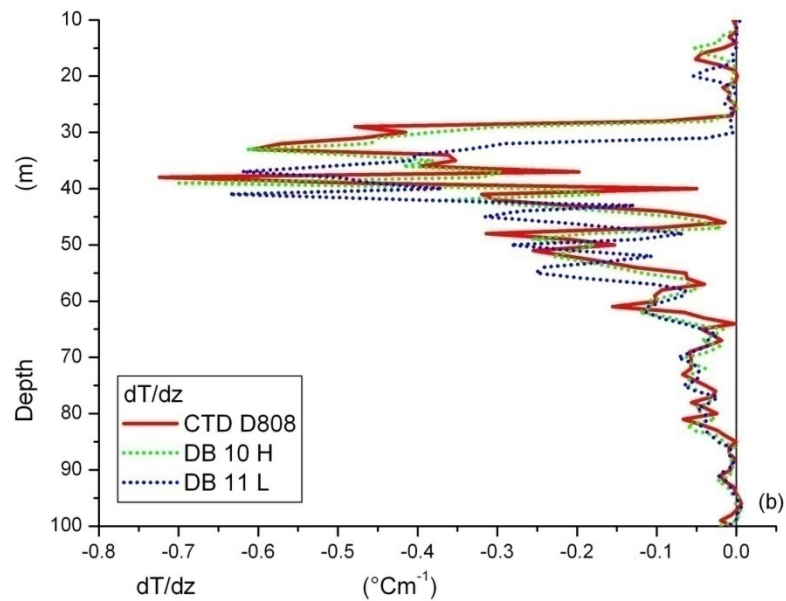
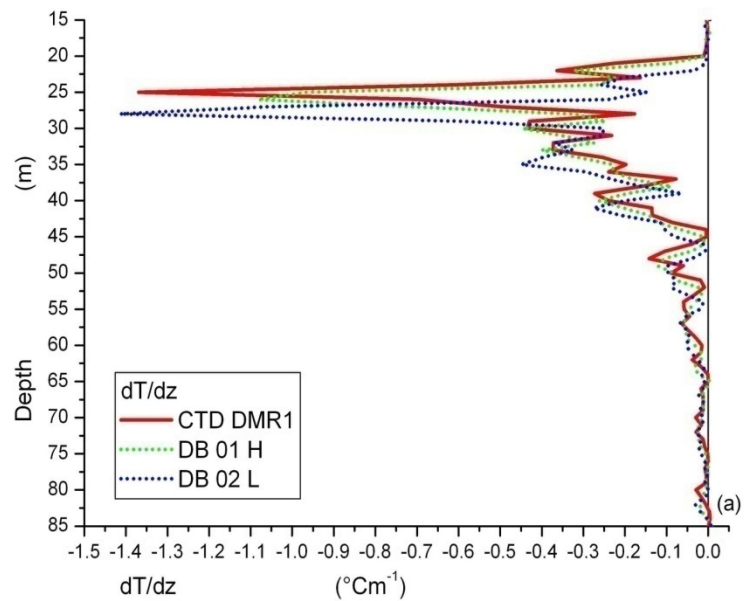


Is the height of the launching platform a factor influencing the entry speed and the probes motion in the upper part?

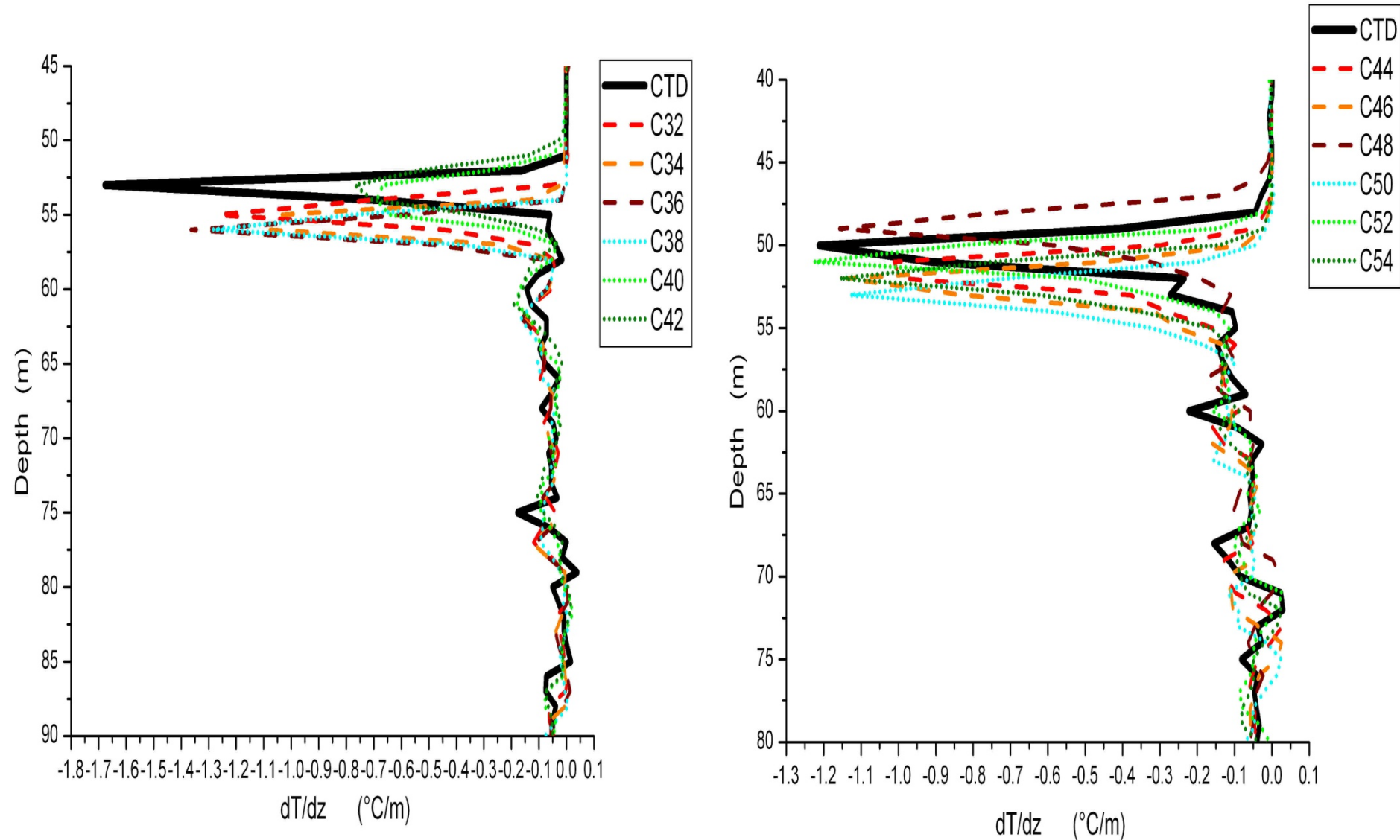
- Height 2.5 m: in MFSTEP the height varies from 4 to 14 m (with recent ships participating SOOP..from 25 to 31m).
- XBT probe should reach a stationary regime in seawater after ~ 1.5 s (~ 10 m), or a little bit more.
- Test: 10 pairs of probes were dropped from two different height (2.5 m and 8 m), within 5 minutes, during the same CTD cast.
- Comparison between twin profiles.
- dT/dz profiles: always,
 - in green the former,
 - in blue the latter







2008: 3 probes sequentially deployed from 2 platforms on the same CTD cast.(H95 FRE)



Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)			Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)			Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)		
0.0	17.54	1516.69	0.0	17.64	1517.00	0.0	18.24	1518.73
0.7	16.38	1513.25	0.7	16.48	1513.56	0.7	16.74	1514.34
1.3	15.98	1512.06	1.3	16.14	1512.54	1.3	16.25	1512.89
2.0	15.84	1511.64	2.0	16.04	1512.25	2.0	16.10	1512.44
2.7	15.82	1511.58	2.7	16.01	1512.16	2.7	16.06	1512.32
3.3	15.81	1511.58	3.3	15.99	1512.13	3.3	16.05	1512.29
4.0	15.82	1511.60	4.0	15.99	1512.14	4.0	16.03	1512.27

Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)			Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)			Depth (m) - Temperature (°C)		
0.0	22.72	1523.25	0.0	23.10	1524.23	0.0	20.54	1525.17
0.7	22.72	1523.27	0.7	22.89	1523.70	0.7	19.87	1523.34
1.3	22.83	1523.56	1.3	22.68	1523.18	1.3	19.57	1522.53
2.0	22.86	1523.66	2.0	22.58	1522.92	2.0	19.46	1522.24
2.7	22.88	1523.72	2.7	22.23	1522.01	2.7	19.43	1522.16
3.3	22.87	1523.69	3.3	21.61	1520.38	3.3	19.41	1522.12
4.0	22.84	1523.63	4.0	21.13	1519.08	4.0	19.41	1522.12



- If this is only a depth error, the difference is very strong, because $(dT/dz)_{\text{Max}}$ can occur at ~ 25-35 m depth, therefore 2.0m/30.0 m ~ 7 % (even if the depth error in upper region is 5 m)
- The shift does not vary in the same way below the thermocline down to 100 m depth: frequently, it reduces or remains constant.

