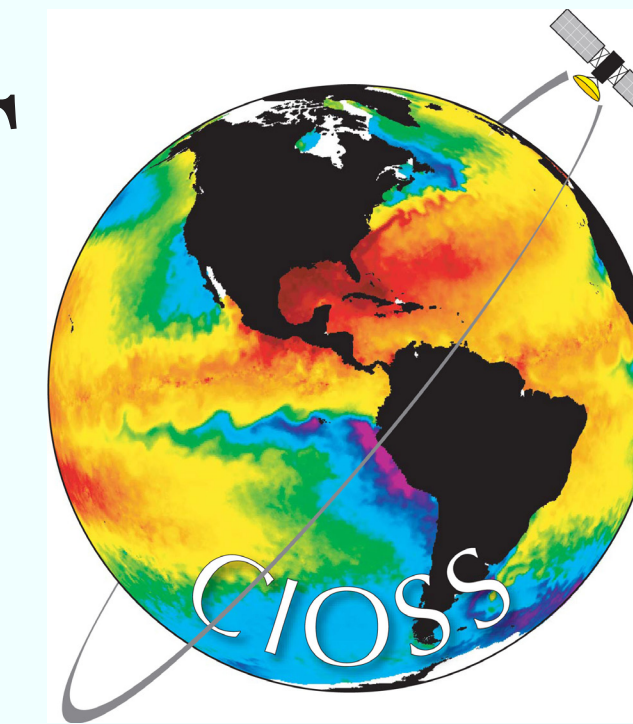




We compare winds from QuikSCAT and ASCAT to 20 U.S. meteorological buoys.

The Figures Below Show in Each Group of Variance Ellipses:

Top Left: Individual met buoys compared to QuikSCAT, Version 2 and Version 3: Complete QuikSCAT mission.

Top Right: The same information for QuikSCAT Vers 3 and ASCAT during 9 months (March-November, 2009).

