



Retrieval of the precipitable water vapor from shipborne multi-GNSS measurements in tropical cyclone-prone regions of the Northwest Pacific during the summer season in 2021

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Abstract. Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is useful for monitoring atmospheric precipitable water vapor (PWV) content. GNSS observations performed in the ocean are relatively rare, making PWV observations at sea difficult to achieve. We previously retrieved shipborne GNSS PWV in the Northwest Pacific and conducted a comparative study with other observation systems. In this study, we demonstrate that reliable results can be obtained for the shipborne GNSS PWV over the ocean by using observations from similar regions at different times and comparing them with another dataset. To achieve this, we introduce the retrieval and validation of PWV from shipborne GNSS observations conducted aboard the research vessel from July 30 to August 25, 2021, in tropical cyclone-prone regions of the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The shipborne GNSS-derived PWV is validated against three reference datasets - radiosonde, low Earth orbit satellite (MetOp-IASI), and geostationary satellite (GK2A-AMI) - to assess its accuracy and reliability in oceanic environments. The GNSS PWV exhibits good agreement with radiosonde measurements, with a mean bias of -0.94 mm and a root mean square (RMS) of 4.28 mm. In addition, the two variables exhibit a correlation coefficient of 0.80. A comparison between GNSS-derived PWV and PWV obtained from GK2A-AMI observations reveals a minimal mean bias of 0.08 mm, which indicates good agreement. The RMS value between the two datasets is slightly greater than that observed with the radiosonde, reaching 4.83 mm. This comparison yields a correlation coefficient of 0.79. Furthermore, the PWV derived from MetOp-IASI shows a substantial bias of 2.58 mm and a relatively large RMS error of 6.99 mm compared with the GNSS PWV, with a correlation coefficient of 0.71. These results are consistent with previous findings. We suggest that the PWV derived from shipborne GNSS observations in tropical cyclone-prone regions of the Northwest Pacific provides stable and reliable results.



1 Introduction

The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), which includes the Global Positioning System (GPS), Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS), Galileo, BeiDou, and QZSS, is an effective tool for estimating the signal delay caused by water vapor in the troposphere. Bevis et al. (1992) initially derived the precipitable water vapor (PWV) from the analysis of tropospheric delays in data from ground-based GPS networks. Since then, a considerable number of studies on PWV have been conducted using ground GNSS stations (Niell et al., 2001; Wang and Zhang, 2008; He and Liu, 2020). Currently, the international GNSS service (IGS) provides the highest-quality GNSS data, tropospheric products, and services with a global network of more than 500 GNSS ground stations (IGS, 2025). However, there are limitations to monitoring global PWV variation using ground-based continuous operating reference stations.

The ocean covers over 70 percent of Earth's surface. Severe meteorological phenomena such as typhoons originate over the sea. Observing these phenomena requires global surveillance, but most of the GNSS equipment that receives satellite signals is installed on land. On the other hand, GNSS observations made in the ocean are relatively insufficient, making PWV observations challenging to achieve over the sea. In general, the amount of vertically integrated water vapor above the oceans can be retrieved using a microwave radiometer on board meteorological satellites. Satellite-borne sensors have the advantage of being able to make global observations covering a wide area. However, satellite observation provides a relatively low spatial resolution. Also, Earth observation satellites have a long revisit period, the elapsed time between observations of the same point (Kealy et al., 2012; Smith et al., 2019).

Some studies have shown the potential of shipborne GNSS PWV retrieval. The shipborne GNSS-derived PWV is in good agreement with radiosonde observations, which are used as a reference to assess the measurement of atmospheric water vapor. In open oceans, shipborne GPS PWV and radiosonde measurements are shown to agree with a root mean square (RMS) of differences of 2–5 mm (Rocken et al., 2005; Fujita et al., 2008; Kealy et al., 2012; Shoji et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2019). Satellite observations are also an excellent resource for comparing observations made at sea. The produced PWV based on the satellite images provides information close to global coverage with high spatiotemporal resolution. The satellite-based sensors, such as the moderate resolution imaging spectroradiometer (Boniface et al., 2012; Bosser et al., 2021), the atmospheric infrared sounder aboard NASA's Aqua satellite (Sohn et al., 2020), and the calibration microwave radiometer on board the Haiyang-2A satellite (Liu et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2020), have shown accuracy with an RMS of less than 10 mm. The results calculated in the sea are also verified with a numerical weather model. The shipborne GNSS-derived PWV dataset is well coincident with models such as the fifth-generation Penn State/NCAR Mesoscale Model (Fan et al., 2016), the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts fifth reanalysis (Bosser et al., 2021, 2022; Männel et al., 2021; Panetier et al., 2022). It is shown to have RMS differences of less than 10 mm. In addition, the PWV observed by GNSS onboard the vessel has been assimilated for improving the accuracy of precipitation forecasts. Ikuta et al. (2022) investigated that the assimilation of shipborne PWV observations can improve the prediction accuracy of heavy rainfall events, especially precipitation amount and location.



A typhoon is a typical meteorological phenomenon accompanied by heavy rain. The water vapor evaporated from warm ocean water plays an important role in the formation and development of a typhoon. A typhoon is an extremely intense tropical cyclone that occurs over tropical or subtropical waters in the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The national meteorological agency continuously monitors meteorological elements, such as temperature, pressure, humidity, water vapor content, etc., in the formation regions and tracks of tropical cyclones. The Korean peninsula is mainly affected by typhoons in summer and early autumn. The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) reported that about 87% of typhoons that influenced the Korean Peninsula occurred between July and September for the period 1991–2020 (KMA, 2022). In general, typhoons are generated in the region of approximately 110°–160°E and 5°–25°N, and some of them approach the Korean Peninsula via the Philippine Sea and the East China Sea (Park et al., 2006; He et al., 2017; JMA, 2022). He et al. (2017) demonstrated that the increased moisture in the lower troposphere might be more important in driving the unusual increase in the intense typhoon occurrences in September. Kang et al. (2024) also showed that the combination of high ocean heat content of the North Equatorial Current flowing between 8°N and 17°N and low salinity-driven upper-layer stratification makes a rapid intensification of super typhoons. High ocean heat content is strongly associated with elevated atmospheric water vapor levels. Therefore, water vapor plays a critical role in the development and intensification of typhoons.

