

# ■ ECMWF Report on ENVISAT RA-2 for April 2004 ■

## Report on ENVISAT Radar Altimeter - 2 (RA-2) Wind/Wave Product with Height Information (RA2 WWV 2P)

**By:** *Saleh Abdalla*

**Date:** *7 May 2004*

### Overview:

Based on the data received during this month, on average, 14273 observations arrived at ECMWF every 6-hour window of which an average of 6048 observations were rejected initially because of one of the following reasons: being over land, being outside model domain, being a double observation or flagged for rain contamination. On average 78.96% of the remaining part passed the quality control. Data reception is significantly reduced at 6-hour window centred at UTC midnight everyday. There was no data during the following periods (in terms of 6-hour time-windows; all times are in UTC):

- Time window 00:00 on the 22nd. of the month.

The time series of the data coverage and some reasons of rejection can be seen in Figure 1. Note that we are talking about the raw data which we downloaded in “bufr” format before they were processed. RA-2 and MWR Instrument Processing Chain (IPF) V4.56 was operational at the ESA ENVISAT PDS processing centres at 07:31:27 UTC on Wednesday 26 November 2003.



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## Quality of Received Data:

For the period covered, the RA-2 Ku-band wave height data are generally of good quality. The S-band wave height observations show a number of outliers. The quality of wind speed observations is good. Apart from the few outliers, MWR products are generally fine and in good agreement with the model (wet tropo correction is somewhat smaller than the model).

## Backscatter:

- ENVISAT RA-2 Ku-Band  $\langle\sigma_0\rangle = 11.06$  dB (with a single rather broad peak at  $\sim 11.1$  dB).
- ENVISAT RA-2 S-Band  $\langle\sigma_0\rangle = 11.34$  dB (with a single rather broad peak at  $\sim 10.6$  dB).

## Comparison Summary:

Table 1: Comparison of Surface Wind Speeds:

	RA2 - ECMWF		RA2 - Buoy	
	Bias (m/s)	SI (%)	Bias (m/s)	SI (%)
Global	-0.13	17.5	-0.65	18.3
Northern Hemisphere	-0.33	17.8	-0.63	18.6
Tropics	-0.40	19.6	-0.74	13.7
Southern Hemisphere	0.15	15.7	----	----



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Table 2: Comparison of Ku-Band Significant Wave Heights:

	RA2 (Ku) - WAM		RA2 (Ku) - Buoy	
	Bias (m)	SI (%)	Bias (m)	SI (%)
Global	0.10	11.3	0.10	13.4
Northern Hemisphere	0.15	13.3	0.10	13.7
Tropics	0.02	10.5	0.05	7.7
Southern Hemisphere	0.14	10.3	----	----

Table 3: Comparison of S-Band Significant Wave Heights:

	RA2 (S) - WAM		RA2 (S) - Buoy	
	Bias (m)	SI (%)	Bias (m)	SI (%)
Global	0.07	23.4	0.11	24.6
Northern Hemisphere	0.15	23.1	0.12	25.2
Tropics	0.10	30.0	-0.03	10.8
Southern Hemisphere	0.01	20.5	----	----

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Table 4: Comparison of Wet Tropo Correction and Total Column Water Vapour Values:

	MWR WTC - ECMWF WTC		MWR TCWV - ECMWF TCWV	
	Bias (m)	SI (%)	Bias (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	SI (%)
Global	-0.012	14.1	-0.44	15.3
Northern Hemisphere	-0.011	28.6	-0.93	28.5
Tropics	-0.009	6.5	+0.91	6.8
Southern Hemisphere	-0.014	18.2	-1.10	20.9

## **Remarks:**

- There was no changes in the ECMWF models during this reporting period.
- According to the used land sea mask (which is used for the operational WAM run at ECMWF), more than one third (33% to be exact) of all processed data have been collected over land. This value is too large and is due to not filtering the land records.
- Although the rain flag is only responsible for the rejection of 6% of the data this month, it was responsible for rejection of most of the data on the 1st. and the 27th. of the month (lower panel of Figure 1).
- The wind speed data are in good agreement with the wave model and buoy data except for very low wind speeds (below ~ 4 m/s) and for high wind speeds (20 m/s and above).

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- The wind speed algorithm needs some adjustments both in the low wind regime (below  $\sim 4$  m/s) and more importantly for the very high wind regime (20 m/s and above) as can be concluded from the scatter plots in Figures 7-13 and from comparing the histograms in Figures 5 and 6.
- The time series of wind speed errors shown in Figure 14 suggests a kind of wind speed anomaly during the 24-hour period starting at 09:00 UTC on 13 April. This was reported to ESA and turned out according to Annalisa Martini that there was an OCM manoeuvre on 14 April 2004 starting at 02:45. This manoeuvre adversely affected the range measurements (SSH anomalies) producing a lot of out of range values until the end of the day. Most probably the wind speed, which is less sensitive to the attitude variations, was also adversely affected when the pointing was really bad.
- There is a trend for Ku-band wave heights to be slightly overestimated by about 4% when compared to WAM results. This is visually clear in the scatter plots in Figures 22-25 (Ku-band - WAM comparisons) and can be inferred from the symmetric slope values in same scatter plots as well as in Figures 30-32 (Ku-band - buoy comparison). On the other hand, the RA-2 Ku-band wave heights are higher than buoy wave heights by about 3%.
- The bulk of S-band wave heights are in good agreement with both the WAM and the buoy data apart from a number of outliers (due to the known S-band anomaly) when compared with the model (as can be seen in the scatter plots in Figures 26-29) and to less extent with the buoys (as can be seen in the scatter plots in Figures 33-34). The number of outliers is slightly more than the previous month. Most of those outliers occurred on the 1st. and the 26-27th. of the month (Figure 37) when there was over-active rain flagging.
- The ratio between Ku-band and S-band wave heights was rather stable ( $\sim 0.98-1.00$ ) over the whole month as can be seen in Figure 48.
- There is quite a number of outliers in the scatter plots comparing the MWR derived wet tropospheric correction (WTC) and total column water vapour (TCWV) against the ECMWF model in the Northern and Southern Hemisphere (Figures 39, 41, 43 and 45). However, the number of those outliers is lower than they used to be before the introduction of the processing chain (V4.56) on the 26th. of November 2003. As in the last few months, the tendency of the ECMWF



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model to have saturation values for both quantities (around 0.4 m for WTC and around 60 kg/m<sup>2</sup> for TCWV) does not exist any more.

- While the MWR derived TCWV is now in good agreement with the model counterpart, the MWR WTC is still consistently smaller (drier) than the model values.
- It is important to stress that one needs to keep in mind when making the comparison between the results presented here for the ENVISAT RA-2 and the results presented in the ERS-2 altimeter reports that the ERS-2 plots and statistics are done for super-observations composed of 30 individual observation, while the plots and statistics here are for super-observations with 11 individual observations. Therefore, it is natural for the RA-2 plots and statistics to show a bit more variability.
- ENVISAT Ku-band wave height data and ERS-2 SAR wave data are assimilated in the ECMWF wave model.
- RA-2 and MWR Instrument Processing Chain (IPF) V4.56 is operational at the ESA ENVISAT PDS processing centres (since 07:31:27 UTC on Wednesday 26 November 2003).
- The ERS-2 SAR wave data used for assimilation at ECMWF wave model are now limited to the North Atlantic and the western coast of North America following the failure of the ERS-2 tape recorders in June 2003. Also note that Figure 19 represents the histogram for the covered area only.

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Figure 48. Timeseries of daily global ratio between mean Ku-Band to mean S-Band significant wave heights since the 18th. of July 2002.



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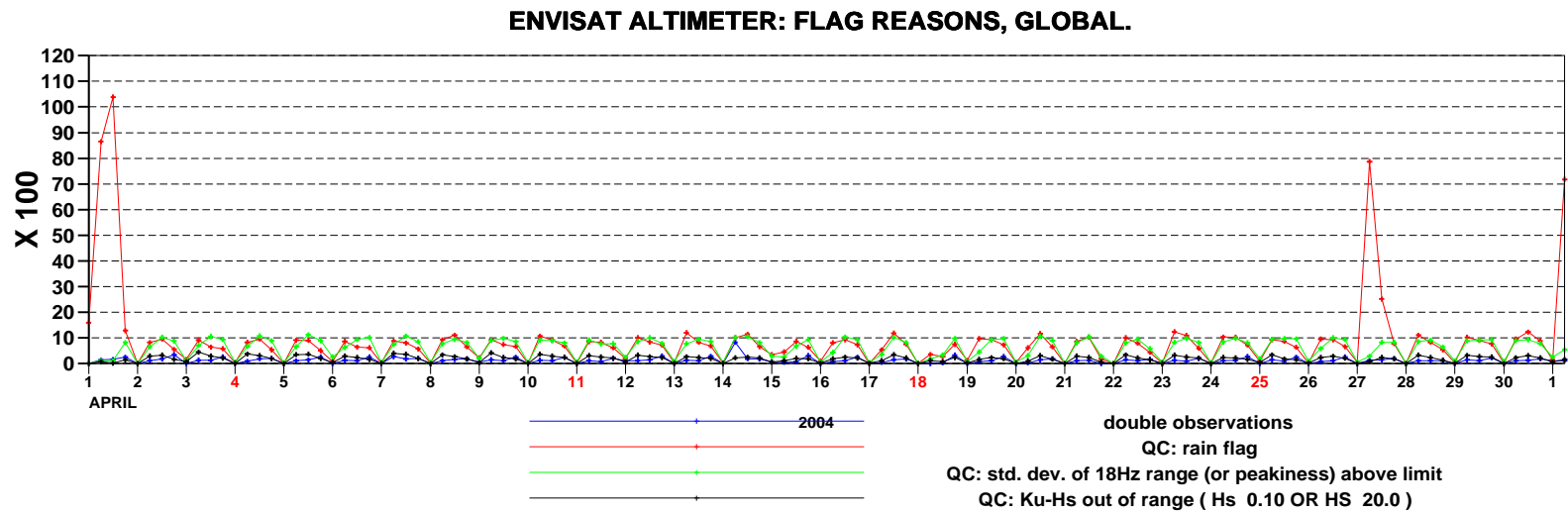
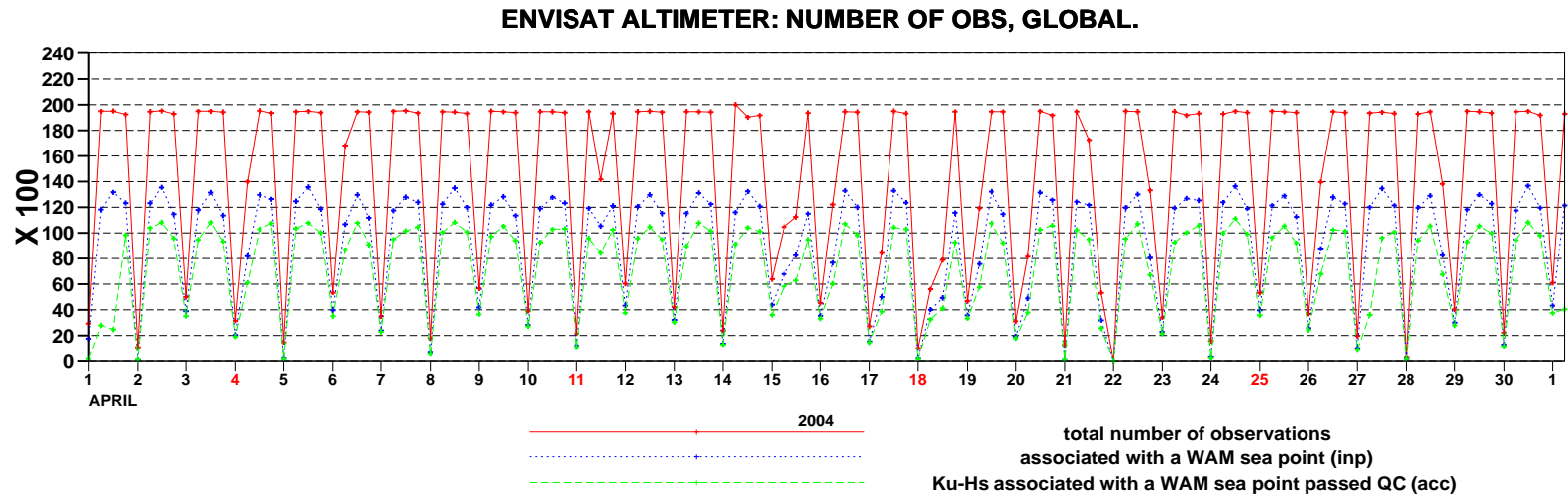


Figure 1: Time series of data reception for ENVISAT Altimeter data for April 2004

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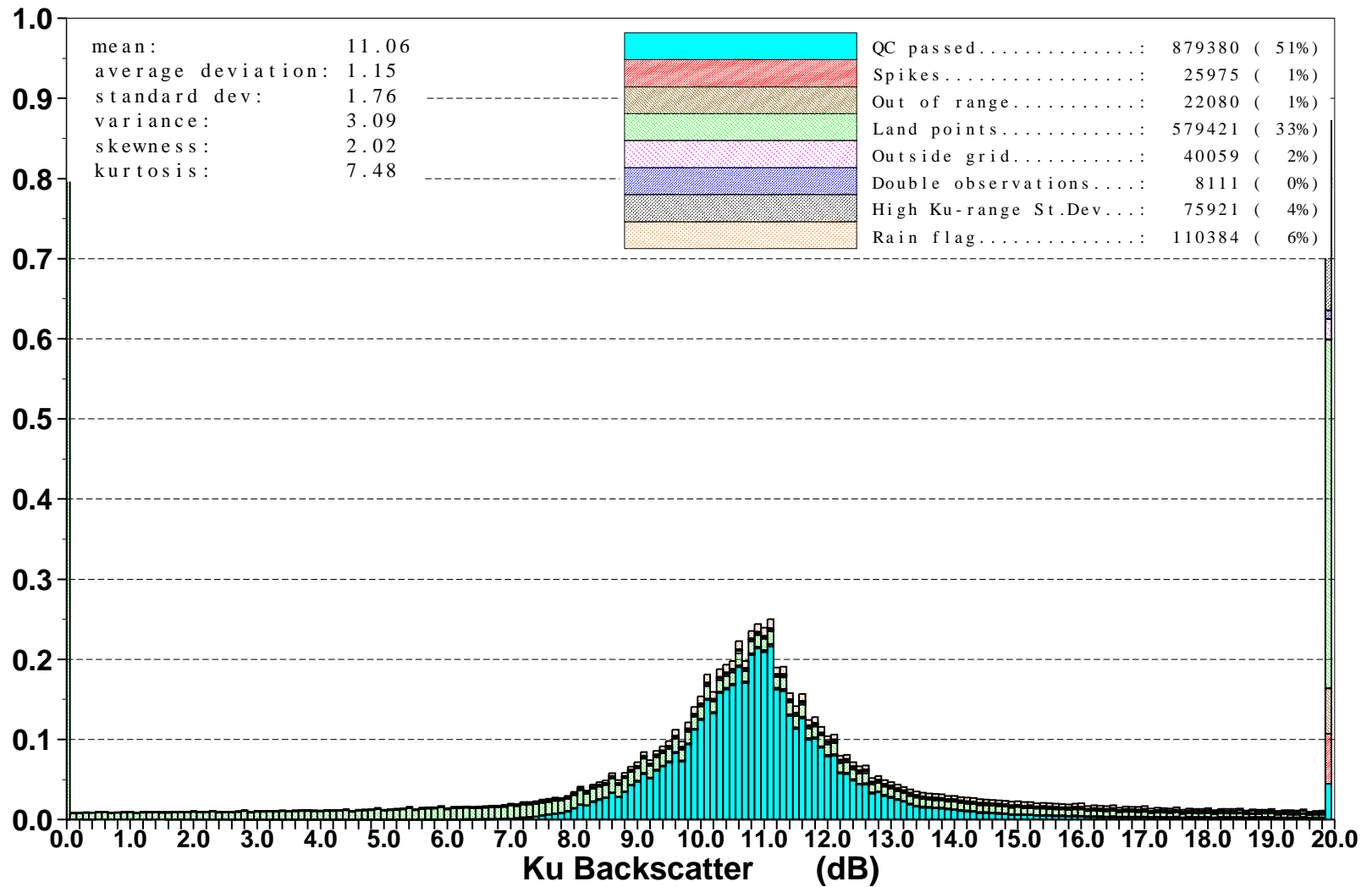


Figure 2: Distribution of the ENVISAT Altimeter Ku Backscatter after QC for April 2004



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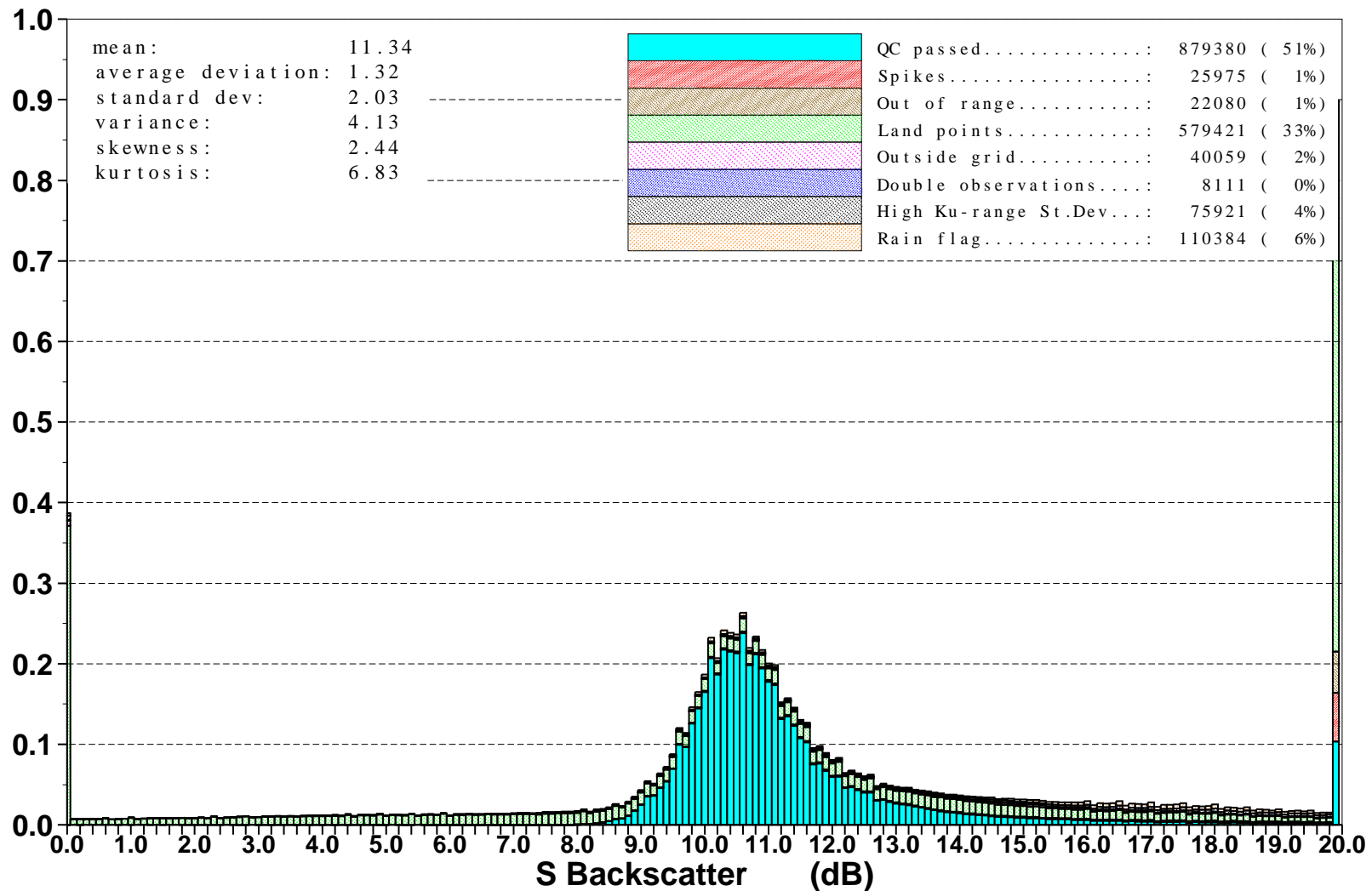


Figure 3: Distribution of the ENVISAT Altimeter S Backscatter after QC for April 2004

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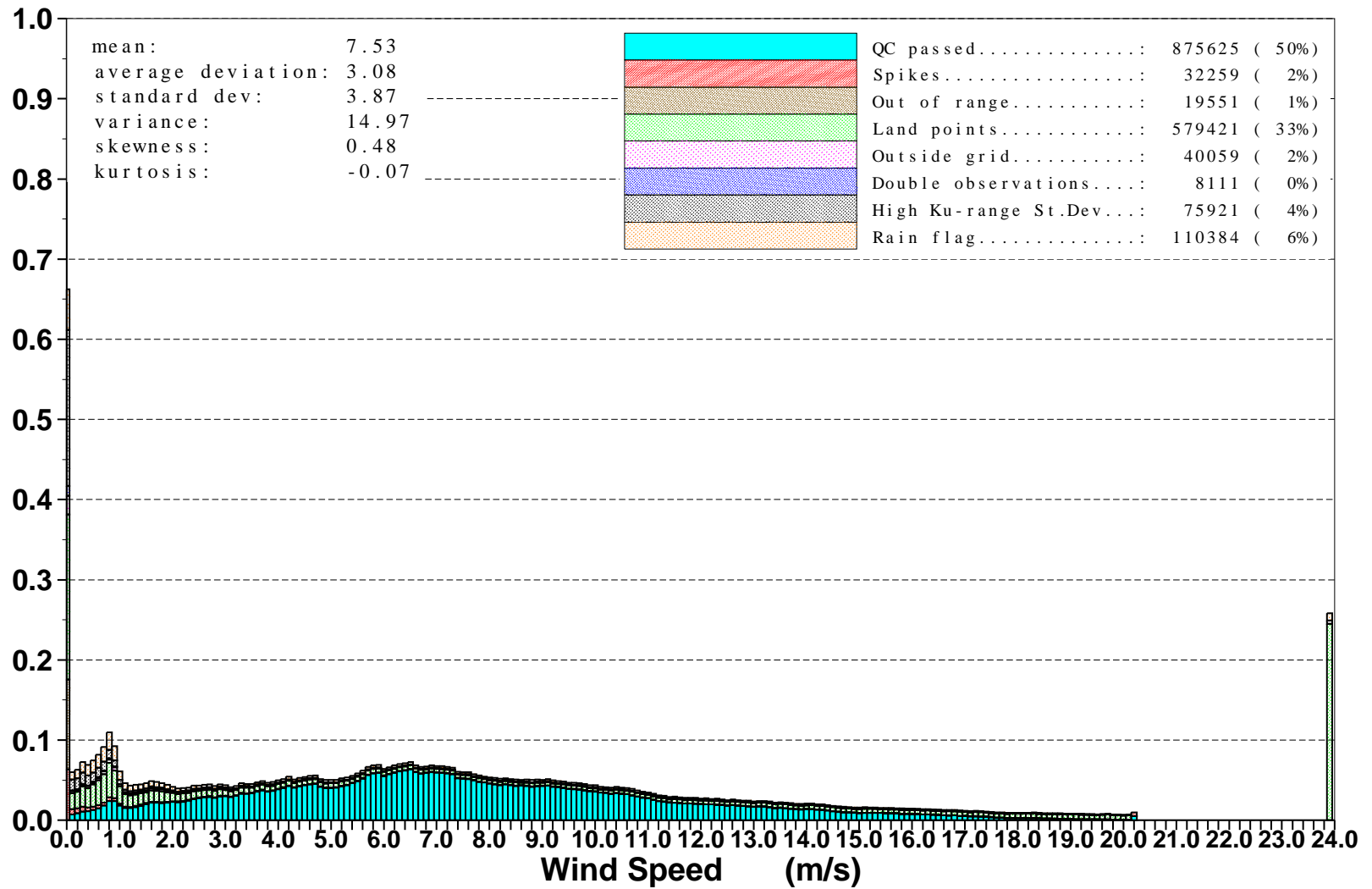


Figure 4: Distribution of the ENVISAT Altimeter Wind Speed after QC for April 2004