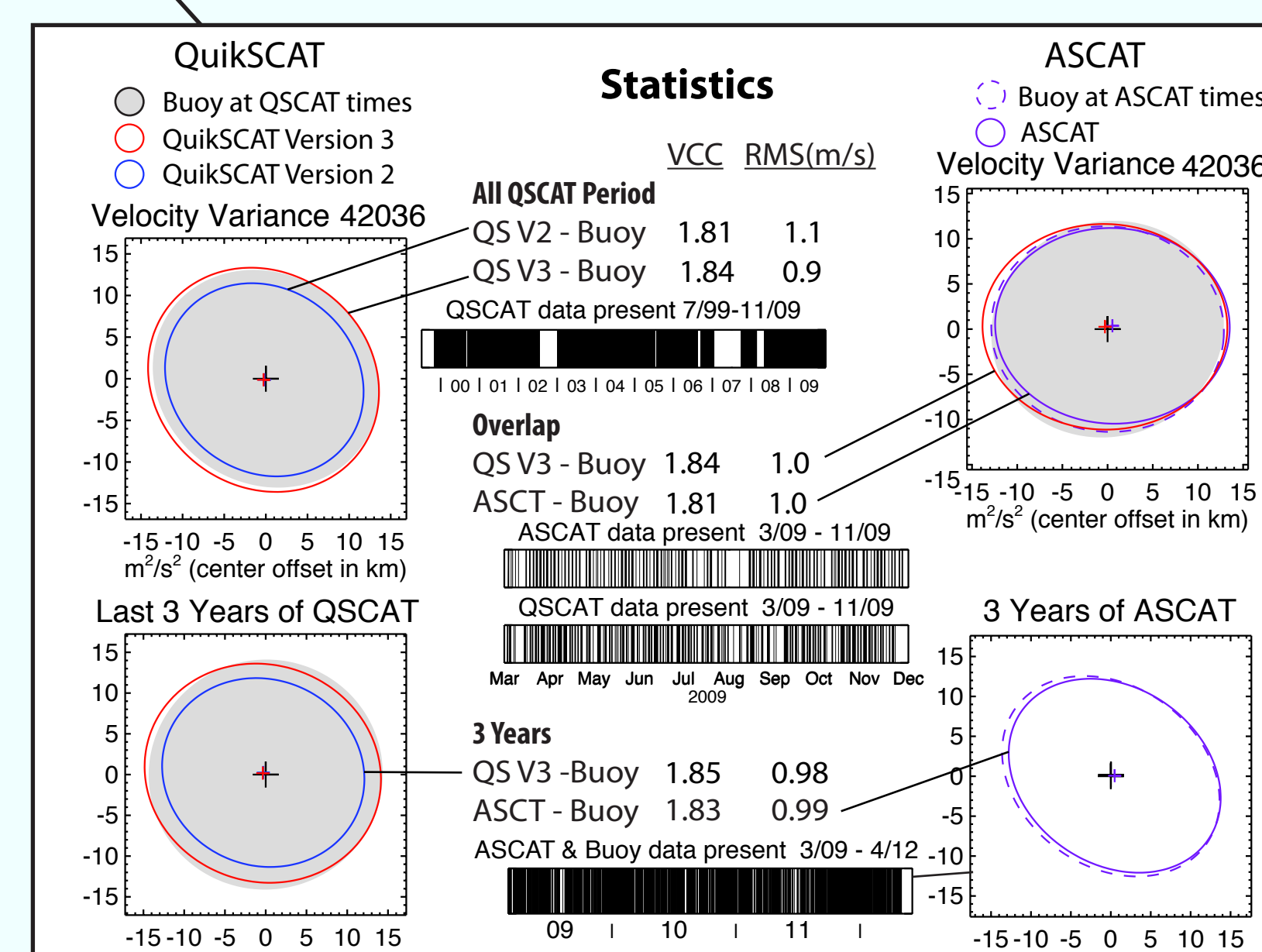
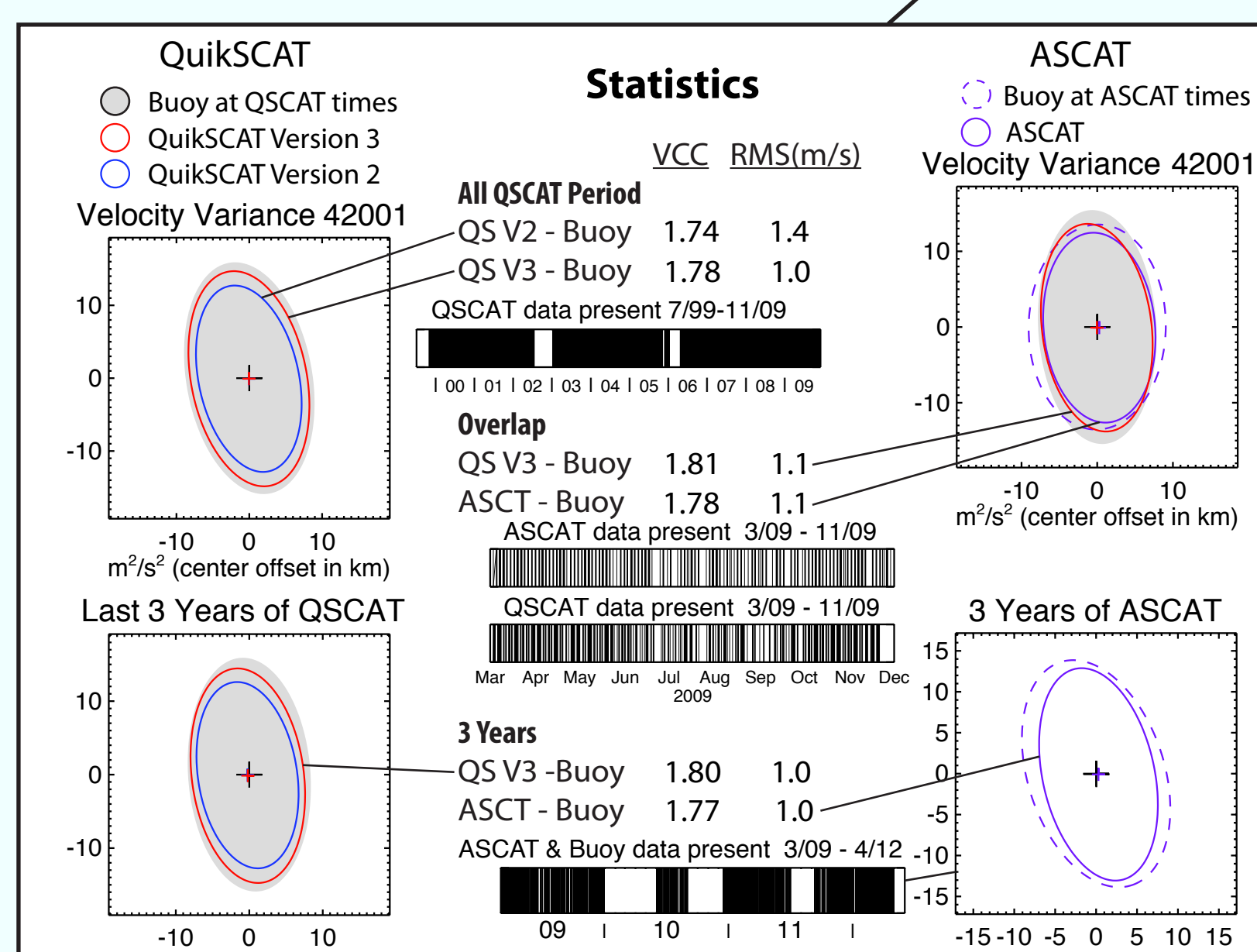
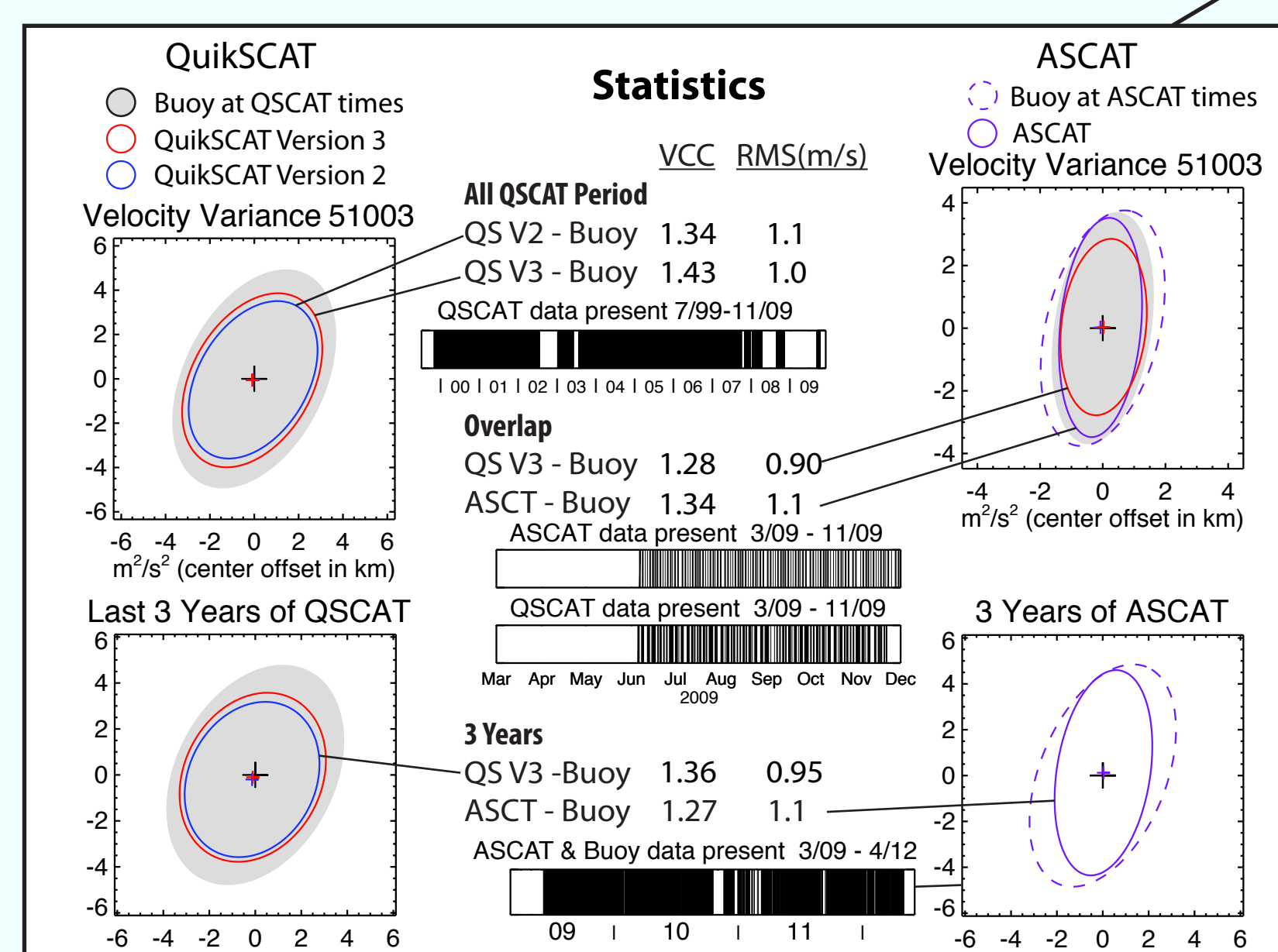