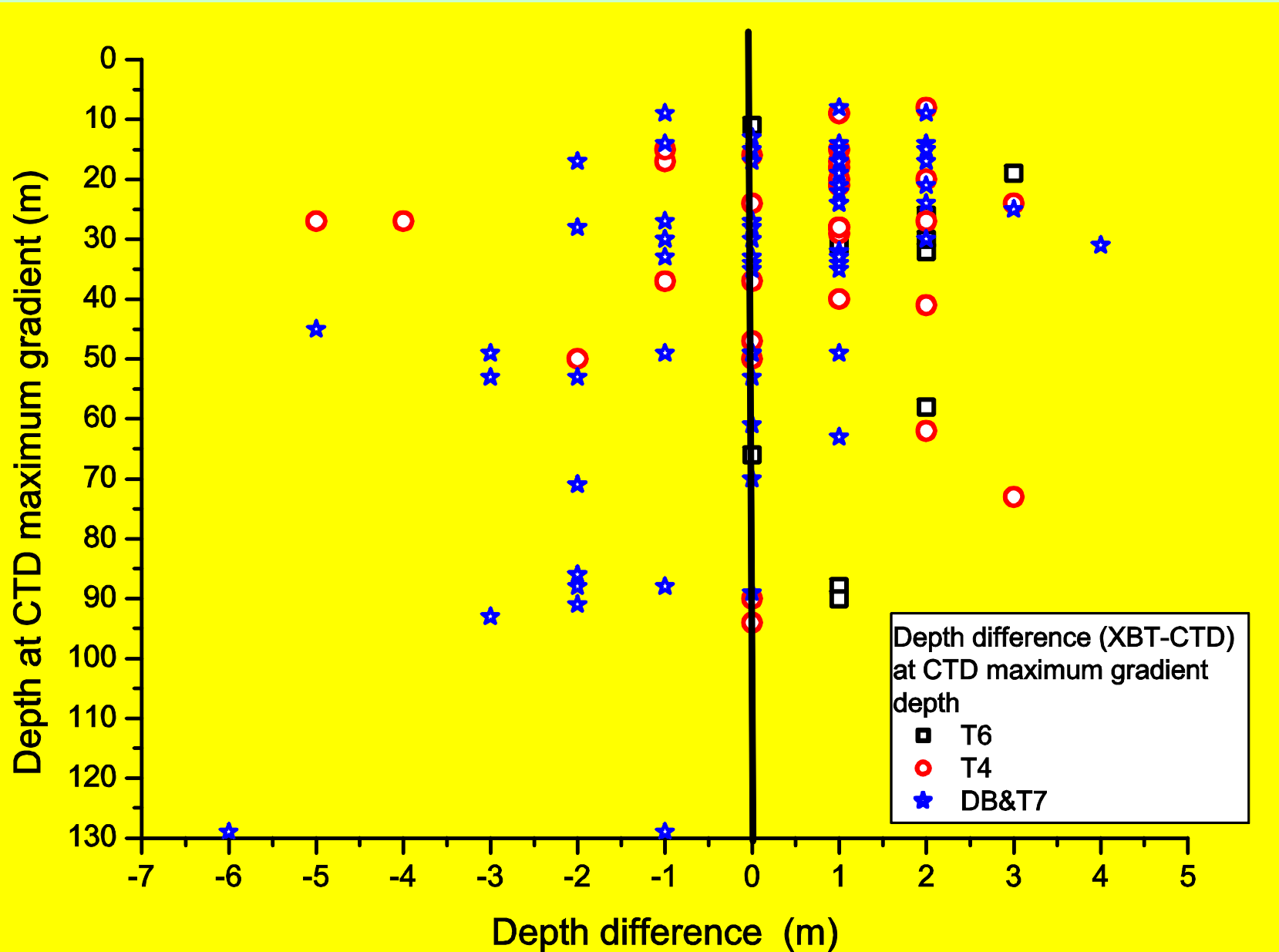
YOUTUBE SECTION

2010: 3 probes sequentially deployed from a ship participating SOOP

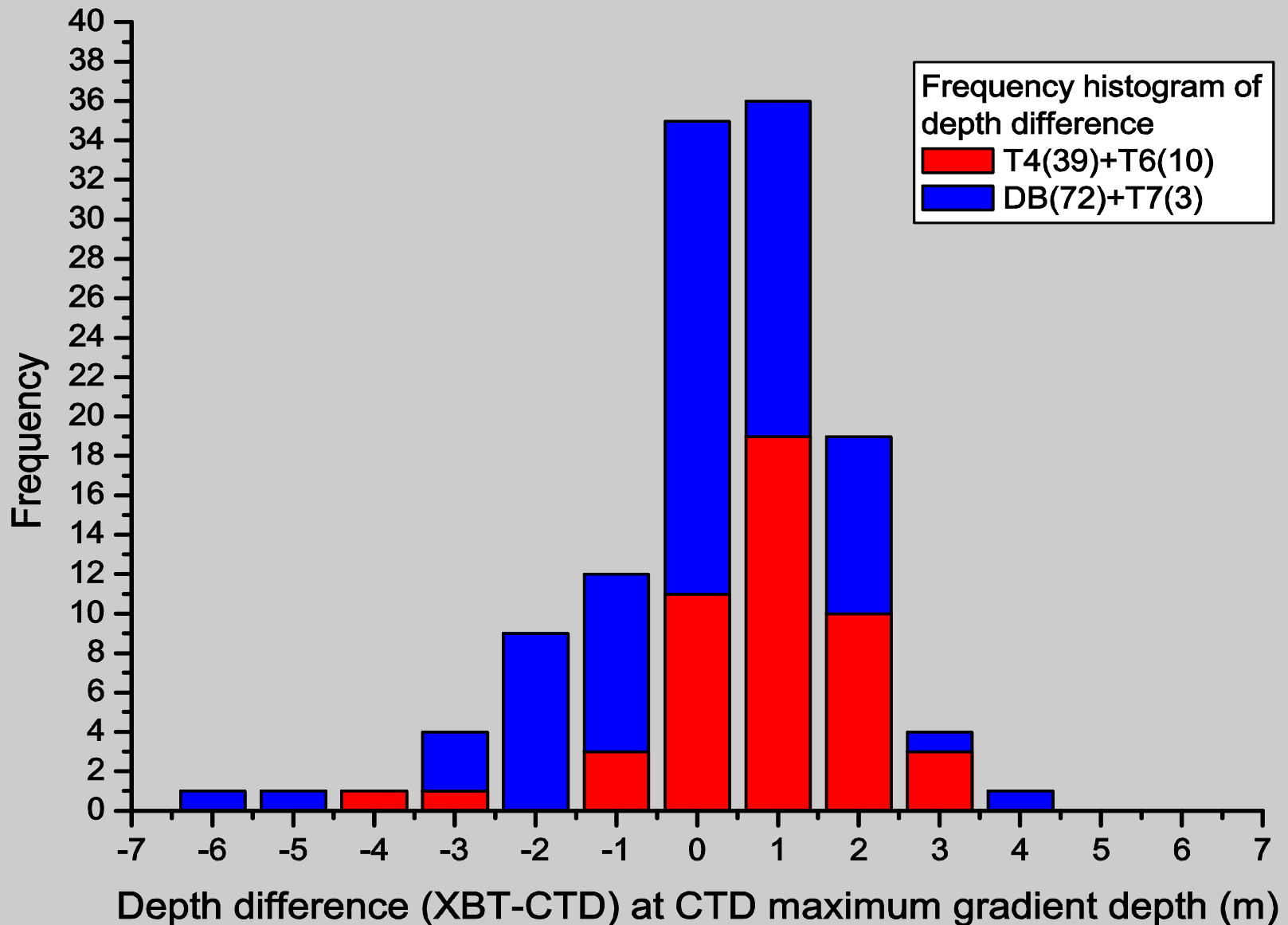


Probes (nr.)	Fall Time Range (s)	<Time> (s)	<T> Water	Depth Sippican (m)	Depth H95 (m)	Depth Measured (m)
3 DB	2.1-2.2	2.1	14.2°	13.58	14.04	15.20 ± 0.20
3 DB	2.2-2.3	2.2	15.4°	14.23	14.71	15.00 ± 0.20

Difference at the thermocline (Sippican FRE)



Difference at the thermocline (Sippican FRE)



Is the probe motion in near surface layer well described by the standard FRE?

Test in shallow water

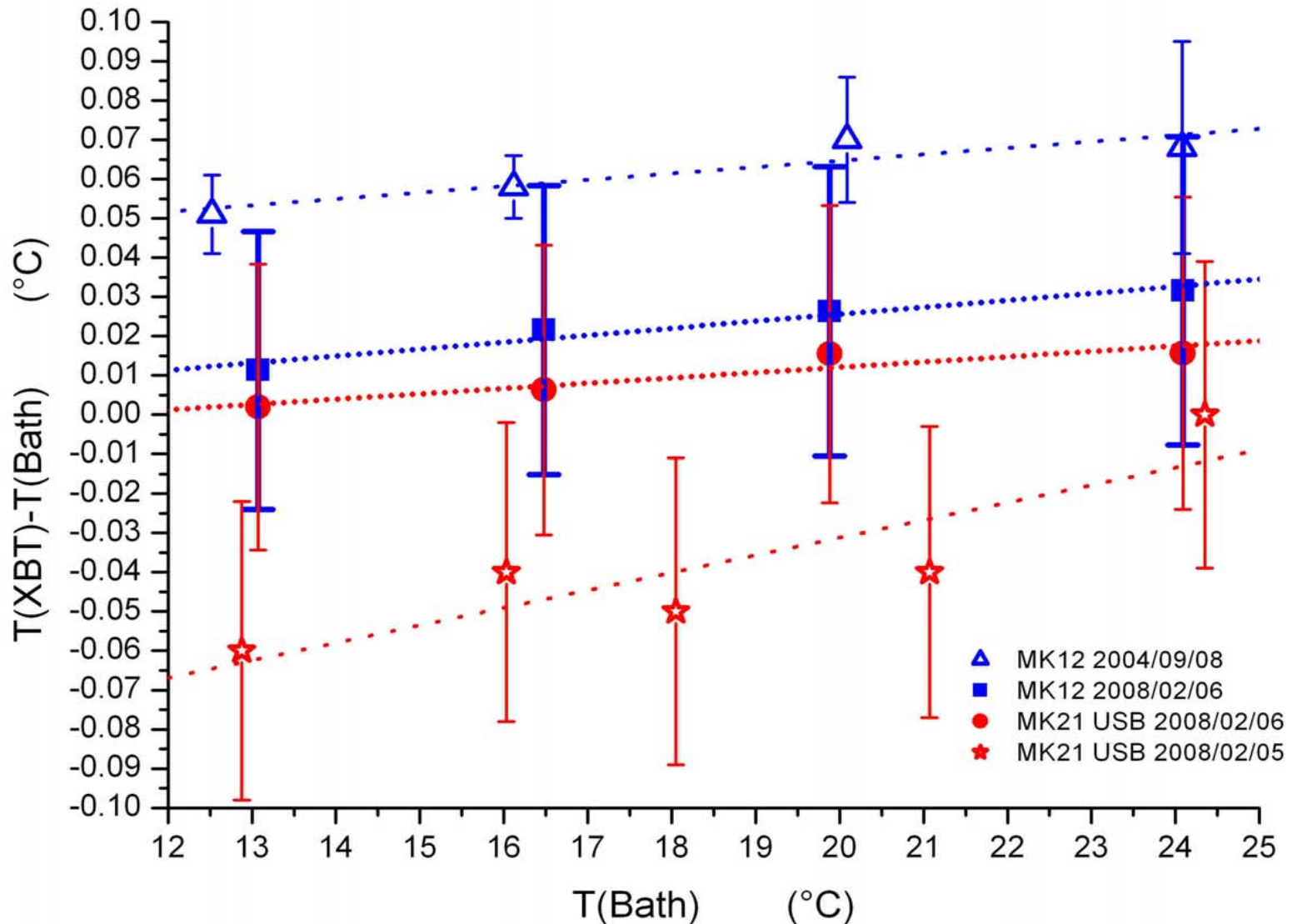
$H = 2.5\text{m}$

The impact angle varies from 0° to 90°

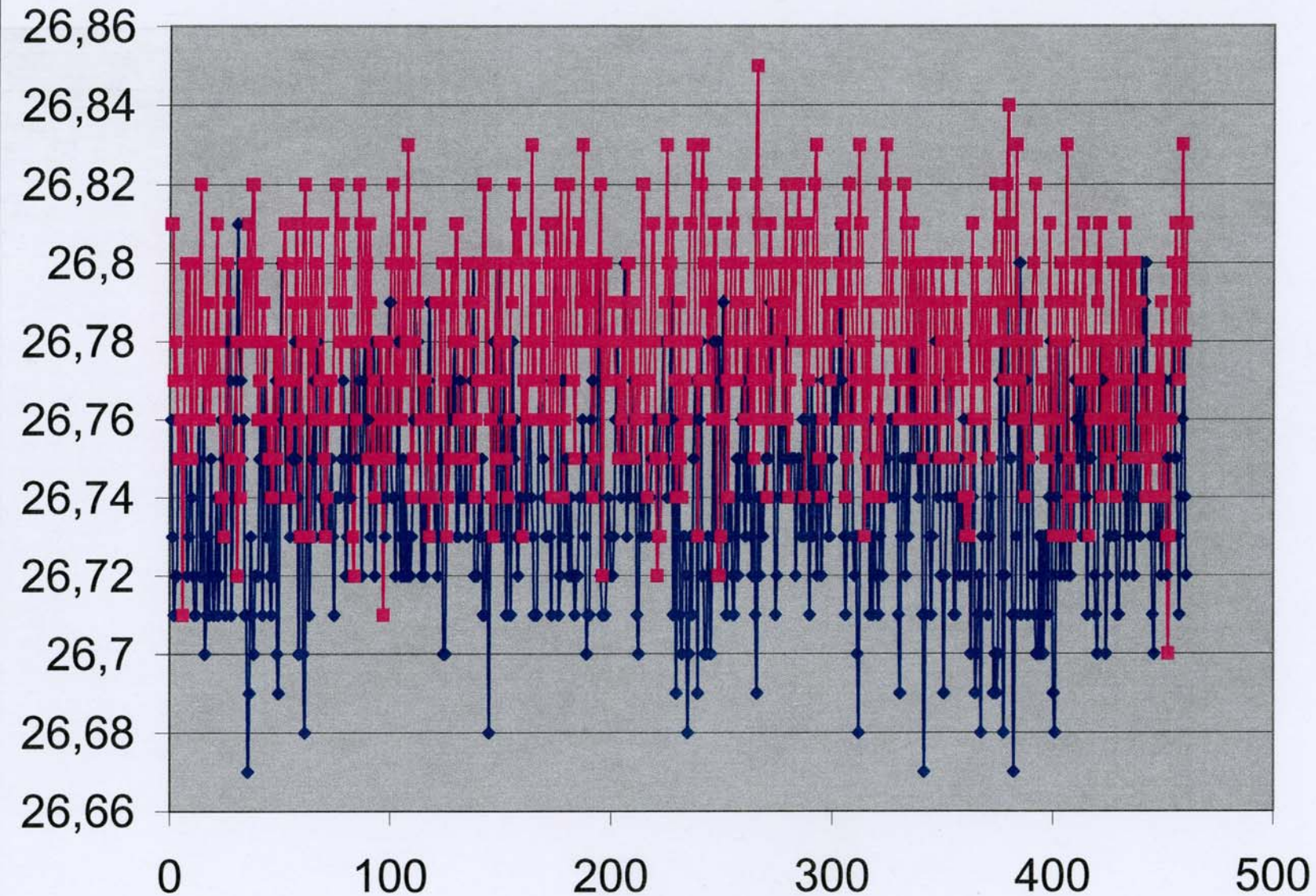
Poor statistics, but results are...