Sohn et al. (2020) reported on the retrieval of PWV from shipborne GNSS observations in the Northwest Pacific region from August to September 2018 and compared it with other datasets. This study focuses on whether a comparable and stable data quality of the shipborne GNSS PWV can be obtained over different time periods with different other PWV datasets based on previous research. In particular, we aim to show that it is produced stably even in the low-latitude ocean during tropical cyclone-prone periods. The vessel operated in the Northwest Pacific region, the Philippine Sea, for a period similar to that of previous studies. We adopt the GNSS kinematic precise point positioning (PPP) method, which uses dual-frequency data obtained from multi-GNSS measurements onboard the vessel. The shipborne GNSS-derived PWV is validated against three datasets, including ship-launched radiosonde measurements and spaceborne observations from low Earth orbit and geostationary satellites.

2 GNSS configurations and data processing

2.1 GNSS configurations

Shipborne GNSS PWV was estimated from multi-GNSS measurements obtained from a research vessel (R/V) ISABU. The R/V ISABU is an ocean science research vessel operated by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) that conducts operations in the Northwest Pacific region in the second half of every year. This vessel has an overall length of 99.8 meters, a width of 18 meters, and a total weight of 5,894 tons. Although a maritime GNSS antenna has been set up on the mast, the GNSS antenna used for monitoring atmospheric water vapor in this study is additionally installed on a vessel's foremast, as shown in Fig. 1. The measurements are logged on a Trimble NetR9 receiver connected to an Aeroantenna Technology Inc. AT1675 antenna. It can acquire continuous GNSS data with a 30-second sampling interval.



R/V ISABU operated in the Northwest Pacific for scientific research during the period from July 30 to August 25, 2021. The vessel starts its cruise from the port on day of year (DOY) 211 (30 July), and heads southward to the Philippine Sea until DOY 214 (2 August). The marine science experiment lasted 20 days, and then the vessel headed northward until reaching port on DOY 237 (25 August).



Figure 1. The global navigation satellite system (GNSS) antenna and receiver are installed on the foremast of the research vessel ISABU.

2.2 Data processing

This study employs the GNSS kinematic precise point positioning (PPP) method using dual-frequency data from shipborne multi-GNSS measurements. PPP is a positioning technique that provides a high level of position accuracy on a single receiver only. This method can be used to estimate a vessel's precise position and the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere.

To perform kinematic PPP using multi-constellation GNSS, we used a multi-GNSS analysis software (MGAS) developed by the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (Choi et al., 2017, 2018). The kinematic PPP processing options, such as GNSS signals, satellite orbit and clock products, and ionospheric and tropospheric estimation models used in the MGAS are given in Table 1. In the pre-processing stage of the MGAS, it is necessary to select dual-frequency measurements from each navigation satellite system.

The GNSS satellite orbits, clocks and Earth rotation parameters are determined by the IGS final products. To remove the ionospheric delay error, which is considered the largest error, the ionosphere-free (IF) combination is an effective and popular way to eliminate the first order of ionosphere delay in dual-frequency PPP as:

$$\Phi_{IF} = \frac{f_1^2 \Phi_{L1} - f_2^2 \Phi_{L2}}{f_1^2 - f_2^2} \quad (1)$$

where Φ_{IF} is the linear combinations of the phase observables, f_1 and f_2 refer to different frequencies of navigation systems. In Eq. (1), the signals L1 and L2 for GPS and GLONASS are replaced by B1 and B2 for Beidou and E1 and E5a for Galileo, respectively.



The water vapor and dry gases in the troposphere also refract the GNSS signals. The tropospheric delay is difficult to estimate from GNSS measurements, so users have to resort to models to correct it. In this study, the Saastamoinen model (Saastamoinen, 1973) based on meteorological parameters is applied in Eq. (2). The meteorological information, such as the pressures of the dry gases and water vapor and the temperature, is estimated using the global pressure and temperature 2 (GPT2) model developed by Lagler et al. (2013). The tropospheric delay is the product of the zenith delay and the corresponding mapping function. We deploy a modified tropospheric projection function called the global mapping function (Boehm et al., 2006). In addition, the model is designed to estimate a horizontal tropospheric gradient component to improve the accuracy of the wet delay (Saastamoinen, 1973).

$$d_{trop} = \frac{0.002277}{\cos z} \left[P_s + \left(\frac{1255}{T} + 0.05 \right) e - B \tan^2 z \right] + \delta R \quad (2)$$

where z denotes the zenith angle of the satellite, P_s and e are the surface atmospheric pressure and the partial water vapor are given in millibars, T is the temperature in degrees Kelvin, and B and δR are correction quantities.

Table 1. Models and methods considered for multi-GNSS kinematic PPP processing

Item	Models/Methods
GNSS signal	GPS(L1,L2), GLONASS(L1,L2),Galileo(E1,E5a), BeiDou(B1,B2)
Sampling rate	30 sec
Elevation cutoff	10°
GNSS satellite orbit and clock	IGS final products
Earth rotation parameters	IGS final products
Solid Earth tide	IERS conventions 2010
Ocean tide	
Pole tide	
Satellite PCO/PCV	IGS14.atx
Receiver PCO/PCV	IGS14.atx
Receiver clock	Estimated by the Gauss-Markov model
Phase wind-up	Wu et al. (1993)
Ionospheric delay	Eliminated by the ionosphere-free linear combination
Tropospheric delay	Estimated with zenith wet delay, tropospheric gradient component
Tropospheric mapping function	Global mapping function
Meteorological information	GPT2 model
Ambiguity	Float solutions



2.3 Precipitable water vapor (PWV)

The PWV is equivalent to the volume per unit area of liquid water under standard atmosphere when all of the water vapor contained in a vertical column of air per unit cross-section from the surface of the Earth to the top of the atmosphere is condensed and precipitated.

The tropospheric delay can be separated into a dry component (zenith hydrostatic delay, ZHD) and a wet component (zenith wet delay, ZWD) (Davis et al., 1985). ZHD is assimilated to a hydrostatic model as follows:

$$ZHD = \frac{0.0022768 P_s}{1 - 0.00266 \cos(2\phi) - 0.00028 H} \quad (3)$$

where P_s is the total pressure at the Earth's surface in millibars, ϕ is the geodetic latitude, and H is the height of the station on the ellipsoid in kilometres (Elgered et al., 1991). ZWD is computed as the difference between the total tropospheric delay and ZHD. Then, PWV can be written as

$$PWV = 10^6 \cdot \left[\rho \cdot R_w \cdot \left(\frac{3.739 \times 10^5}{T_m} + 22.1 \right) \right]^{-1} \cdot ZWD \quad (4)$$

where ρ is the liquid water density, R_w represents the gas constant for water vapor, and T_m refers to the mean weighted temperature of the atmosphere (Davis et al., 1985; Bevis et al., 1994).