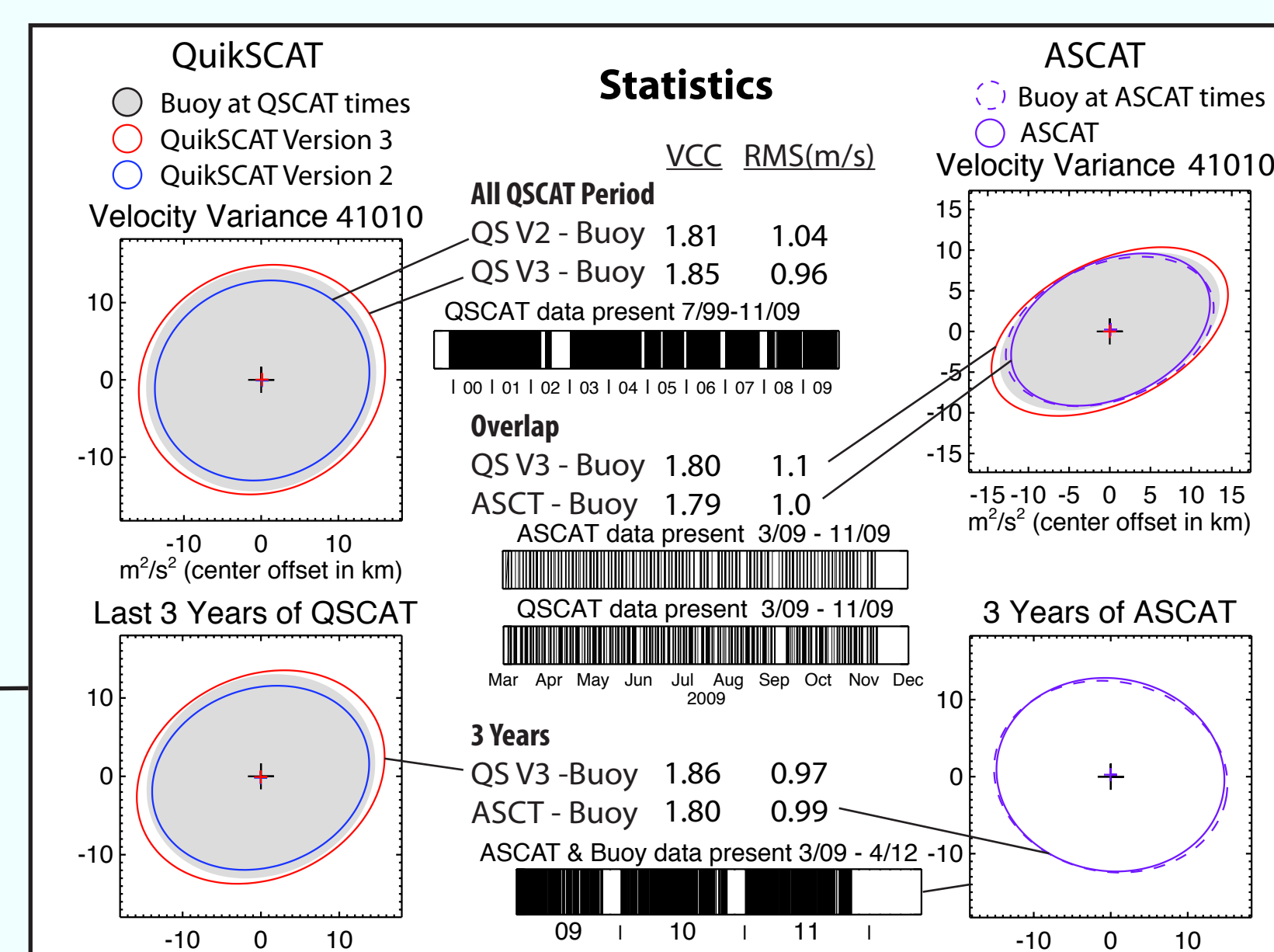
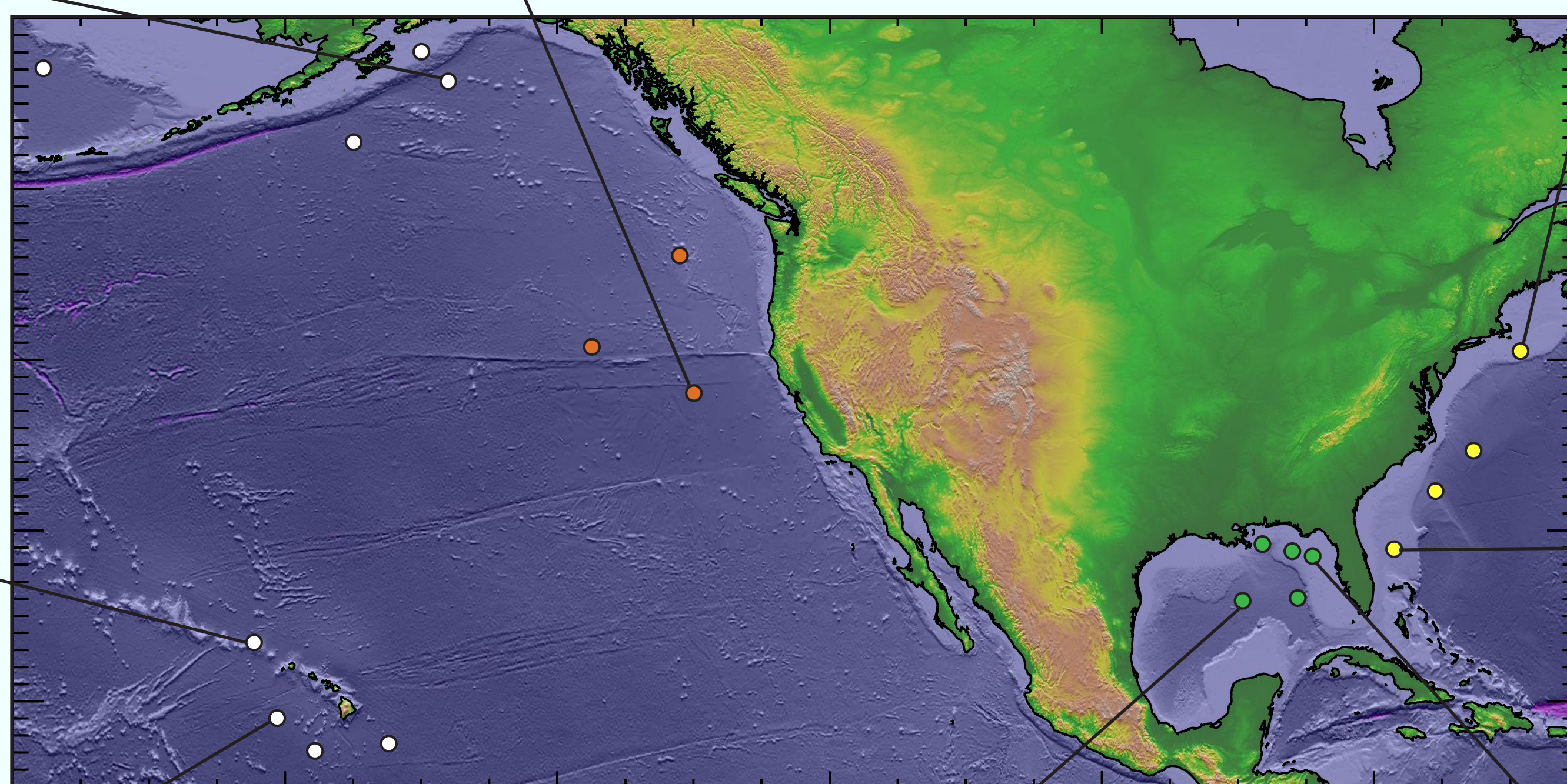
