



Article An In-Depth Assessment of the New BDS-3 B1C and B2a Signals

Qinghua Zhang¹, Yongxing Zhu^{2,*} and Zhengsheng Chen³

- ¹ College of Defense Engineering, Army Engineering University of PLA, 1 Haifu Lane, Nanjing 210007, China; sqmha@126.com
- ² State Key Laboratory of Geo-Information Engineering, Xi'an 710054, China
- ³ College of Operation Support, Rocket Force University of Engineering, 2 Tongxin Road, Xi'an 710025, China; czsgeo@126.com
- * Correspondence: chxyzyx_2008@126.com; Tel.: +86-18049269002

Abstract: An in-depth and comprehensive assessment of new observations from BDS-3 satellites is presented, with the main focus on the Carrier-to-Noise density ratio (C/N_0) , the quality of code and carrier phase observations for B1C and B2a signal. The signal characteristics of geosynchronous earth orbit (GEO), inclined geosynchronous satellite orbit (IGSO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellites of BDS-3 were grouped and compared, respectively. The evaluation results of the new B1C and B2a signals of BDS-3 were compared with the previously B1I/B2I/B3I signals and the interoperable signals of GPS, Galileo and quasi-zenith satellite system (QZSS) were compared simultaneously. As expected, the results clearly show that B1C and B2a have better signal strength and higher accuracy, including code and carrier phase observations. The C/N_0 of the B2a signal is about 3 dB higher than other signals. One exception is the code observation accuracy of B3I, which value is less than 0.15 m. The carrier precision of B1C and B2a is better than that of B1I/B2I/B3I. Despite difference-in-difference (DD) observation quantity or zero-base line evaluation is adopted, while B1C is about 0.3 mm higher carrier precision than B2a. The BDS-3 MEO satellite and GPS, Galileo, and QZSS satellites have the same level of signal strength, code and phase observation accuracy at the interoperable frequency, namely 1575.42 MHz and 1176.45 MHz which are very suitable for the co-position application.

Keywords: BDS-3; B1C/B2a; comprehensive assessment; observation accuracy

1. Introduction

Since the influence of the signal modulation method, the disturbance of the GNSS signal-in-space transmission, the decoding accuracy of the receiver and thermal noise, the raw observations of the GNSS receiver (including code and carrier phase observations) have noise or errors [1]. The BDS system construction can be divided into three steps, and its third-generation system named BDS-3 was completed in July 2020 [2]. The evaluation of the BDS satellite signal performance can be traced back to the previous generation BDS-2 system. Hauschild et al. [3] evaluated the signal quality, carrier-to-noise ratio, the accuracy of code and carrier observations of the first MEO-1 satellite of the BDS-2 system, and compared it with the performance of GPS and Galileo satellites. Yang et al. [4] used the zero-baseline single difference (SD) to evaluate the performance of the BDS-2 satellites, where the accuracy of code observation is about 33 cm, and the accuracy of carrier observation is about 2 mm. However, the code observations of the BDS-2 satellites have systematic errors related to elevation [5]. Compared with the Beidou-2 MEO satellites, the rubidium atomic clock and hydrogen atomic clock with better performance are carried on the new MEO navigation satellites of Beidou-3 [6], and the center frequency, bandwidth and modulation method of the signal was further improved [7].



Citation: Zhang, Q.; Zhu, Y.; Chen, Z. An In-Depth Assessment of the New BDS-3 B1C and B2a Signals. *Remote Sens.* 2021, *13*, 788. https://doi.org/ 10.3390/rs13040788

Academic Editors: Jay-Hyoun Kwon, Chang-Ki Hong and Tae-Suk Bae

Received: 16 January 2021 Accepted: 19 February 2021 Published: 21 February 2021

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/).