3 Shipborne GNSS PWV

3.1 PWV at anchorage

Before evaluating the GNSS-derived PWV obtained from kinematic PPP in the ocean, we compare it with the PWVs calculated from nearby GNSS ground stations when the vessel is at anchor. The shipborne and ground-based GNSS data were used from DOY 209 to 210, immediately preceding the vessel's departure.

Figure 2a shows the distribution of the R/V ISABU and two nearby GNSS ground stations. The separation distances between the anchored vessel and CHWN and GOSG stations are 27 and 34 km, respectively. Figure 2b presents the PWV time series for two days. The shipborne PWV from kinematic PPP shows good agreement, with the ground-based PWV derived from two stations, exhibiting a mean difference of 0.6–1.8 mm and an RMS of 2.1–2.9 mm.

A slight difference can be attributed mainly to temperature and humidity differences, as well as the geographical location of the two regions (Rahman et al., 2025). Several studies have also demonstrated that the difference in PWV between the shipborne and ground-based datasets is less than 3 mm in terms of RMS (Bossier et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2022). Our results showed that the reliability of shipborne GNSS PWV was verified by comparing it with ground-based GNSS PWV.

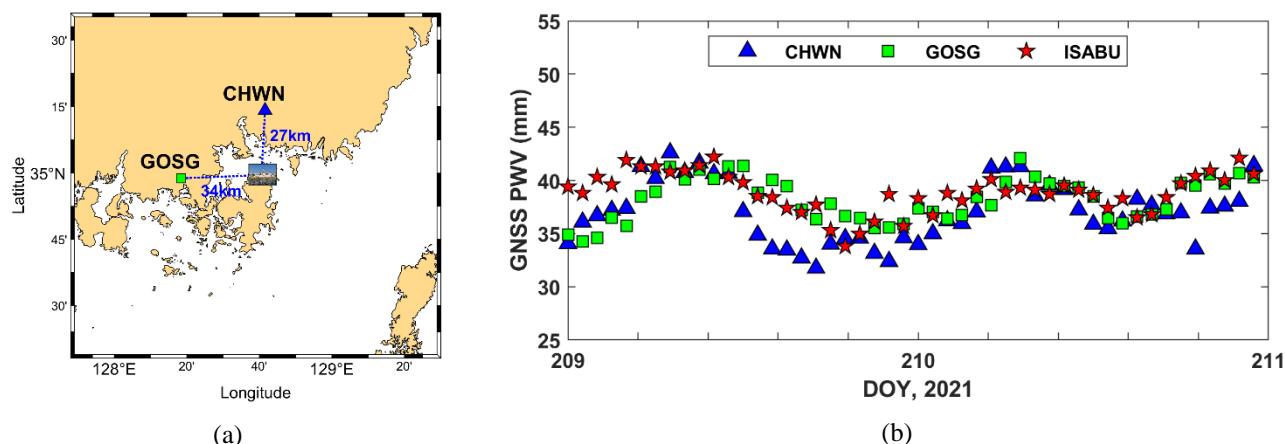


Figure 2. PWV from GNSS ground stations and R/V ISABU. (a) The distribution of two GNSS ground stations (CHWN and GOSG) and R/V ISABU. (b) The time series of PWV was derived from the CHWN, GOSG, and R/V ISABU from DOY 209 to 210, 2021.

3.2 PWV time variation in the ocean

The R/V ISABU was operated for 27 days in the period DOY 211 through 237 to conduct marine science experiments. During this period, the vessel sailed from the Korean Peninsula to the Philippine Sea. The tropospheric precipitable water vapor was estimated along the path of the vessel movement.

Figure 3 shows the vessel trajectory with GNSS PWV during the campaign. The vessel departs on DOY 211 and sails south for about three days, arriving in the Philippine Sea on DOY 214 at about 21°N in latitude. It slowly moves toward the equator for about 17 days while the vessel moves between 126.5 and 133.5°E in longitude. On DOY 231, it turns in the Philippine Sea region at about 16°N in latitude and returns to heading north for about seven days. The R/V ISABU returned to its home port on DOY 237.

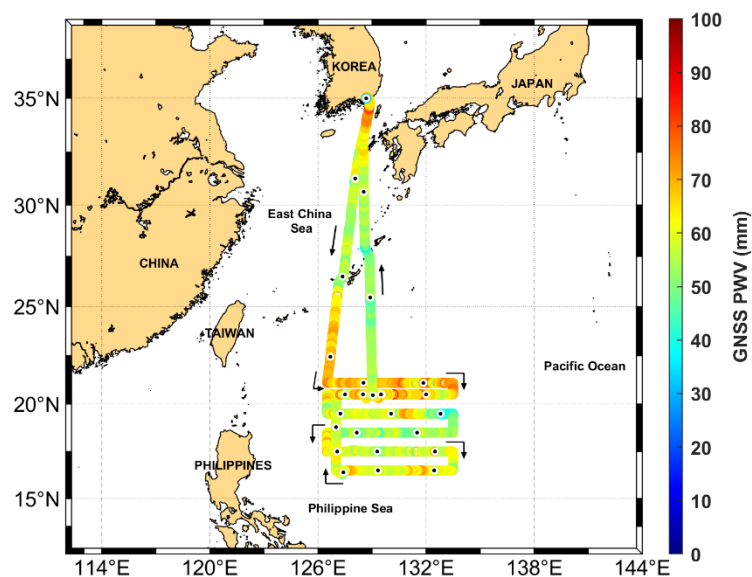


Figure 3. R/V ISABU trajectory with GNSS PWV for 27 days. The black dot on the white circle on the trajectory indicates the starting point of the day. The black arrows indicate the vessel's direction of travel.

175 The shipborne GNSS PWV time series is shown in Fig. 4, as well as the frequency of PWV bins. The PWV values vary from
 30 to 90 mm in range over the entire cruise. The estimated PWV range of 30–40 mm accounts for approximately 2.2%, 40–50
 mm for 5.1%, 50–60 mm for 43.6%, 60–70 mm for 39.4%, and 70–80 mm for 9.5%. The measurement range of 50–60 mm
 has the highest occurrence frequency. Rivera et al. (2021) showed that the monthly mean variation of PWV in the northern
 Philippines area during the summer season (June–August) was 50–60 mm using radiosondes from 2012 to 2019. Our results
 180 tended to be in good agreement with Rivera's results.