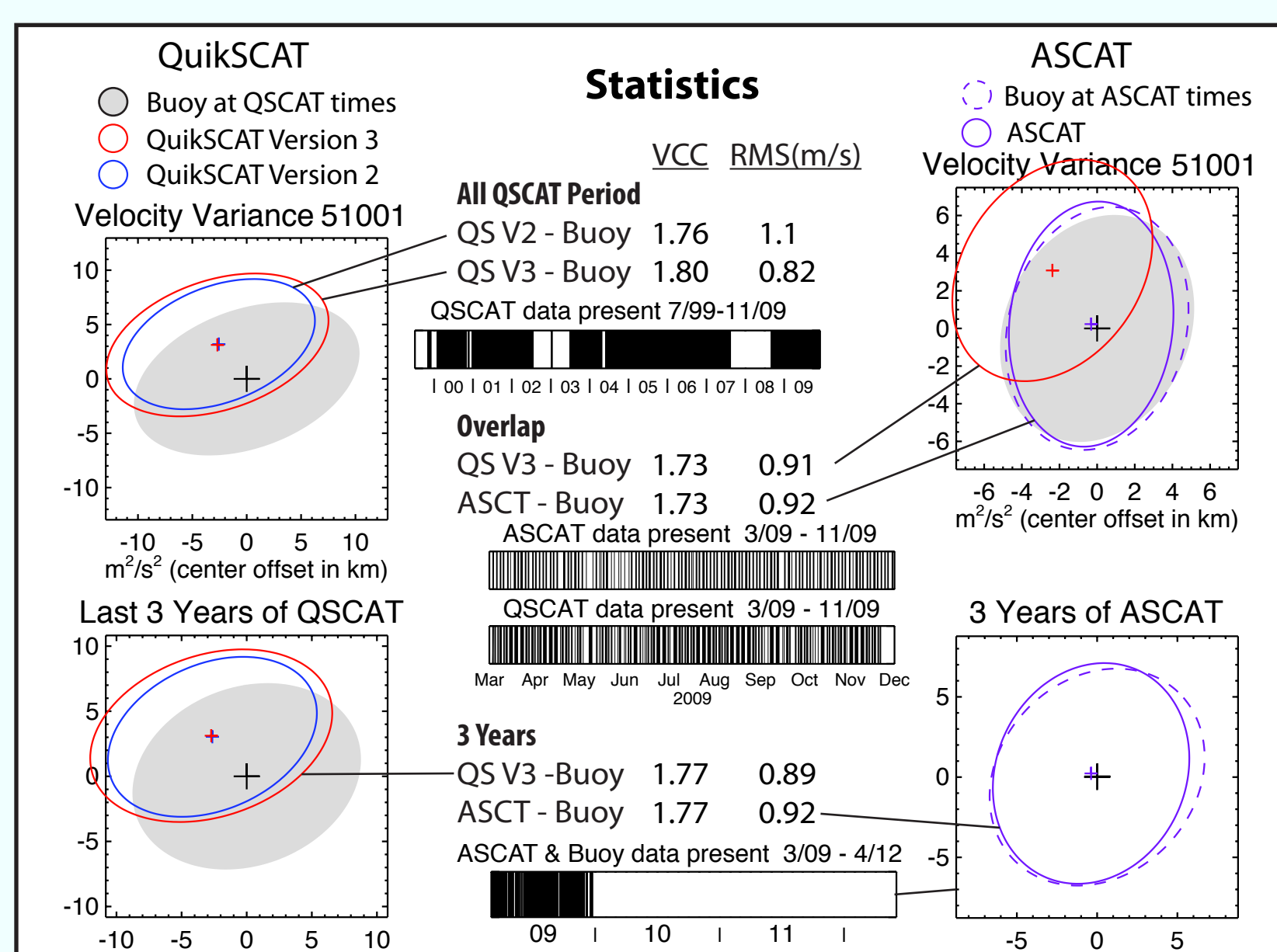
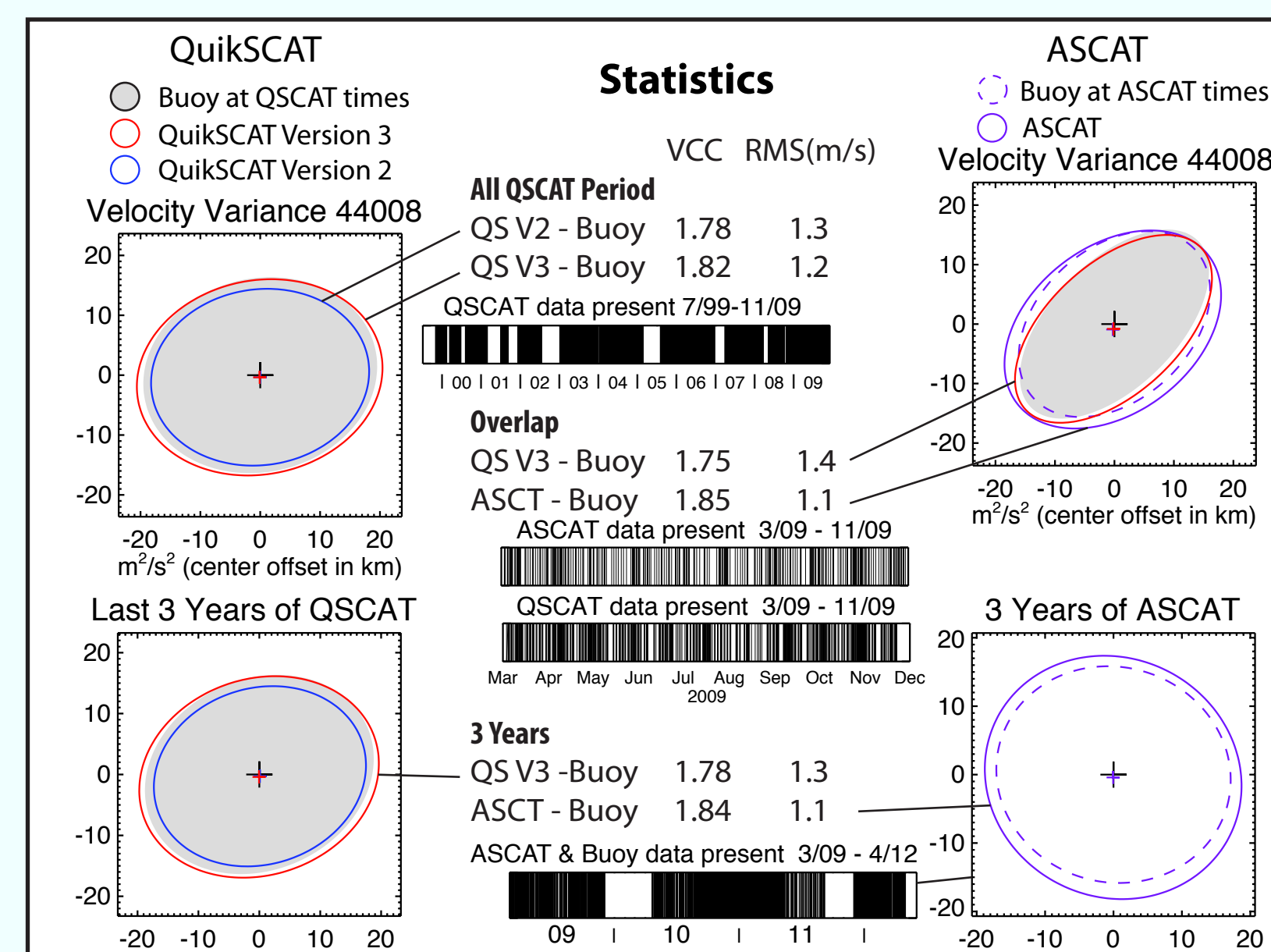
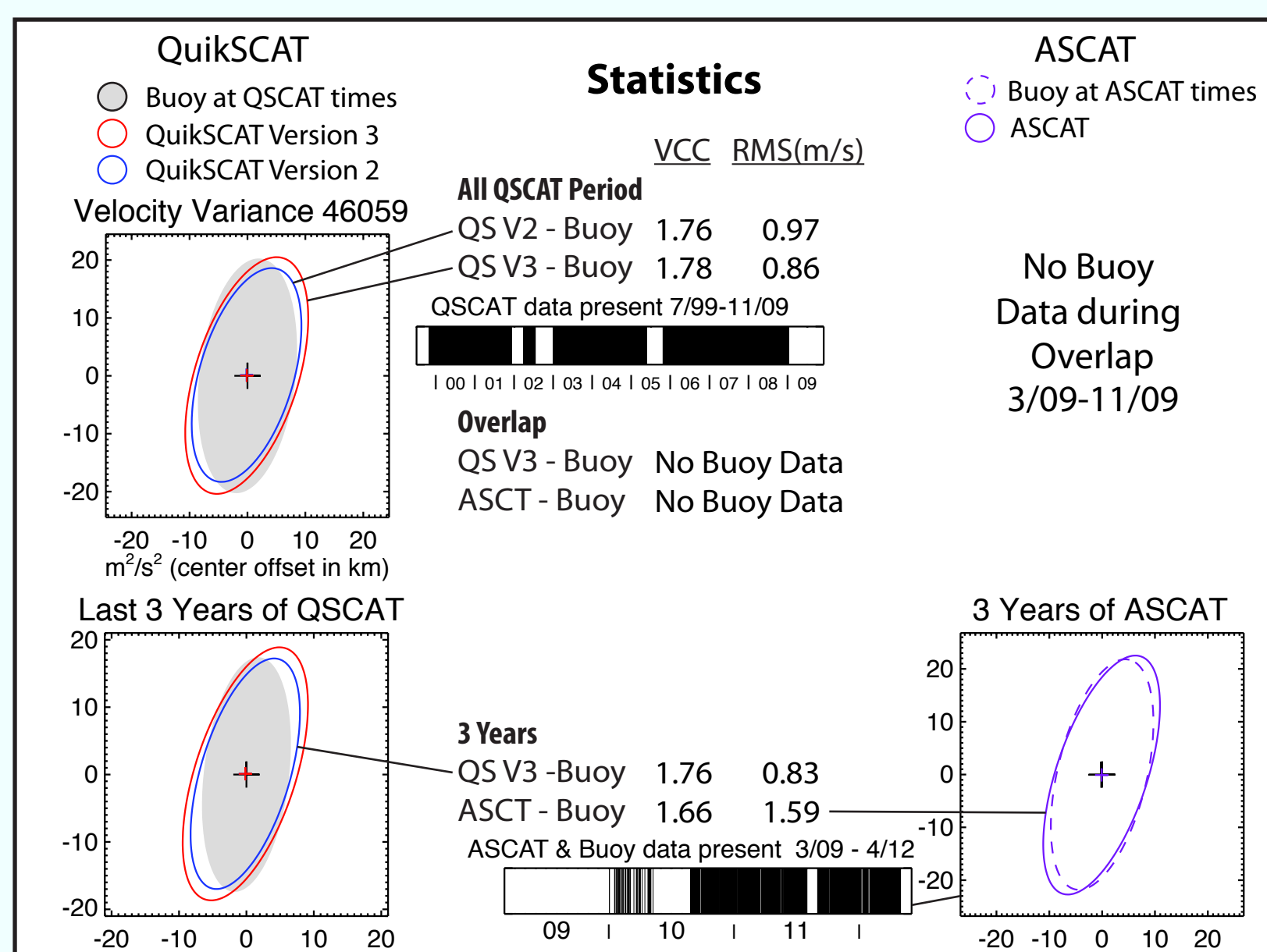