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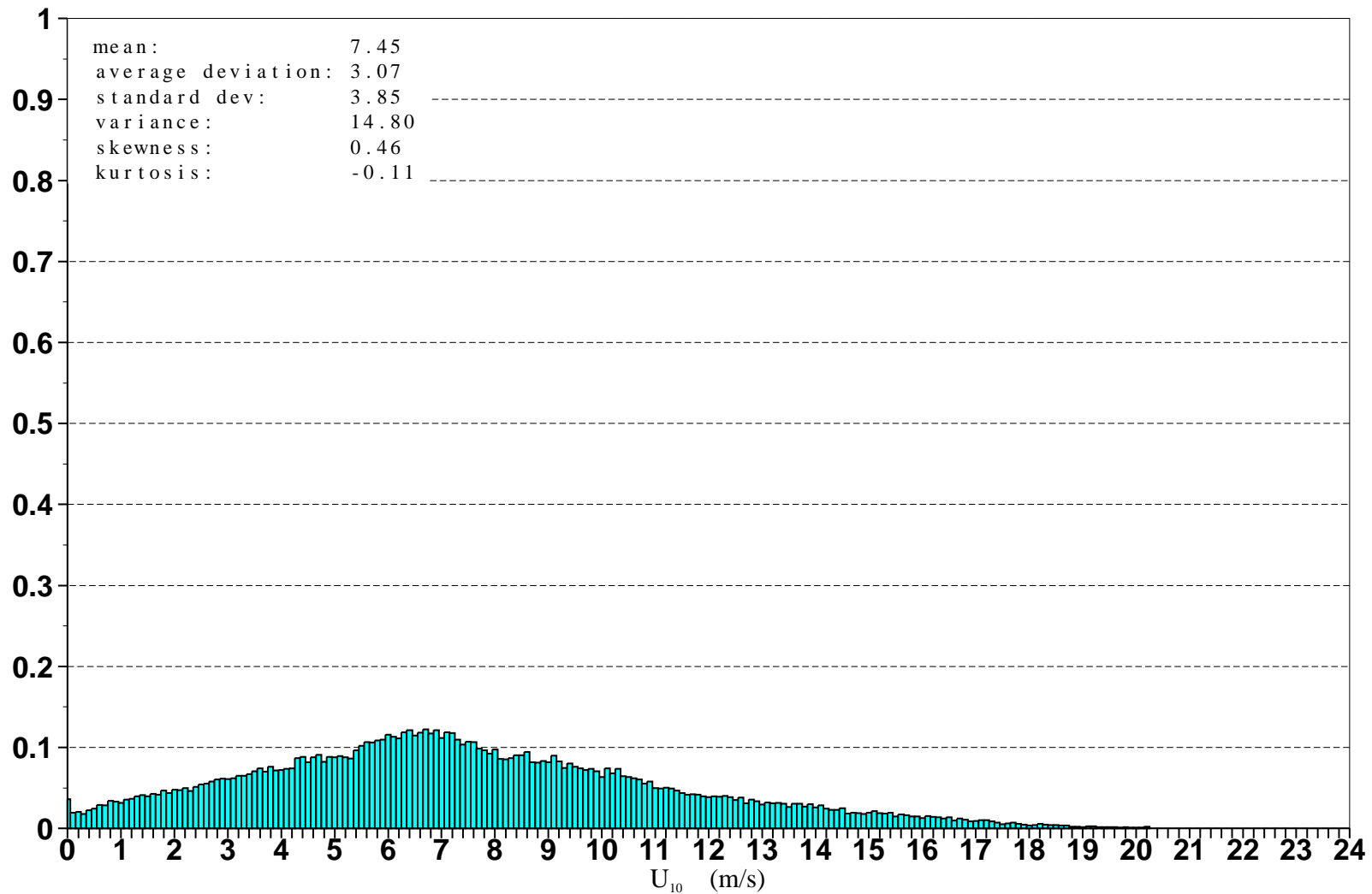


Figure 5: Distribution of ENVISAT Altimeter Wind Speeds after Along-Track Averaging for April 2004



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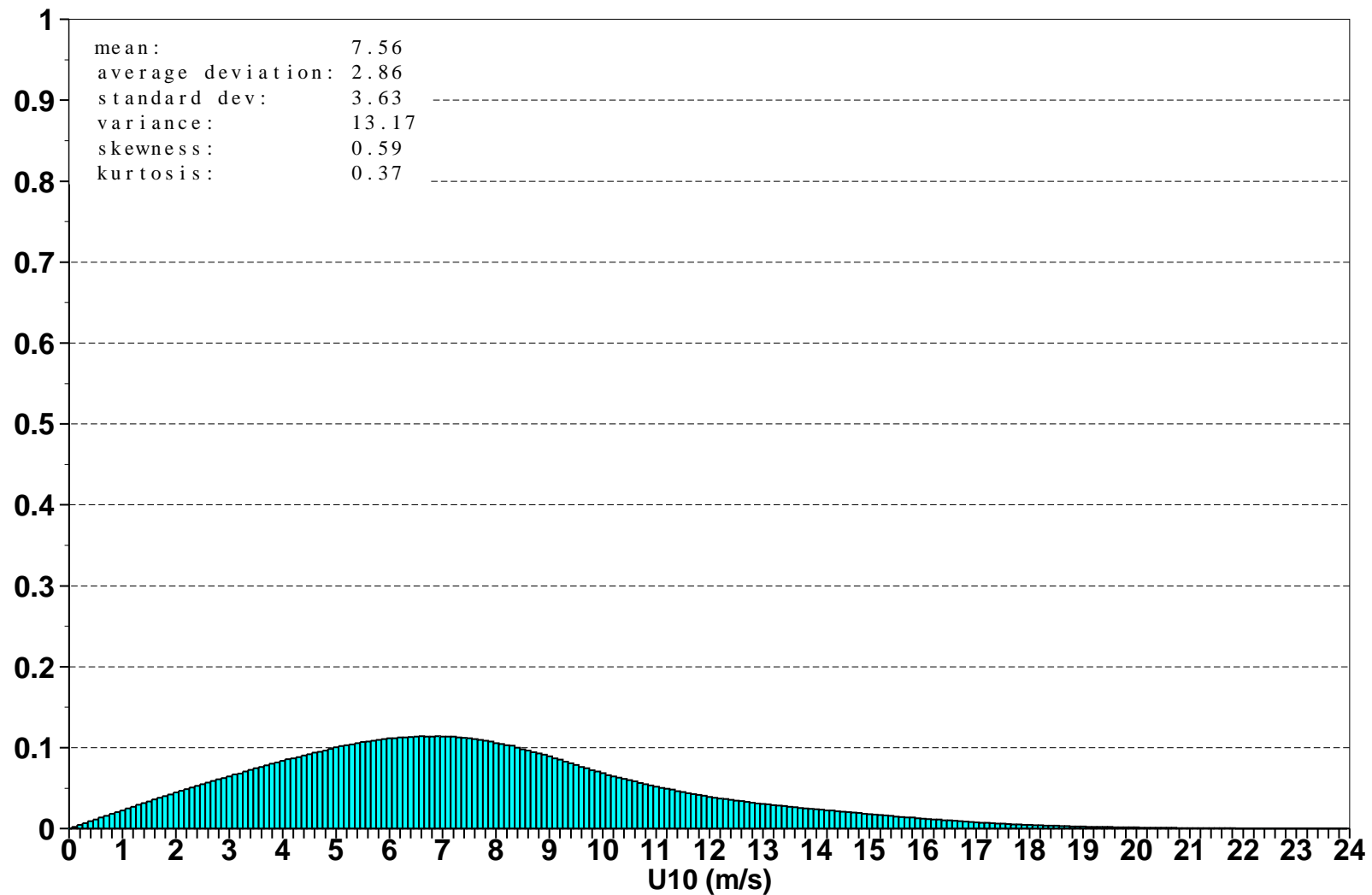


Figure 6: Global distribution of ECMWF Analysis ocean surface wind speeds for April 2004



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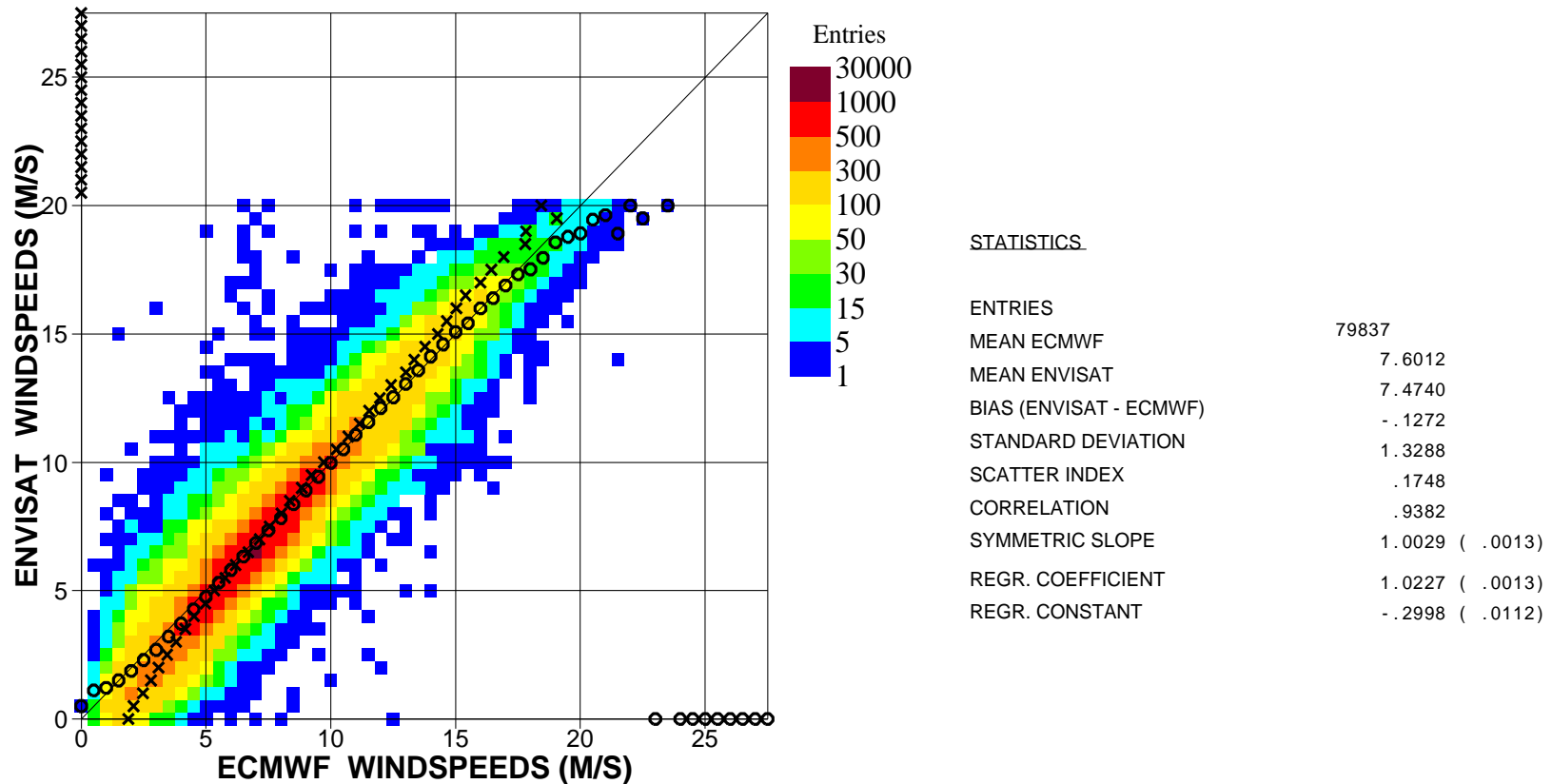


Figure 7. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and ECMWF wind speeds for April 2004 (Global)

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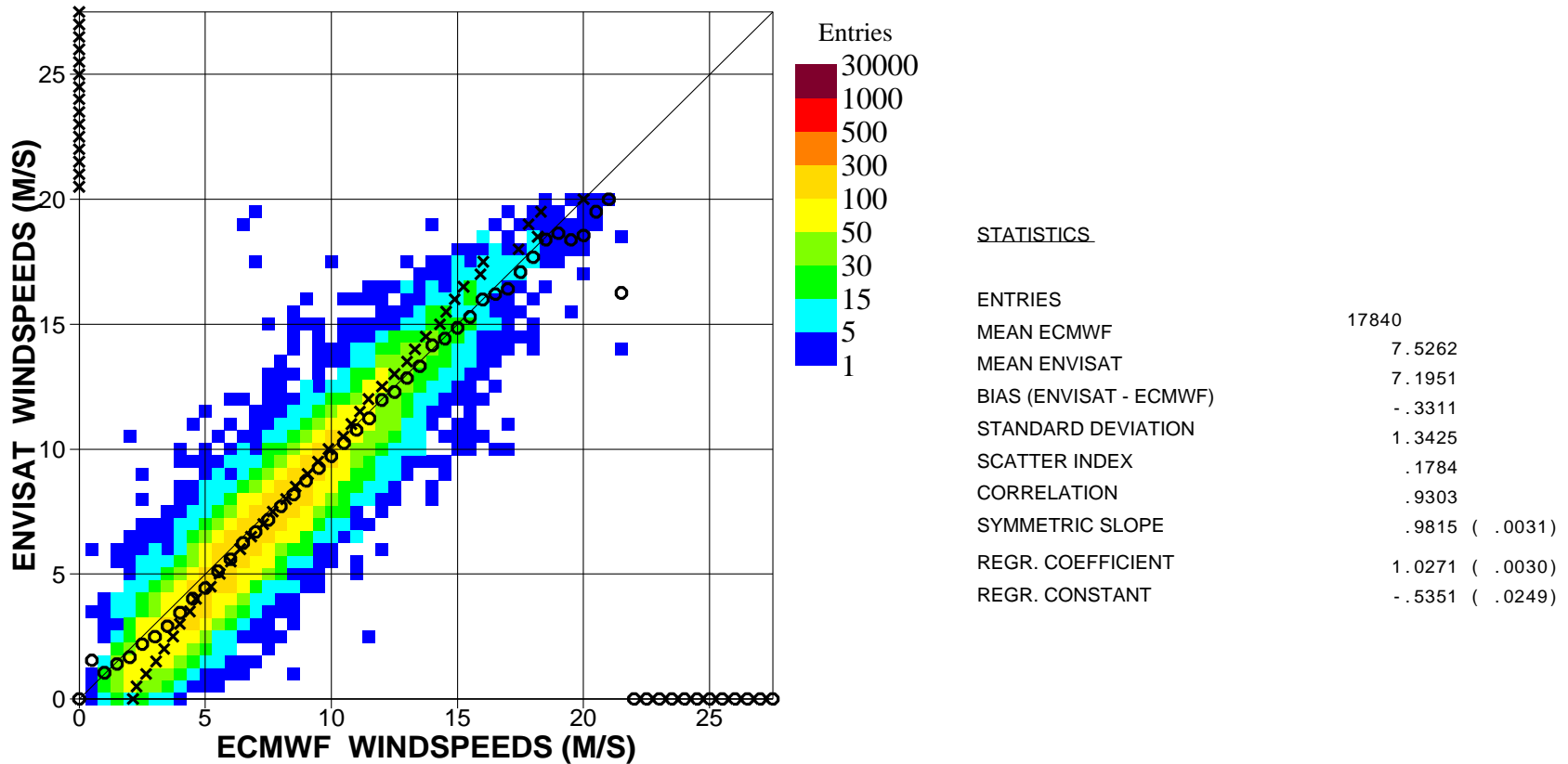


Figure 8. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and ECMWF wind speeds for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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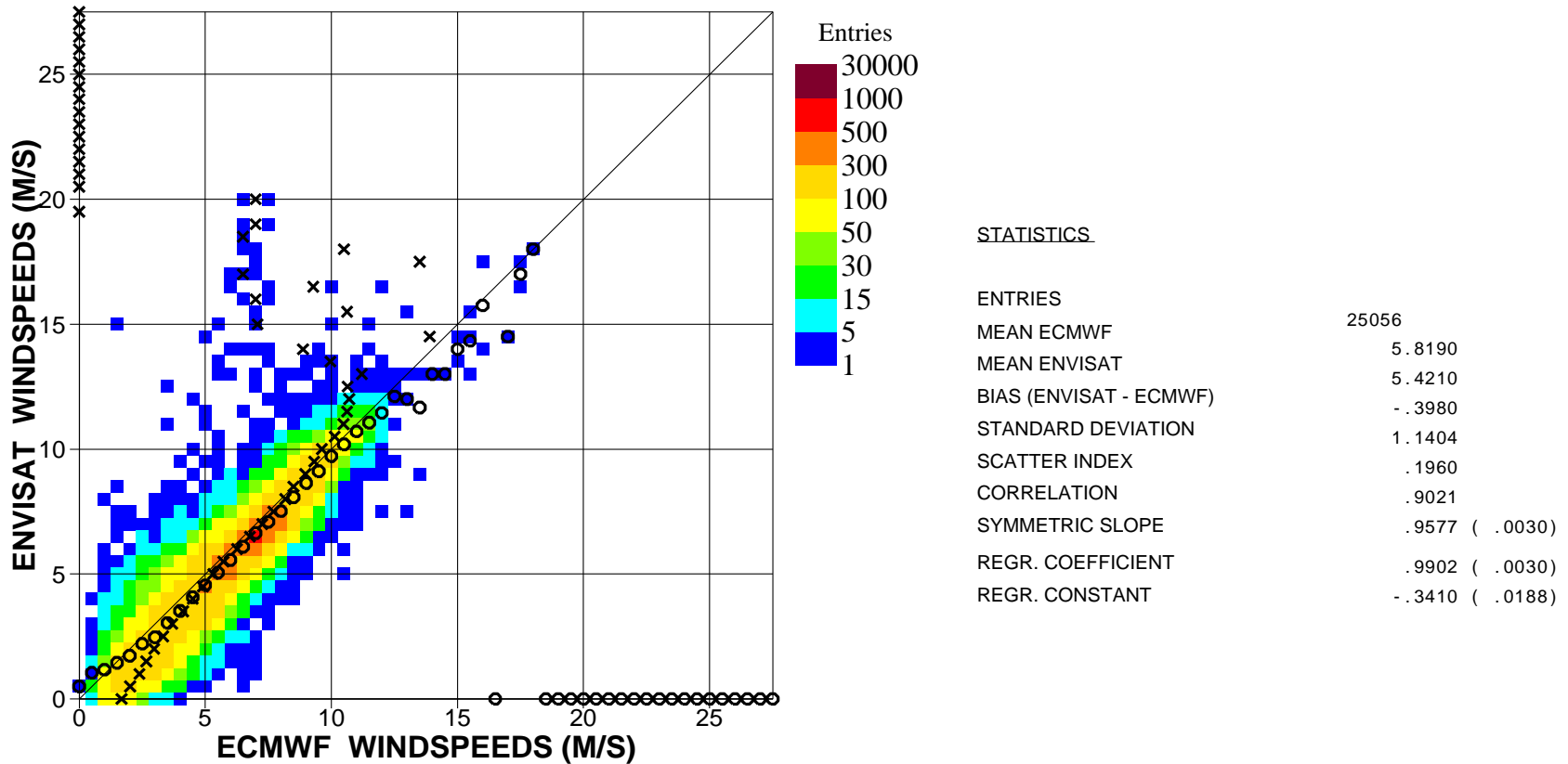


Figure 9. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and ECMWF wind speeds for April 2004 (Tropics)

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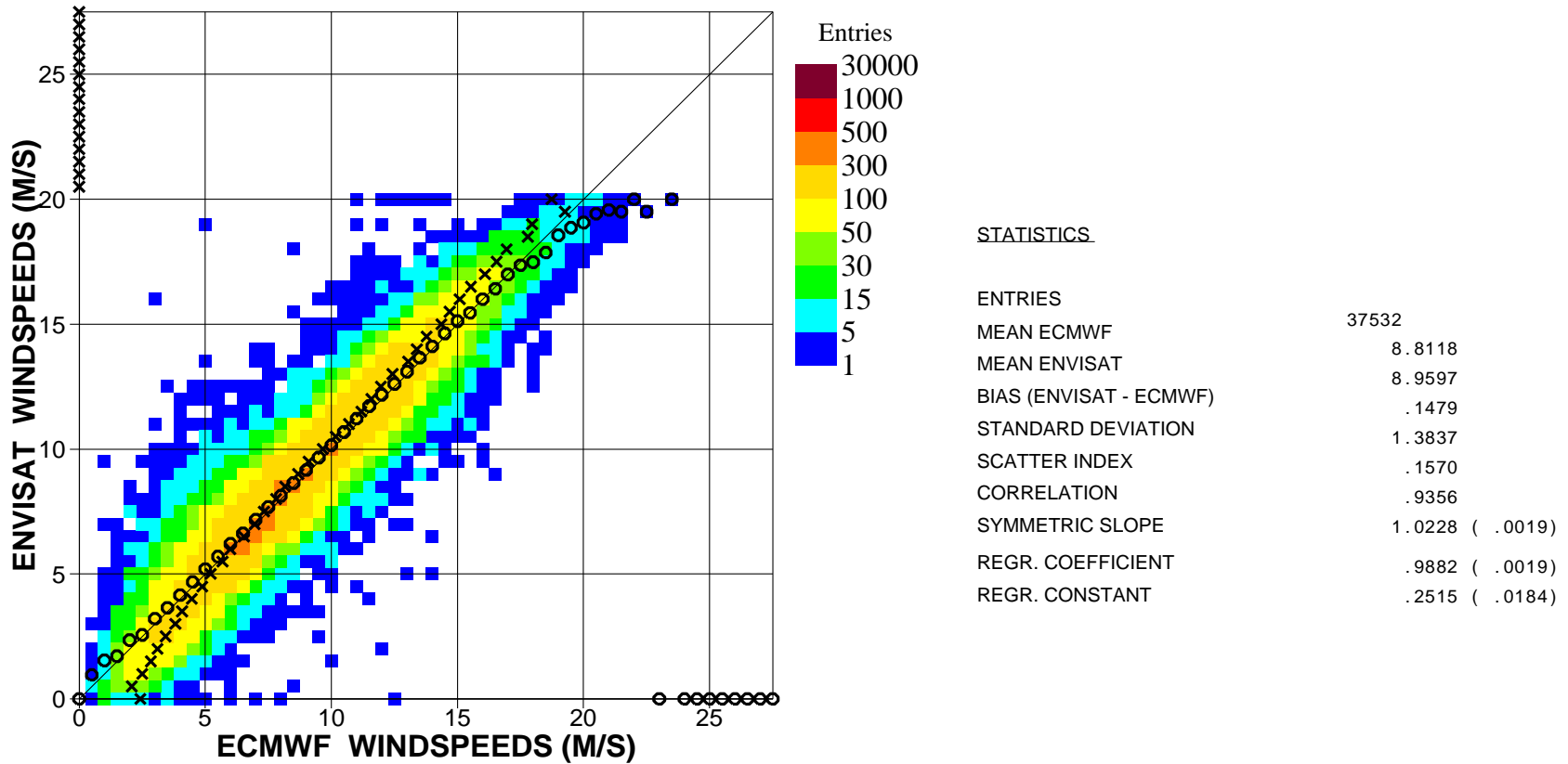


Figure 10. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and ECMWF wind speeds for April 2004 (S.Hem.)