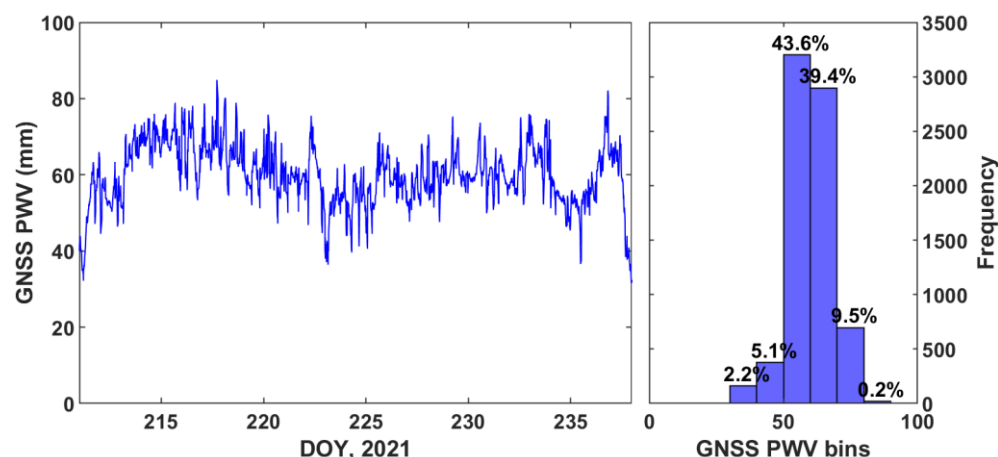


Figure 4. Shipborne GNSS PWV time series for the 27 days from DOY 211 (July 30) to DOY 237 (August 25).



4 Results

185 4.1 Comparison to radiosonde observations

The shipborne GNSS PWV was evaluated using the ship-launched radiosonde observation (RAOB) profiles. Figure 5a shows a radiosonde balloon being launched from a vessel. The radiosonde model is the Vaisala RS41-SG, which is attached to a balloon and measures altitude, temperature, air pressure, relative humidity, dew point temperature, and winds vertically. The R/V ISABU had conducted 2–5 radiosonde observations per day over the ocean.

190 PWV can be calculated along the path of the sounding balloon as follows (Bock et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2013):

$$PWV = \frac{1}{g} \int_{P1}^{P2} \left(\frac{621.97e}{P-e} \right) dP \quad (5)$$

where g is the gravitational acceleration ($g=9.80665 \text{ m/s}^2$); $P1$ and $P2$ are atmospheric pressure in the lower and upper layer (units: hPa); P is air pressure; and e is the actual water vapor pressure. Actual water vapor pressure can be computed from dewpoint temperature (T_d) in degrees Celsius using the equation derived from (Bolton, 1980):

$$195 \quad e = 6.112 \times \exp \left(\frac{17.67 T_d}{T_d + 243.5} \right) \quad (6)$$

A typical radiosonde observation can last about two hours. We compared the shipborne GNSS PWV values with the ship-launched radiosonde at the radiosonde launching time. Wu et al. (2022) stated that the largest difference in RMS of PWV estimated at 30-minute time intervals from 30 to 120 minutes was only 0.2 mm, indicating that PWV values were relatively stable within 2 hours. In addition, a balloon can rise to approximately 30 km above the Earth's surface and drift more than 300
200 km from its release point. So, some of the received radiosonde observations are inaccurate due to signal loss. Such data can significantly affect the comparison of PWVs between two different observations. Therefore, we removed a few data points with a signal loss from the radiosonde.

The comparison between GNSS-derived PWV and radiosonde PWV is shown in Fig. 5b. The scatter plot shows a comparative analysis between GNSS PWV and RAOB PWV, and includes quantitative evaluations of the agreement between the two
205 measurement methods. A total of 50 pairs are analysed. In the figure, the main statistical analysis results, including the linear relationship, correlation coefficient, mean, standard deviation (STD), and RMS error for the two datasets, are presented. The linear regression indicated by the thick red line represents the best-fit relationship between the two variables. The red trend line is close to the black dotted reference line ($y = x$).

The mean bias is -0.94 mm , suggesting that GNSS PWV underestimates RAOB PWV on average by nearly 1 mm. The STD
210 and RMS values of differences between the two datasets are 4.22 and 4.28 mm. These demonstrate that the GNSS method provides consistent and reasonably accurate measurements when compared to RAOB.

The correlation coefficient generated by the Pearson correlation model is 0.80, indicating a very strong positive relationship between the two variables. While the two datasets exhibit substantial agreement, minor discrepancies are still present, likely



attributable to differences in measurement techniques and temporal or spatial mismatches. The slope and intercept of the fitted
 215 line are 0.88 and 6.32, respectively. This reveals that GNSS PWV values are slightly underestimated compared to RAOB
 values, but there's a positive intercept, suggesting GNSS measurements start slightly higher overall.