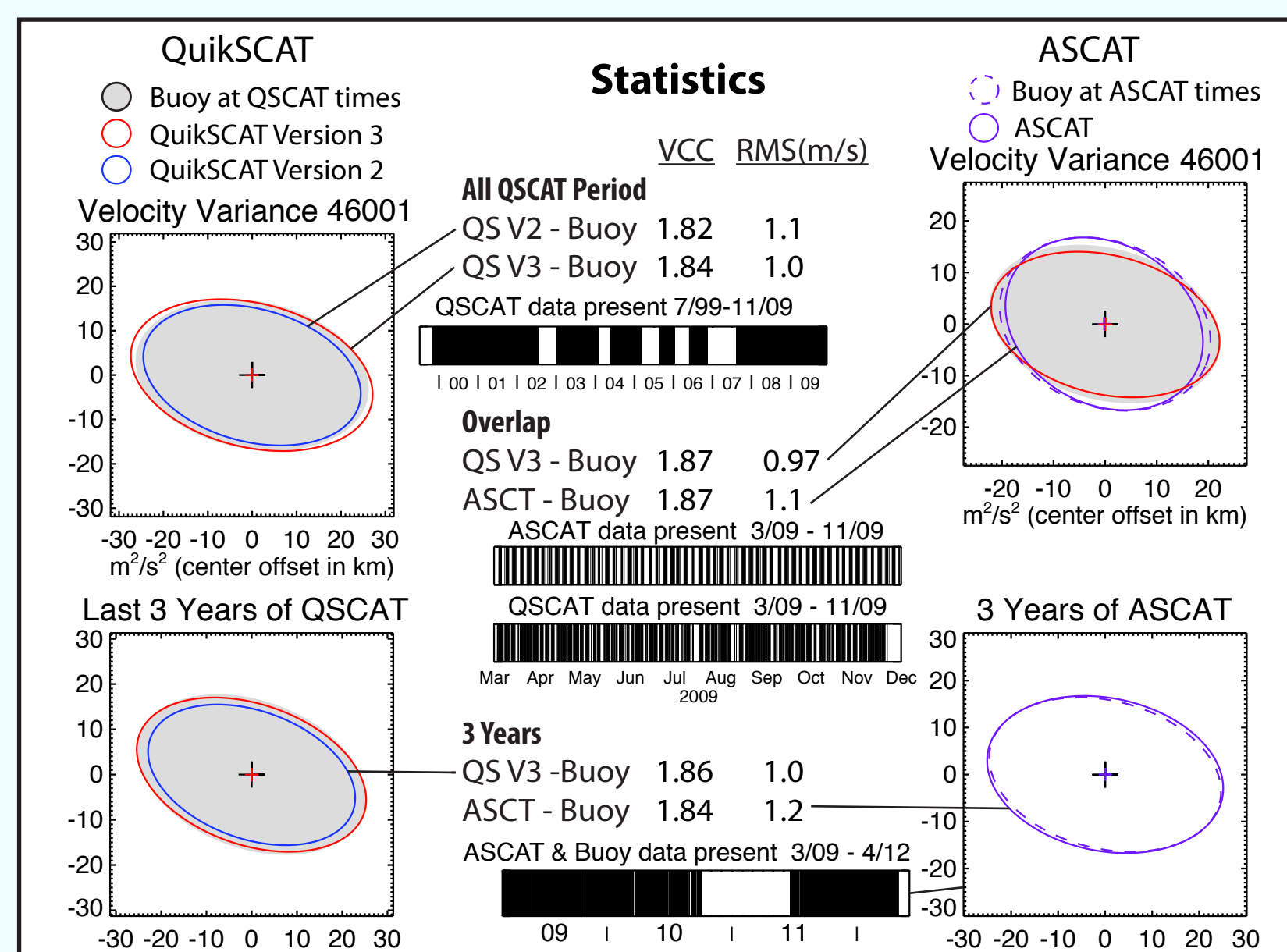
Bottom Left: The same for last 3 years of QuikSCAT Vers 2 and 3.