Probes (nr.)	Fall Time Range (s)	<Time> (s)	<T> Water column ($^\circ$ C)	Depth Sippican (m)	Depth H95 (m)	Depth Measured (m)
4 DB	1.1-1.3	1.2	19.0°	7.76	8.03	7.55 ± 0.10
3 DB	2.5-2.7	2.6	22.5°	16.81	17.38	15.30 ± 0.10
6 DB	2.2-2.6	2.4	17.0°	15.52	16.05	15.40 ± 0.10
8 DB	4.1-4.4	4.2	17.7°	27.14	28.05	27.30 ± 0.10
3 DB	4.5-4.7	4.6	21.5°	29.73	30.73	27.60 ± 0.10
3 DB	7.4-7.6	7.5	13.0°	48.42	50.06	47.20 ± 0.20

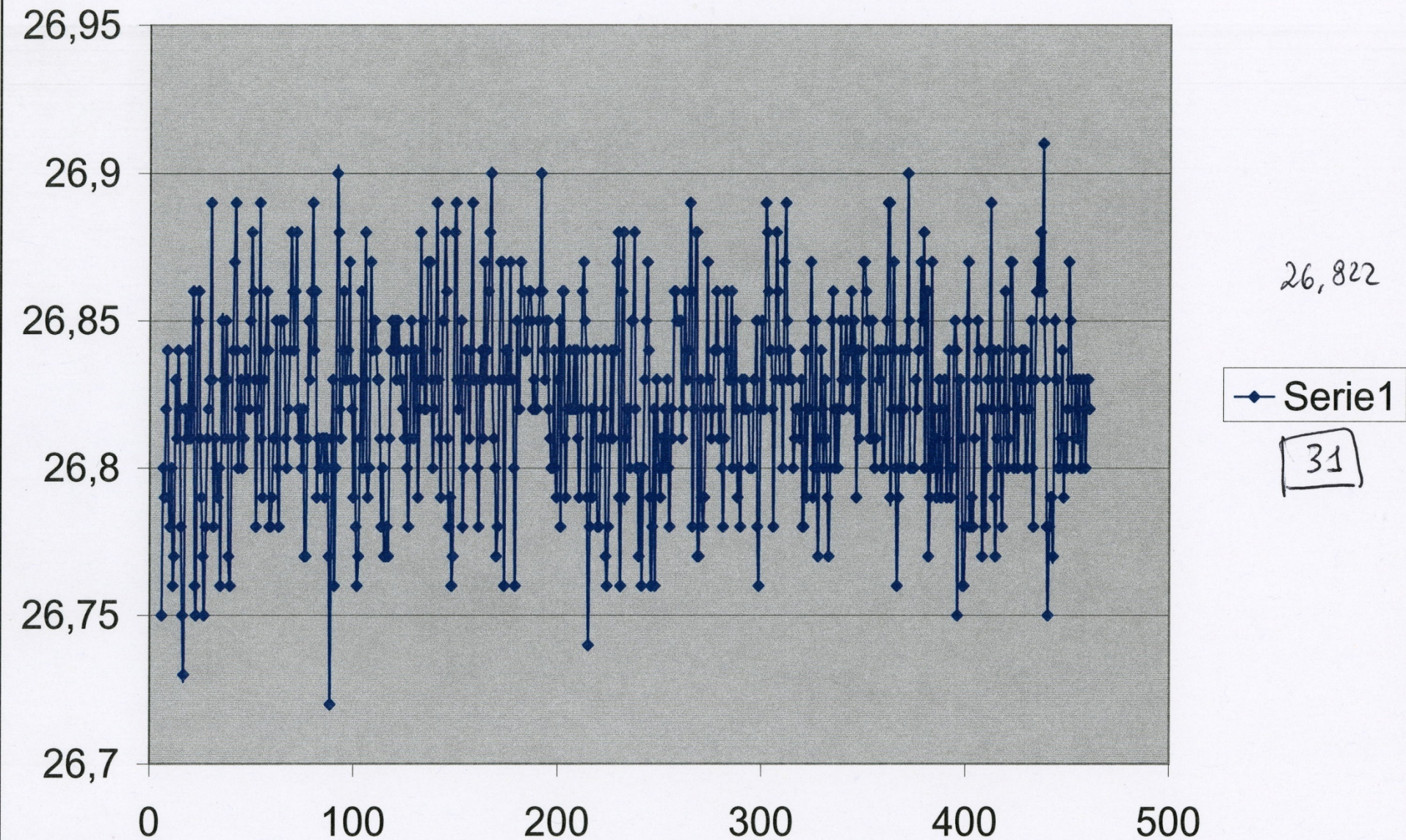
February 2008: different systems ...



Test on MK21

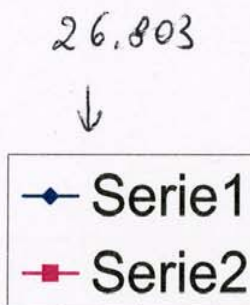
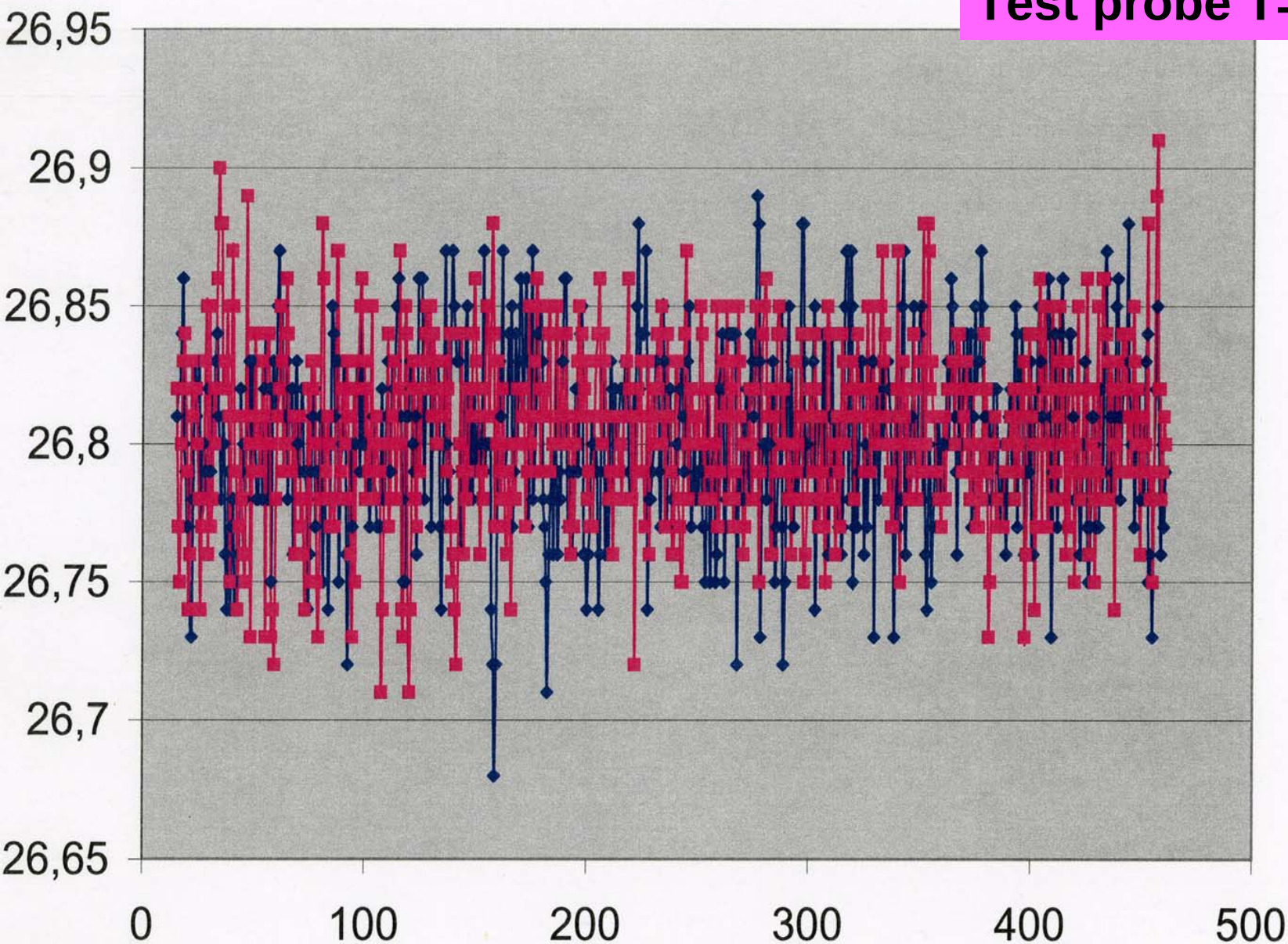