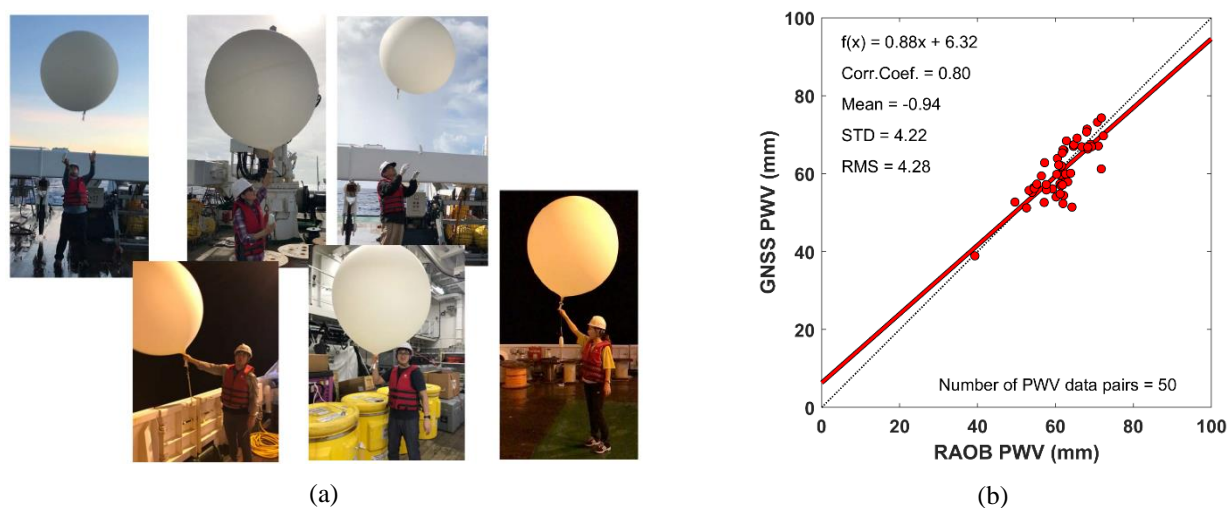


Figure 5. Comparison of shipborne GNSS PWV against ship-launched radiosonde observations (RAOB) PWV. (a) Launching a radiosonde
 balloon on the vessel (Source: Kwon et al., 2019). (b) Scatter diagram of shipborne GNSS PWV and RAOB PWV. The legend displays the
 220 equation for a linear relationship, correlation coefficient, mean, standard deviation (STD), and root mean square (RMS) error. The thick red
 line and black dotted line represent the linear regression line and the reference line ($y=x$), respectively.

4.2 Comparison to satellite products

The shipborne GNSS PWV over the Pacific Ocean was also evaluated using satellite measurements. We used two different
 orbiting satellites: a geostationary satellite and a polar-orbiting satellite flying in low Earth orbit.

225 4.2.1 GNSS PWV vs GEO-KOMPSAT-2A-AMI PWV

The geostationary Korea multi-purpose satellite 2A (GEO-KOMPSAT-2A or GK2A) is a geostationary meteorological
 satellite operated by the National Meteorological Satellite Center (NMSC) of the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA).
 The Advanced Meteorological Imager (AMI) on board the GK2A has a multi-channel capacity of 16 spectral channels,
 including 4 visible, 2 near-infrared, and 10 infrared channels (Kim et al., 2021). Its high spatial resolution is 0.5–1.0 km for
 230 visible and 2 km for infrared channels. It also enables fast full-disk imaging within 10 minutes and offers flexibility in regional
 area selection and scheduling. The GK2A-AMI has operationally provided 52 derived products that have been used to improve
 typhoon track and intensity forecasts, increase warning lead time for severe storms, improve detection of heavy rainfall and
 flash floods, and monitor a variety of other meteorological phenomena.



In this study, we used total precipitable water data, one of the secondary products. This dataset is extracted from NetCDF files provided by the web-based service (<https://datasvc.nmsc.kma.go.kr/datasvc/html/main/main.do?lang=en>). Since the GK2A-AMI produces a full-disk image every 10 minutes, it was compared with GNSS PWV at 10-minute intervals. As shown in Fig. 6a, satellite-borne PWV values were calculated using the average within $\pm 0.5^\circ$ of latitude and longitude from the vessel's location at the observation time. Wu et al. (2022) reported that a 100 km distance threshold could be taken as a reference threshold to validate shipborne GNSS PWV using satellite products. At this time, the number of satellite observation values within the target area was a minimum of 267, a maximum of 401, and an average of 350.

Figure 6b presents a scatter plot comparing PWV measurements derived from the GNSS receiver aboard the R/V ISABU with those obtained from the geostationary satellite GK2A-AMI. In this comparison, the GK2A-AMI-derived PWV values serve as the reference. A total of 1,225 pairs are analysed. The mean bias between the two datasets is calculated to be 0.08 mm, indicating a negligible systematic error. However, the STD and RMS are both 4.84 and 4.83 mm, suggesting the presence of moderate variability in the measurements. Taking the ground-based GNSS PWV compared with the PWV retrieval from geostationary satellite data showed an RMSE of approximately 2–5 mm (Wong et al., 2015; Du et al., 2024). The present results are reasonably consistent with previous studies.

The correlation coefficient between the two datasets is 0.79, reflecting a fairly strong positive linear relationship, although it is slightly lower than that observed with RAOB in the previous comparison. The green regression line represents the best-fit linear model, with a slope of 0.89 and an intercept of 6.88. The slope close to unity implies that the GNSS-derived PWV values are generally consistent with those from GK2A-AMI, though they exhibit slightly lower sensitivity. The positive intercept indicates a tendency for the GNSS measurements to slightly overestimate PWV at lower values.

Overall, the results demonstrate good agreement between the shipborne GNSS PWV and GK2A-AMI PWV, with minimal systematic bias and a strong linear relationship. The relatively wider dispersion of data points, compared to the GNSS–RAOB comparison, may be attributed to differences in satellite retrieval algorithms or atmospheric variability affecting the satellite observations.

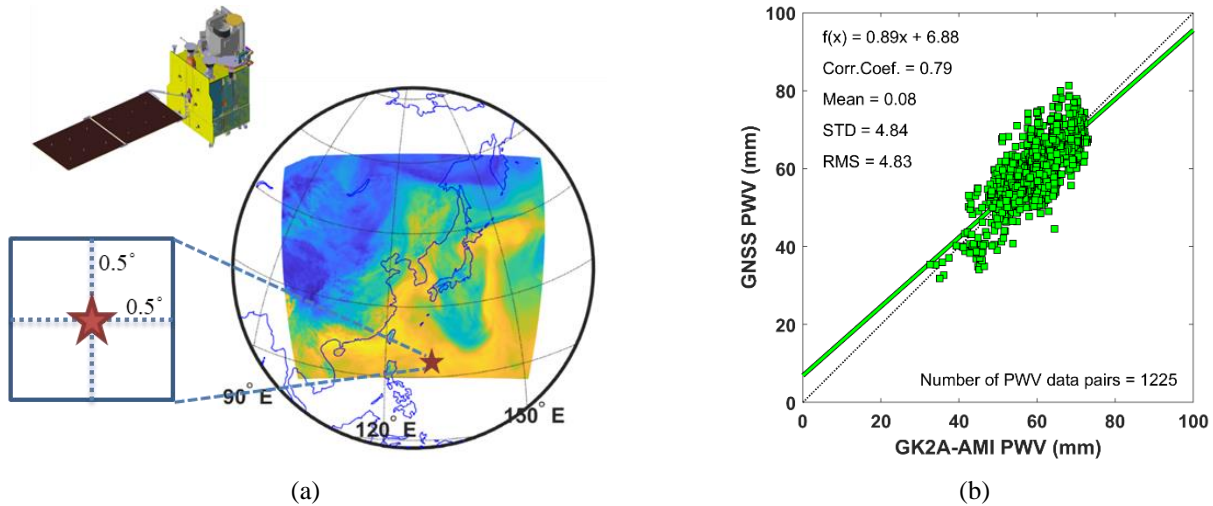


Figure 6. Comparison of shipborne GNSS PWV against satellite GK2A-AMI PWV. (a) The satellite-borne PWV values were calculated using the average within $\pm 0.5^\circ$ of latitude and longitude from the vessel's location marked by a red star at the time of observation. (b) Scatter diagram of shipborne GNSS PWV and satellite GK2A-AMI PWV. The legend shows the equation for a linear relationship, correlation coefficient, mean, standard deviation (STD), and root mean square (RMS). The thick green line and black dotted line represent the linear regression line and the reference line ($y = x$), respectively. (Image source of the GK2A spacecraft: <https://nmssc.kma.go.kr/enhome/html/base/cmm/selectPage.do?page=satellite.gk2a.operStatus>)