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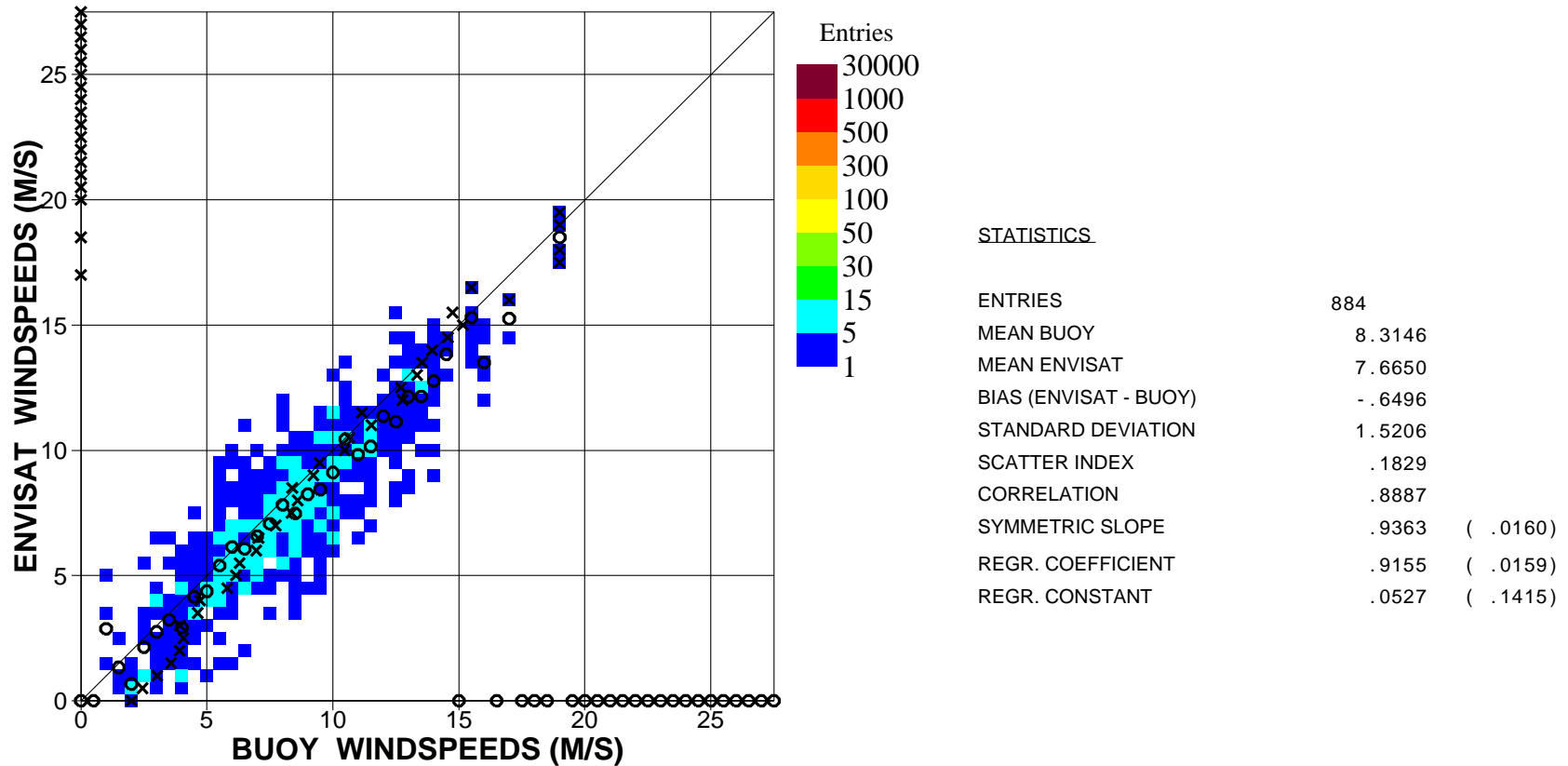


Figure 11. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and buoy wind speeds for April 2004 (Global)

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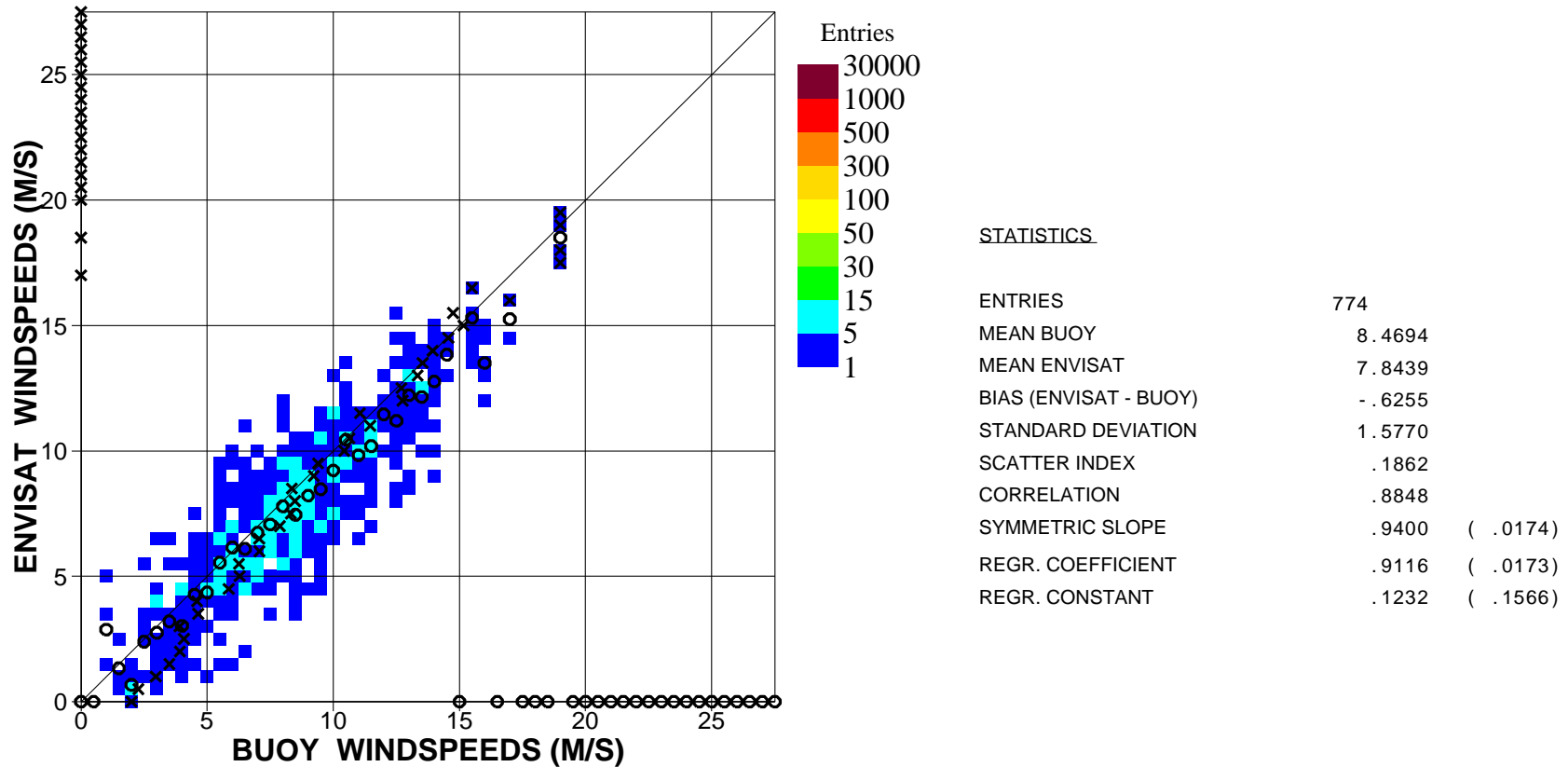


Figure 12. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and buoy wind speeds for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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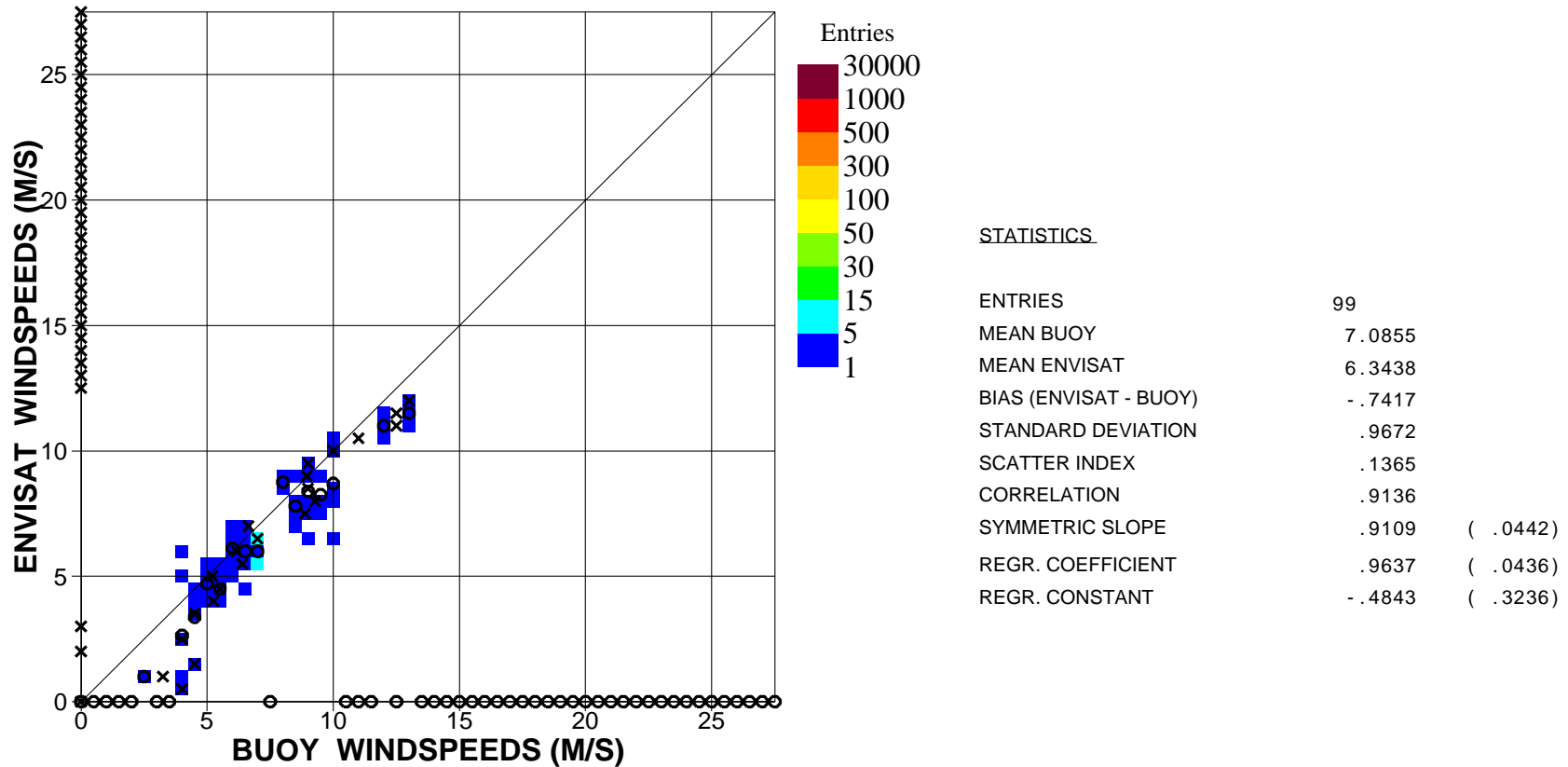


Figure 13. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter and buoy wind speeds for April 2004 (Tropics)

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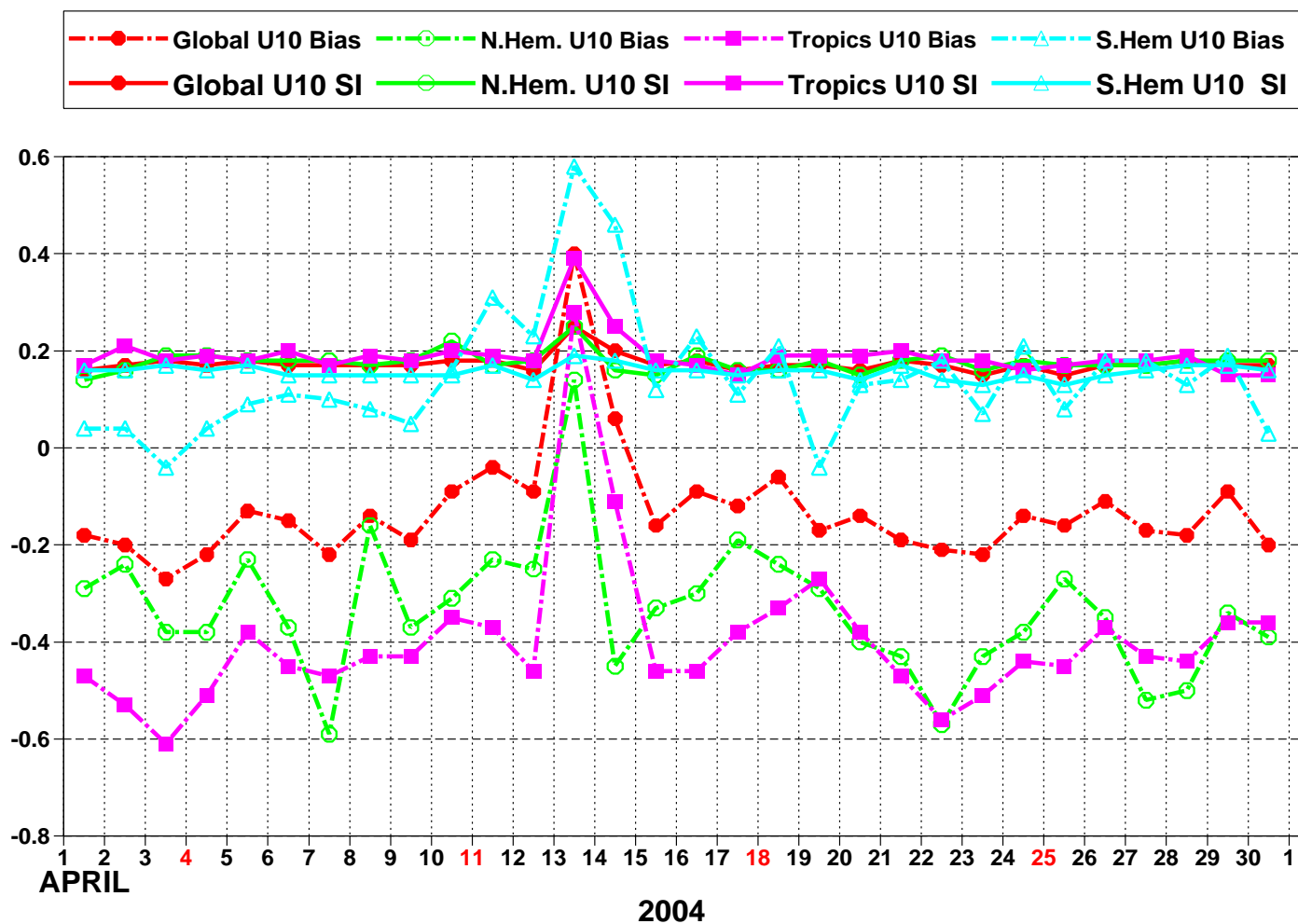


Figure 14: ENVISAT Altimeter wind speeds: Timeseries of bias (ENVISAT - ECMWF) and scatter index (SI)

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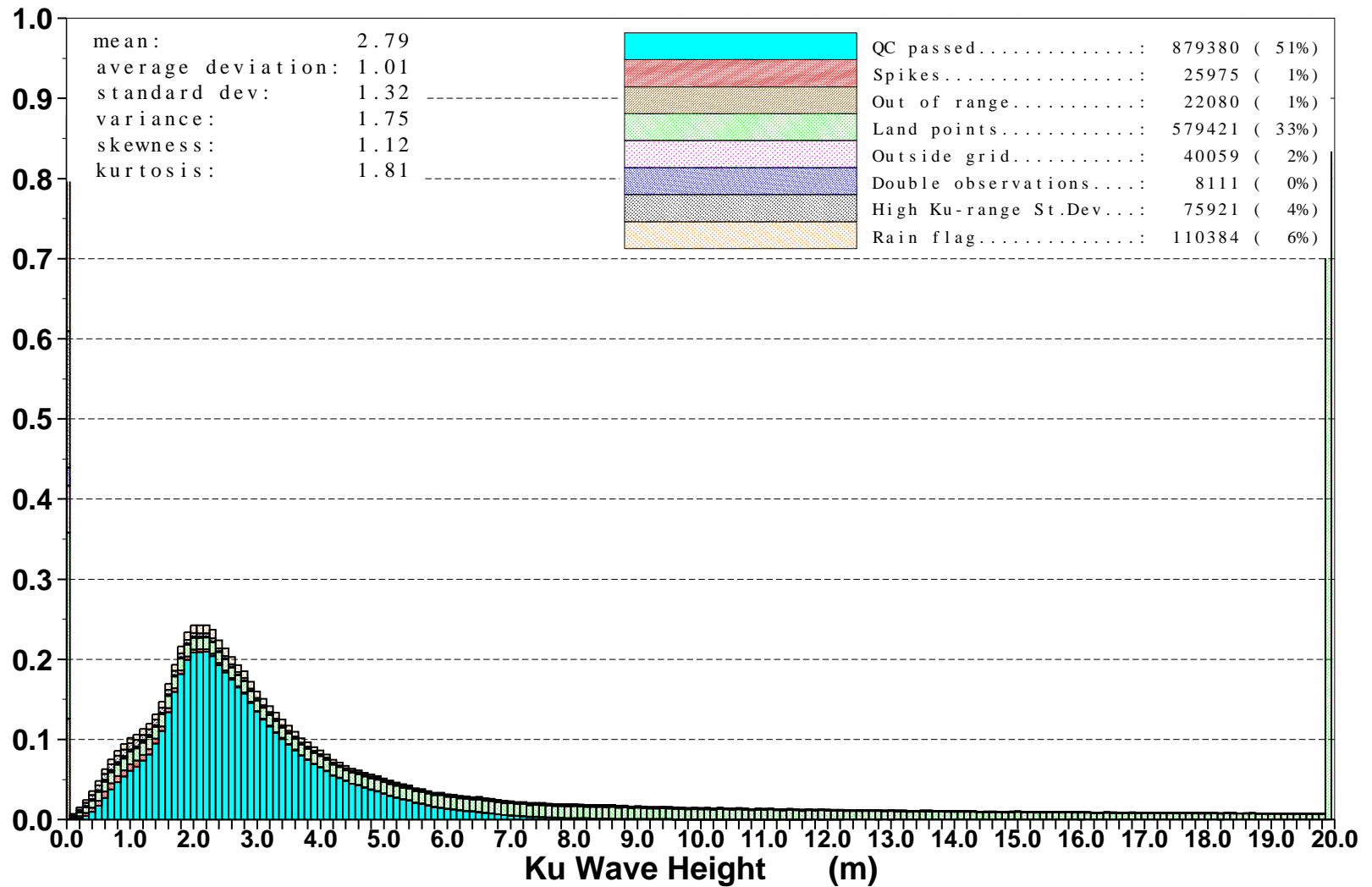


Figure 15: Distribution of the ENVISAT Altimeter Ku Wave Height after QC for April 2004

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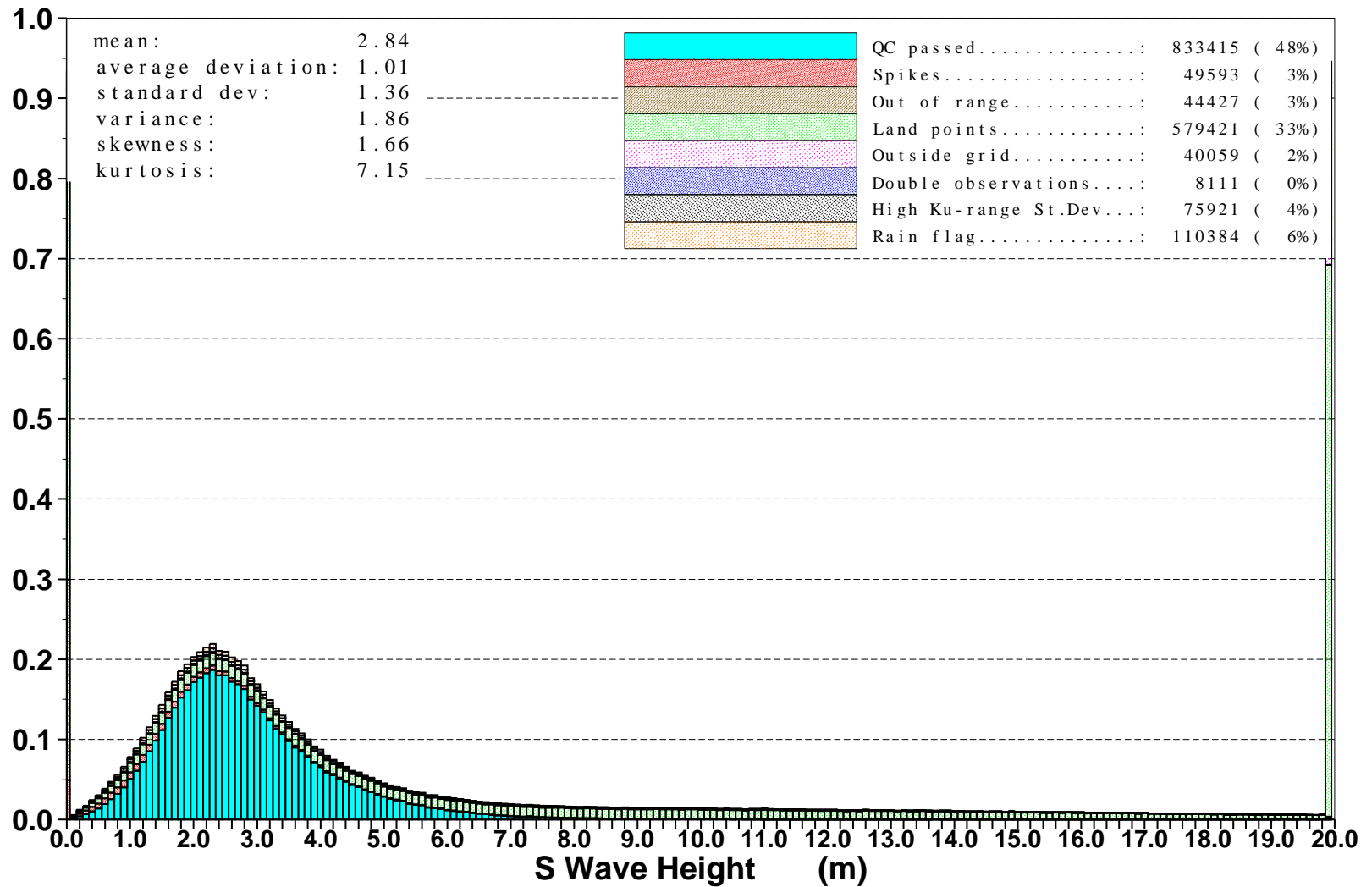


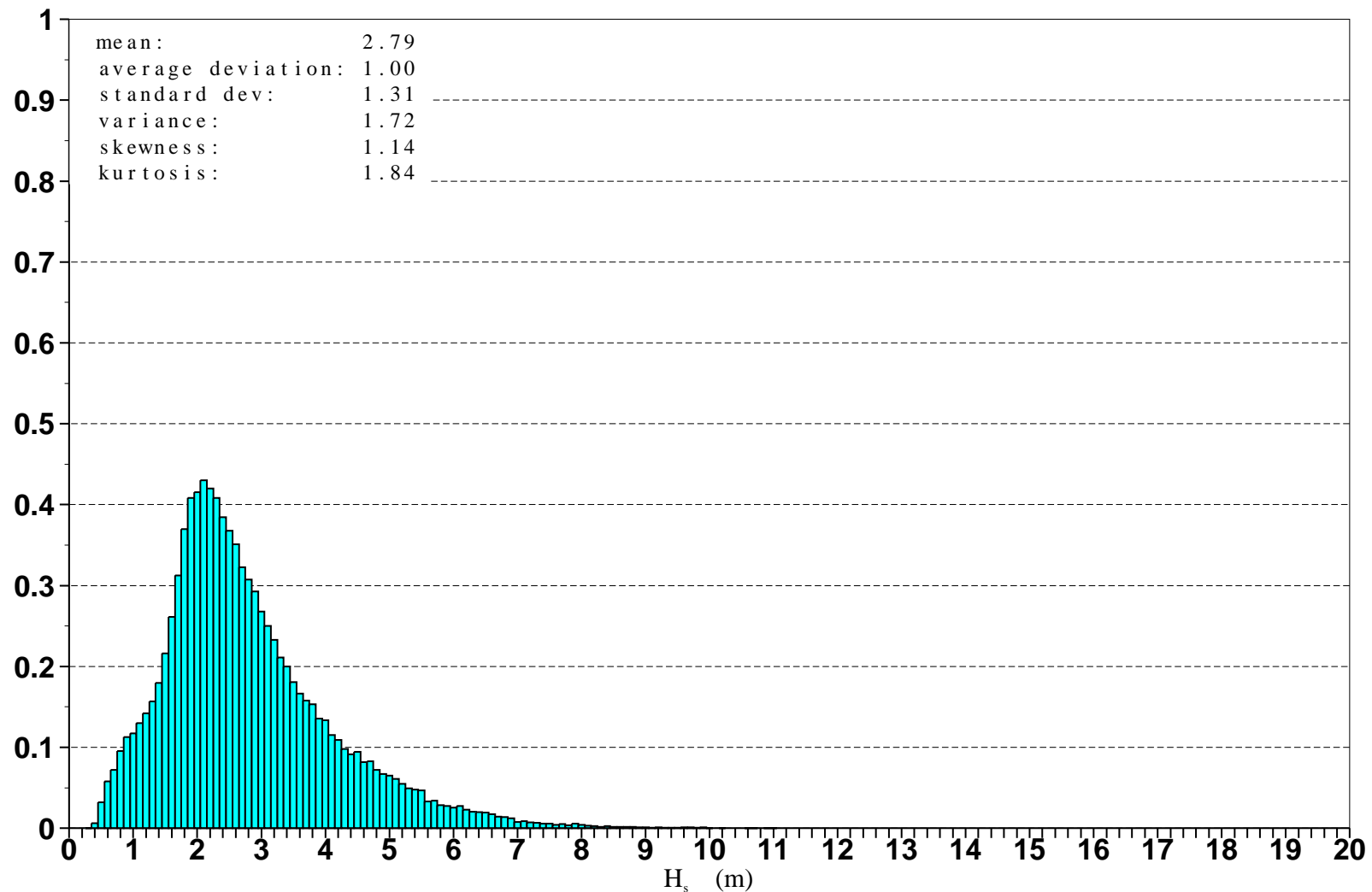
Figure 16: Distribution of the ENVISAT Altimeter S Wave Height after QC for April 2004