The BDS-3 satellites have been broadcasting new signals different from BDS-2, and the exploration of their performance by the GNSS scientists and engineers is still in the preliminary stage. It is worth noting that before the BDS-3 satellites were launched, China had launched five Beidou-3 test satellites (BDS-3e), including two IGSO and three MEO satellites [8]. Then the launch speed of the BDS-3 satellites was accelerated, and there are currently more than 20 BDS-3 satellites, as shown in Appendix A. Zhang et al. [5] evaluated the signal performance of five BDS-3 experimental satellites, and the results show that it is at the same level as GPS L1/L2/L5 and Galileo E1/E5a/E5b signals. Yang Y [9] predicted the performance of the BDS-3 global constellation through the performance of the BDS-3e satellites. Similar to BDS-2, BDS-3 also transmits signals at B1, B2 and B3, but some new signals were added in [2,10], which are detailed in a later section. Most of the existing literature analyzes the existing GPS, GLONASS and Galileo signals, while the analysis of BDS satellite signals only includes BDS-2 and a few BDS-3E satellites. Moreover, there are few studies on B1C and B2a signals of BDS-3 and their contrast with GPS and Galileo signals at the same frequency, lacking a thorough, comprehensive analysis and review. In this contribution, the characteristics of the new signal of the BDS-3 global constellation are comprehensively and in-depth evaluated by the authors.

The structure of this article is as follows: First, the new signal of BDS-3 is introduced in detail. Then, the evaluation of the signal strength and the accuracy of observations are carried out, including the comparison of the BDS-3 new signal and the BDS-2 signal, with the comparison of BDS-3 new signal and GPS/Galileo. The accuracy of different signals is evaluated using two linear combination observations of CC and MultiPath (MP); the accuracy of the carrier phase is evaluated using the zero-baseline method. The PPP accuracy is used to evaluate new signals. The last of this contribution contains discussion and conclusions.

2. Structure of BDS-3 New Signals

BDS-1, also known as the COMPASS system, has a constellation composed of three GEO satellites [11]. The frequency used by BDS-1 is the radio determination satellite service (RDSS) frequency band. The uplink signal is in the L band (1610–1626.5 MHz), while the downlink signal is in the S-band (2483.5–2500 MHz). Moreover, RDSS has been extended on the GEO satellites of BDS-2 and BDS-3. The satellites of BDS-2 broadcast B1I (1561.098 MHz), B2I (1207.14 MHz) and B3I (1268.52 MHz) open service signals [12], the signal modulation of which is mainly based on quadrature phase-shift keying (QPSK). The B1I and B3I signals of BDS-2 are inherited to BDS-3, and new public service signals of B1C (1575.42 MHz), B2a (1176.45 MHz) and B2b (1207.14 MHz) are adopted. Furthermore, the Bs (frequency) signal was tested on an experimental satellite of BDS-3e [13]. The BDS signals in L-band are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Beidou System (BDS) signals in the L band.

The characteristics of the BDS-3 signal are described in detail, and a comparison with other GNSS signals is shown in Table 1. The modulation method of B1I and B3I signals in BDS-3 satellites is strictly consistent with that of BDS-2 satellites, and it is compatible with the open service of BDS-2. The B1C signal is the main open service signal of BDS-3. It provides public services to single/dual/multi-frequency users in the world. The center frequency of

the B1C signal is 1575.42 MHz, which coincides with the frequencies of GPS L1C, Galileo E1 OS, QZSS L1, and NAVIC L1. It uses the combined modulation method of the BOC (1,1) and the QMBOC (6,1,4/33) to maintain high compatibility and interoperability with other GNSSs [14,15]. The B2a and B2b signals are the second and third public service signals of BDS-3, respectively, which can be applied to dual/multi-frequency receivers in the fields of life safety and high-precision position. In addition, specific PPP service information of BDS-3 is broadcast on B2b. The B2a signal is consistent with the center frequency of the GPS L5, Galileo E5a, QZSS L5, and NAVIC L5 signals, and the BPSK (10) modulation method is used for their data component and pilot component. In addition, the receiver can also obtain the B2a+B2b signal with integrated better performance by integrated B2a and B2b in ACE-BOC mode [16].