Test on MK21



Test on MK21

Test probe T=26.75°C

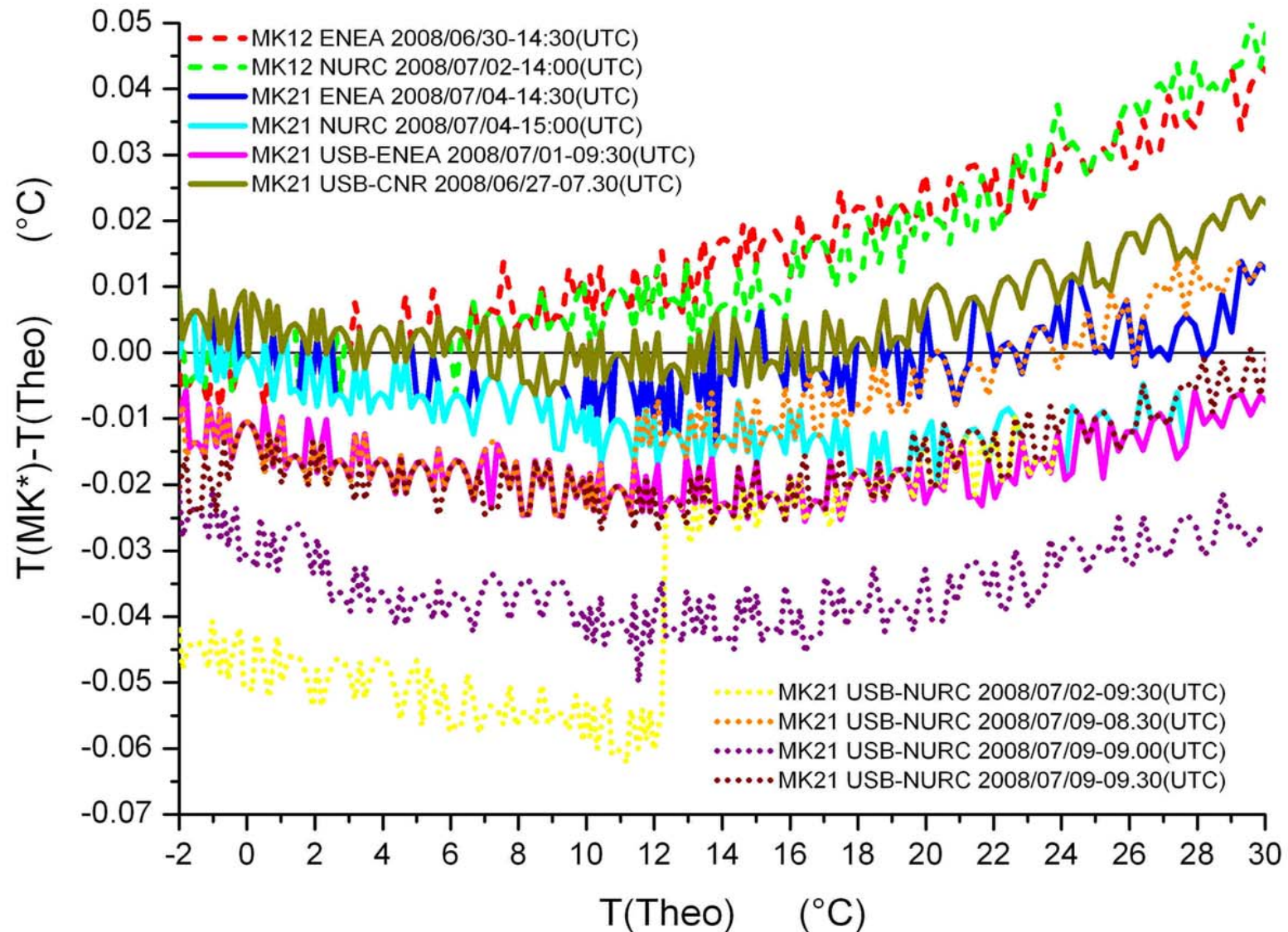


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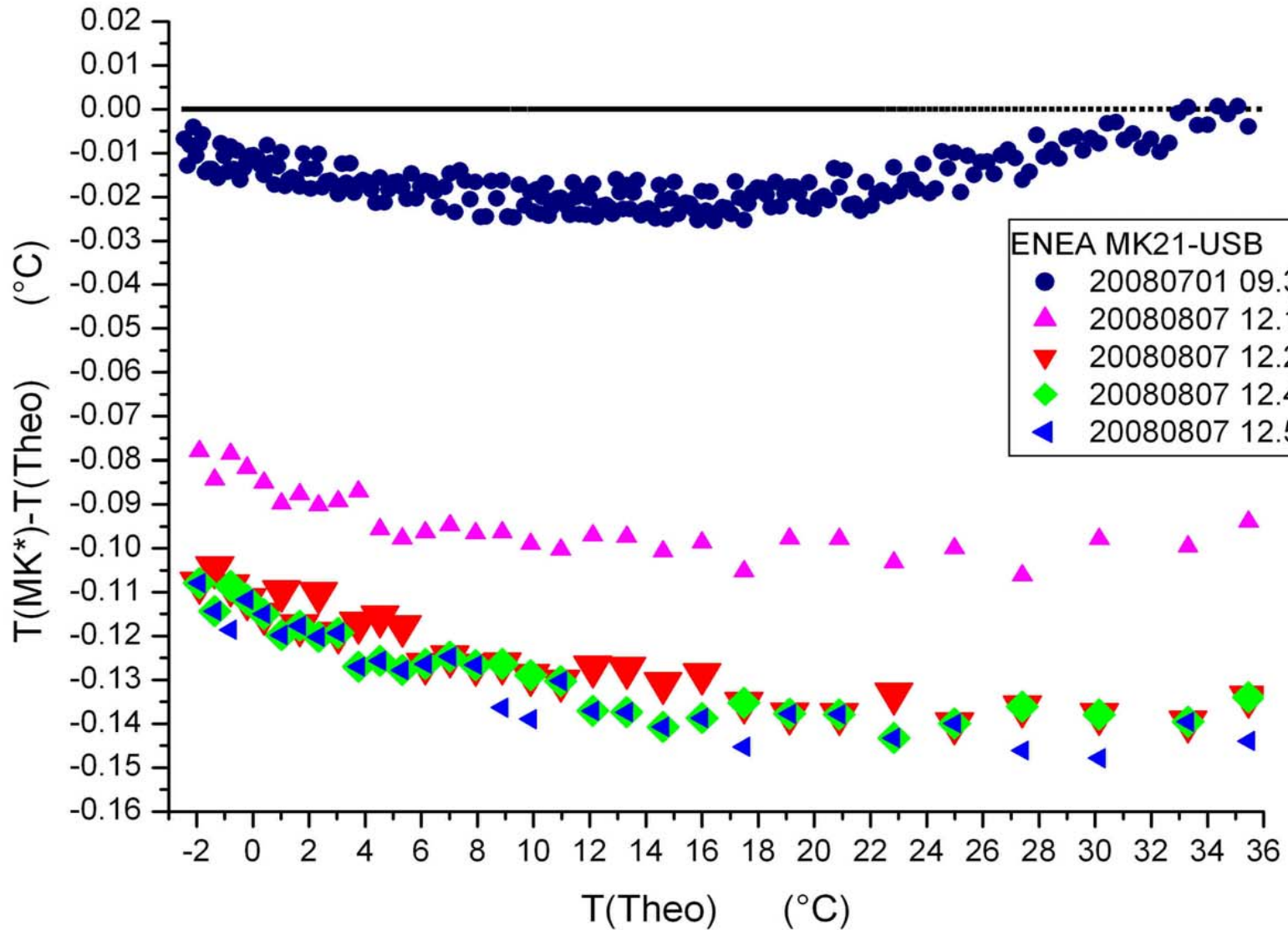


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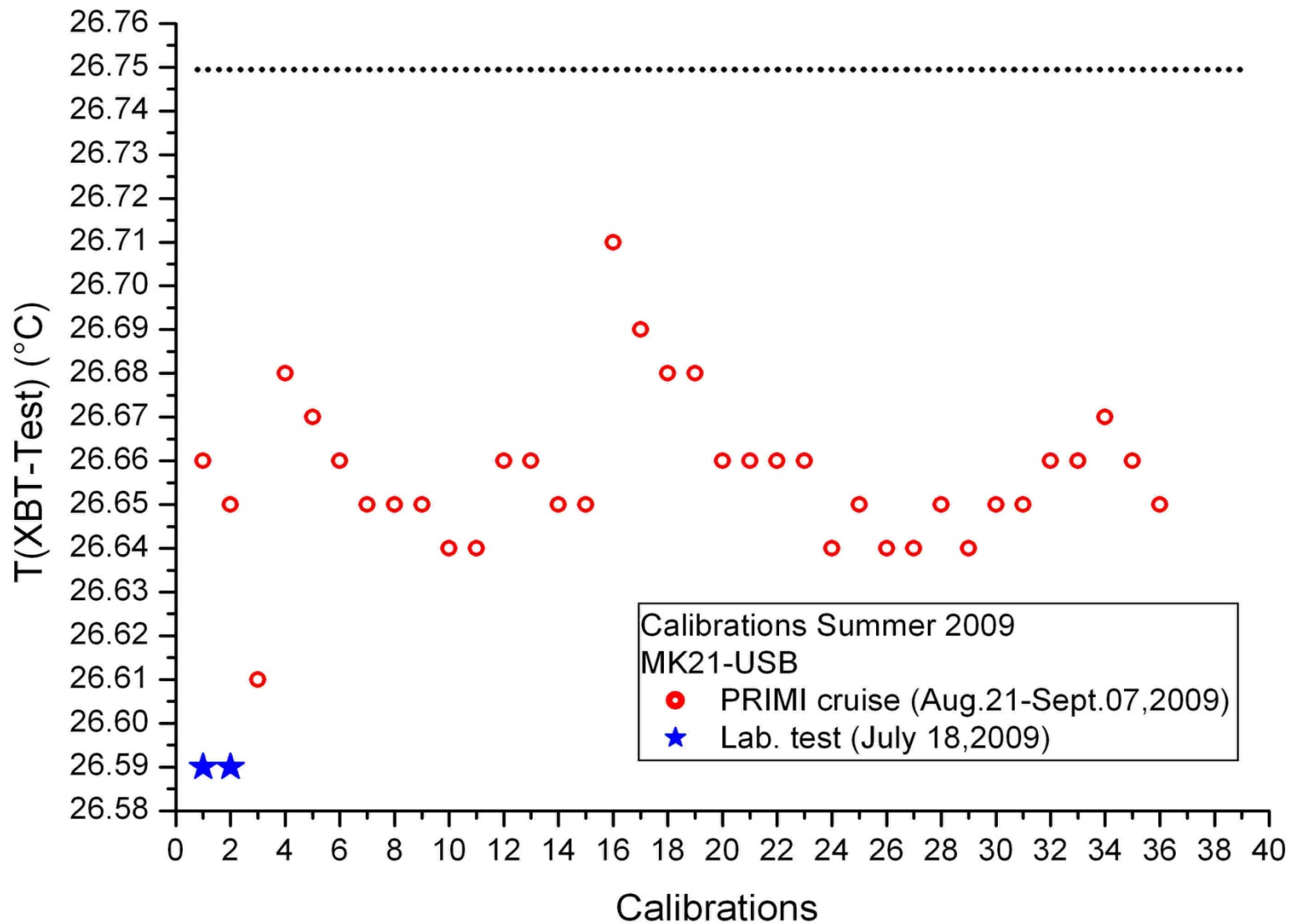
Test on MK21



Test on MK21



Test on MK21



MK21-USB vs. MK150n vs. QUOLL

TEST PROBE (° C)	QUOLL Start cruise	QUOLL End cruise	MK21 USB Start cruise	MK21 USB End cruise	TSK MK150N Start cruise	TSK MK150N End cruise
12.755	12.759 ±0.001	12.760 ±0.002	12.63 ±0.01	12.64 ±0.01	12.751 ±0.001	12.749 ±0.002
27.953	27.955 ±0.001	27.956 ±0.002	27.81 ±0.01	27.84 ±0.01	27.946 ±0.001	27.947 ±0.002

Comparison with ARGO

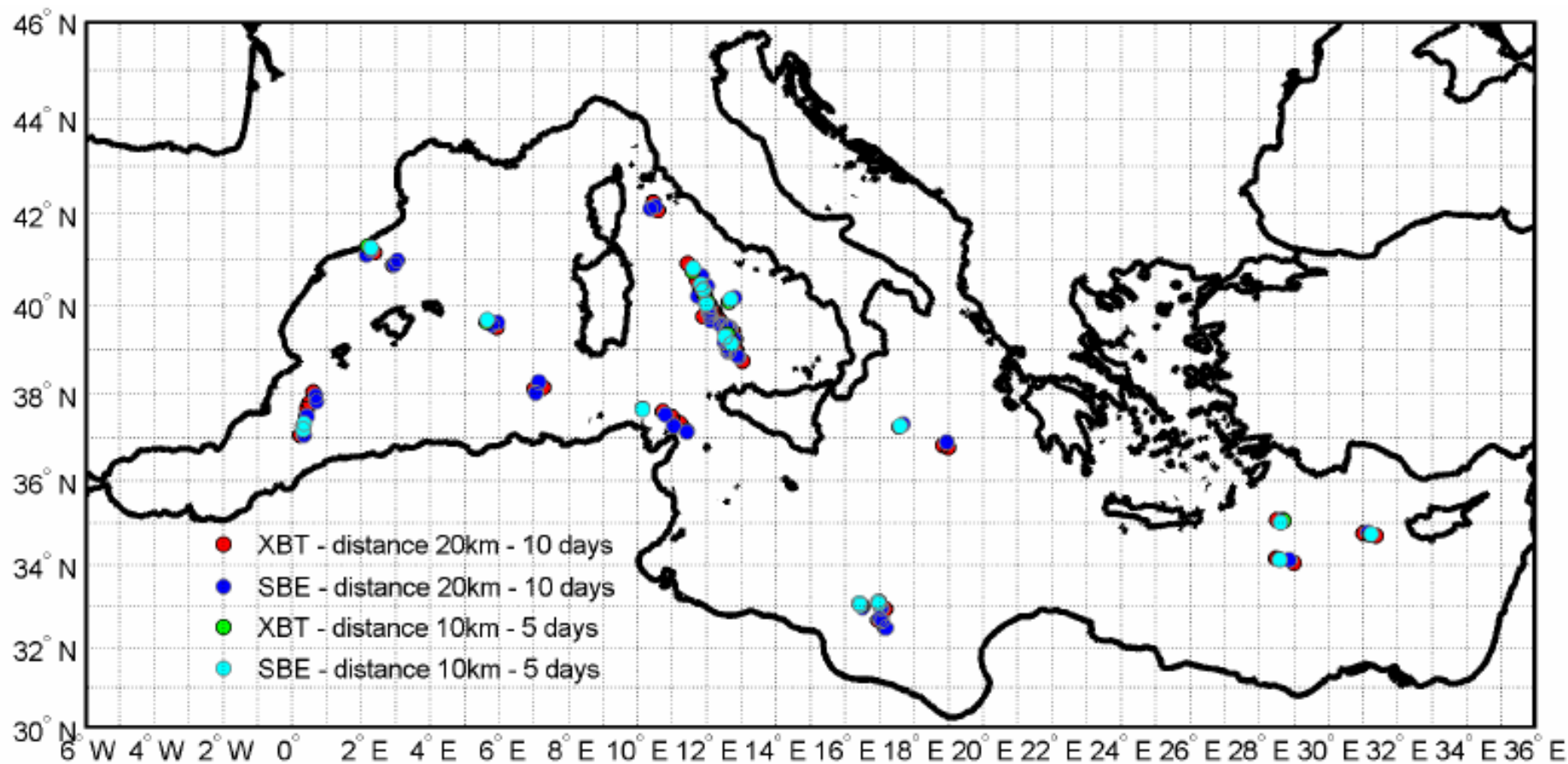
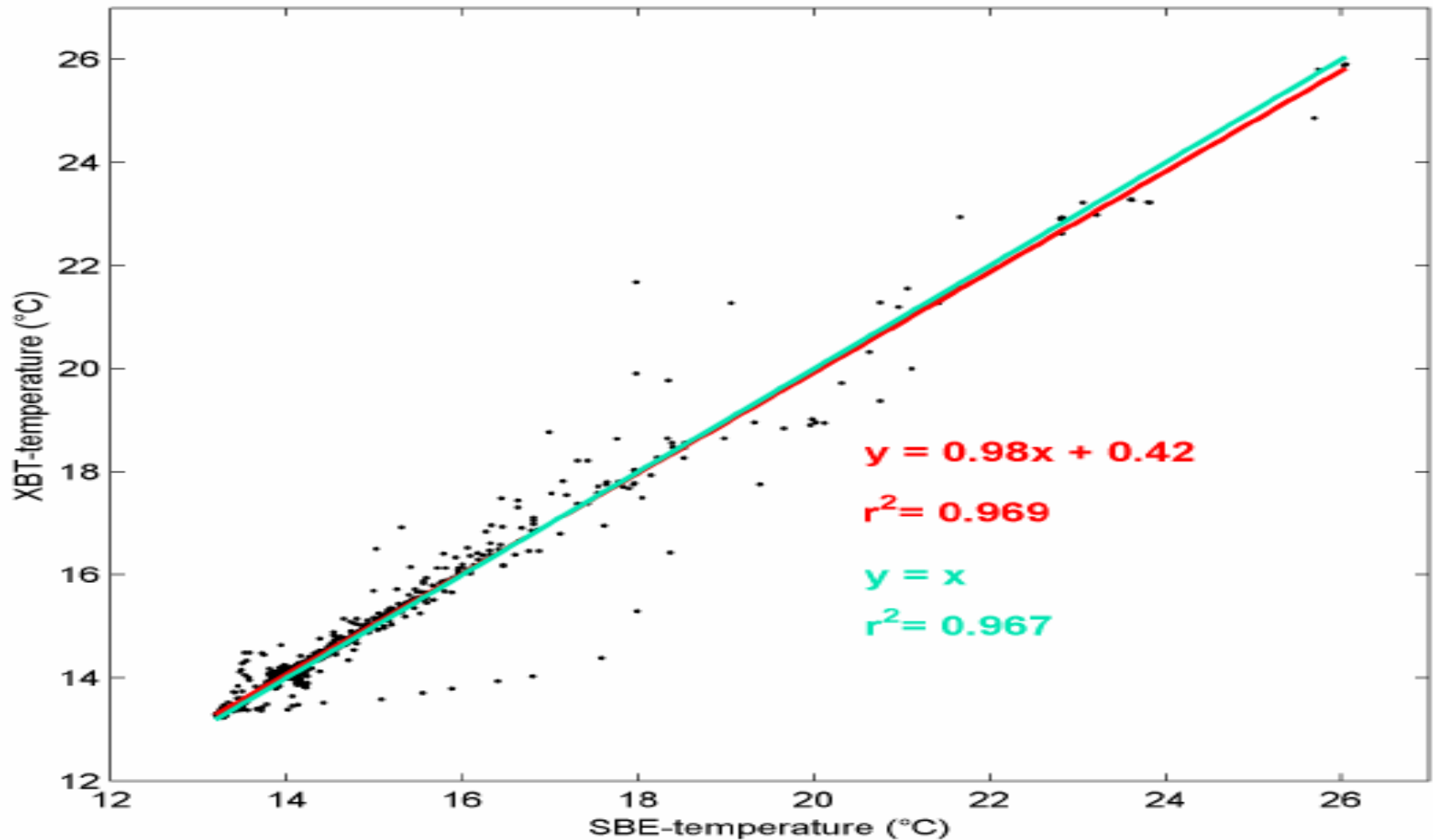