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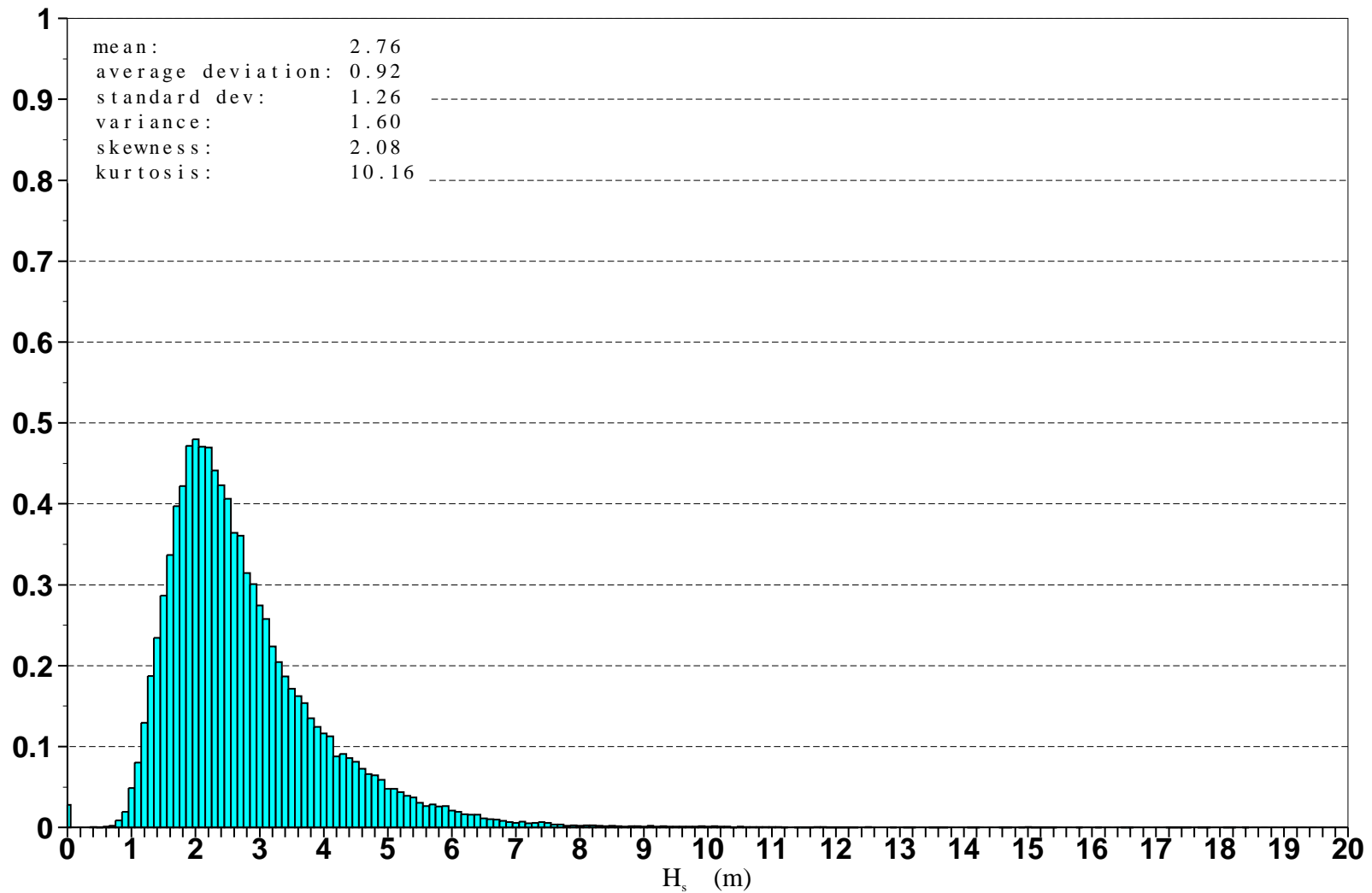
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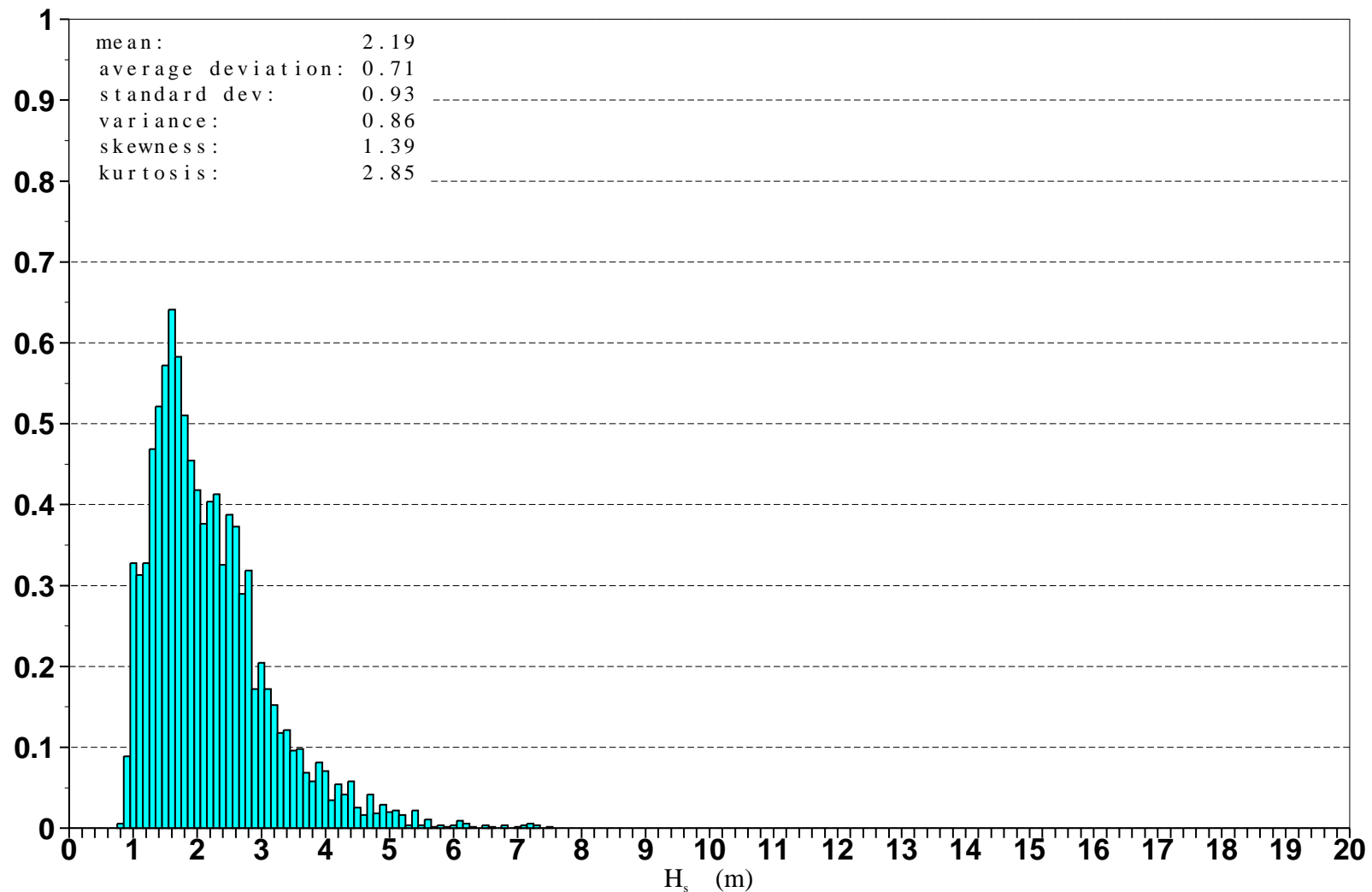
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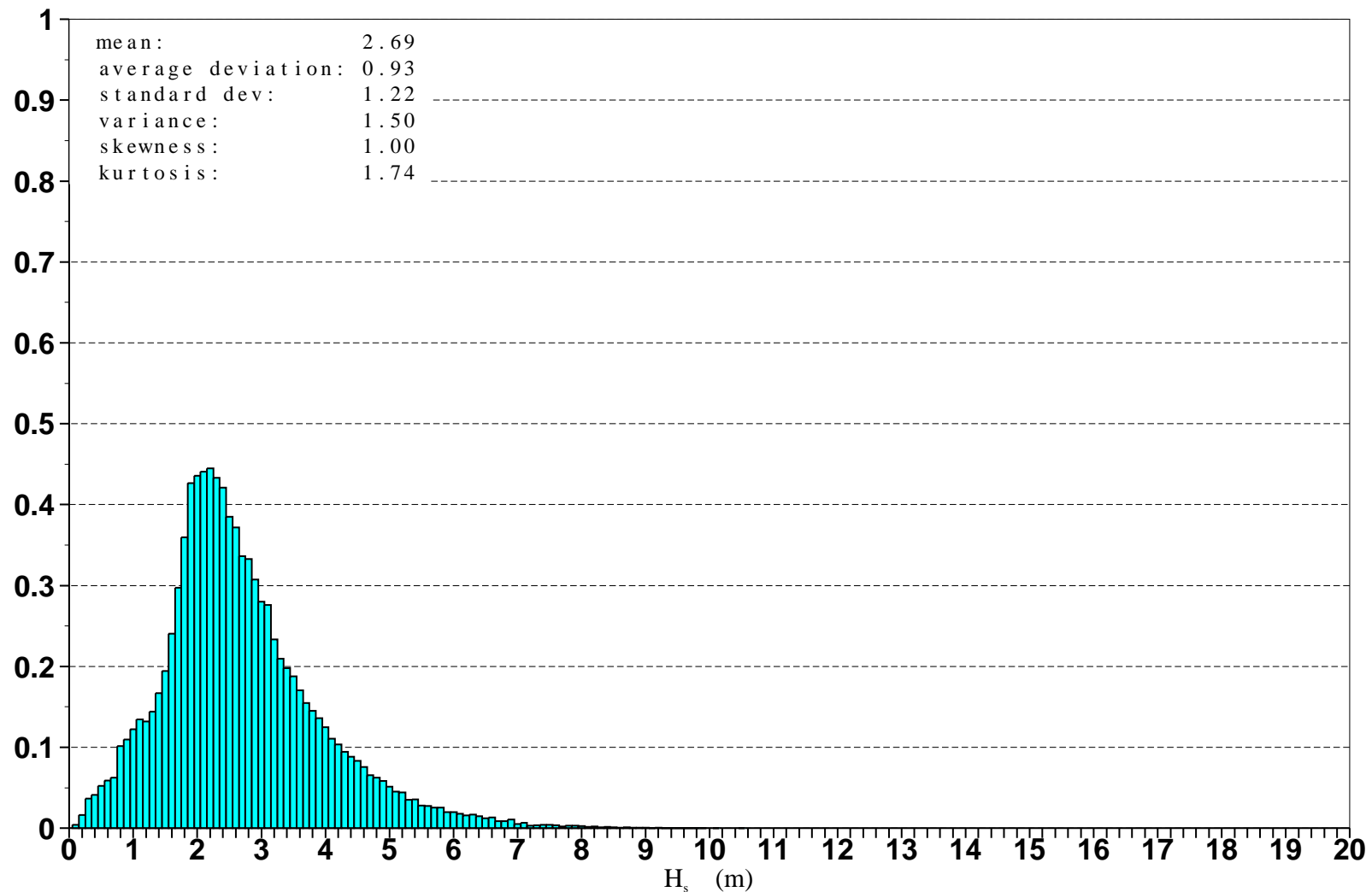
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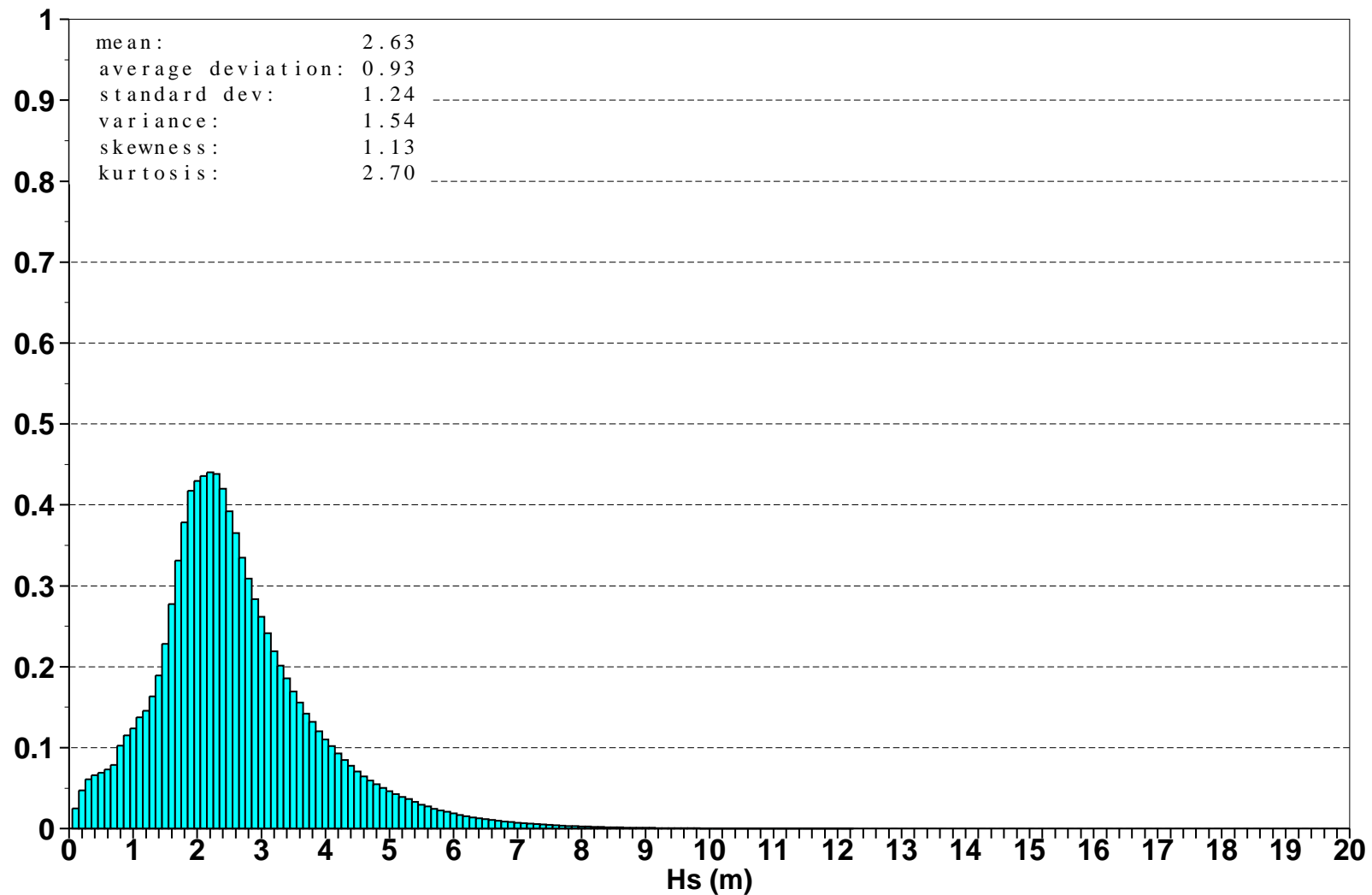


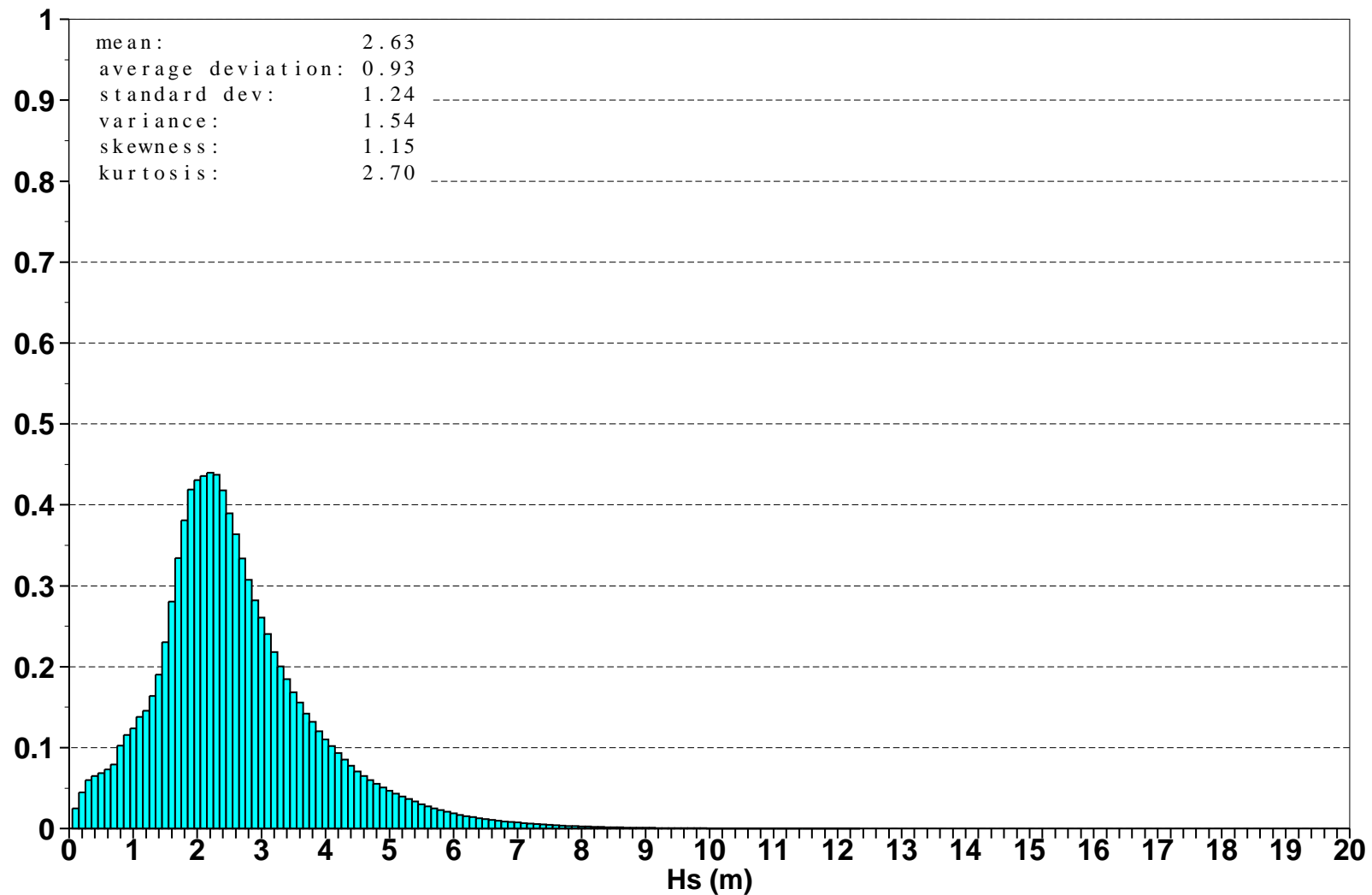
Figure 20: Global distribution of ECMWF First-Guess wave heights for April 2004



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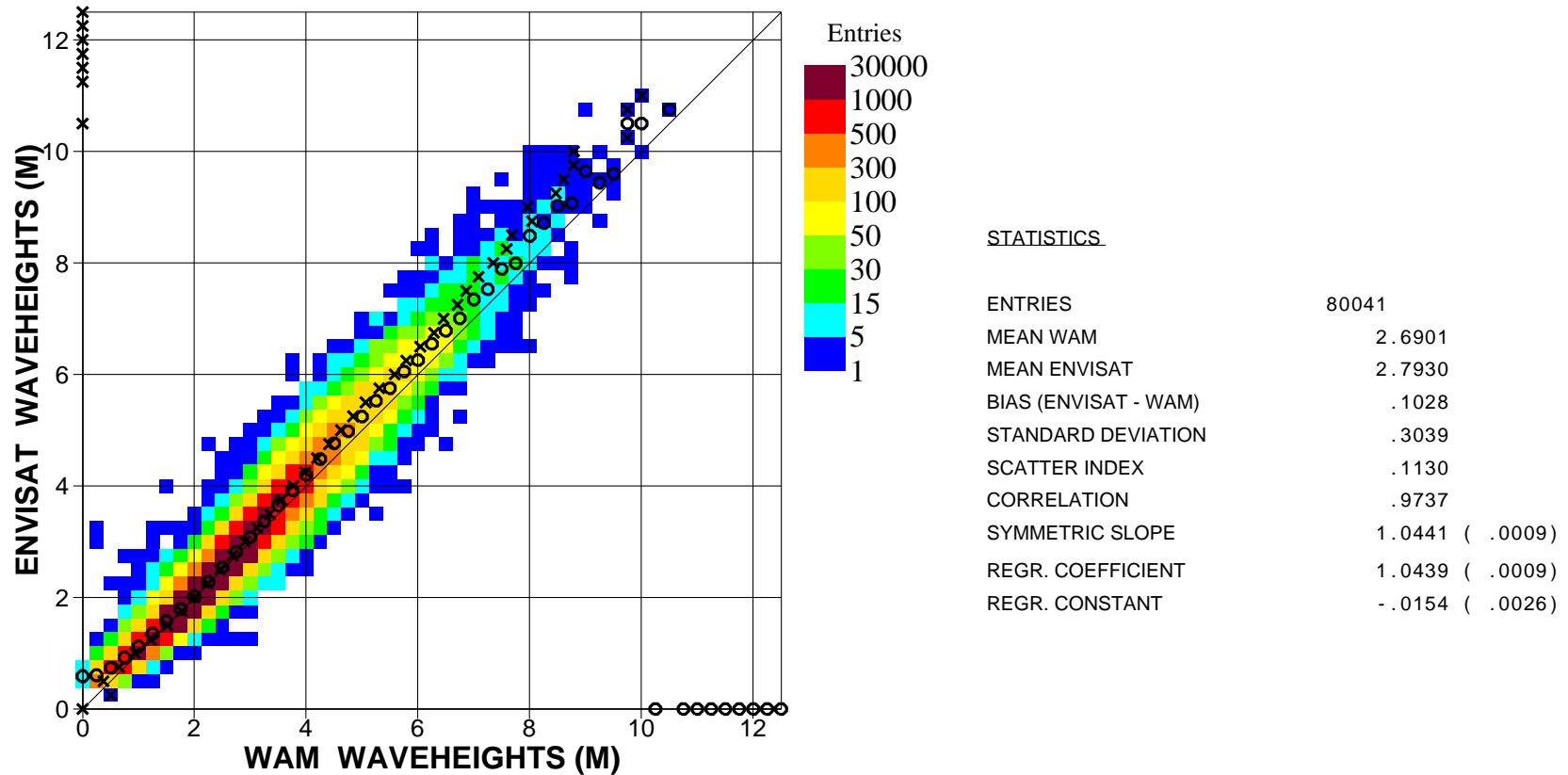


Figure 22. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (Global)