GNSS/Frequency	1176.45 MHz	1207.14 MHz	1268.52 MHz	1561.098 MHz	1575.42 MHz	2492.028 MHz
BDS-2		B2I	B3I	B1I		
BDS-3	B2a	B2b	B3I	B1I	B1C	Bs
GPS	L5				L1	
Galileo	E5a	E5b			E1	
QZSS	L5				L1C	
NAVIC	L5					Bs

Table 1. Comparison of BDS-3 new signals with other GNSS signals.

The characteristics of the new signals of the BDS-3 satellites are analyzed and evaluated in depth. B1I and B3I of BDS-3 are often used for comparison with BDS-2 satellites co-frequency signals, while B1C, B2a, B2b of BDS-3 are used for comparison with other GNSS co-frequency signals.

3. Experimental Design

In order to evaluate the characteristics of the new signal from the BDS-3 satellites, a series of experiments was conducted in Xi'an, China; its geographic location is shown in Figure 2. The experiment used the GNSS observatory on the top of the MAC building and used a Trimble's alloy receiver (Figure 3) and a choke antenna [17]. On the same day, the same GNSS receiver was used for 24-hour continuous observations. All BDS satellites were evaluated, including BDS-2 and BDS-3 satellites. Some satellites of GPS, Galileo and QZSS were selected with the same frequency as B1C and B2a of BDS-3 for analysis. Since the sampling interval of the GNSS receiver is 1 second, 86,400 observations were collected in one day.



Figure 2. The geographical location of Xi'an.



Figure 3. Trimble receiver and choke antenna.

In this contribution, three experiments were used to evaluate the accuracy of the GNSS signal. The first experiment evaluated the strength of the new BDS-3 signal, and the C/N_0 indicator was used for analysis. The second experiment analyzed the quality of code observation of the BDS-3 new signal and, CC/MP indicators were used for analysis. The third experiment used DD observations and a zero-baseline solution (Bakker P F D, 2012) (as shown in Figure 4) to evaluate the quality of carrier phase observations of the new BDS-3 signal.



Figure 4. Schematic diagram of the GNSS zero-baseline.

4. Carrier-To-Noise Density Ratio

When GNSS receivers record navigation messages and observations, they generally record the signal strength, which can characterize the quality of observations data and receiver signal tracking performance [18]. The signal strength is described by the signal-to-noise ratio index (that is, the signal-to-noise ratio SNR), which is defined as the ratio of the carrier signal power to the noise power in dB. Carrier-to-noise ratio C/N_0 is the normalized signal-to-noise ratio, which is defined as C/N_0 over a 1 Hz bandwidth in dB/Hz (see Equation (1)).

$$C/N_0 = 20 \cdot lg\left(\frac{SNR}{\sqrt{s}}\right) \tag{1}$$

where the C/N_0 indicates the carrier-to-noise density ratio 1 Hz bandwidth, 20 is a constant, lg is the logarithmic operator, SNR (usually in dB) is the signal-to-noise ratio, and s is short for seconds.

There are many factors affecting C/N_0 , including external factors of the receiver, such as satellite transmit power, satellite antenna gain, space loss, and atmospheric attenuation. The local factors, such as include receiver antenna gain, receiver performance, noise level

5 of 23

and multipath effects, etc. In addition, it may also be affected by factors such as season and temperature. C/N_0 has been widely used in the modeling multipath error or random model in the GNSS high-precision applications [19].

Because the signals of the GNSS satellites in different orbits are different, the MEO, GEO and IGSO satellites of BDS-3 are discussed and analyzed separately.