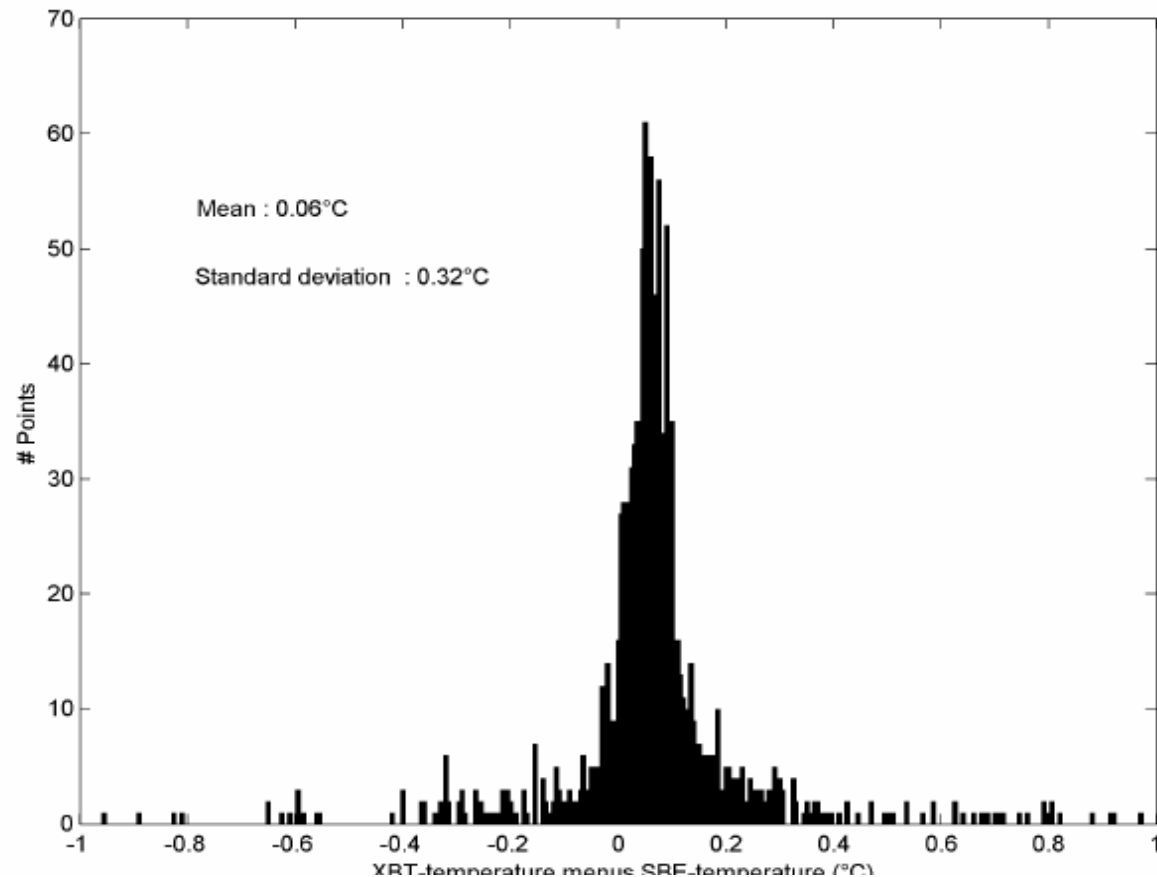
Figure 1: Spatial distribution of the float/XBT pairs considered in the Mediterranean Sea.

Comparison with ARGO



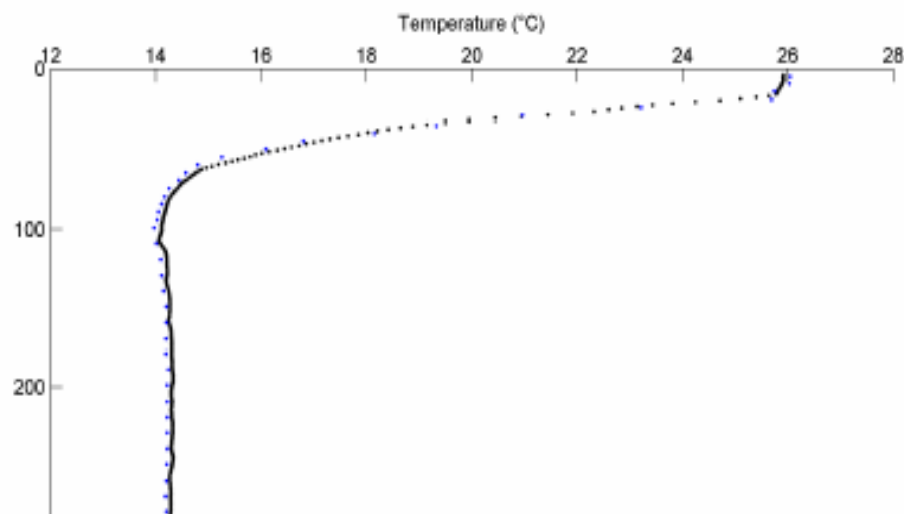
Further details in R.Barbanti-P.M.Poulain, rel 61/2005 OGA 31

Comparison with ARGO

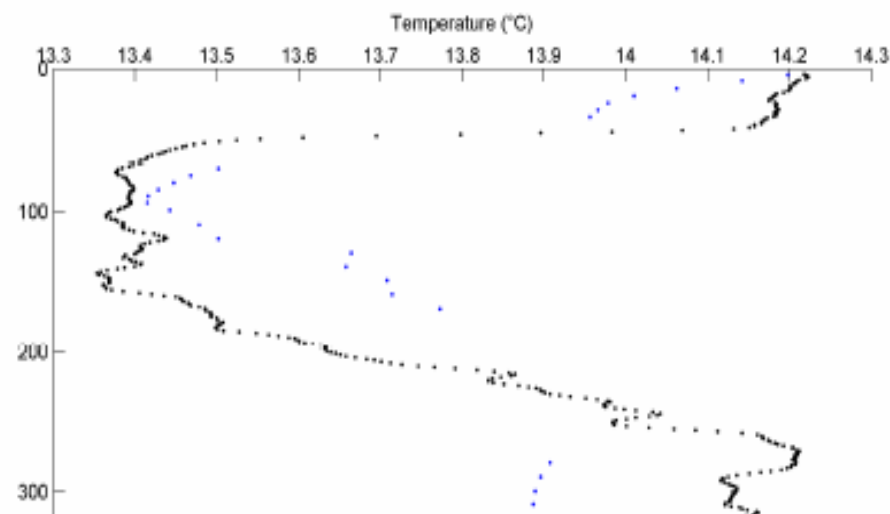


Maximum Separation	Depth (m)	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	500-600	600-700
10km-5days	mean	0.0482	0.0568	0.0435	0.0452	0.0679	0.0751	0.0744
	std	0.5974	0.1598	0.103	0.0837	0.0618	0.0578	0.0527
20km-10days	mean	0.2353	0.0421	0.0334	0.0541	0.0655	0.0578	0.0597
	std	0.8202	0.2321	0.1353	0.091	0.0541	0.0665	0.0793

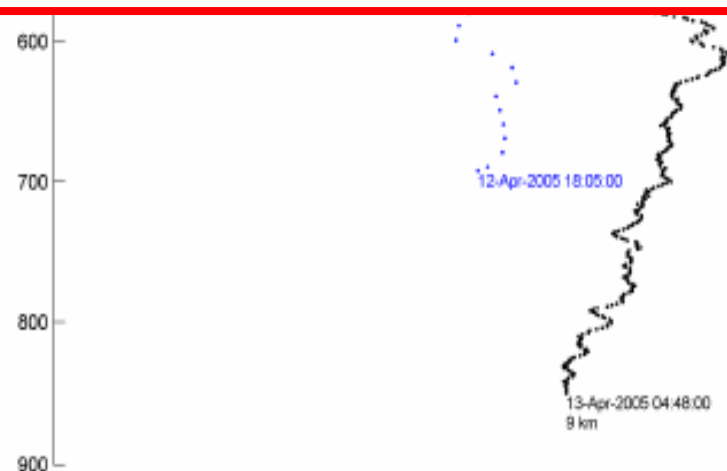
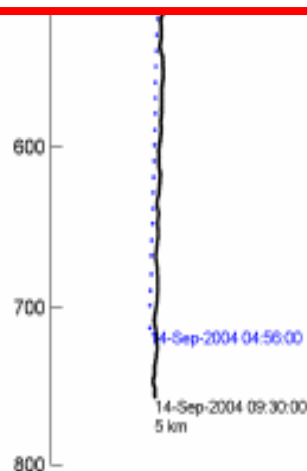
FLOAT: 6900282 cast n°6
LONGITUDE(°): 11.996 LATITUDE(°): 40.039