Bottom Right: The same for 3 years of ASCAT.

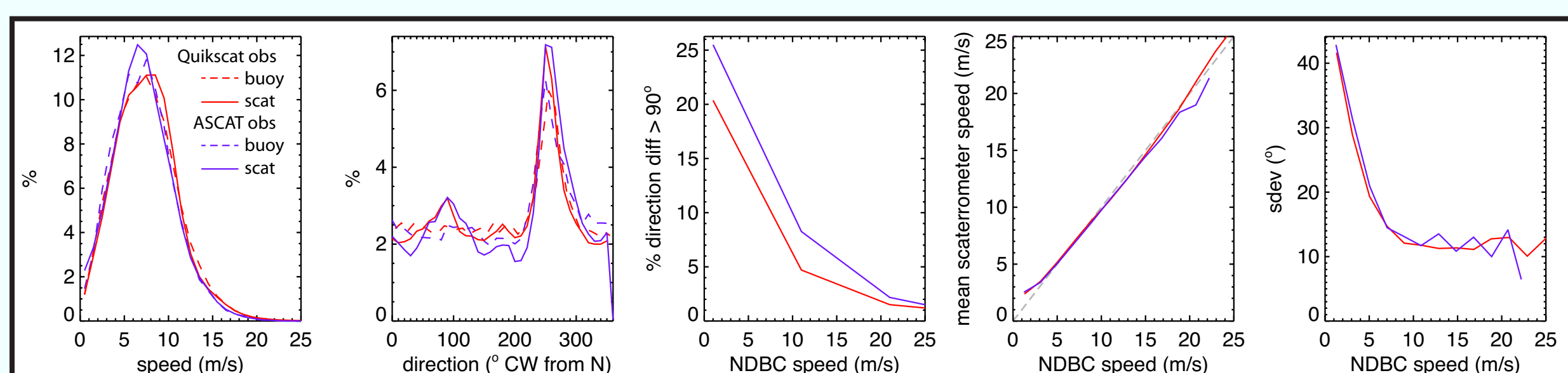
Scatterometer data are accepted as coincident if they occur within 30 minutes of the buoy data and within a radius of 50 km of the buoy location.