4.1. Statistical Characteristics of C/N_0 of GEO Satellites

In China and parts of the Asia-Pacific region, GEO satellites are visible almost all day, and they can be selected as reference satellites in the relative positioning mode. The BDS-2 system contains five GEO satellites, and the BDS-3 system contains three satellites GEO satellites. The elevation of the GEO satellite is relatively fixed, and it is limited to a small range. Five BDS-2 GEO satellites and two BDS-3 GEO satellites were statistically analyzed, as shown in Table 2. We can find that the average elevation of all 5 GEO satellites of BDS-2 is 35.04 degrees, which is very close to the average elevation of 35.31 degree of the two GEO satellites of BDS-3. However, the C/N₀ values of BDS-2 GEO satellites on the B1I and B3I frequencies are 37.59 dB/Hz and 42.62 dB/Hz, respectively, which are significantly lower than the average value of the BDS-3 GEO satellites (the C/N₀ values on the B1I and B3I frequencies are 42.82 dB/Hz and 44.57 dB/Hz, respectively). Therefore, we can infer that the C/N₀ of the GEO satellite of BDS-3 at the frequency points B1I and B3I was significantly improved compared with that of BDS-2.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B2I	B3I
	average	35.04	37.59	40.34	42.62
	C01	35.31	39.01	40.36	42.94
	C02	42.15	37.49	41.72	44.75
BDS-2	C03	50.27	41.30	43.51	46.05
	C04	23.40	35.35	37.75	39.72
	C05	24.06	34.80	38.37	39.64
	average	35.31	42.82		44.57
BDS-3	C59	35.42	41.95		44.50
	C60	35.20	43.69		44.64

Table 2. Statistical results of C/N_0 of all BDS-2 and BDS-3GEO satellites (dB/Hz).

4.2. C/N₀ Statistical Characteristics of IGSO Satellites

Similar to GEO satellites, IGSO satellites are also high-orbit satellites. However, the orbital elevation and visibility of IGSO satellites are constantly changing, which is similar to MEO satellites. The results of all IGSO satellites (including 7 BDS-2 satellites and 3 BDS-3 satellites) are shown in Table 3. It can be found that the average elevation of all 7 IGSO satellites of BDS-2 is 54.67 degrees, which is almost the same as the average elevation of 54.88 degrees of the two IGSO satellites of BDS-3. At the B11 frequency, the C/N₀ value of BDS-3 is dB/Hz higher than that of BDS-2, while at the B3I frequency, the two are almost equal. The average C/N₀ value of the new signal B1C of the BDS-3 IGSO satellite is 45.76 dB/Hz, while the average C/N₀ value of B2a is 49.31 dB/Hz, which is significantly higher than the signals at all other frequency points. Therefore, the B1I and B3I signals of the BDS-3 IGSO satellites have less improvement than the BDS-2 satellite, while the B1C and B2a have better signal strength, especially the signal strength of B2a is nearly 3 dB/Hz higher than other frequencies.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B1C	B2a	B2I	B3I
	average	54.67	43.35			43.76	46.08
	C06	55.09	42.81			43.99	45.87
	C07	55.41	43.37			44.39	46.60
	C08	54.51	42.81			44.22	46.63
BDS-2	C09	54.37	42.88			43.54	46.55
	C10	54.54	42.59			43.36	45.78
	C13	53.50	44.38			43.89	45.26
	C16	55.24	44.58			42.95	45.86
	average	54.88	45.36	45.76	49.31		46.18
	C38	55.07	45.36	46.04	49.43		46.13
BDS-3	C39	55.17	45.45	45.57	49.25		46.24
	C40	54.40	45.28	45.67	49.26		46.18

Table 3. Statistics of all inclined geosynchronous satellite orbit (IGSO) satellites.