FLOAT: 6900281 cast n°41
LONGITUDE(°): 11.591 LATITUDE(°): 40.829



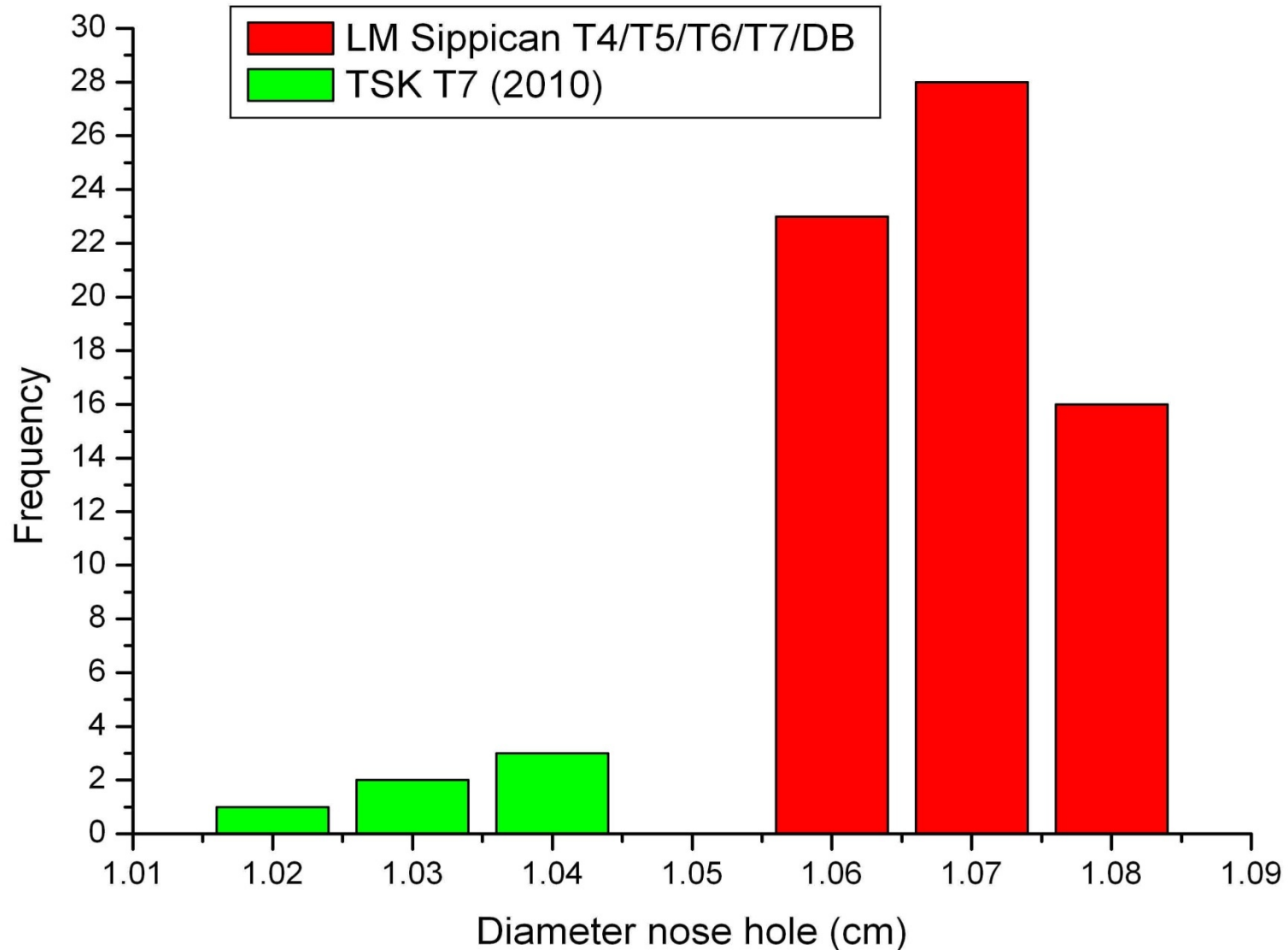
During the period July 2004 to July 2005, almost 7000 pairs of XBT and float CTD temperature measurements were found with distances less than 10 days and 20 km. All these observations were collected as part of the MFSTEP program throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Our statistical analyses reveal that the XBT temperatures obtained with Sippican Deep Blue probes are systematically warmer than the float Sea-Bird CTD readings, but that the offset is generally less than 0.1 °C which is the nominal accuracy of the XBT measurements.



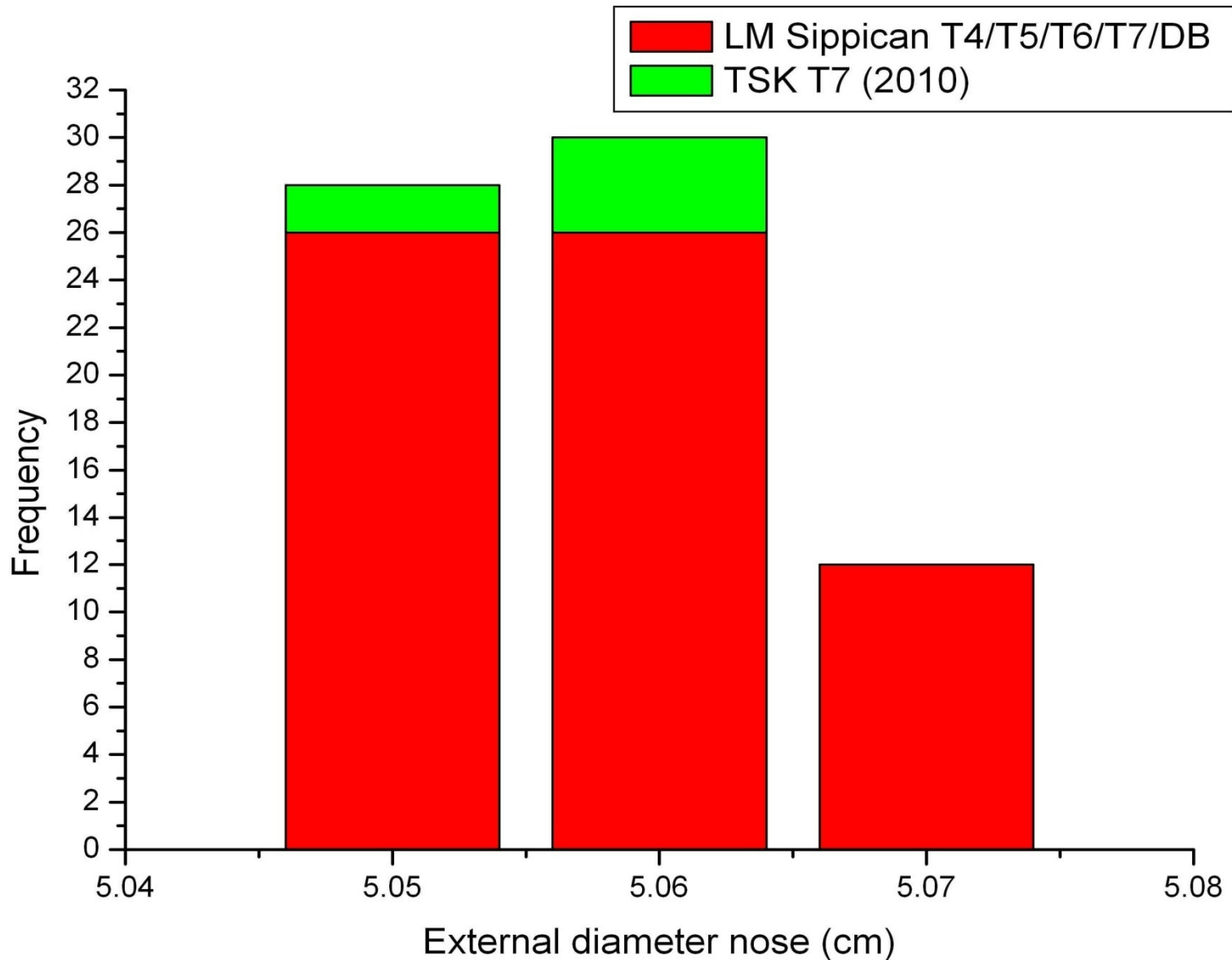
DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)



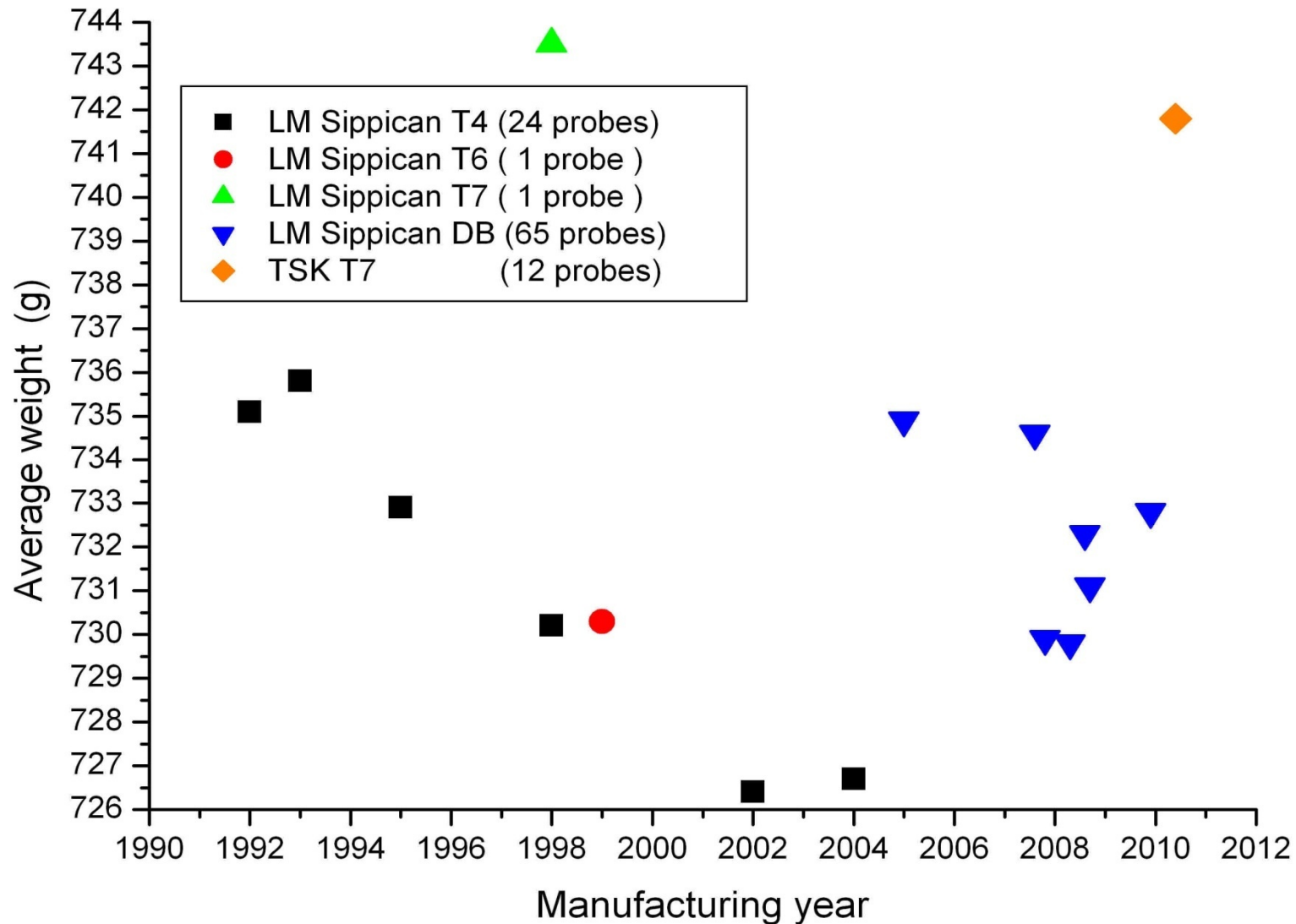
DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)



DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)