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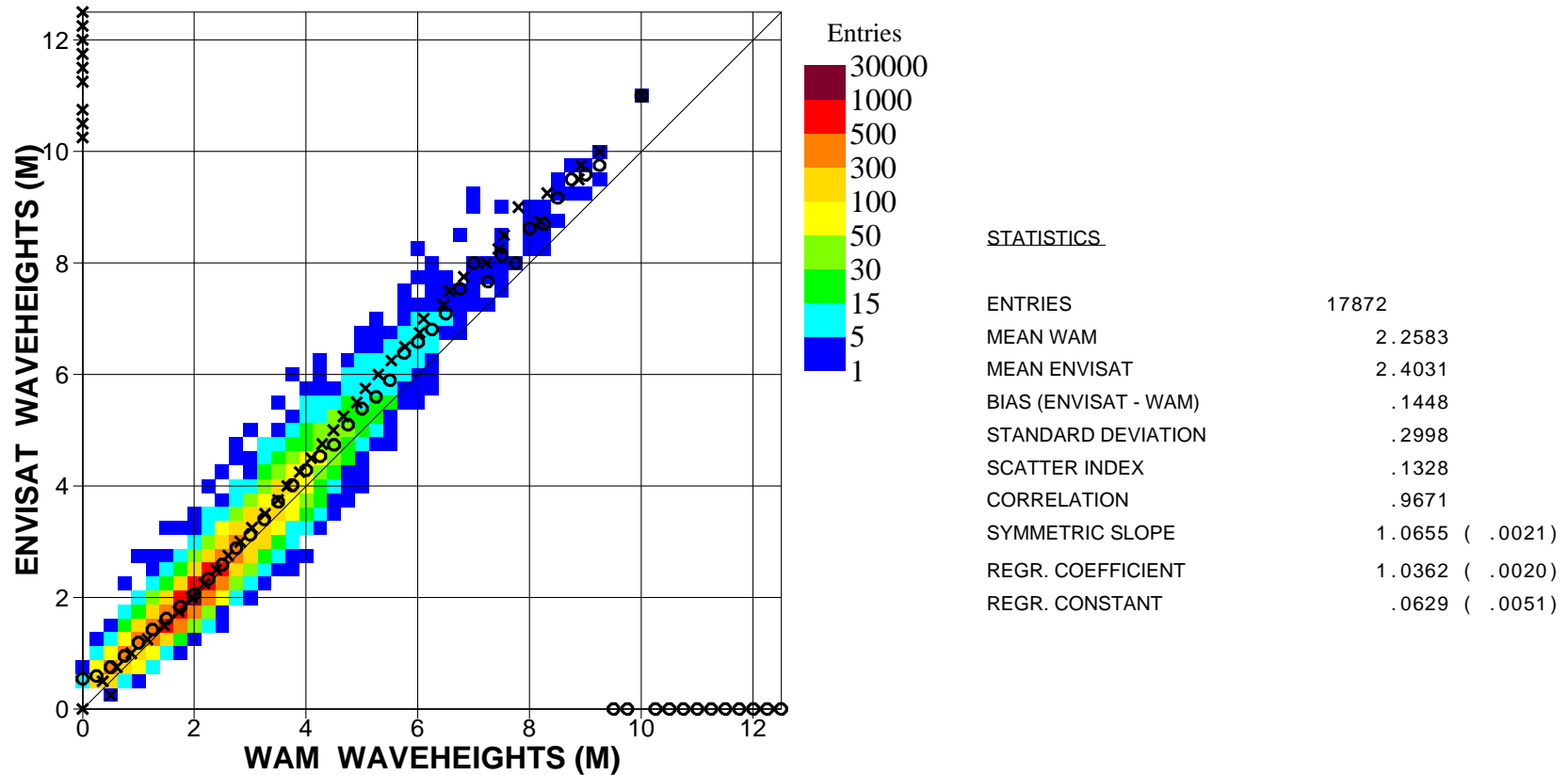


Figure 23. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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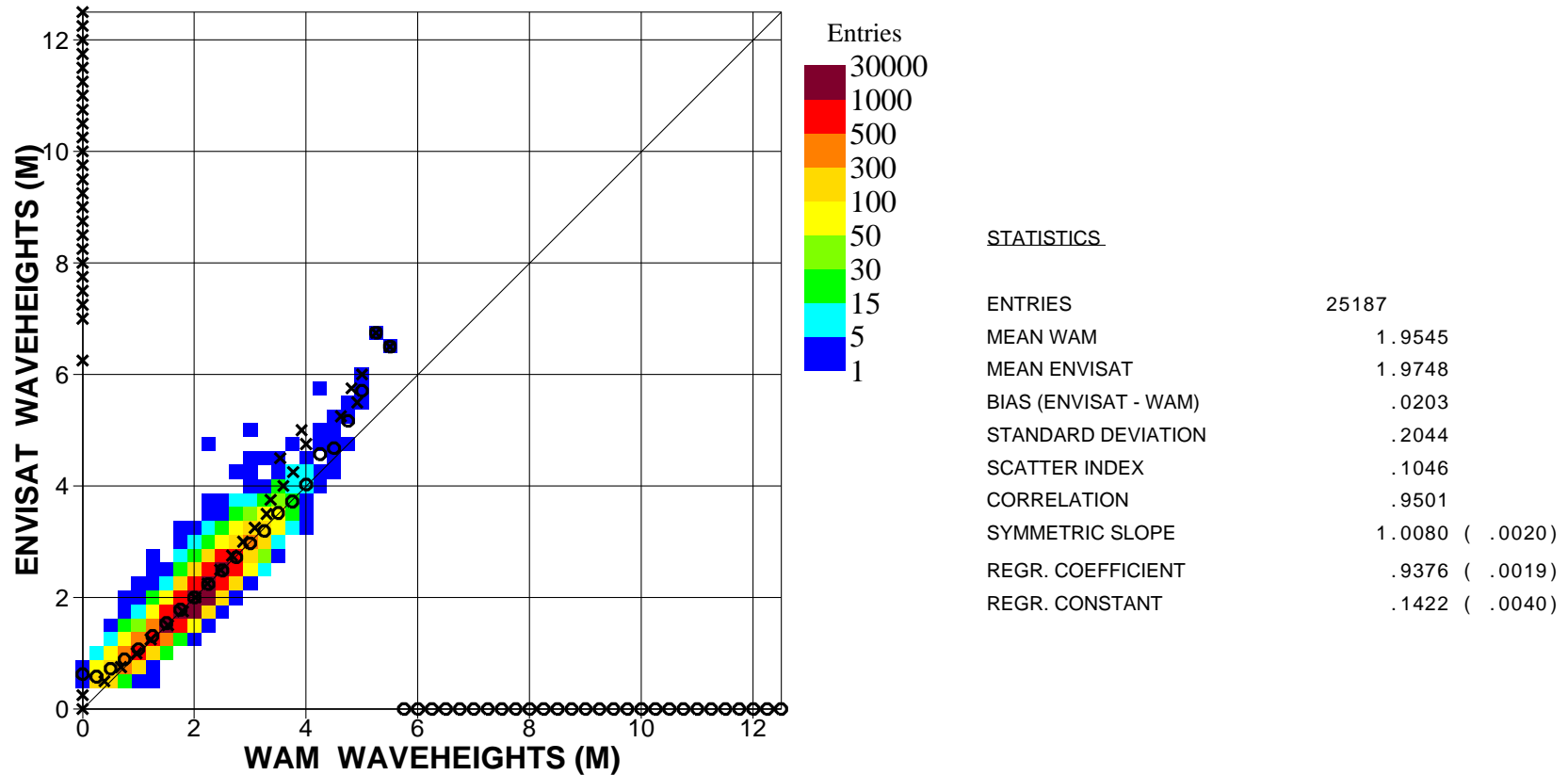


Figure 24. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (Tropics)

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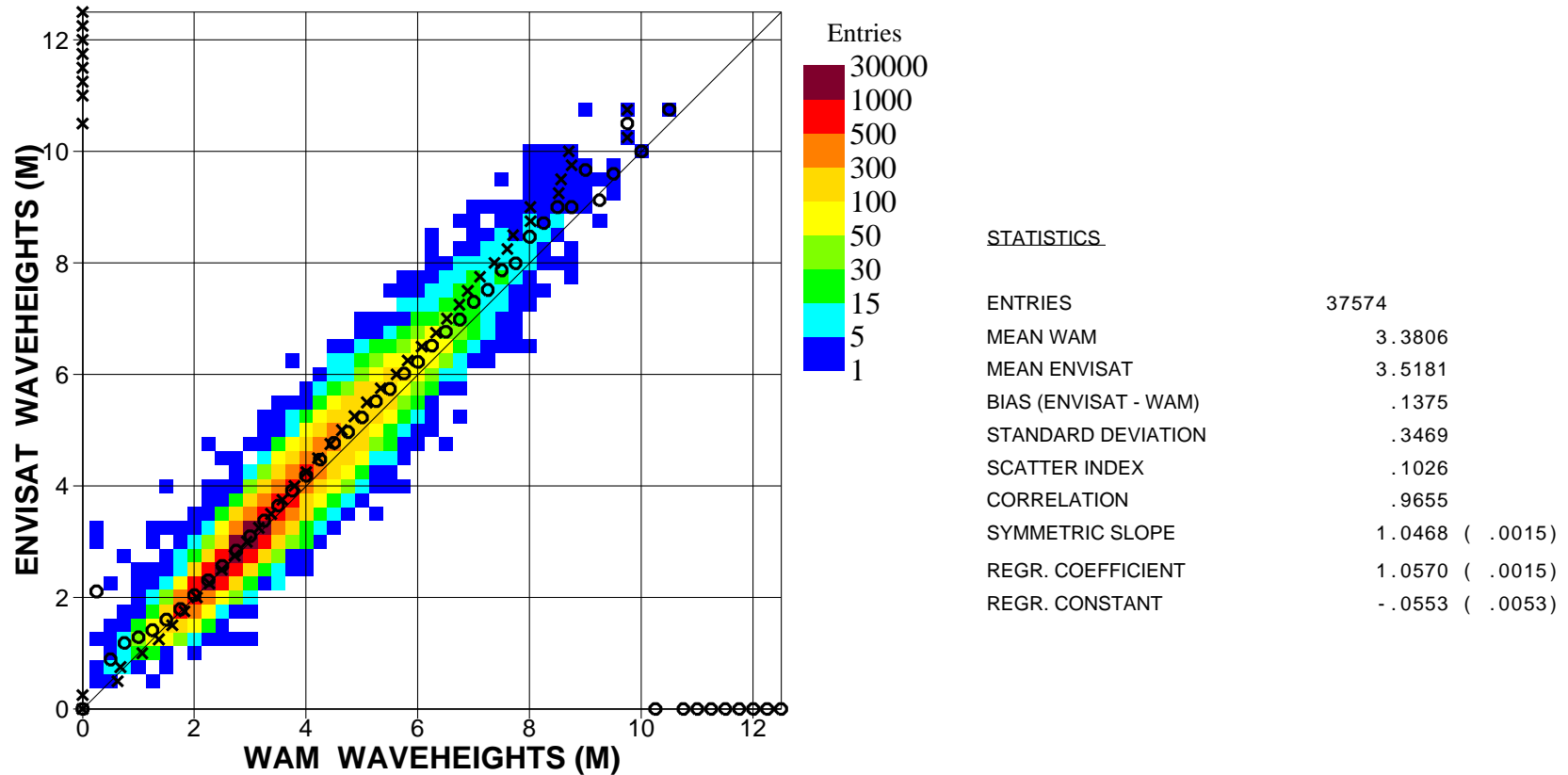


Figure 25. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (S.Hem.)

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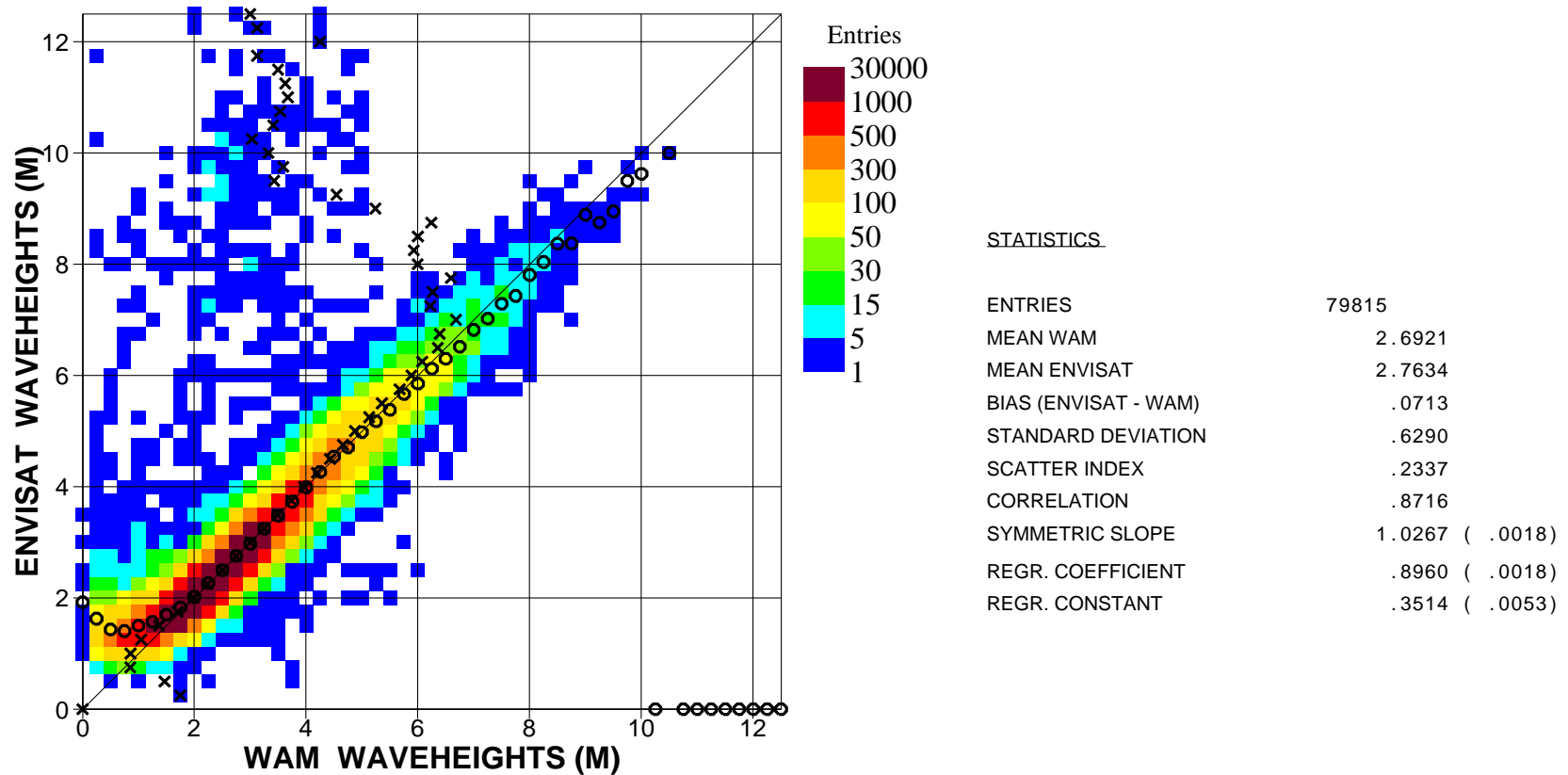


Figure 26. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (Global)

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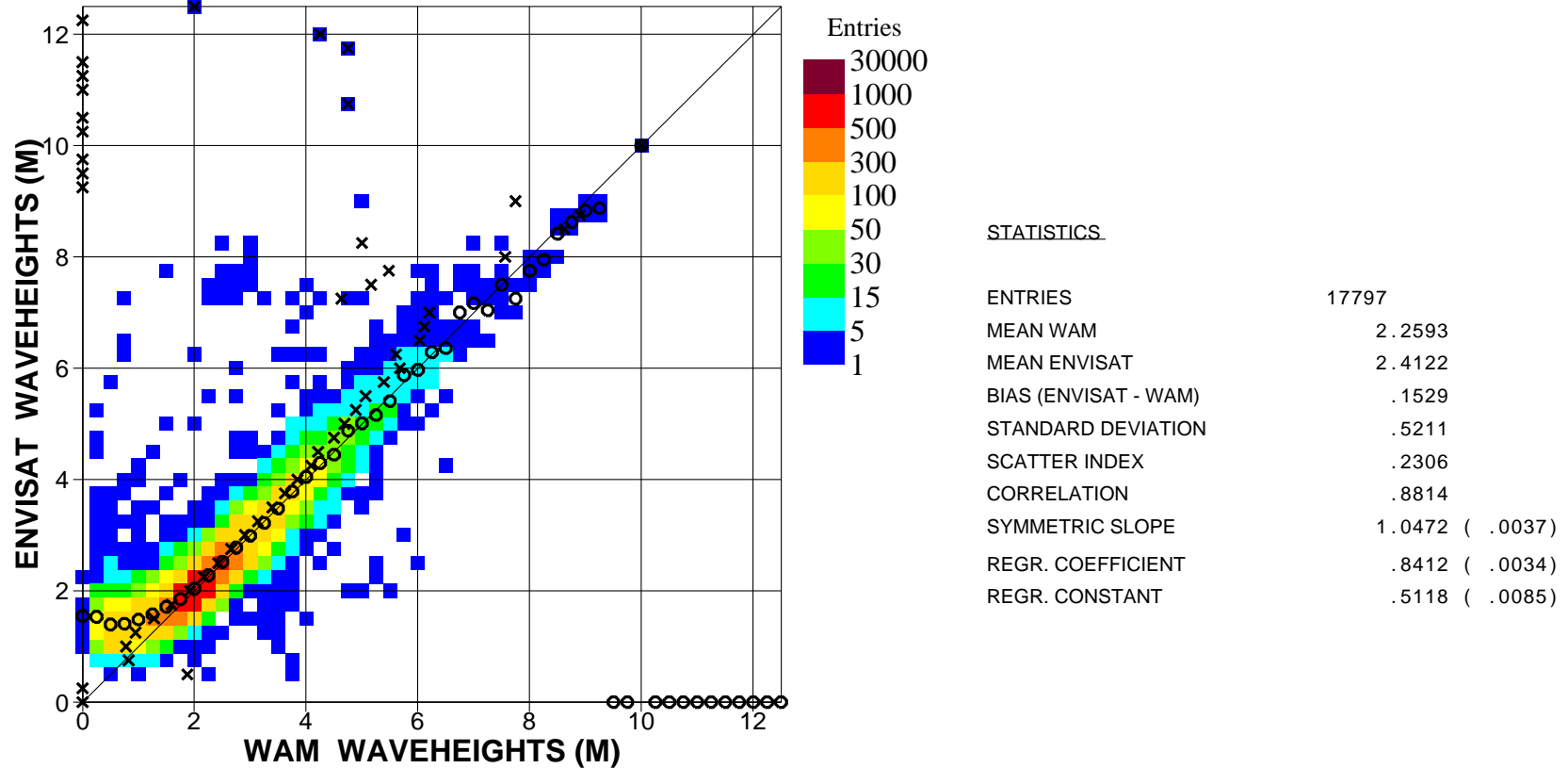


Figure 27. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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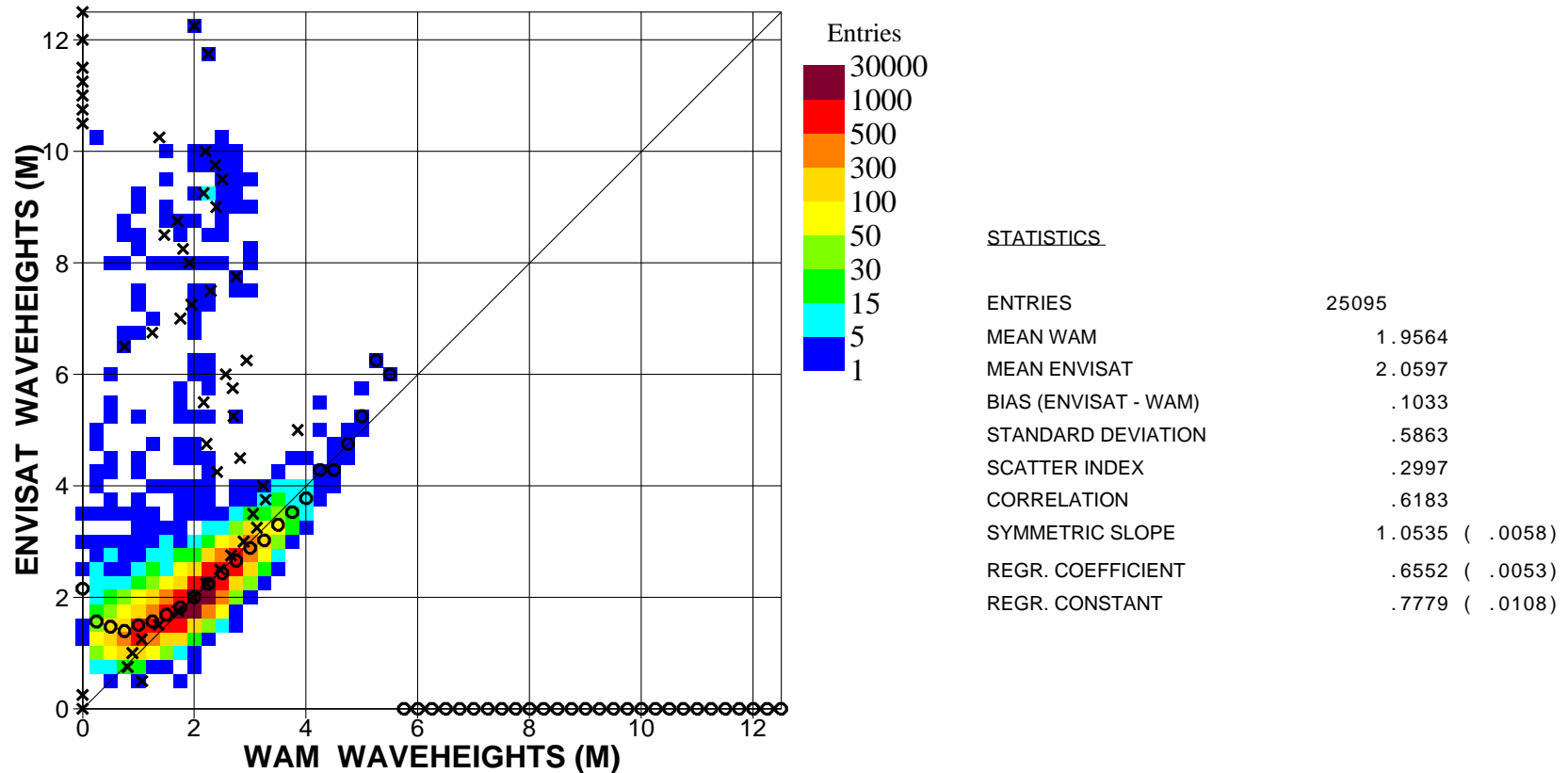


Figure 28. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (Tropics)

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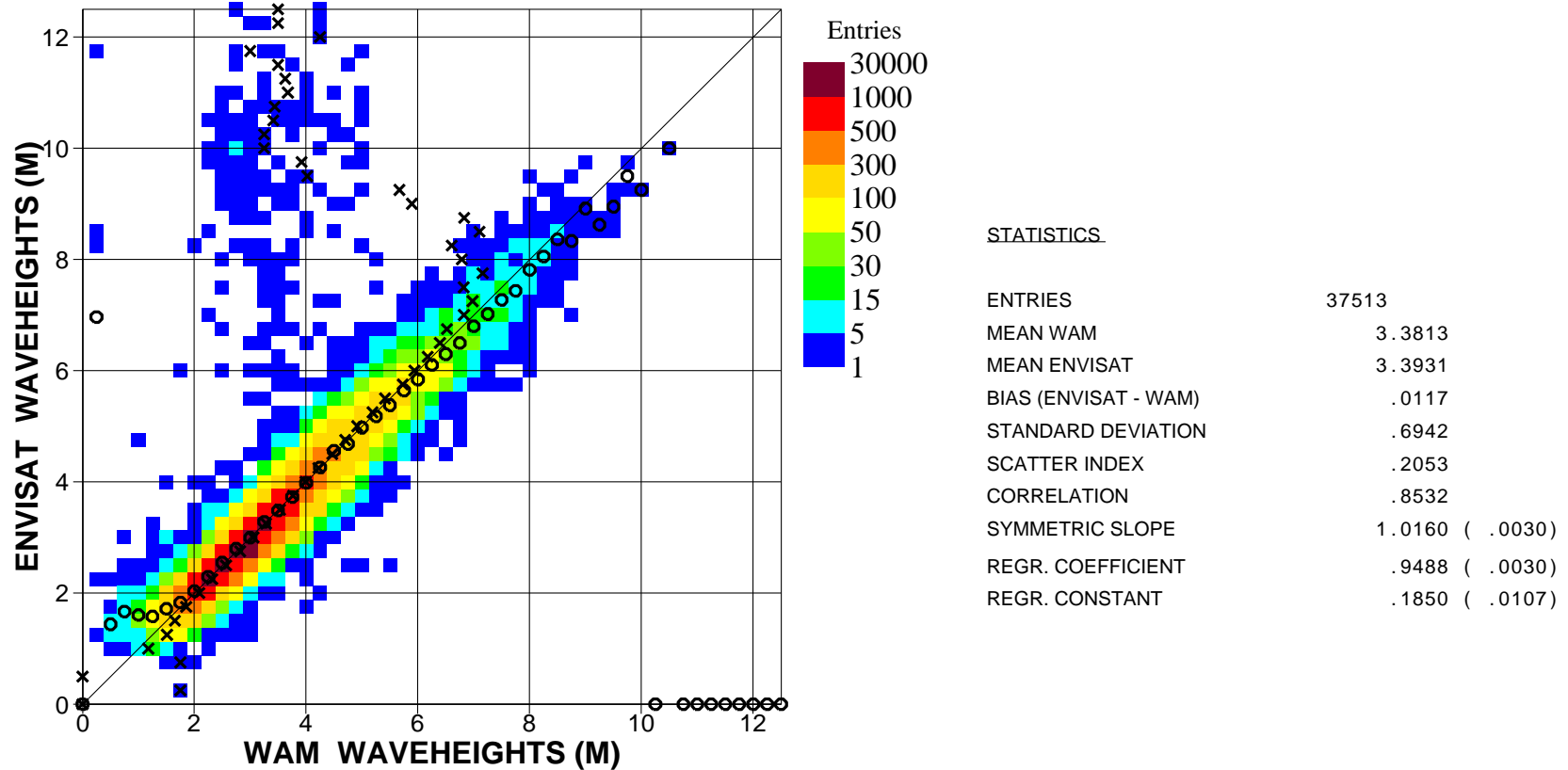


Figure 29. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and WAM (first guess) significant wave heights for April 2004 (S.Hem.)