4.2.2 GNSS PWV vs MetOp-IASI PWV

Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite data are widely used for water vapor monitoring due to their advantages, such as high-resolution imagery, reduced atmospheric interference, and fast data transmission, but their coverage is limited. The meteorological operational satellite programme (MetOp) is three (A, B, and C) polar-orbiting meteorological satellites operated by the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). The MetOp satellites fly in at an altitude of approximately 817 km. They circle the sun synchronously 14.4 times a day and provide global observation data for weather forecasts and climate monitoring.

The infrared atmospheric sounding interferometer (IASI), one of the most important instruments onboard satellites, is a key payload of the MetOp satellite series. The IASI instrument is a nadir-viewing Fourier transform spectrometer. Its field of view consists of a 2×2 matrix of circular pixels with a 12 km diameter footprint on the ground at the nadir (Clerbaux et al., 2009). In this study, we used integrated water vapor data, one of the IASI level 2 products. This dataset is extracted from NetCDF format files provided by the website (<https://user.eumetsat.int/data-access>). As with the method previously compared to GK2A-AMI, IASI PWV values were averaged within $\pm 0.5^\circ$ of latitude and longitude from the vessel's position at the time of observation (Fig. 7a). The number of common observations between the two systems was 161 during the vessel journey. At the common observation time, the number of satellite observation values within the target area was a minimum of 1, a maximum of 19, and an average of 11.



As shown in Fig. 7b, this scatter plot presents the relationship between PWV measurements retrieved from the R/V ISABU GNSS and those obtained from the MetOp-IASI satellite sensor. A total of 161 pairs are analysed. The linear regression line fitted to the data is expressed as $f(x) = 0.92x + 7.13$. The trend line has a slope of 0.92, which is closely aligned with the reference line ($y = x$), but suggests that GNSS PWV measurements have slightly lower sensitivity compared to MetOp-IASI estimates. The intercept of 7.13 mm indicates a tendency for GNSS to overestimate PWV at lower values.

The correlation coefficient of 0.71 reflects a strong linear relationship between the two datasets. This implies a reasonable level of agreement, though somewhat weaker than the correlation observed in previous comparisons with RAOB and GK2A-AMI. Using MetOp-IASI data as the reference, a mean bias of 2.58 mm suggests that GNSS measurements are generally higher than IASI values. Furthermore, an STD of 6.52 mm and an RMS of 6.99 mm reflect greater variability, likely influenced by differences in spatial resolution, sensing geometry, or atmospheric conditions affecting the satellite retrieval. These results are consistent with those of Bosser et al. (2021), who reported similar results when using LEO satellite data. They stated that the large RMS differences of 5–7 mm reflect enhanced uncertainties in LEO satellite products in tropical regions.

These results demonstrate that the agreement is weaker compared to other reference datasets, but the R/V ISABU GNSS-derived PWV shows a consistent relationship with MetOp-IASI measurements. This consistent relationship highlights its value as a complementary source for satellite-based PWV monitoring.

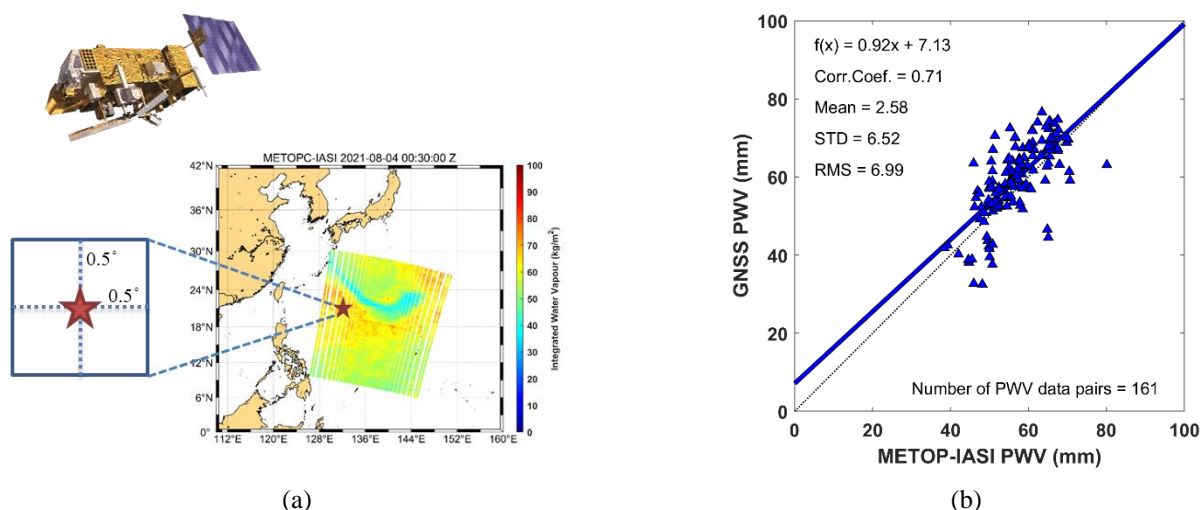


Figure 7. Comparison of shipborne GNSS PWV against satellite MetOp-IASI PWV. (a) The satellite-borne PWV values were calculated using the average within $\pm 0.5^\circ$ of latitude and longitude from the vessel's location marked by a red star at the time of observation. (b) Scatter diagram of shipborne GNSS PWV and satellite MetOp-IASI PWV. The legend shows the equation for a linear relationship, correlation coefficient, mean, standard deviation (STD), and root mean square (RMS). The thick blue line and black dotted line represent the linear regression line and the reference line ($y=x$), respectively. (Image source of MetOp spacecraft: [https://science.nasa.gov/toolkits/spacecraft-
 icons](https://science.nasa.gov/toolkits/spacecraft-icons))



5 Discussion

Figure 8 shows the time series for the shipborne GNSS PWV and rainfall rate from DOY 211 to 237 in 2021. The rainfall rate was derived using values observed from GK2A-AMI relative to the vessel's position (Fig. 6a). The shipborne GNSS PWV reveals a clear temporal pattern. At the beginning of the R/V journey, PWV values start relatively low, at approximately 35 mm. It increases sharply over the next few days, with PWV exceeding 70 mm around DOY 215. This abrupt rise is due to the vessel entering a tropical cyclone-prone region containing a strong influx of moisture as it moves toward lower latitudes. This phenomenon was expected because warm air can hold more water vapor than cold air. Figure 9 is a surface synoptic analysis weather map for Northeast Asia as of 00:00 UTC on DOY 214 (August 2, 2021). The weather map shows a tropical depression area forming in the western Philippine Sea, trapping a significant amount of water vapor in the atmosphere.