4.3. C/N₀ Statistical Characteristics of MEO Satellites

BDS-3 has a large number of MEO satellites and is the main component of the BDS-3 space segment. The MEO constellation of BDS-3 uses a total of 27 satellites in the three orbital planes A, B, and C. In order to study the difference in C/N₀ between BDS-3 and BDS-2 satellites on different frequencies, all MEO satellites were analyzed and evaluated. Because the elevation of MEO satellites varies widely, and the elevation trajectories between different satellites are extremely different. C14 (BDS-2) and C24 (BDS-3) have similar elevation ranges, so they are put together for comparison. Figure 5 shows the analysis results of the two satellites. It can be found that the C/N₀ values are closely related to the elevation. On the B1 frequency, the C/N₀ value of the C24 satellite of BDS-3 is significantly higher than that of C14, while at frequency B3, the C/N₀ value of C14 is slightly higher than that of the C24 satellite. The strength of the B2a signal of the C24 is significantly higher than other frequencies.



Figure 5. C/N₀ values of some medium earth orbit (MEO) satellites on different frequencies.

The C/N₀ of all MEO satellites are analyzed (including 3 BDS-2 satellites and 24 BDS-3 satellites), and the results are shown in Table 4. Because there are fewer BDS-2 satellites, the average elevation on the day of the experiment is 32.41 degrees, which is much lower than the BDS-3 satellite elevation of 39.33 degrees. On the B1I frequency, the MEO satellites of BDS-3 have a significant improvement over BDS-2, while on the B3I frequency, they are

equivalent. For the new signal of the BDS-3 MEO satellites, B1C is higher than B1I but lower than B3I, while B2a is significantly higher than other frequencies.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B1C	B2a	B2I	B3 I
	average	32.41	40.68			43.02	44.93
	C11	24.82	39.32			41.15	43.43
BD5-2	C12	25.36	38.48			42.00	43.49
	C14	47.05	44.25			45.92	47.87
	average	39.33	44.42	43.87	47.23		44.67
	C19	46.03	45.50	45.29	48.68		45.96
	C20	35.78	43.75	43.12	46.39		43.65
	C21	44.54	46.14	45.61	48.78		46.21
	C22	43.58	46.59	45.98	48.64		46.25
	C23	48.82	46.91	46.38	50.11		46.77
	C24	40.28	44.60	44.26	48.15		45.13
	C25	35.58	43.71	42.88	45.75		43.72
	C26	54.39	46.99	46.09	49.21		47.11
	C27	45.17	45.88	44.46	47.65		45.08
	C28	44.87	45.47	44.39	47.10		44.90
	C29	45.47	45.35	44.34	48.04		45.25
BDS-3	C30	43.35	45.98	44.94	47.87		45.38
	C32	30.87	42.96	42.73	46.19		43.77
	C33	32.20	42.57	42.32	46.43		43.51
	C34	22.87	40.82	40.18	43.02		41.16
	C35	43.24	45.56	44.67	47.30		45.23
	C36	29.44	42.52	41.97	46.12		43.72
	C37	46.37	44.91	44.70	48.76		45.53
	C41	25.93	40.86	40.89	44.77		42.33
	C42	51.39	46.10	45.92	49.96		46.94
	C43	35.44	44.05	43.17	45.87		43.86
	C44	31.37	43.32	42.68	45.51		43.08
	C45	32.36	42.65	42.77	46.59		43.93
	C46	34.68	42.92	43.06	46.70		43.61

Table 4. Statistics of C/N_0 values of all MEO satellites.

 C/N_0 of different types of BDS satellites are shown in Table 5, including all BDS-2 and BDS-3. The C/N_0 of the BDS-3 satellites on B1I frequency is significantly higher than that of the BDS-2 satellites, and they are equivalent at the B3I frequency. The new B1C and B2a signals have been broadcast on IGSO and MEO satellites of BDS-3. The C/N_0 value of the B2a signal is nearly 3 dB/Hz higher than other frequencies (as shown in Figure 6).

Table 5. C/N_0 statistical results of all types of satellites.