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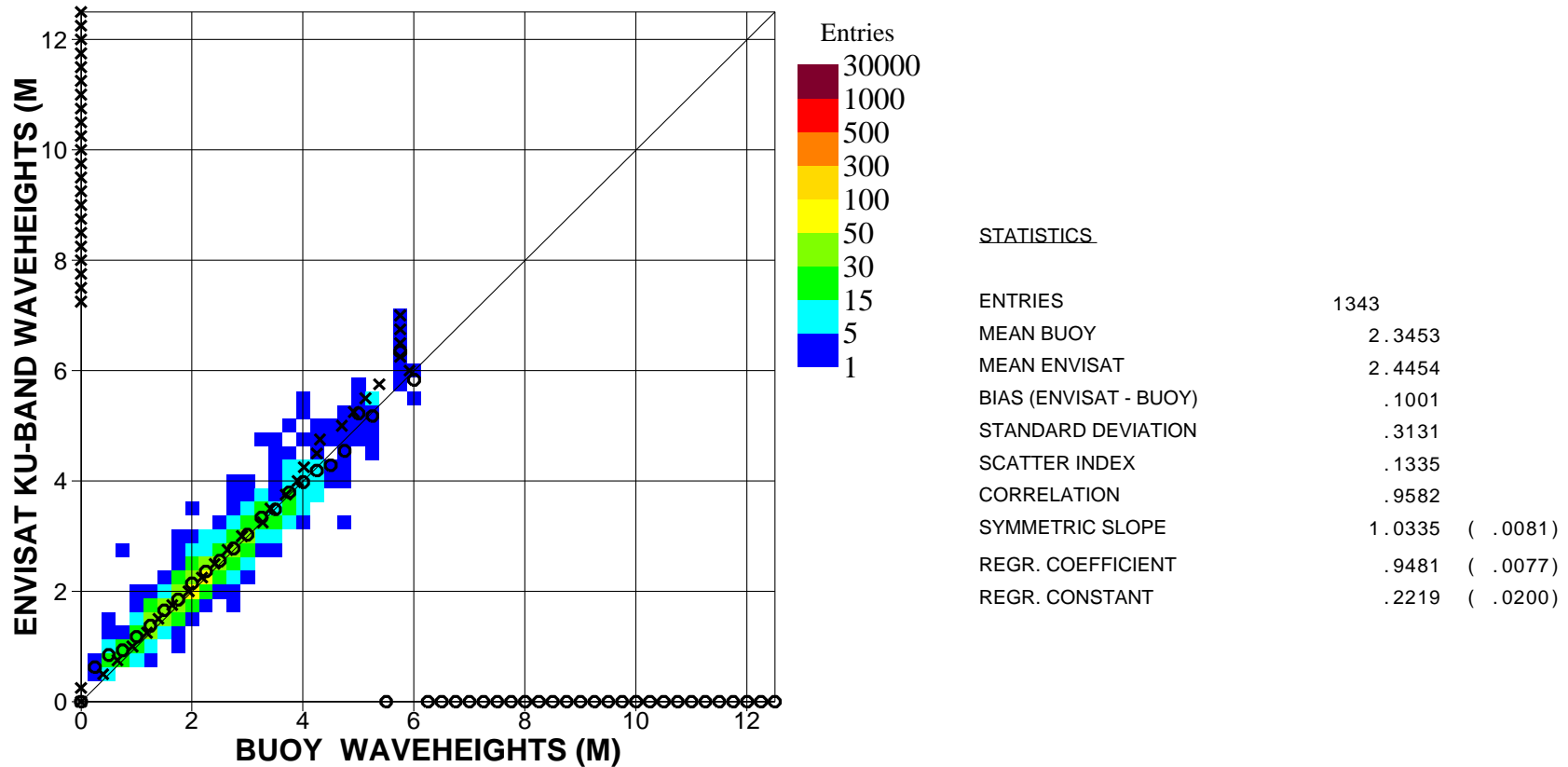


Figure 30. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (Global)

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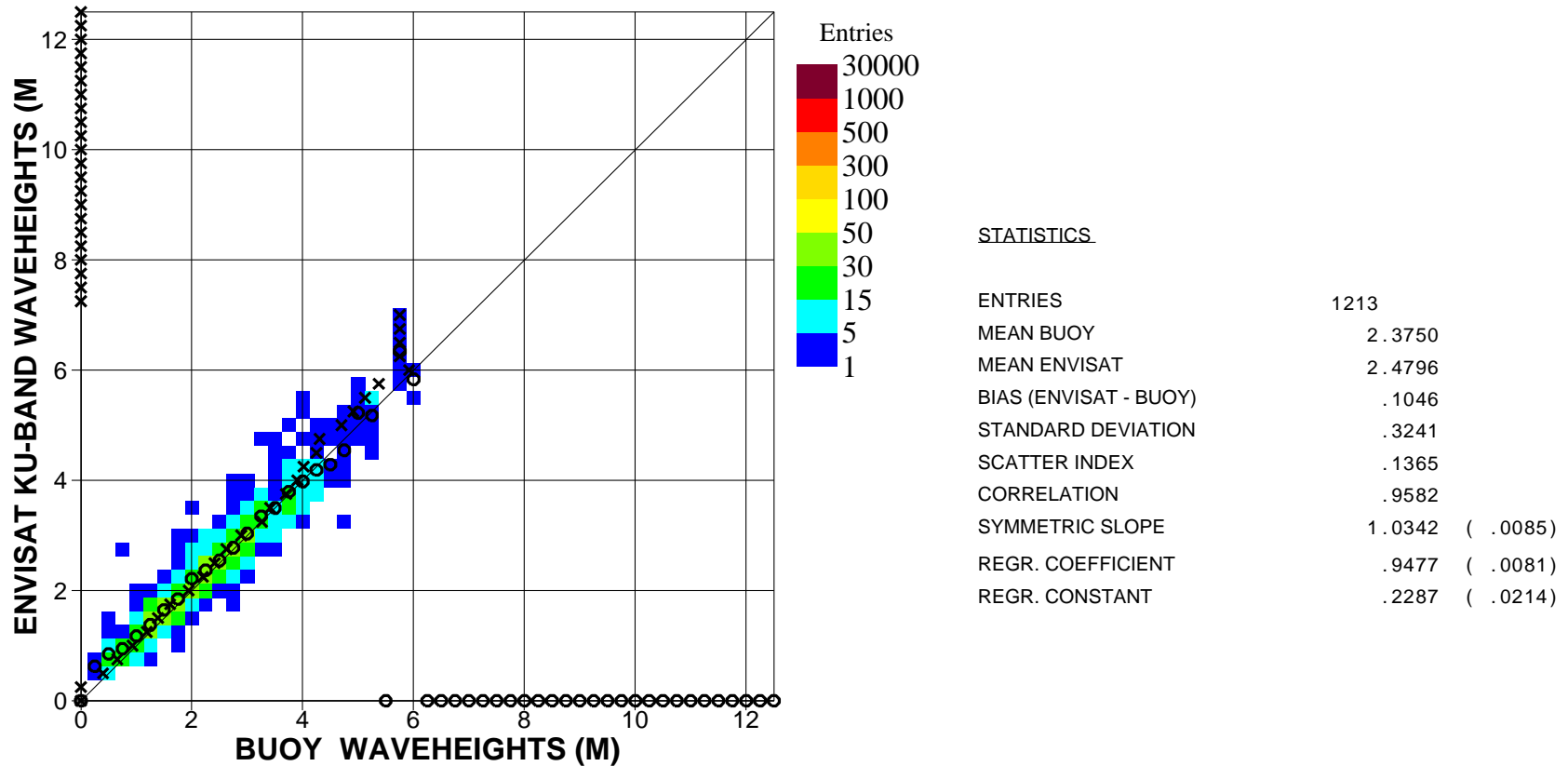


Figure 31. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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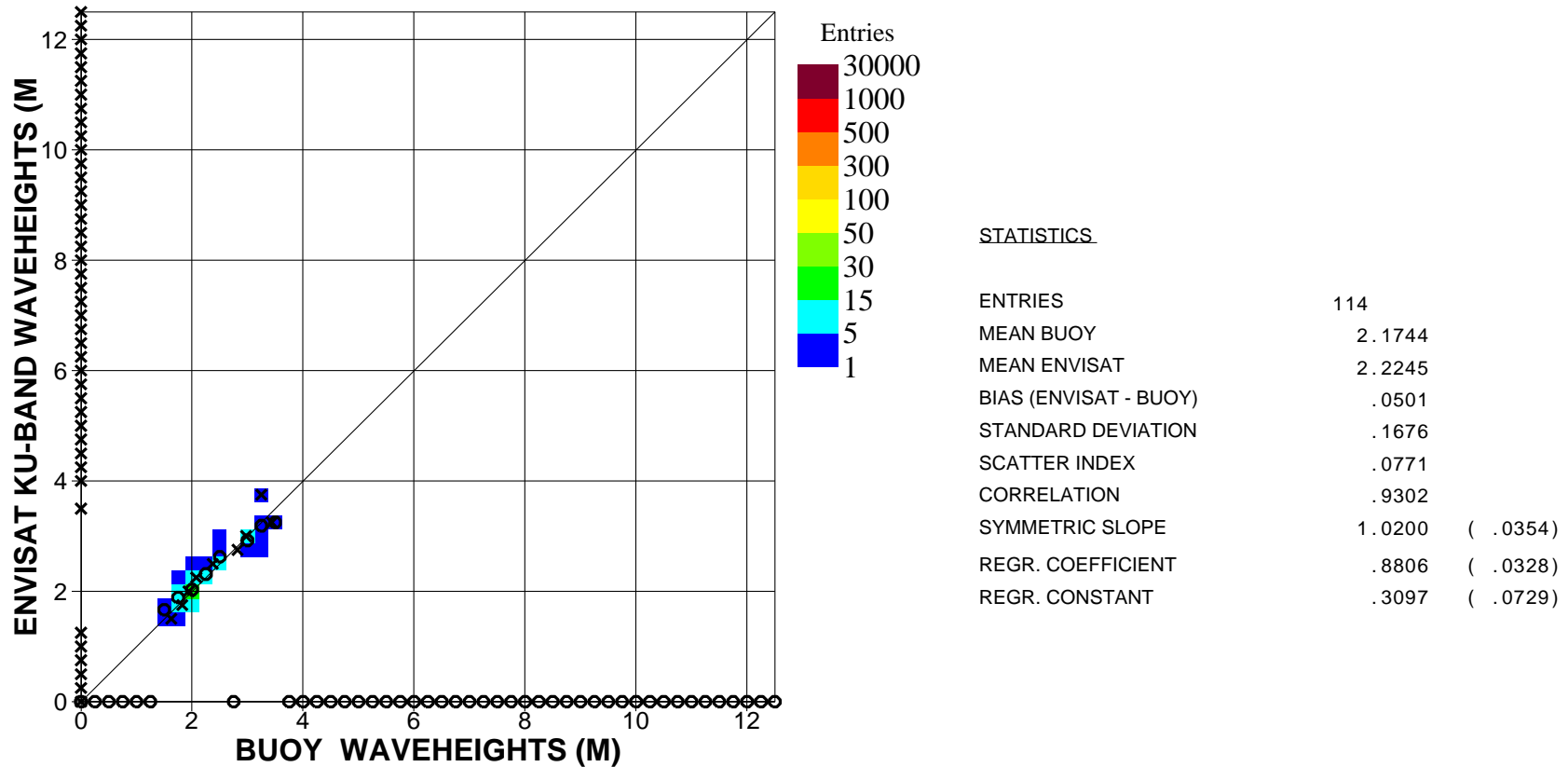


Figure 32. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (Tropics)

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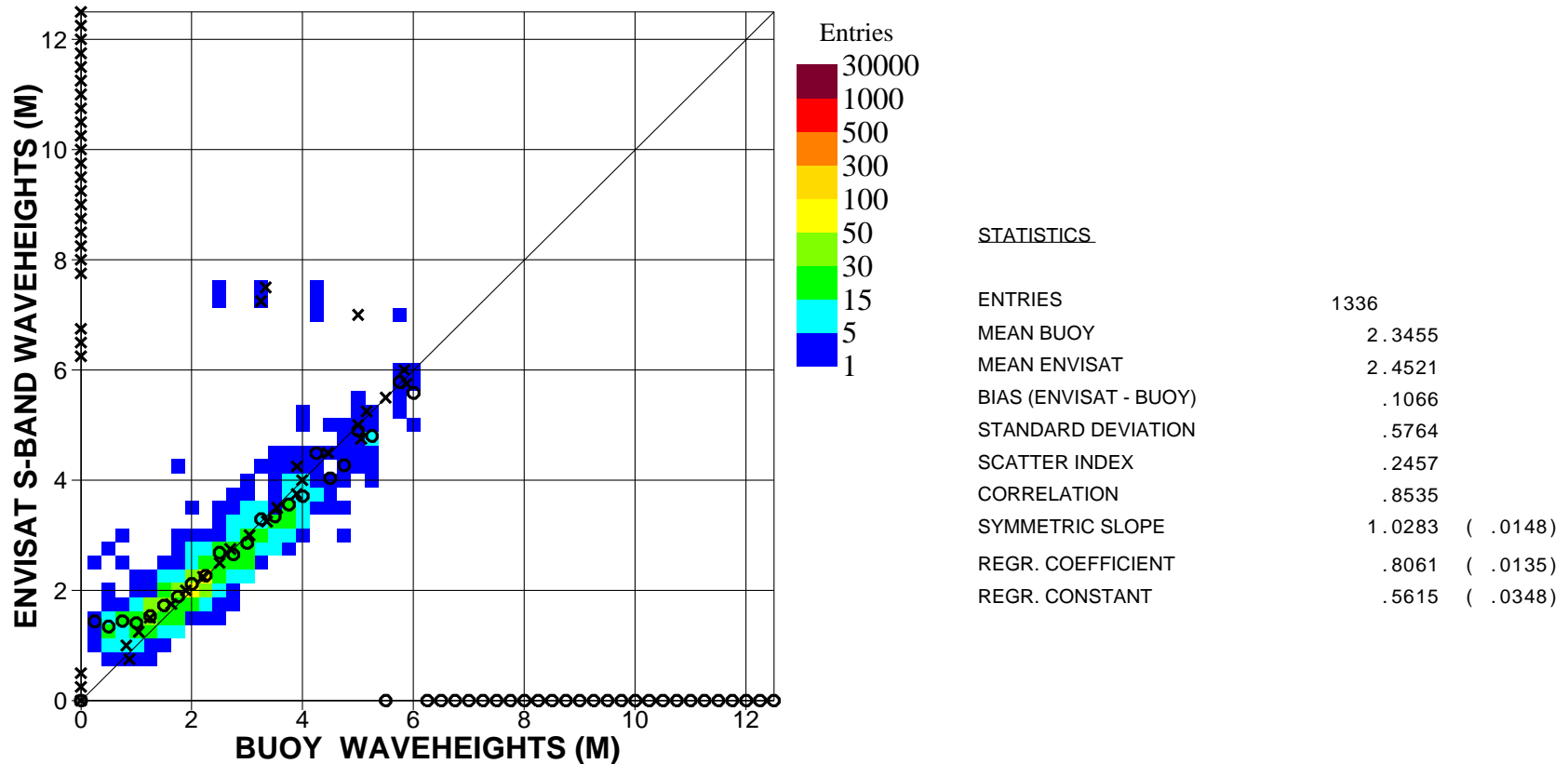


Figure 33. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (Global)

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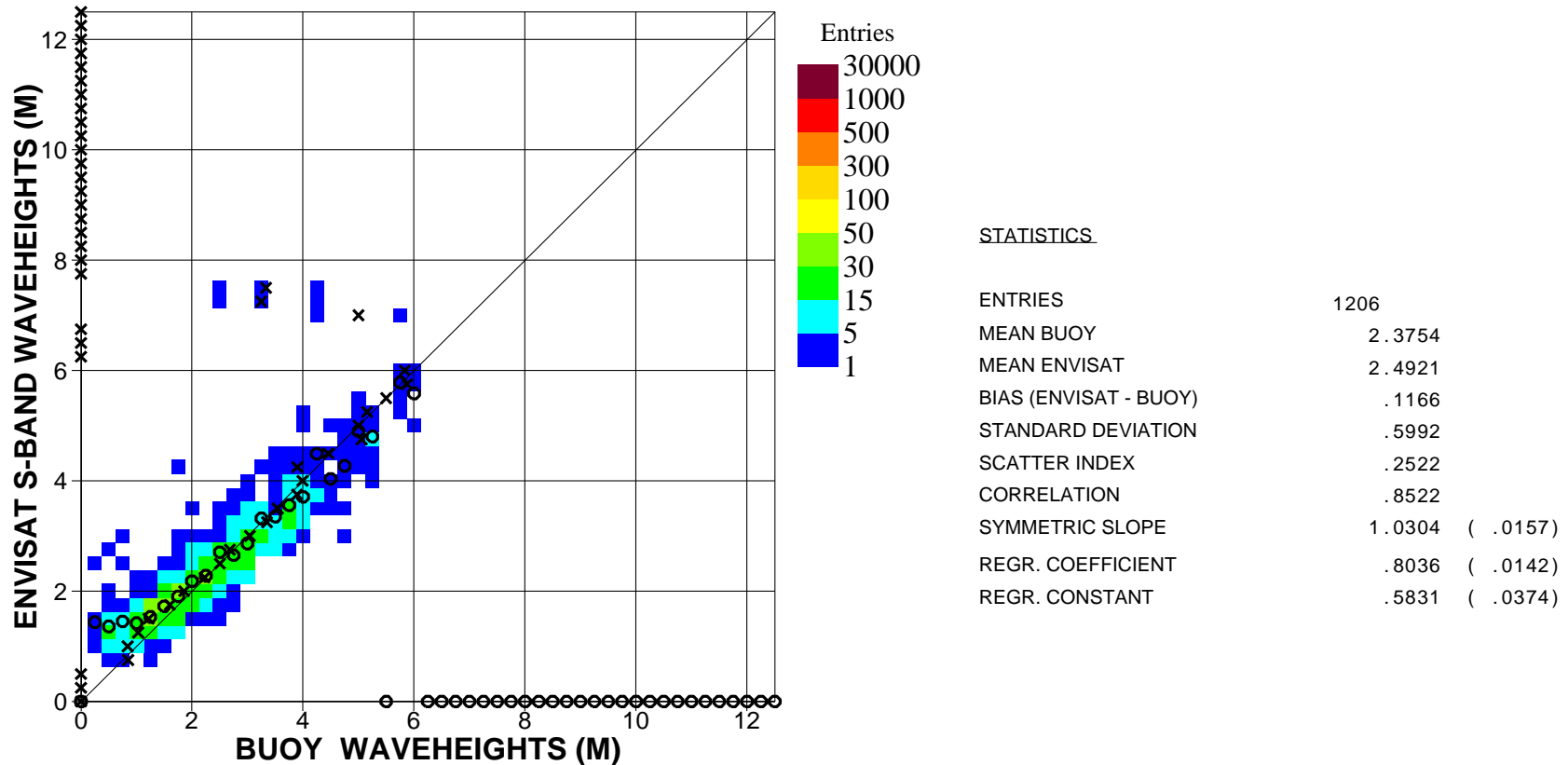


Figure 34. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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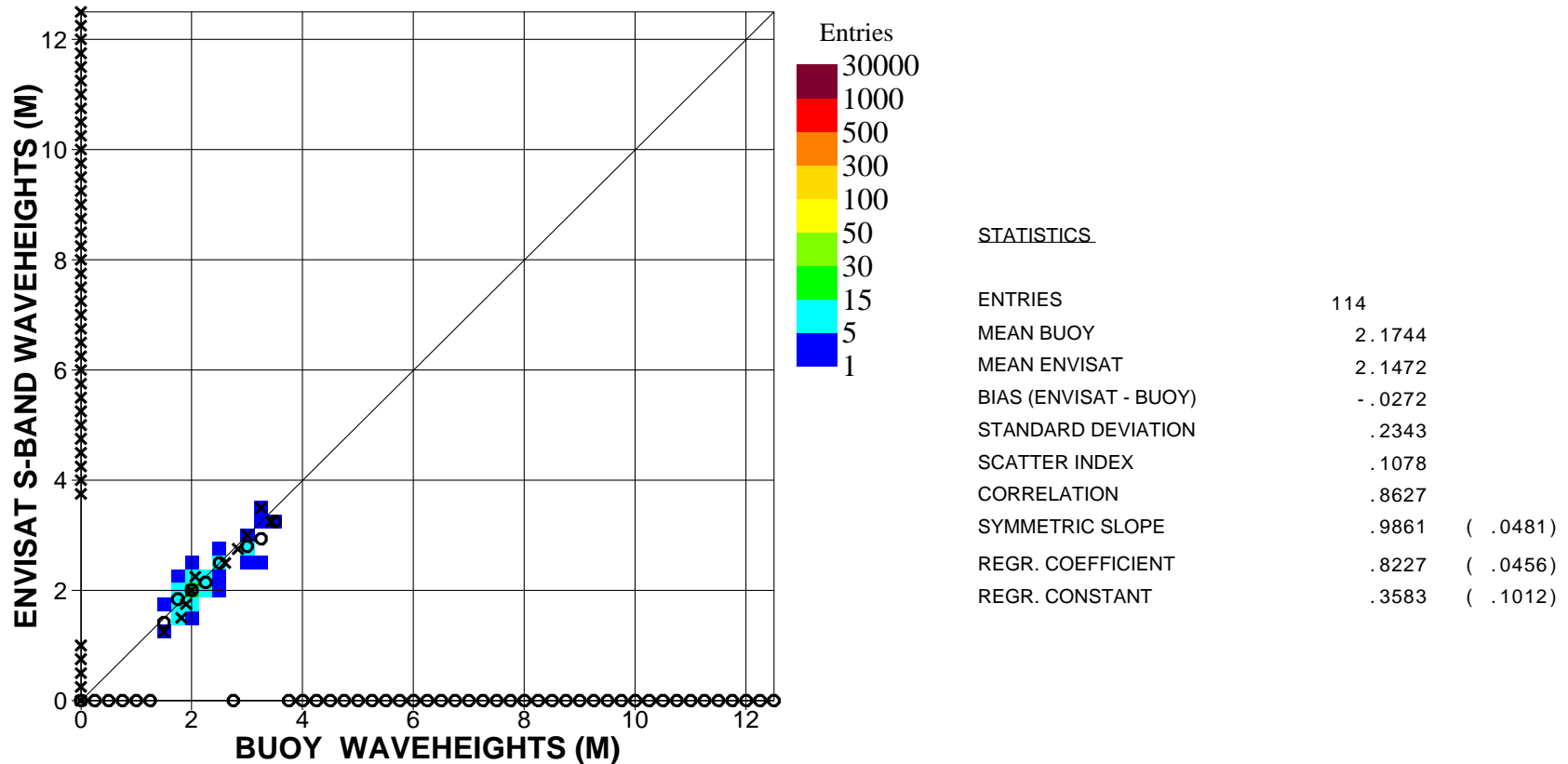


Figure 35. Comparison between ENVISAT Altimeter S-Band and buoy significant wave heights for April 2004 (Tropics)