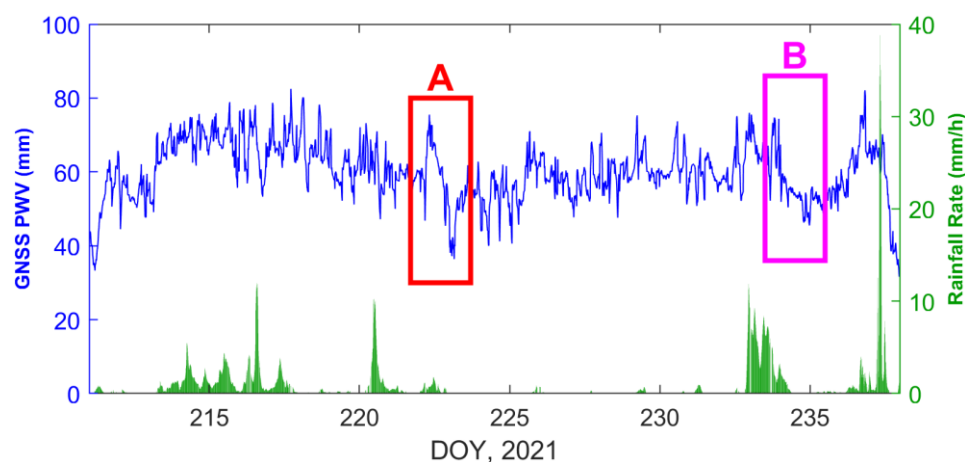


Figure 8. Time series for shipborne GNSS PWV and rainfall rate from DOY 211 to DOY 237. Boxes A and B represent periods of significant decline in PWV variation.

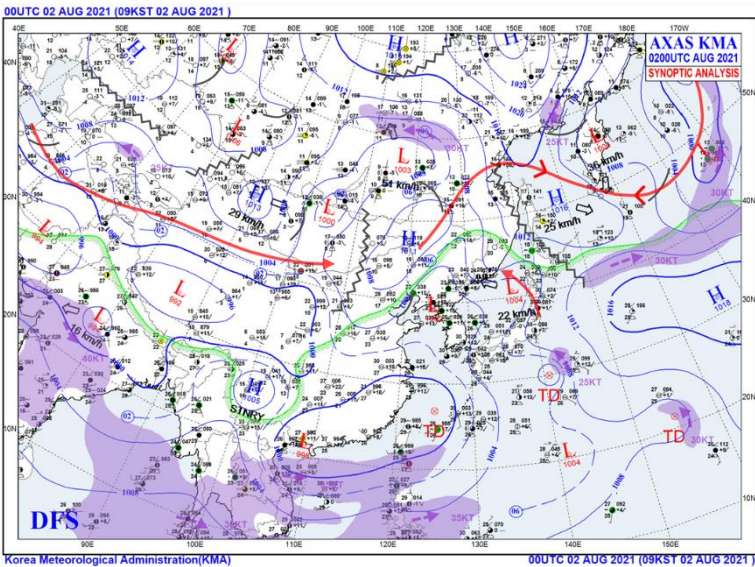


Figure 9. Surface synoptic analysis weather map for Northeast Asia at 00:00 UTC on 2 August 2021. A tropical depression area is forming in the western Philippine Sea.

320 After that, from DOY 215 to 232, a stable value of PWV is generally maintained between 50 and 70 mm. However, as shown in the red rectangular A of Fig. 8, the PWV value rapidly decreases from 76 mm to less than 40 mm on DOY 222 (August 10, 2021). As shown in Fig. 8, there is rainfall before this period. Figure 10 presents the weather forecast chart for mean sea level pressure and accumulated precipitation at 12:00 UTC on DOY 222. At this time, the vessel was located at 19.50°N and 131.42°E (Fig. 10). The synoptic chart indicates the presence of precipitation at the vessel's location. This precipitation area
325 exhibits a northward progression along the pressure trough, transitioning from lower to mid-latitudes. This phenomenon indicates that a strong rainfall event led to the rapid condensation of atmospheric water vapor, resulting in a steep decrease in PWV (Barindelli et al., 2018; Sapucci et al., 2019; Gopalan et al., 2021).

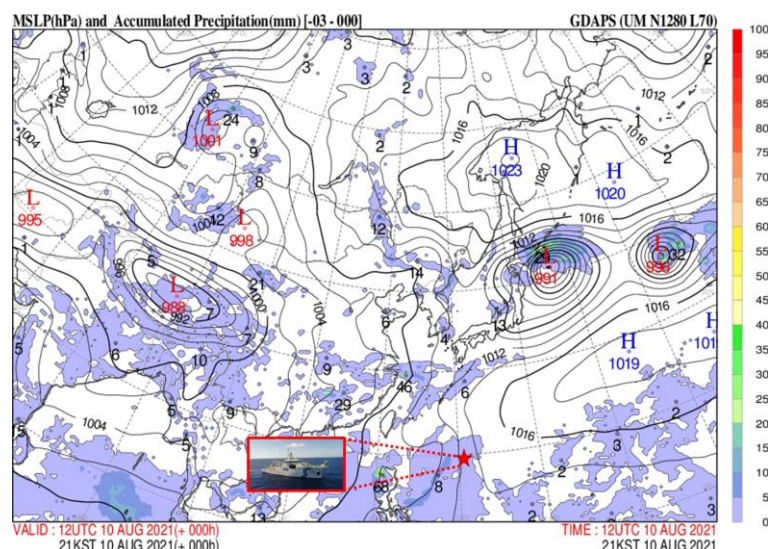


Figure 10. Weather forecast chart for mean sea level pressure (MSLP) and accumulated precipitation from the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) at 12:00 UTC on 10 August 2021. The red star (★) marks the vessel location at the time.