		B1I	B1C	B2a	B2b	B2I	B3I
CEO.	BDS-2	37.59				40.34	42.62
GEO	BDS-3	42.82					44.57
1000	BDS-2	43.35				43.76	46.08
IGSO	BDS-3	45.36	45.76	49.31			46.18
	BDS-2	40.68				43.02	44.93
MEO	BDS-3	44.42	43.87	47.23			44.67



Figure 6. Comparison of Beidou System (BDS) signal carrier-to-noise ratio on different frequencies.

4.4. Comparison of BDS-3 and GPS, GLONASS and QZSS Satellites at the Same Frequency

Since the B1C and B2a signals of the BDS-3 MEO satellites have good interoperability with other GNSS signals at the same frequency, they are compared. Since the performance of the GNSS satellites declines with the aging of the payload, the authors chose three satellites from BDS-3, GPS and Galileo launched in 2018. Meanwhile, the authors selected the J01 satellite with better visibility in China because QZSS has no new satellite after 2018. In this contribution, the C/N₀ of the same-frequency signals of the four satellites C25 (BDS-3), G04 (GPS), E13 (Galileo) and J01 (QZSS) are compared. The C/N₀ of B1C, L1, E1 and L1 (QZSS) is shown in Figure 7, from which we can be found that the signal strength of BDS-3 and GPS is slightly higher than Galileo and QZSS. Since the J01 satellite of QZSS is more than 10 years old, its performance inevitably deteriorates with the aging of the onboard load. Therefore, in this contribution, the performance of the J01 satellite deviates from other satellites.



Figure 7. Comparison of C/N_0 values of B1C, L1, E1 and L1 (QZSS).

The C/N₀ statistical results of different GNSS satellites are shown in Table 6. We can find that, except for the QZSS satellite which has a higher average elevation, the average elevation of the other three GNSS satellites are in the range of 33–40 degree. The signal strengths of different GNSS systems on the two frequencies are relatively close, and the B2a frequency point is 3–4 dB/Hz higher than that of B1C.

		B1I	B1C	B2a	B2b	B2I	B3I
GEO	BDS-2	37.59				40.34	42.62
	BDS-3	42.82					44.57
1000	BDS-2	43.35				43.76	46.08
IGSO	BDS-3	45.36	45.76	49.31			46.18
MEO	BDS-2	40.68				43.02	44.93
MEO	BDS-3	44.42	43.87	47.23			44.67

Table 6. C/N_0 statistical results of all types of satellites.

Except for GEO satellites, all BDS-3 satellites can transmit B1C and B2a signals. The signal strength of B1C and B2a signals is significantly higher than other signals, especially B2a signals are about 3 dB/Hz higher. Moreover, the signal strength of B1C and B2a signals is very close to other GNSS signals at the same frequency. Therefore, when using BDS-3 signals for positioning and navigation, B1C and B2a have priority.

5. Quality of Code Observation

The accuracy of code observation is evaluated in this section. Code-minus-carrier (CC) and multipath MP) indicators are often used to evaluate the accuracy of the code observation. In this contribution, the CC values of various frequencies of different GNSS and different types of satellites are analyzed, then the MP of the B1I/B3I and the MP of B1C (L1/E1)/B2a (L5/E5a) are analyzed. The observations were statistically evaluated and compared.

5.1. Code-Minus-Carrier (CC)

The typical theoretical accuracy of code observation is 1/100 of the chip width, and the range is generally from tens of centimeters to several meters. However, due to factors related to navigation satellites, propagation paths and receivers, the reduced accuracy causes degradation of user positioning. The combined observations of the two carriers and code pseudo-ranges are often used to evaluate the accuracy of code observations. The first linear combination observation is code-minus-carrier (CC). The basic observations in a GNSS receiver are the code and carrier phase. This difference of the range by code and range calculated by carrier phase (phase multiplied by wavelength) can be expressed as CC. The CC at a certain epoch *t* is expressed as follows:

$$CC_t = \rho_t - \phi_t = 2I_t - N_t + M_{\rho t} - M_{\phi t}$$
 (2)

where ρ and ϕ is the code and carrier phase observation, respectively. *I* is the ionospheric delay. $M_{\rho t}$ and $M_{\phi t}$ include multipath and modeling errors in the code and carrier phase observations, respectively.

