EUMETSAT - Copernicus Sentinel-3 SLSTR L2 NRT AOD Product Data Format Specification
# Change Record

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<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>DCR* No. if applicable</th>
<th>Description of Changes</th>
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<td>12/08/2020</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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*DCR = Document Change Request
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

This document describes the format of the Near Real Time (NRT) Level 2 (L2) Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) product generated from the Copernicus Sentinel-3 (S3) Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer (SLSTR) by EUMETSAT.

It is applicable to the following release: Instrument Processing Facility (IPF) version 2.0, EUMETSAT Processing Baseline (PB) 2.70, Baseline Collection (BC) 1. Further information about this release status and associated quality and known limitations are available the Copernicus Sentinel-3 Product notice SLSTR Level-2 NRT AOD document (see RD-4).

1.2 Applicable Documents

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<th>Reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>AD-2 Product Data Format Specification - Product Structures</td>
<td>S3IPF.PDS.002, Issue 1.6, 10/02/2015</td>
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<td>AD-3 XML Schemas.zip – Zip file containing all the schemas used to represent the metadata</td>
<td>S3IPF.PDS.009, i2r5 – 26/03/2015</td>
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1.3 Reference Documents
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<td>EUM/SEN3/DOC/20/11880 82</td>
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1.4 Terminology

AD  Applicable Document
ADF  Auxiliary Data File
AOD  Aerosol Optical Depth
ATBD Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document
BT  Brightness Temperature
CFI  Customer Furnished Items
ESA  European Space Agency
EUMETSAT  European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
IPF  Instrument Processing Facility
L1  Level 1
L2  Level 2
NRT  Near Real Time
NTC  Non Time Critical
PDGS Payload Data Ground Segment
RSP  Remote Sensing and Products Division
RD  Reference Document
S3  Sentinel-3
SLSTR  Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer
SSA  Single Scattering Albedo
SST  Sea Surface temperature
1.5 Document Structure

This document is structured as follows:

- Overview of the S3 SLSTR L1 and L2 products in Section 0;
- NRT S3 SLSTR L2 AOD product description in Section 2;
- XML diagram in Section 3;
- NRT S3 SLSTR L2 AOD product size in Section 4.
2 NRT S3 SLSTR L2 AOD PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

2.1 General product structure - Layout

The format of all Sentinel 3 products is described in [AD-2] and illustrated in Figure 1.

![Figure 1: S3 Product package](image)

2.2 NRT S3 SLSTR L2 AOD product package & summary

A SLSTR L2 NRT AOD granule contains one single file gathering all aerosol and surface directional parameters and its associated manifest file (see Table 1). The spatial resolution is 9.5 km, with a global coverage (ocean and land). The products are only generated in NRT timeliness.

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<tr>
<th>Element name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<td>xfdumanifest.xml</td>
<td>Sentinel-SAFE product manifest file, composed of xml fields.</td>
<td>x.x or AD-x</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRT_AOD.nc</td>
<td>Surface directional Reflectance, retrieved and derived global aerosol parameter at several spectral bands. Contextual parameters and flags are also included.</td>
<td>Section 2.2.2</td>
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2.2.1 Manifest file

The structure of the manifest file is described in [AD-3].
### 2.2.2 SLSTR L2 NRT global aerosol parameters – NRT_AOD.nc

This file contains all derived aerosol and surface parameters from the SLSTR solar channels S1-S6, S4 being excluded (see Table 2). Some aerosol and surface parameters are given at several spectral bands. It is based on the SLSTR L1B NRT product at the original resolution of 500 m. The SLSTR L2 NRT AOD retrievals are provided at a super-pixel level with a resolution of 9.5 km, from the aggregation of 19 x 19 L1B pixels. Note that in this super-pixel, only cloud-free and glint-free radiances are considered. The coordinates of the super pixel are provided via the position of each of its corners, and of its centre.

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<td>S2</td>
<td>659</td>
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<td>S3</td>
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<td>Range or value</td>
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</table>
3 XML SCHEMA

The xml schemas used to generate the product manifest are provided as separate files [AD-4].
4  NRT S3 SLSTR L2 AOD PRODUCT SIZE

Table 4 lists the size computation per product file produced over a 5-min granule. A file compression (ratio of 4) is applied on NRT_AOD.nc.

The overall product size over 1 day (24h) is about 610 Mbytes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size in Mbytes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xfdumanifest.xml</td>
<td>Sentinel-SAFE product manifest</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRT_AOD.nc</td>
<td>9.5 km L2 NRT Aerosol &amp; surface product</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>~2.2</strong></td>
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