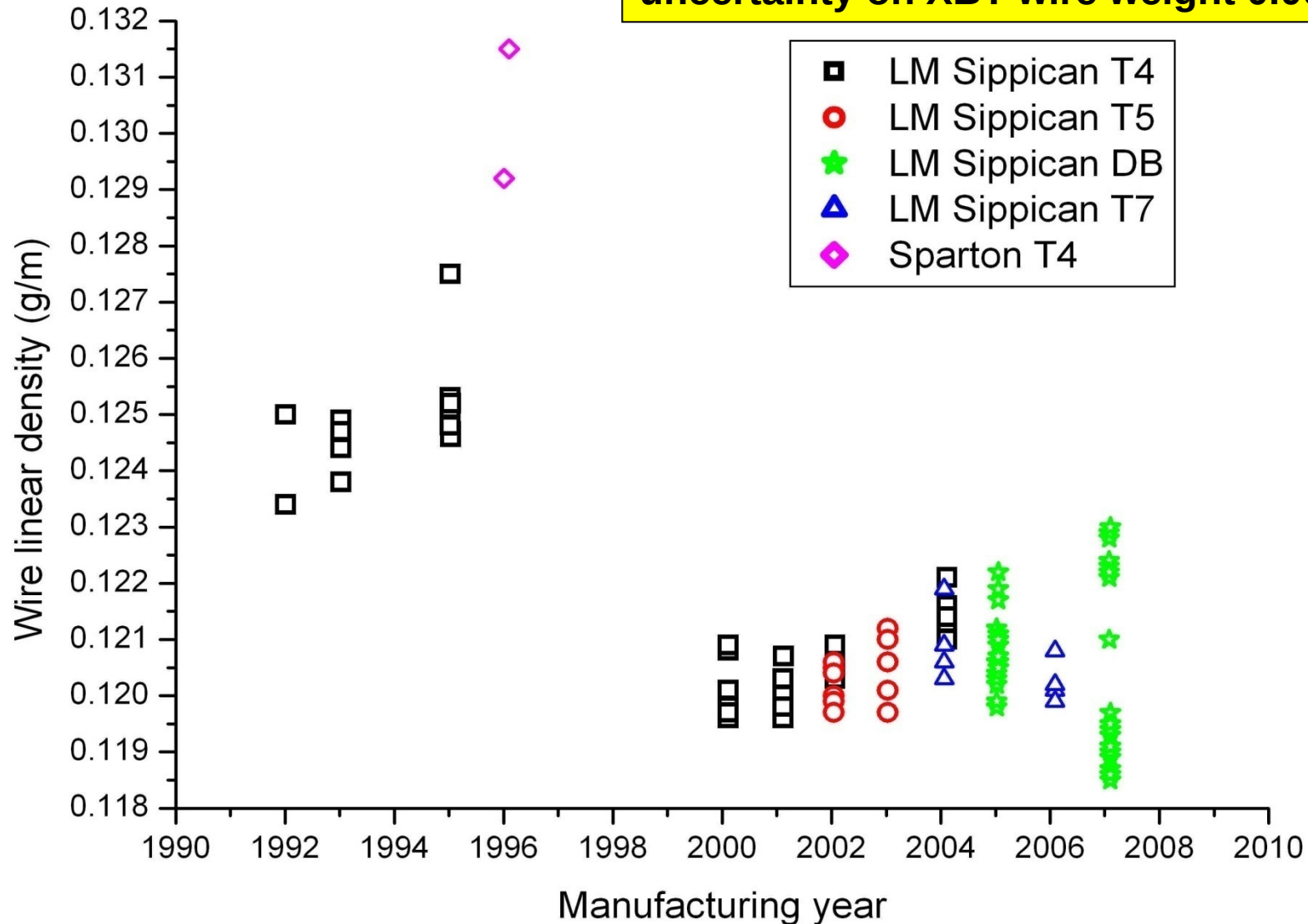


DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)



DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)

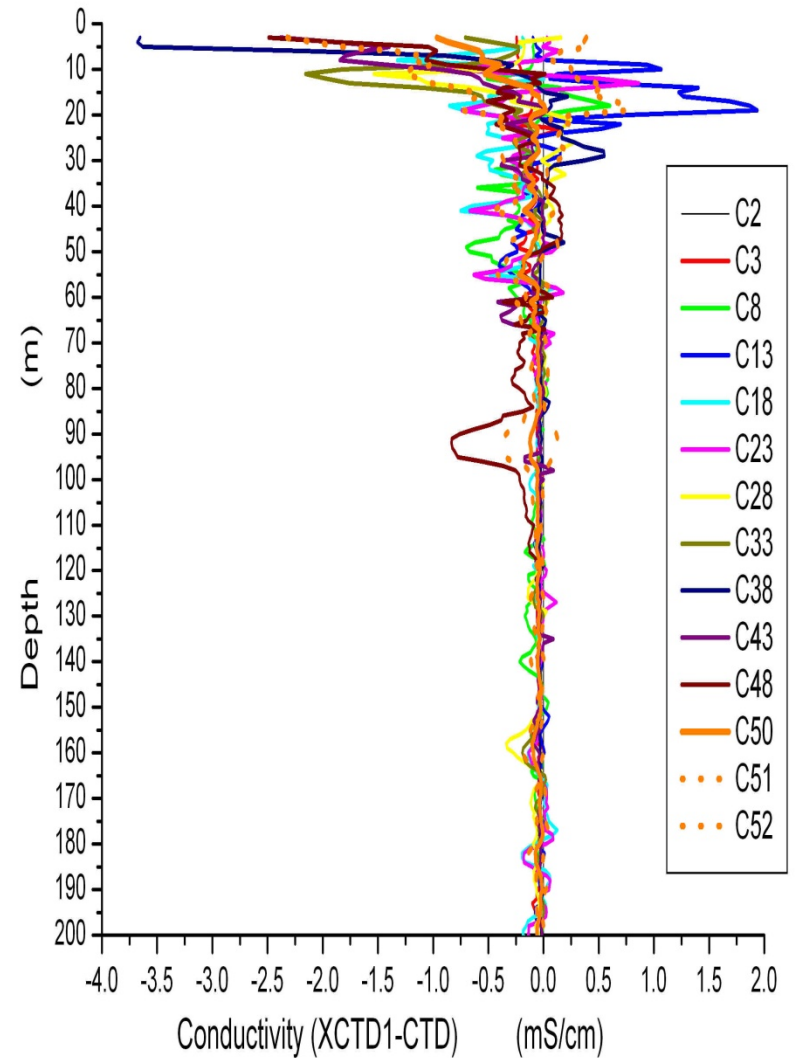
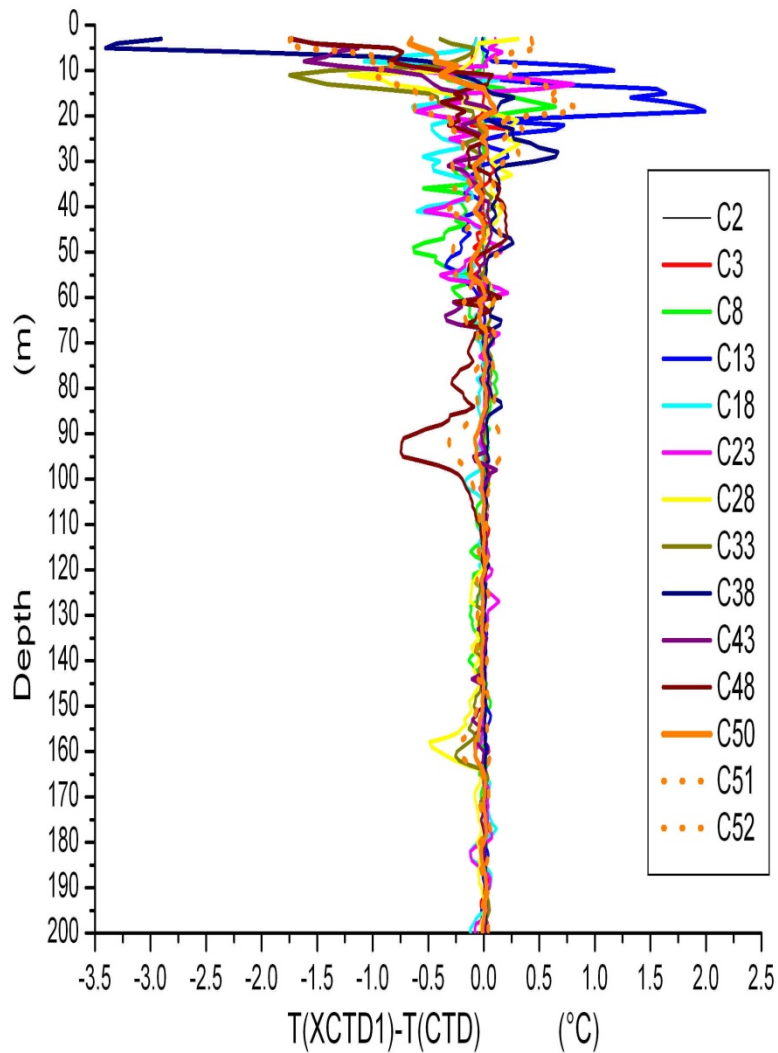
uncertainty on XBT wire length 1 cm/10 m
uncertainty on XBT wire weight 0.002 g/10m



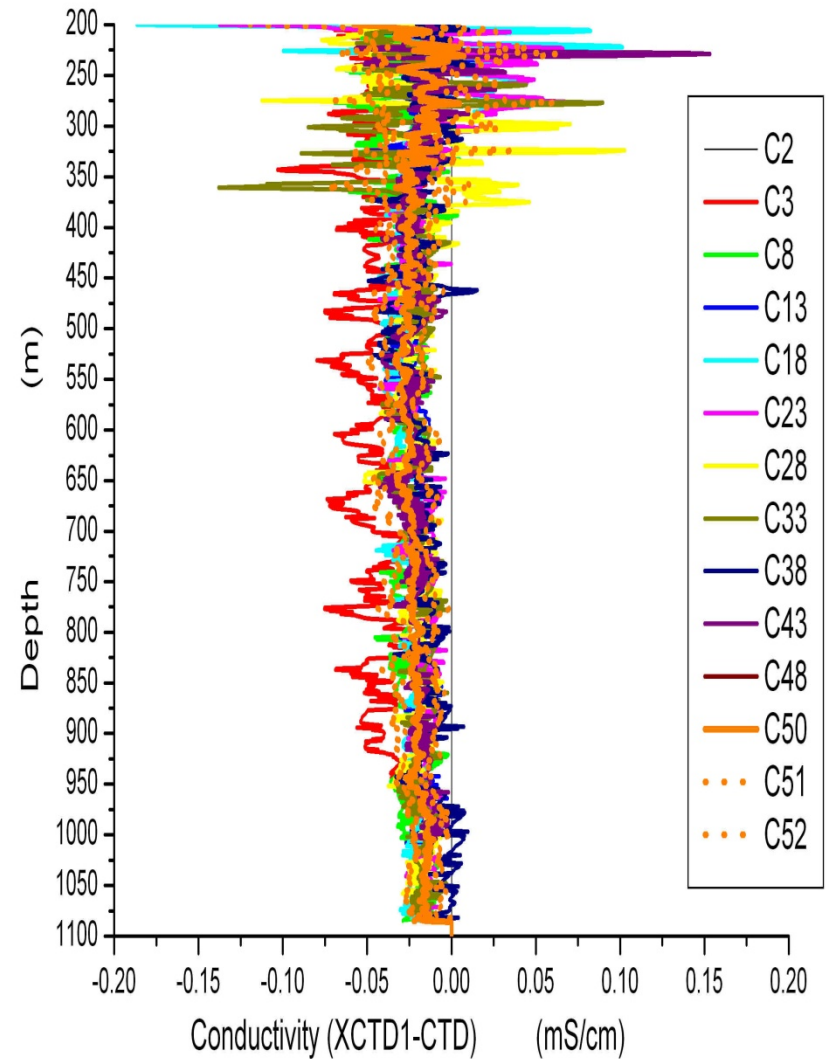
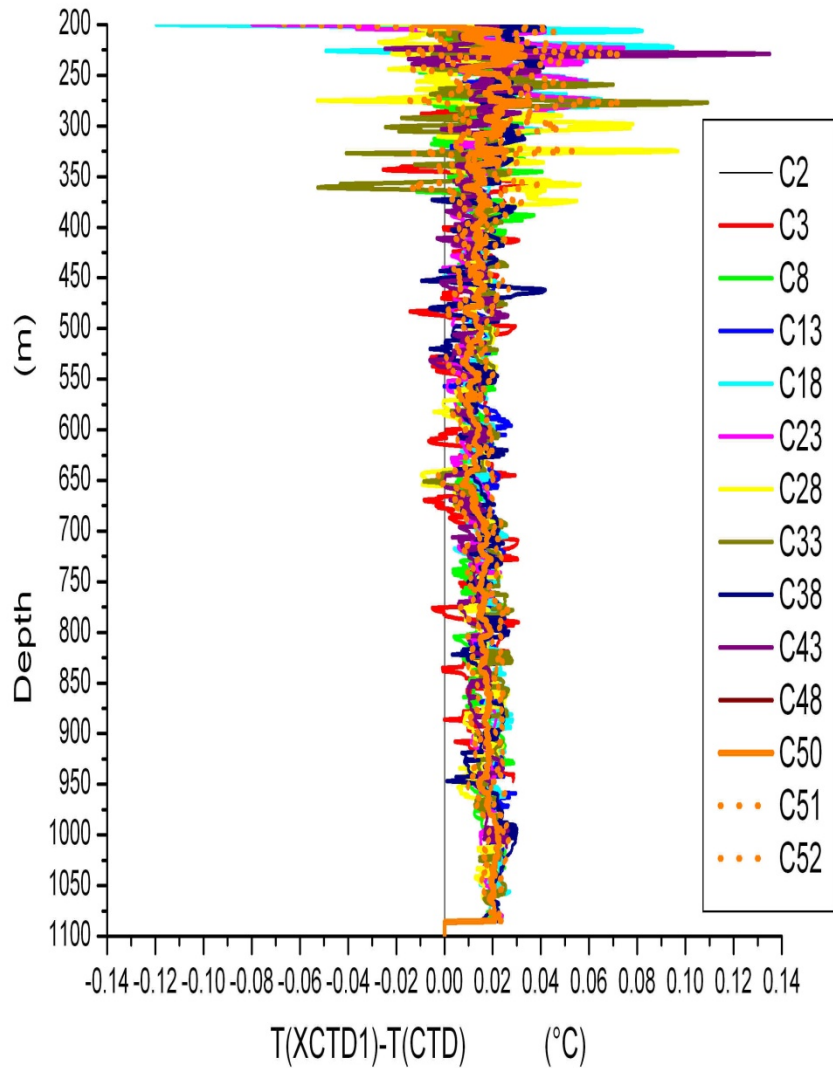
DB Sippican vs. T7 TSK (and vs. itself)