This method makes a difference between the pseudo-range and carrier phase observations at a certain frequency and then eliminates the effects of the ionosphere by quadratic polynomial fitting to obtain CC observations [20,21].

The statistical results of all GEO and IGSO satellites are shown in Tables 7 and 8, respectively. The CC of GEO satellites on the B3I frequency point is less than 0.2 m, while it is less than 0.1 m for IGSO satellites. The CC of both B1I and B3I of the BDS-3 GEO satellites was significantly improved compared to the BDS-2 satellites. On the other hand, the CC of the new signals B1C and B2a from the IGSO satellites are between the B1I and B3I, while the CC of B2a is significantly lower than B1C.

There is a comparison of CC values between C14 and the C24 satellites in Figure 8. It can be found that the CC value on B3I is significantly lower than that of B1I and B2I, while the CC values on the B1I and B1C are significantly higher than the other two frequencies. The statistical results of all IGSO satellites are shown in Table 9. The CC value of B2a is the best with 0.13 m, and the CC value of B3I is sub-excellent with 0.14 m. The CC values of both B1I and B1C are higher than 0.2 m. By contrast, the CC values of the B1I/B3I of the

BDS-3 GEO satellites are significantly improved compared to the BDS-2 satellites. The CC value on B2a of the new signal of BDS-3 is significantly lower than that of B1C.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B2I	B3I
	average	35.04	0.24	0.24	0.17
	C01	35.31	0.27	0.28	0.23
	C02	42.15	0.32	0.34	0.22
BDS-2	C03	50.27	0.20	0.13	0.07
	C04	23.40	0.26	0.27	0.22
	C05	24.06	0.16	0.17	0.11
BDS-3	average	35.31	0.20		0.16
	C59	35.42	0.16		0.14
	C60	35.20	0.24		0.18

Table 7. Statistical results of code-minus-carrier (CC) values of all geosynchronous earth orbit (GEO) satellites.

Table 8. Statistics of CC values of all IGSO satellites.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B1C	B2a	B2I	B 3I
	average	54.67	0.26			0.18	0.09
	C06	55.09	0.24			0.18	0.08
	C07	55.41	0.26			0.17	0.10
C08	54.51	0.27			0.16	0.08	
BDS-2	C09	54.37	0.27			0.17	0.09
	C10	54.54	0.27			0.18	0.08
	C13	53.50	0.25			0.19	0.09
	C16	55.24	0.24			0.19	0.11
	average	54.88	0.23	0.16	0.10		0.08
	C38	55.07	0.22	0.16	0.09		0.08
BDS-3	C39	55.17	0.23	0.17	0.11		0.09
	C40	54.40	0.23	0.16	0.08		0.07



Figure 8. Comparison of CC values of MEO satellites at different frequencies (C14 vs. C24).