General Results:

- Statistics for QuikSCAT Version 3 are (modestly) better than for Version 2.
- The ASCAT and QuikSCAT statistics are similar; given the short period of overlap.
- Note the offset of the mean location of QuikSCAT observations for one Hawaii buoy (far left panel). The offset disappears if we (1) ignore the rain flags or (2) use only a radius of 25 km (vs 50 km) for acceptable QuikSCAT observations.



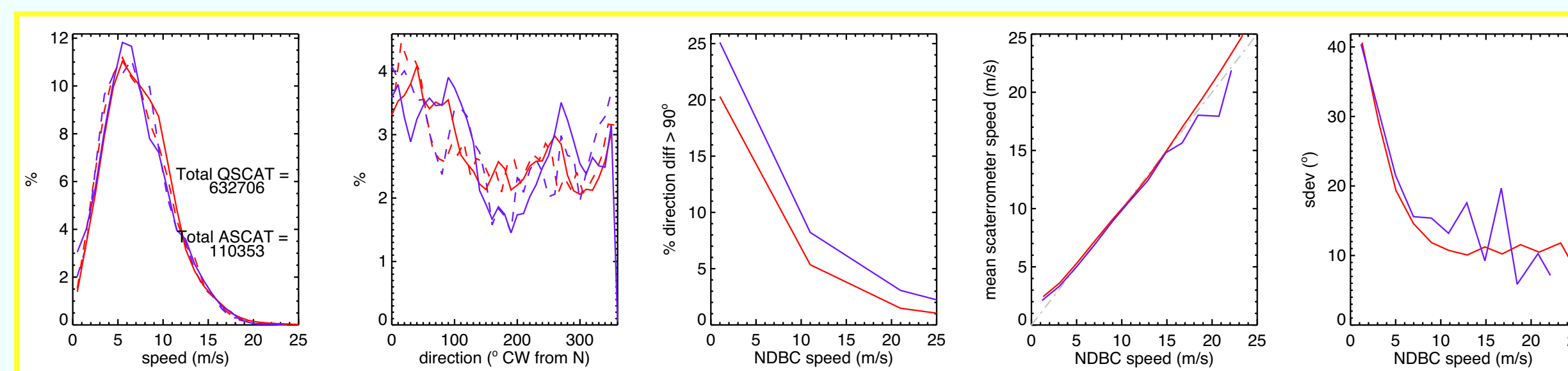
Overall Statistical Characteristics of the Data: ASCAT and QuikSCAT