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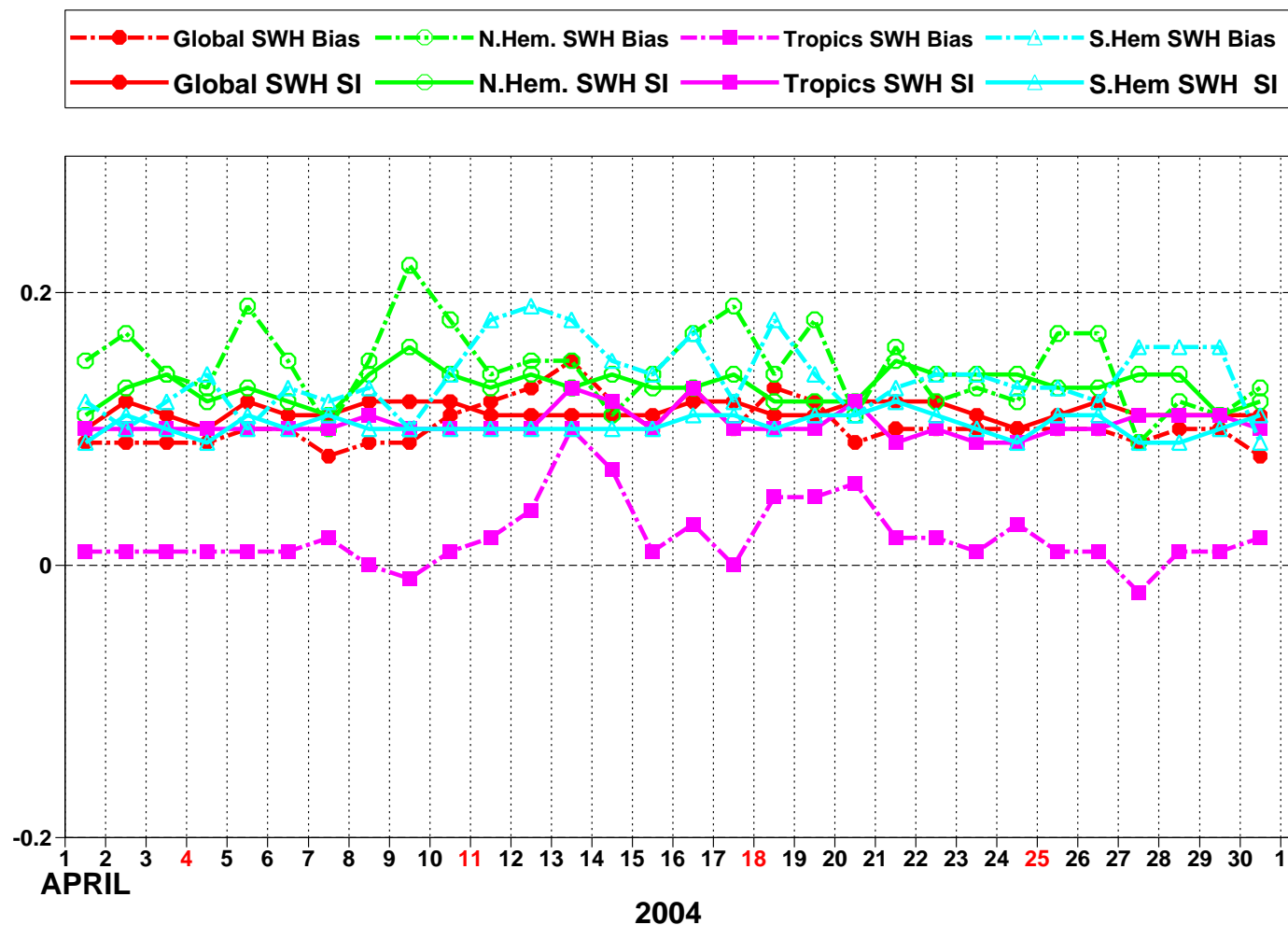


Figure 36: ENVISAT Altimeter Ku-band wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ENVISAT - WAM\_FG) and scatter index (SI)



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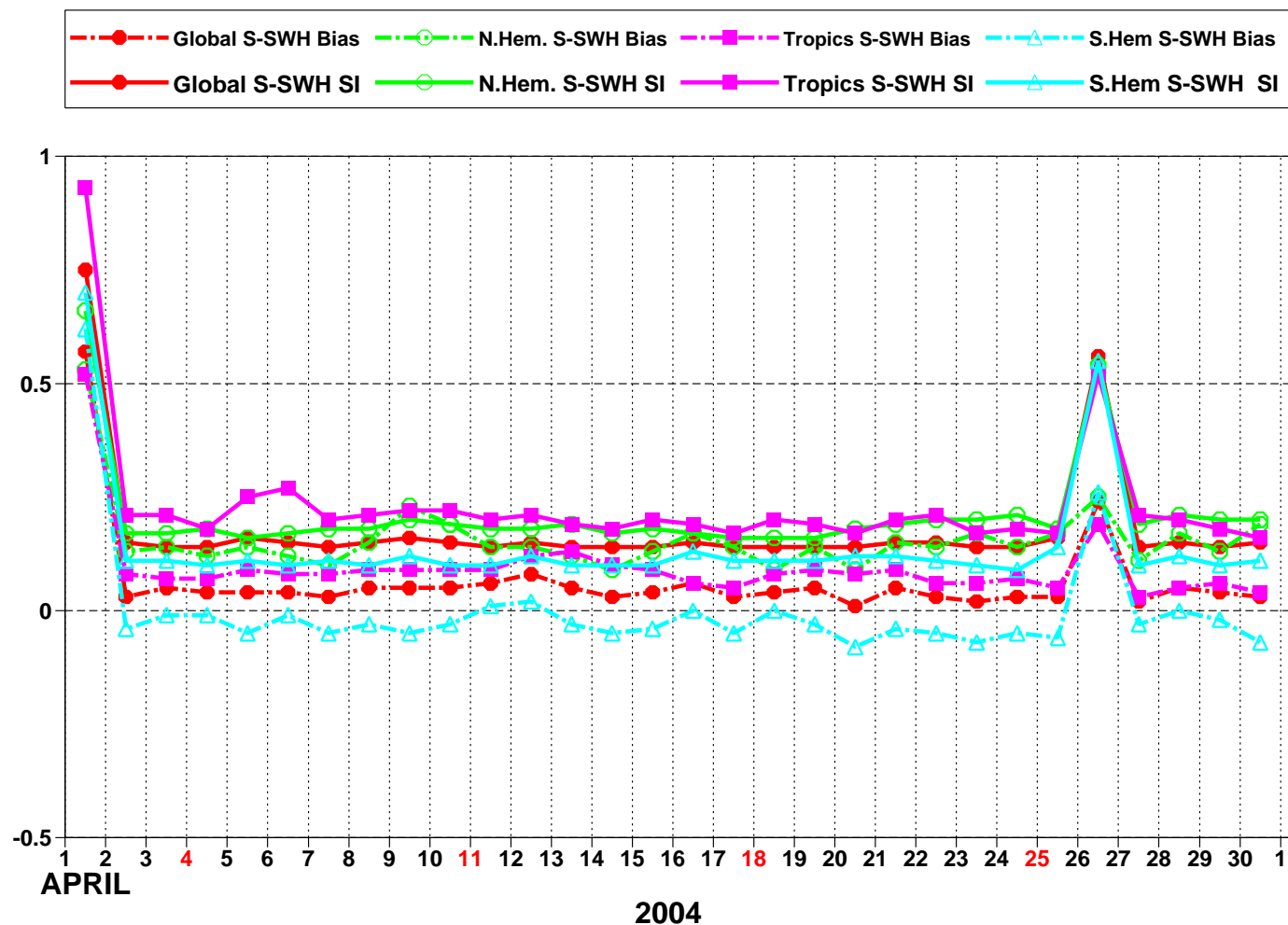


Figure 37: ENVISAT Altimeter S-band wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ENVISAT - WAM\_FG) and scatter index (SI)

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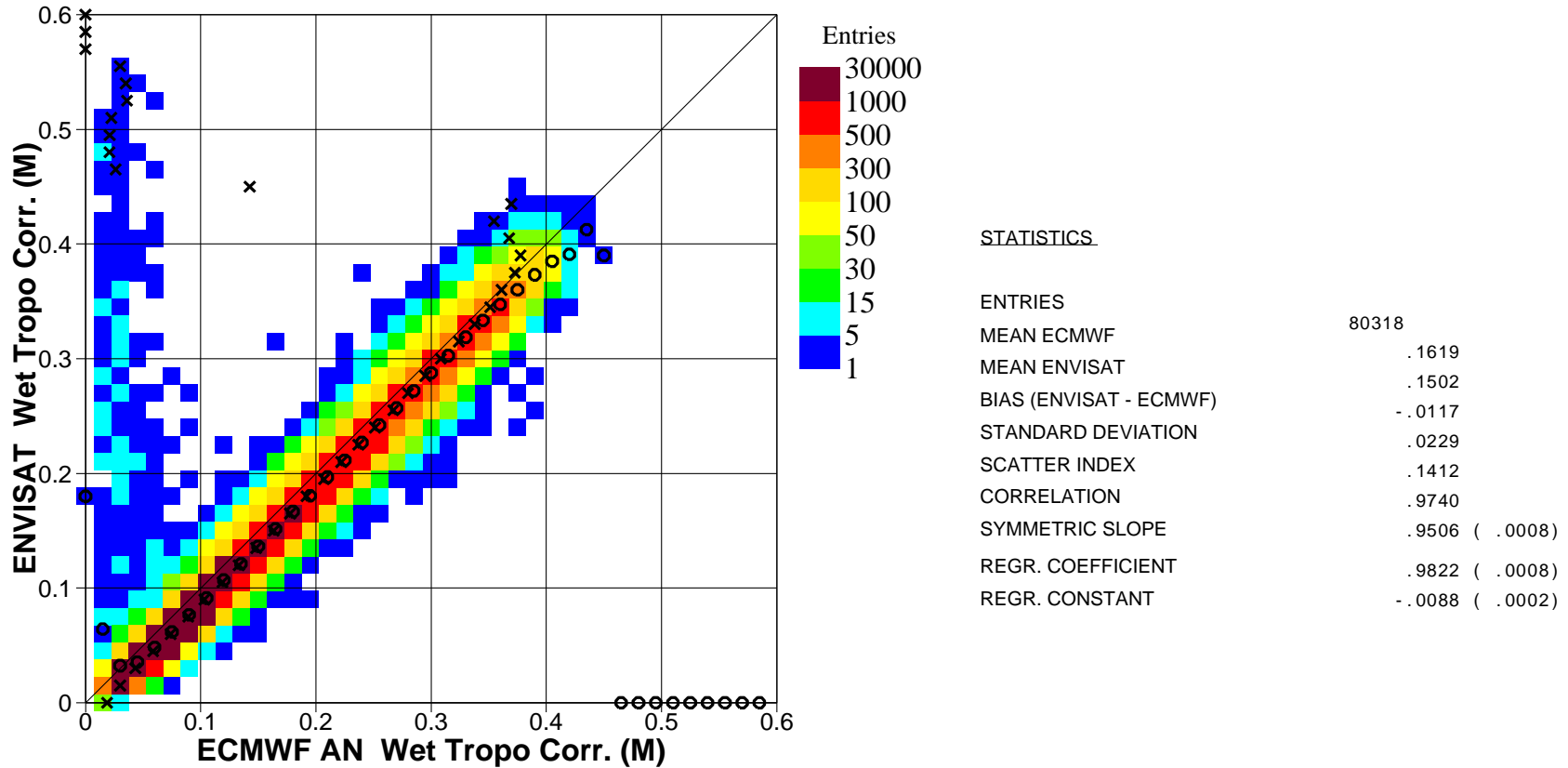


Figure 38. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) wet tropo correction for April 2004 (Global)



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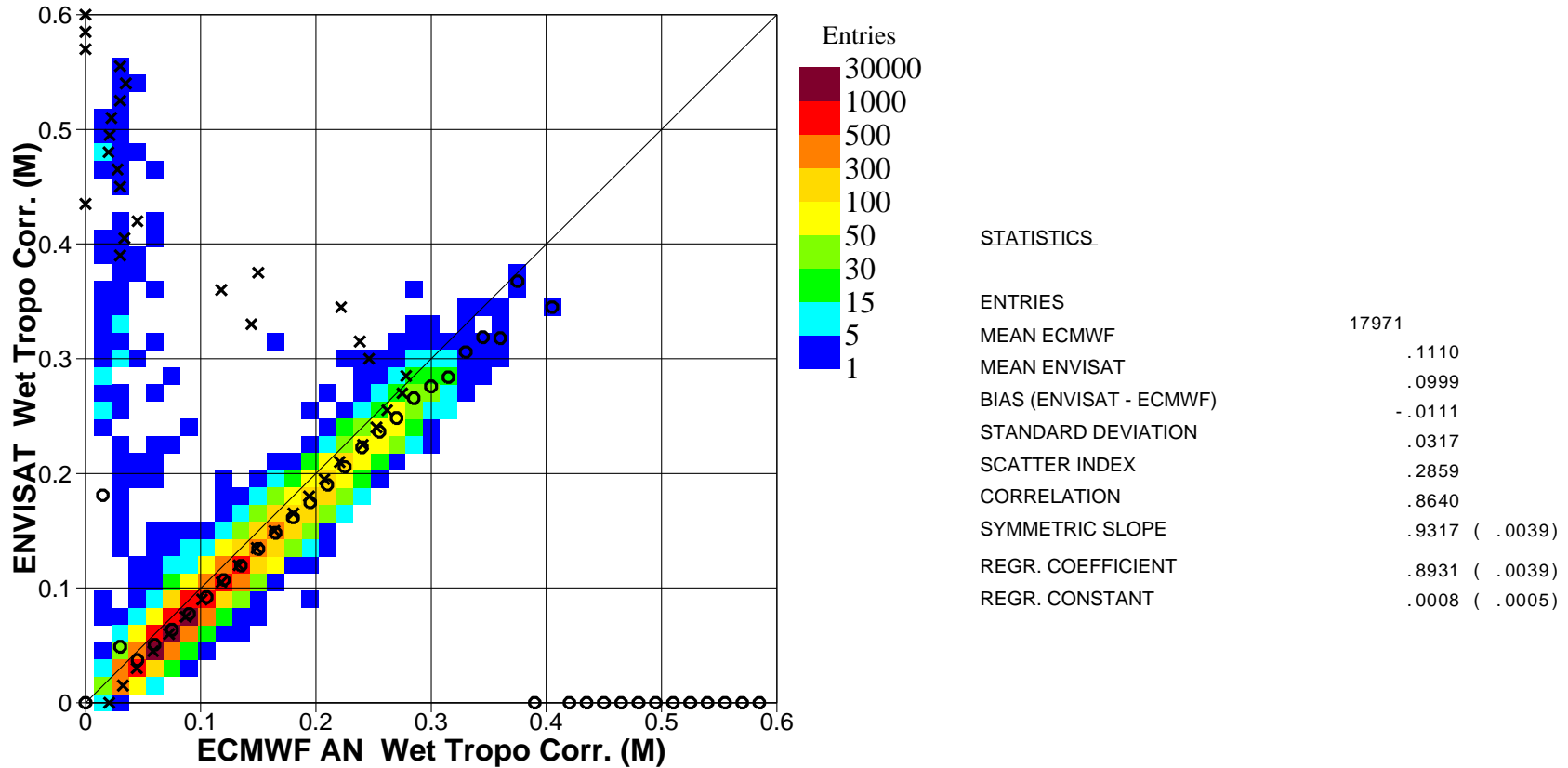


Figure 39. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) wet tropo correction for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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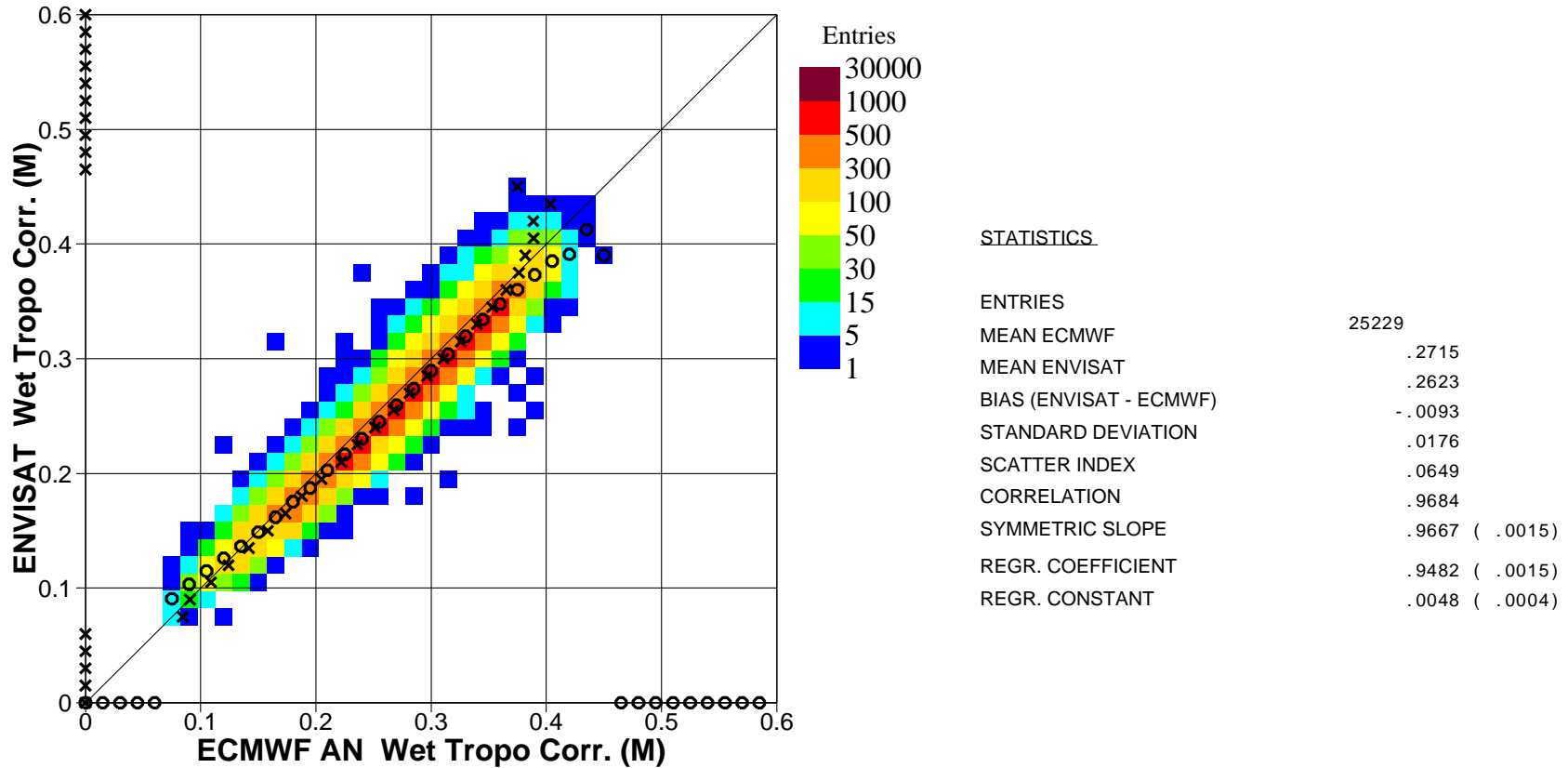


Figure 40. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) wet tropo correction for April 2004 (Tropics)

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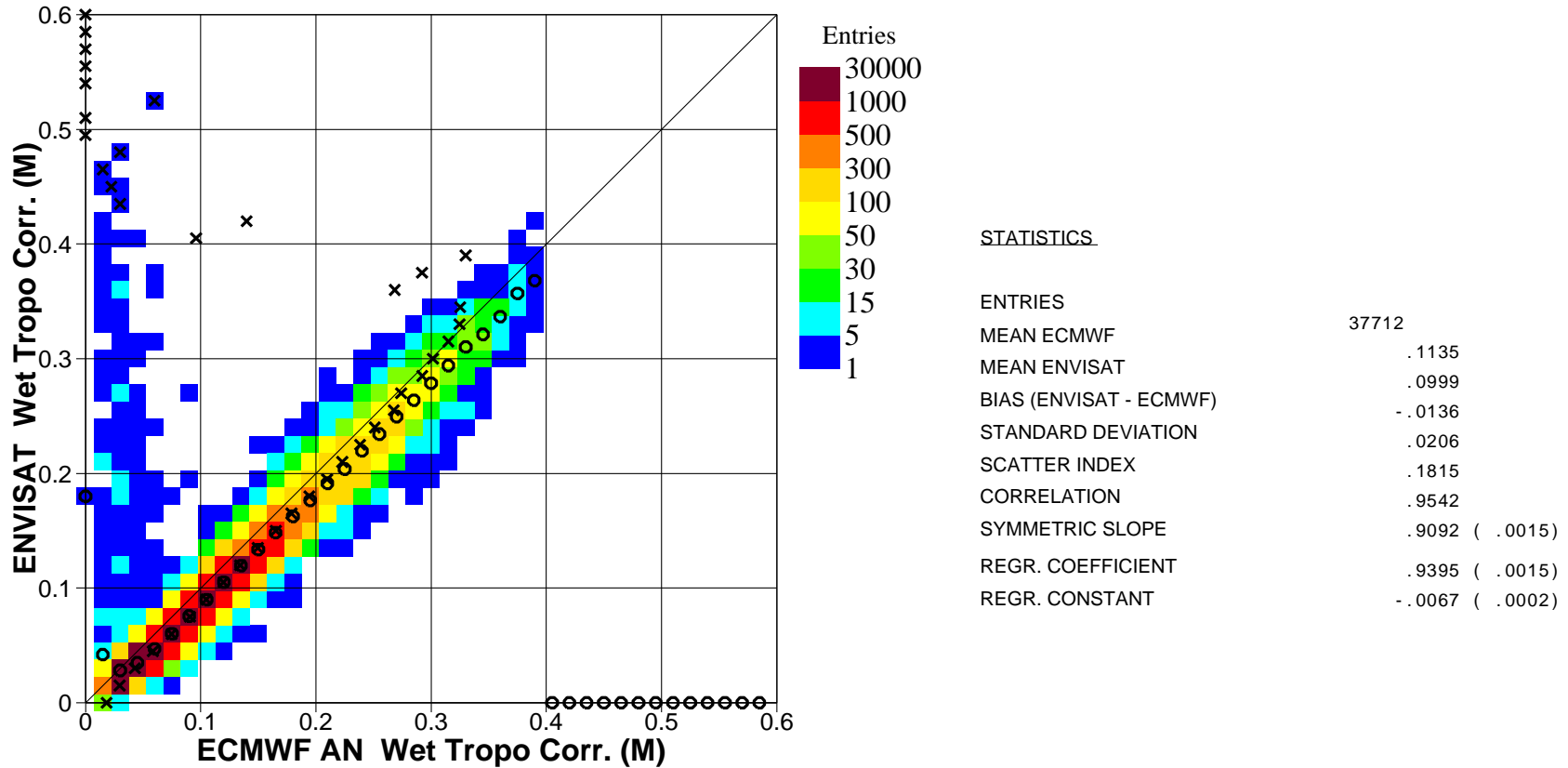


Figure 41. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) wet tropo correction for April 2004 (S.Hem.)