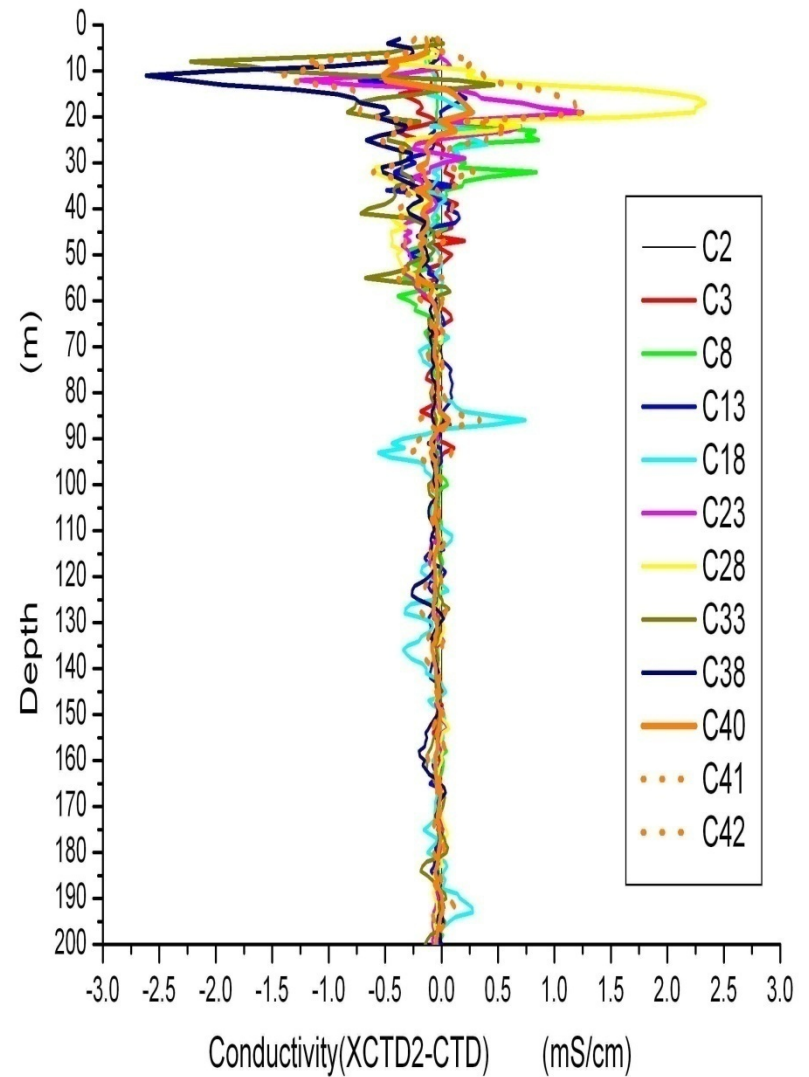
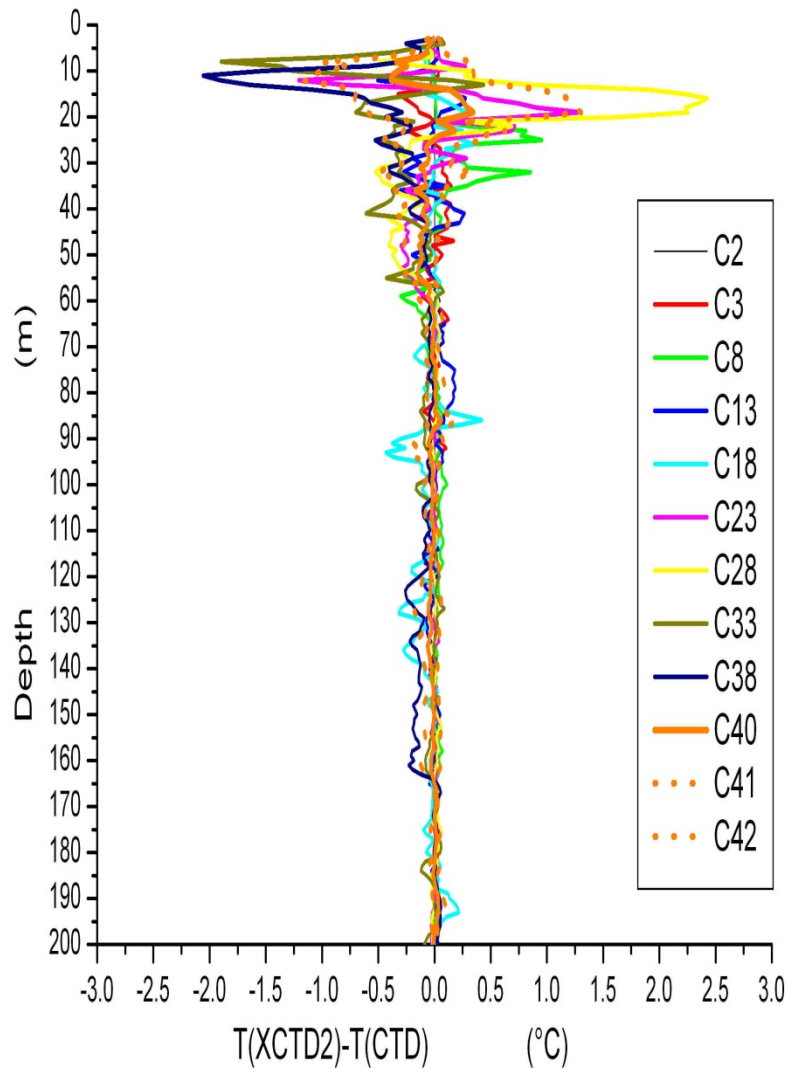
XCTD-1



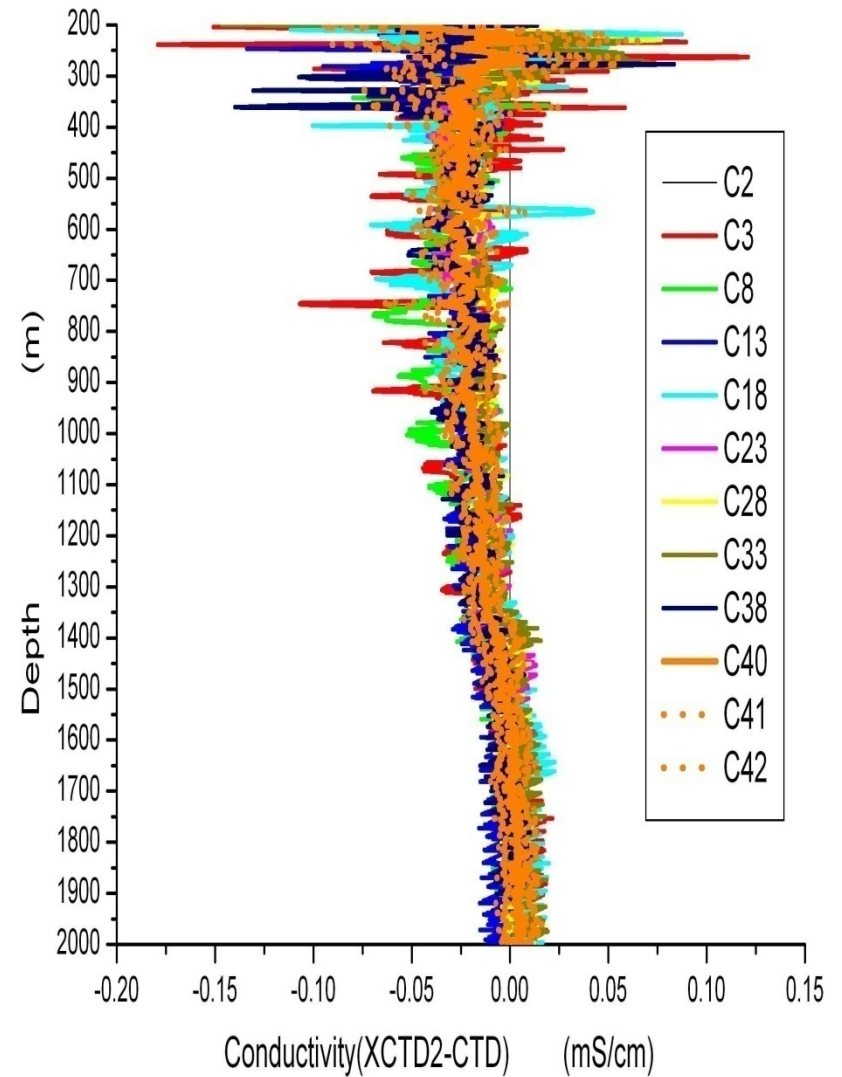
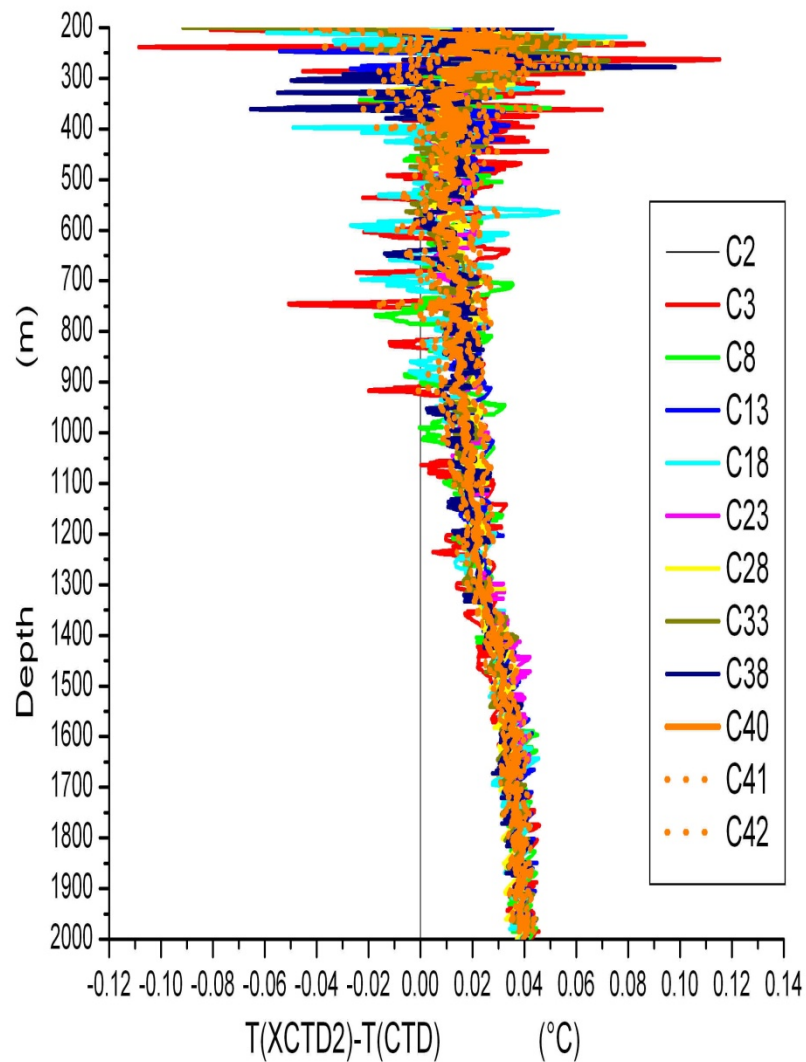
XCTD-1



XCTD-2



XCTD-2





Optimist: sunrise



Pessimist: sunset

**Thank You
very much
for Your
attention**

That's all

ENEA has no funds for operational oceanography activities, and I've no project funding that activity. Moreover, I've used probes for XBT tests, subtracting them from the SOOP activity in Mediterranean Sea. Anyway, my storage room has no more than 70 probes (a mix of DB-T5-T5/20, with the addition of 12 historical T4 probes)