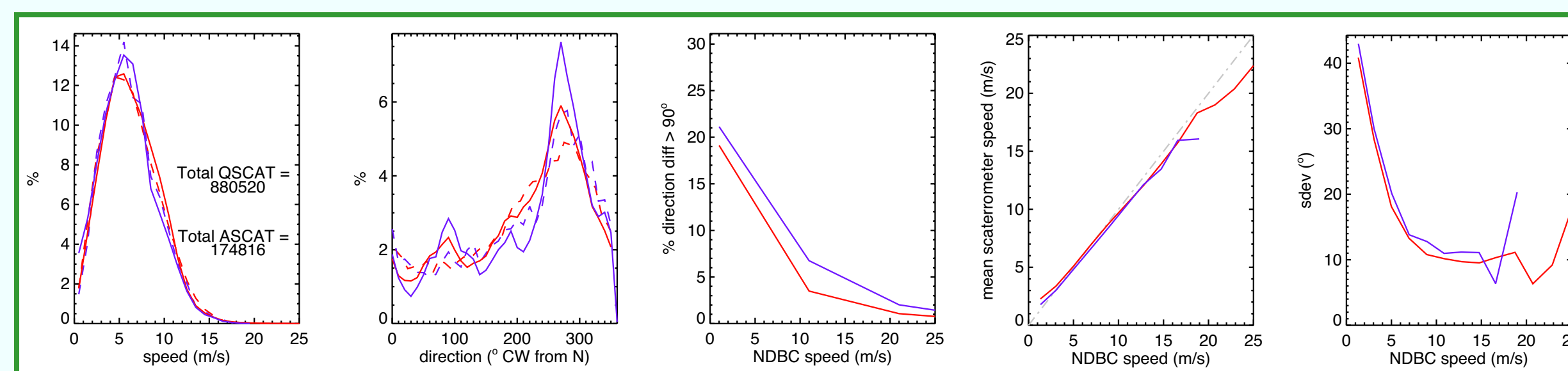
All Buoys

Statistical distributions of the wind data are compared for the full 10+ years of QuikSCAT and 3+ years of ASCAT data. General characteristics of ASCAT and QuikSCAT statistics are similar. The three year ASCAT period produces narrower peaks in the histogram of speed distributions (buoy and satellite). The only consistent difference is a greater number of direction "errors" for ASCAT than for QuikSCAT, which should be evaluated using exactly coincident observations during the common 9-month period.

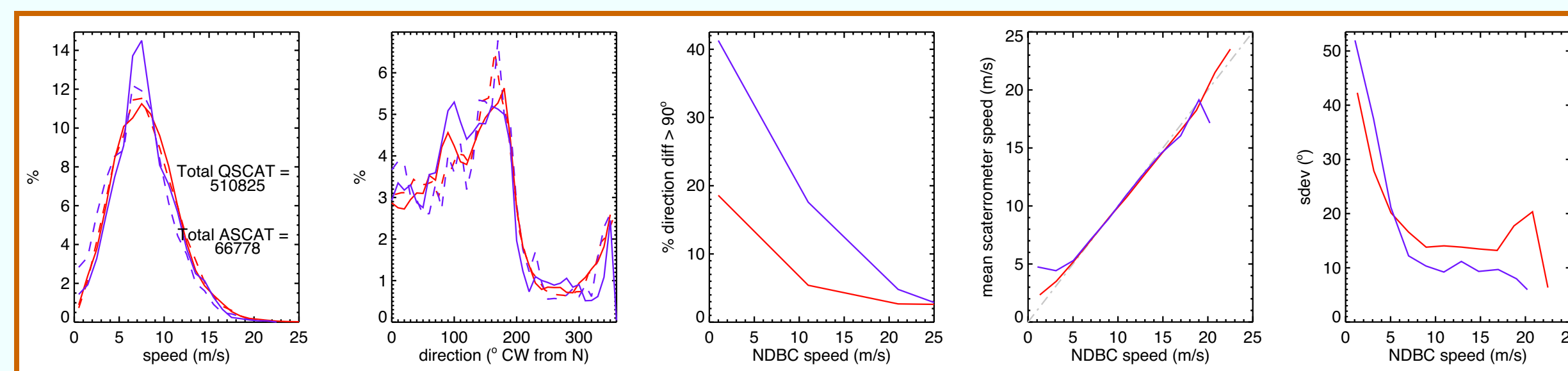
East Coast



Gulf of Mexico



West Coast



Acknowledgements

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