After DOY 233, the variability in PWV increases again, with some sharp drops and rises occurring repeatedly. During this period, unstable trends are observed, such as PWV falling below 50 mm or rising above 80 mm. Particularly around DOY 233–236, the time series exhibits large amplitude fluctuations, potentially indicating localized precipitation events or abrupt meteorological changes. As shown in the cyan rectangular B of Fig. 8, on DOY 234 (August 22, 2021), GNSS PWV decreases from 75 mm to about 45 mm. The figure also shows that the rainfall occurs before the PWV decreases. At 12:00 UTC on this day, the R/V ISABU is located at 22.88°N and 128.97°E and moves north toward the Korean Peninsula (Fig. 11). Typhoon OMAIS, which developed over the sea approximately 850 km south-southeast of Okinawa, Japan, is propagating northeastward along the periphery of the subtropical high-pressure system. The R/V returns to its home port following Typhoon OMAIS. As mentioned earlier, GNSS PWV decreased after a typhoon with heavy rainfall passed (Song and Grejner-Brzezinska, 2009; Chen et al., 2021). Zhao et al. (2019) observed that PWV exhibits a marked increase in association with the approach of a typhoon, followed by a gradual decrease as the storm moves away.

Although high-frequency noise is present, the time series can be characterized by a three-phase structure: an initial sharp increase, a mid-period of relative stability, and a final stage marked by increasing instability.

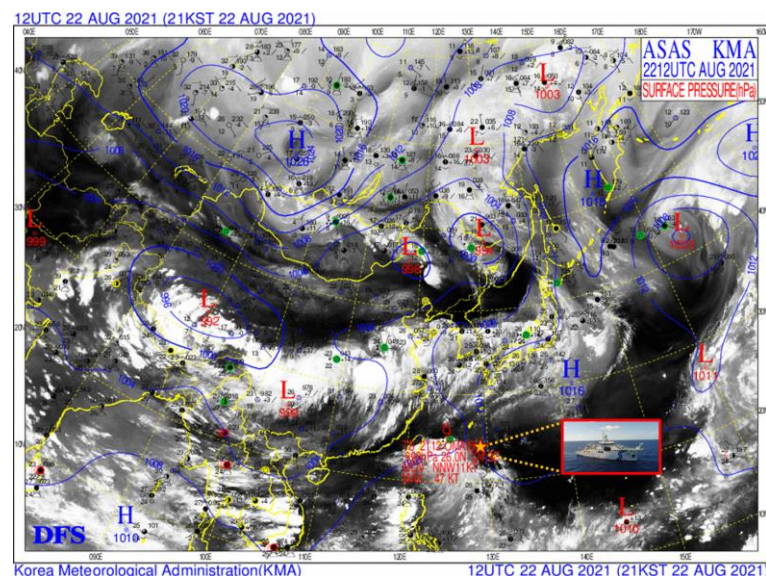


Figure 11. Weather forecast chart from Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) at 12:00 UTC on 22 August 2021. An orange star with a red border marks the vessel location at the time. Typhoon OMAIS, which originated in the sea about 850 km south-southeast of Okinawa, Japan, is moving northeast along the edge of the subtropical high pressure (KMA, 2022).

6 Conclusion

In this study, we presented the retrieval of PWV from shipborne multi-GNSS measurements conducted on the R/V ISABU during the summer in tropical cyclone-prone regions of the Northwest Pacific following the previous study. Validation of the GNSS-derived PWV against radiosonde, geostationary orbit (GK2A-AMI), and low Earth orbit (MetOp-IASI) observations confirmed its reliability for monitoring atmospheric water vapor over oceanic regions. We demonstrated that reliable results can be obtained for the shipborne GNSS PWV over the ocean by using observations from similar regions at different times and comparing them with another dataset. This reliability holds even during extreme weather events such as typhoons.

The GNSS PWV showed good agreement with RAOB measurements, characterized by a mean bias of -0.94 mm, an RMS of 4.28 mm, and a correlation coefficient of 0.80 , indicating high consistency and low systematic error. Comparison with GK2A-AMI PWV also yielded a negligible bias of 0.08 mm, an RMS of 4.83 mm, and a correlation coefficient of 0.79 . In contrast, the MetOp-IASI observations exhibit a larger mean bias of 2.58 mm and greater dispersion with an RMS of 6.99 mm, likely due to differences in spatial resolution, sensing geometry, and retrieval algorithms. Despite the relatively large RMS value, a correlation coefficient of 0.71 indicates a strong linear relationship and thus reflects a reasonable level of agreement between the two datasets. In the previous study, shipborne GNSS-PWV showed an RMS of 5.22 mm and 8.97 mm compared to radiosonde and low Earth orbit (Aqua-AIRS), respectively (Sohn et al., 2020). The GNSS-derived PWV obtained from a



moving vessel shows consistent performance across multiple reference datasets. This consistency supports its utility as a complementary and reliable data source for atmospheric water vapor estimation in both research and operational applications. While observations over oceanic and terrestrial surfaces may have a relatively limited direct impact on numerical weather prediction models, they remain essential for accurately defining the lower boundary conditions of atmospheric modeling
370 (Saunders, 2021). As the number of vessels equipped with GNSS receivers capable of recording raw observation data continues to increase and data-sharing systems further develop, the availability of shipborne GNSS PWV data is expected to improve. Consequently, such data are anticipated to play a growing role in weather forecasting and climate research, particularly in oceanic regions where other observations remain sparse.

Data availability.

375 The GNSS datasets are available on the GNSS DATA CENTER (<http://www.gnssdata.or.kr/main/getMainView.do>). The GK2A-AMI dataset is extracted from NetCDF files provided by the NMSC data provision service (<https://datasvc.nmsc.kma.go.kr/datasvc/html/main/main.do?lang=en>). The MetOp-IASI dataset can be provided by the data centre (<https://user.eumetsat.int/data-access>).

Author contributions.

380 DS, BC, JH, YP, and JC carried out the conceptualization; DS, BC, JH, and BL processed the shipborne GNSS, GK2A-AMI, and MetOp-IASI data; YP and HJ provided the radiosonde data; DS, BC, and YP conducted the formal analysis and wrote the original draft; DS and BC completed the review and edited the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Competing interests.

385 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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