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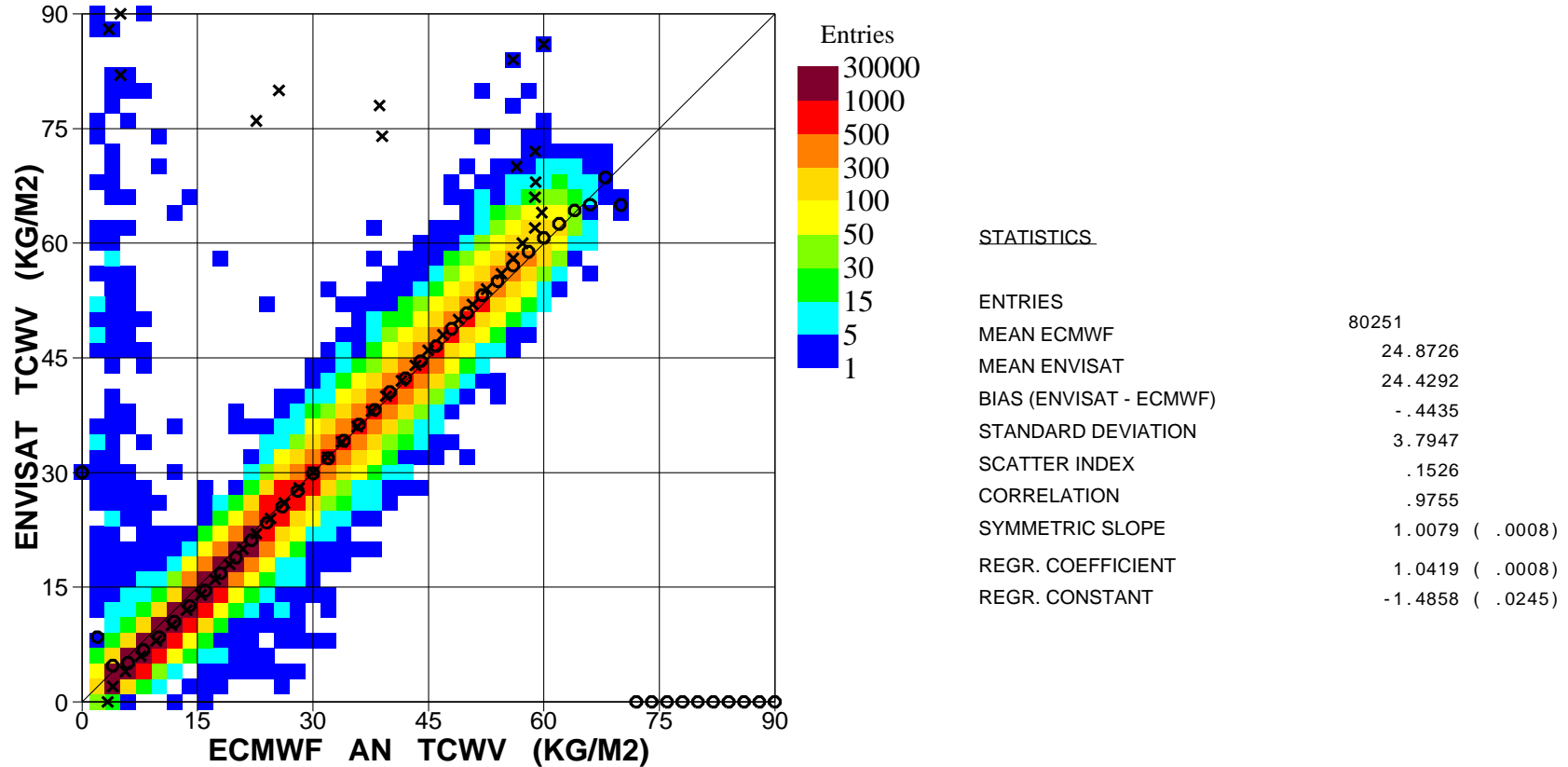


Figure 42. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) total column water vapour for April 2004 (Global)

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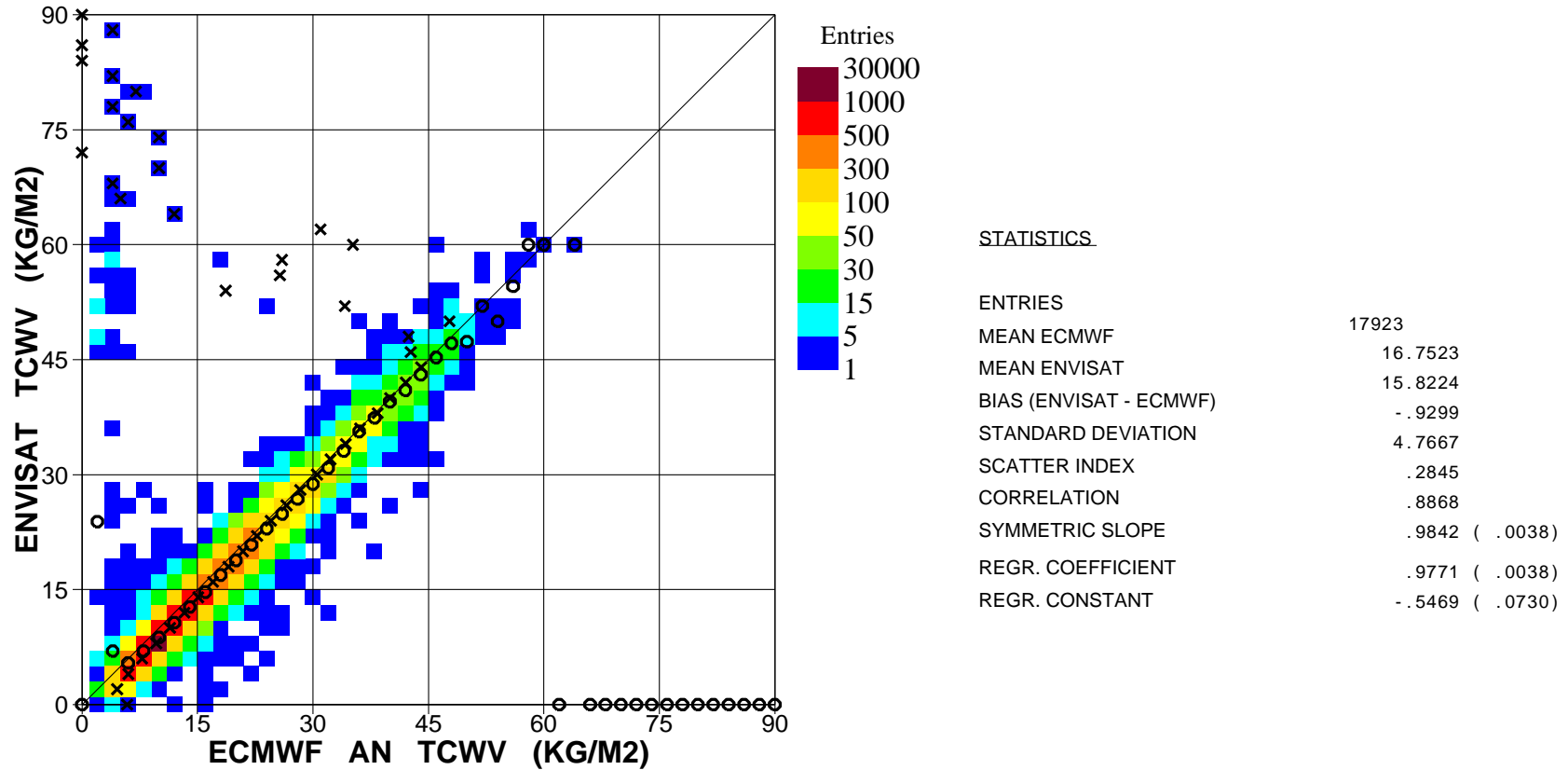


Figure 43. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) total column water vapour for April 2004 (N.Hem.)

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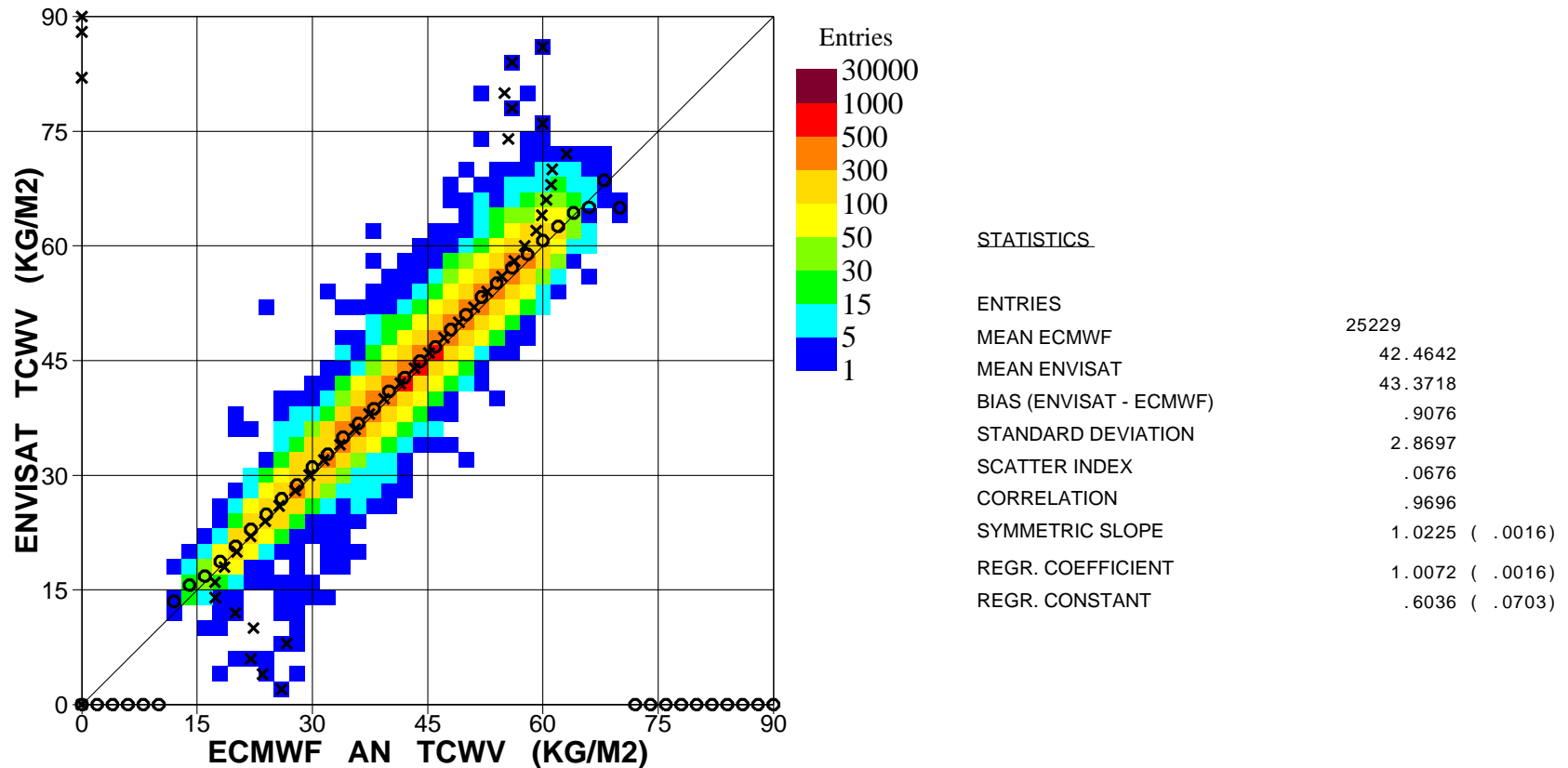


Figure 44. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) total column water vapour for April 2004 (Tropics)

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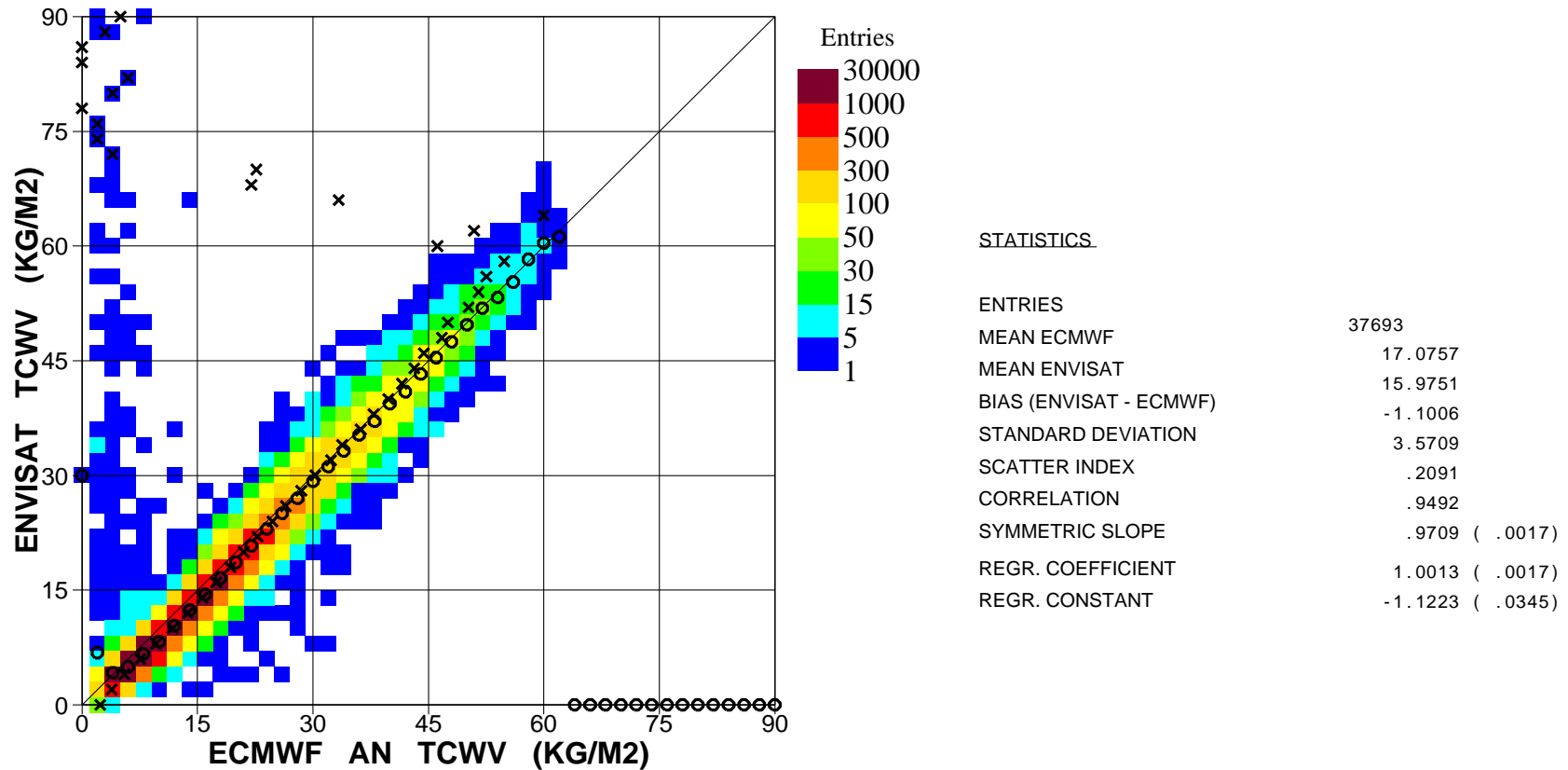


Figure 45. Comparison between ENVISAT MWR and ECMWF (analysis) total column water vapour for April 2004 (S.Hem.)

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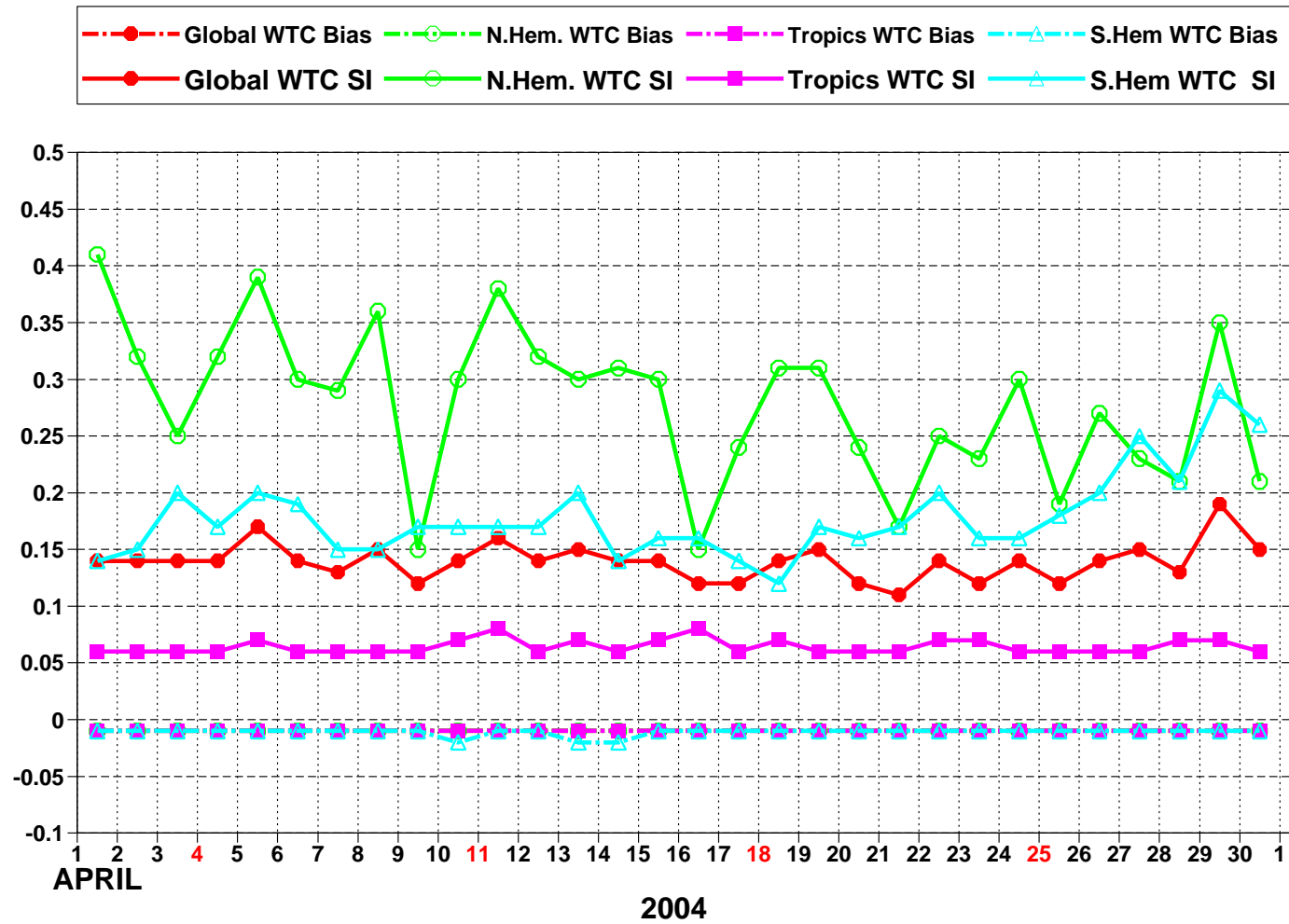


Figure 46: ENVISAT Altimeter wet tropo correction: Timeseries of bias (ENVISAT - ECMWF) and scatter index (SI)

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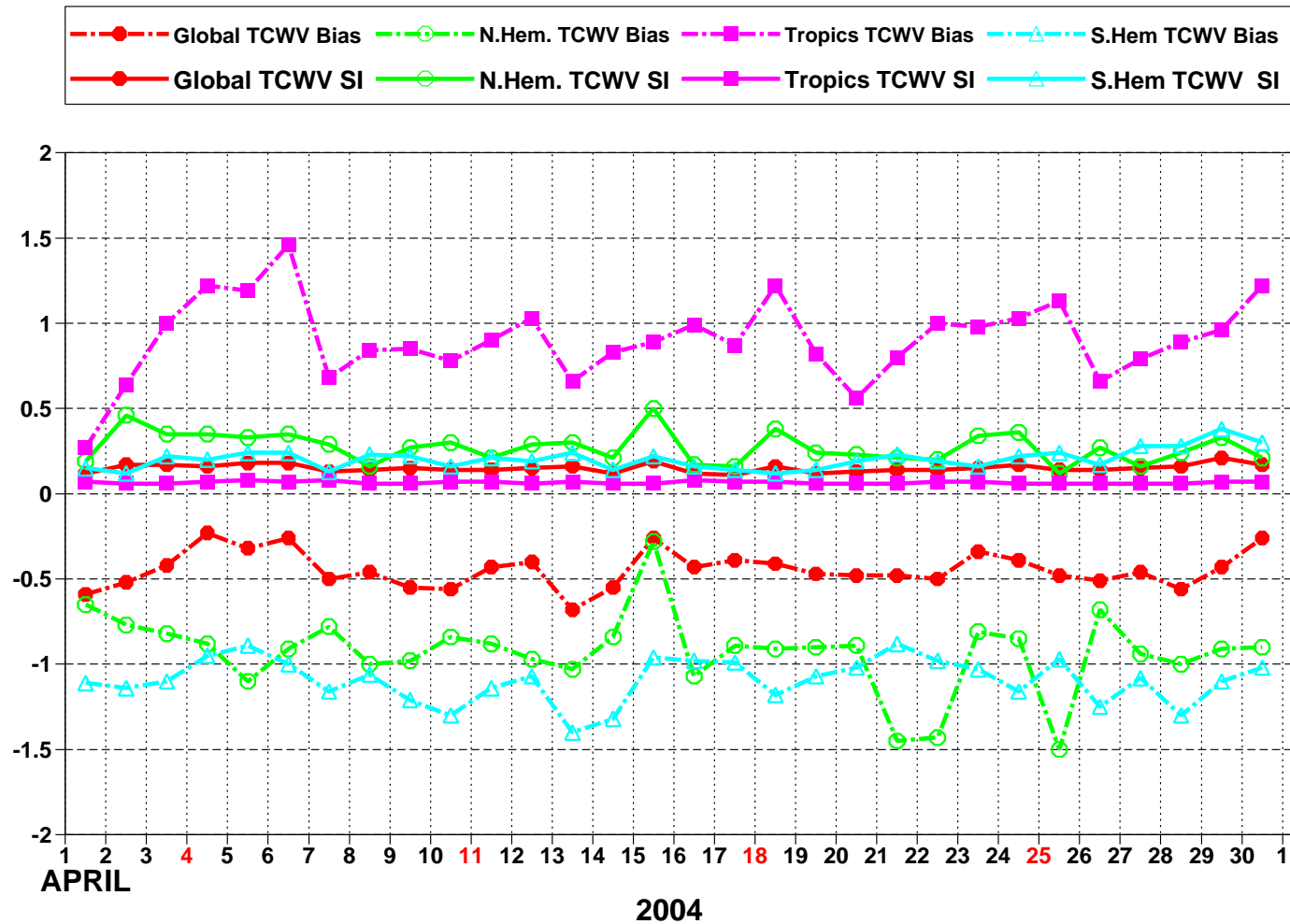


Figure 47: ENVISAT Altimeter total column water vapour: Timeseries of bias (ENVISAT - ECMWF) and scatter index (SI)





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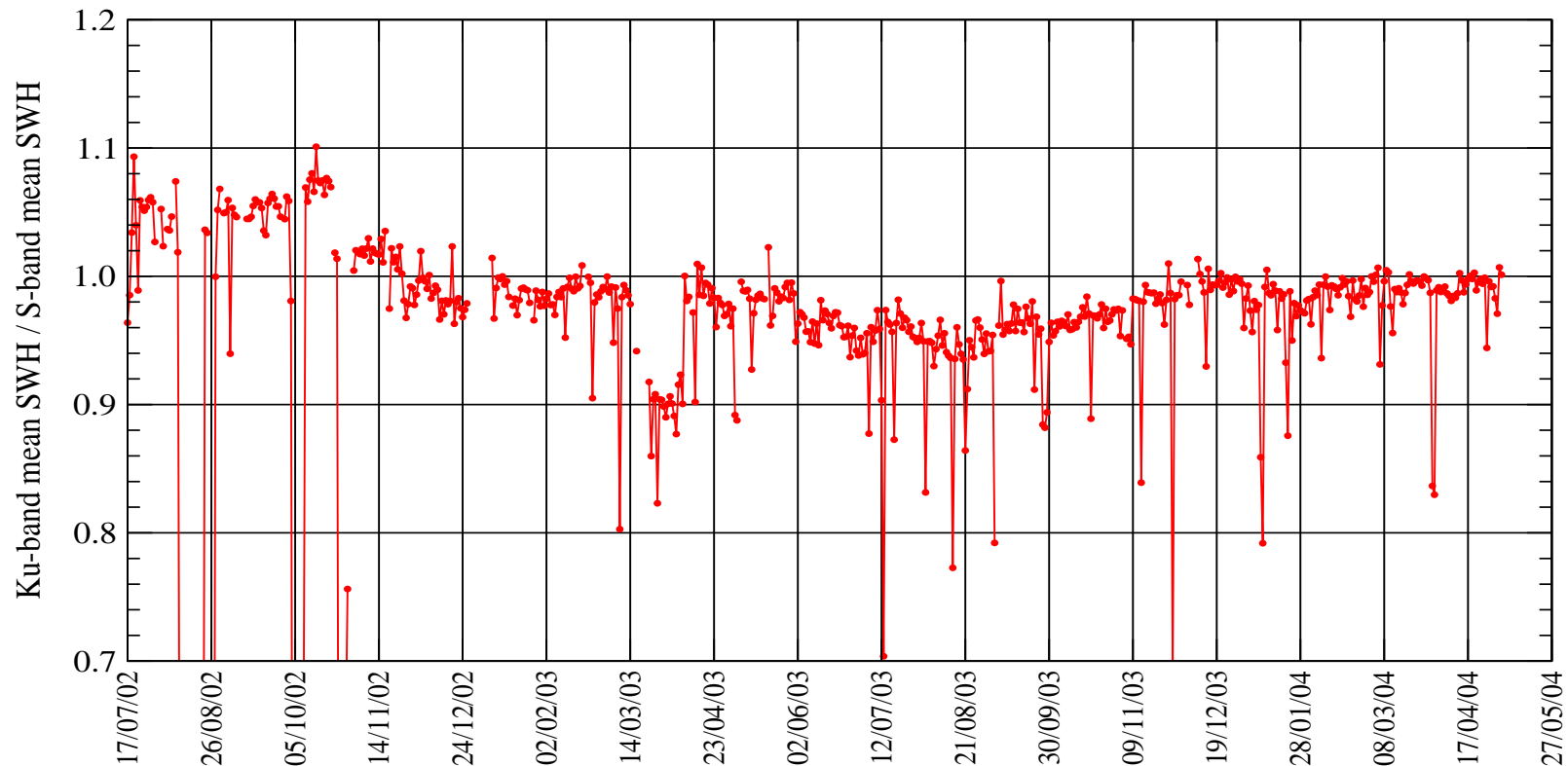


Figure 48. Timeseries of daily global ratio between mean Ku-Band to mean S-Band significant wave heights since the 18th. of July 2002.

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