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	B1I	B1C	B2a	B2I	B3I
	average	32.41	0.33			0.2	0.18
	C11	24.82	0.35			0.23	0.21
BD5-2	C12	25.36	0.36			0.21	0.17
	C14	47.05	0.28			0.17	0.17
	average	39.33	0.26	0.2	0.13		0.14
	C19	46.03	0.24	0.18	0.12		0.11
	C20	35.78	0.30	0.25	0.19		0.21
	C21	44.54	0.22	0.18	0.11		0.14
	C22	43.58	0.23	0.20	0.11		0.09
	C23	48.82	0.23	0.18	0.12		0.11
	C24	40.28	0.25	0.22	0.11		0.15
	C25	35.58	0.27	0.21	0.14		0.15
	C26	54.39	0.21	0.16	0.09		0.07
	C27	45.17	0.23	0.19	0.13		0.17
	C28	44.87	0.23	0.19	0.11		0.10
	C29	45.47	0.25	0.20	0.12		0.12
BDS-3	C30	43.35	0.24	0.19	0.12		0.10
	C32	30.87	0.29	0.20	0.13		0.14
	C33	32.20	0.27	0.21	0.12		0.12
	C34	22.87	0.31	0.24	0.15		0.16
	C35	43.24	0.25	0.18	0.12		0.16
	C36	29.44	0.28	0.22	0.14		0.15
	C37	46.37	0.28	0.20	0.15		0.15
	C41	25.93	0.33	0.26	0.14		0.15
	C42	51.39	0.23	0.17	0.11		0.13
	C43	35.44	0.26	0.20	0.11		0.17
	C44	31.37	0.30	0.22	0.14		0.17
	C45	32.36	0.30	0.23	0.14		0.14
	C46	34.68	0.32	0.22	0.15		0.14

Table 9. Statistics of CC values for all MEO satellites.

Table 10 shows the average values of CC for different types of satellites on different frequencies (B2b vacancies), including all BDS-2 and BDS-3 satellites. It can be found that the CC value of BDS-3 satellites on B1I is significantly higher than that of the BDS-2 satellites, while on B3I, there is a smaller degree of improvement. The CC value of the new B2a signal broadcast on IGSO and MEO of BDS-3 satellites is significantly lower than that of B1C (Figure 9).

Table 10. CC statistics of all types of satellites (unit: meters).

	B1I	B1C	B2a	B2b	B2I	B3I
BDS-2	0.24				0.24	0.17
BDS-3	0.2					0.16
BDS-2	0.26				0.18	0.09
BDS-3	0.23	0.16	0.10			0.08
BDS-2	0.33				0.20	0.18
BDS-3	0.26	0.20	0.13			0.14
	BDS-2 BDS-3 BDS-2 BDS-3 BDS-2 BDS-3	B1I BDS-2 0.24 BDS-3 0.2 BDS-2 0.26 BDS-3 0.23 BDS-2 0.33 BDS-3 0.26	B1I B1C BDS-2 0.24 BDS-3 0.2 BDS-2 0.26 BDS-3 0.23 BDS-2 0.33 BDS-3 0.26	B1I B1C B2a BDS-2 0.24 BDS-3 0.2 BDS-2 0.26 BDS-3 0.23 BDS-2 0.33 BDS-3 0.26	B1I B1C B2a B2b BDS-2 0.24	B1I B1C B2a B2b B2I BDS-2 0.24 0.24 0.24 BDS-3 0.2 0.26 0.18 BDS-3 0.23 0.16 0.10 BDS-2 0.33 0.20 0.20 BDS-3 0.26 0.20 0.13

The B1C/B2a frequency of the BDS-3 MEO satellites has good interoperability with other GNSS. Therefore, the CC values on the same frequency are compared. In this contribution, the CC values of C25 (BDS-3), G04 (GPS), E13 (Galileo) and J01 (QZSS) on the same are compared. Figure 10 shows that the CC values of B1C, L1, E1 and L1 (QZSS) are relatively close, while the CC values of B2a, L5, E5a and L5 (QZSS) are also relatively close. At the same time, the CC value at the frequency point B2a (L5/E5a) is significantly lower than that of B1C (L1/E1) more than 0.3 m. Figure 11 shows the elevation changes of these satellites in one day.

CC (Meters)





Figure 9. Comparison of CC values of all types of satellites of BDS-2 and BDS-3.



Figure 10. Comparison of CC values between BDS-3 and other GNSS signals at the same frequency.



Figure 11. Elevation changes between BDS-3 and other GNSS-selected satellites.

The CC statistics of different GNSS satellites are shown in Table 11. For different GNSS satellites, the average CC of the B2a (L5/E5a) frequency point does not exceed 0.15 m, which is significantly better than the B1C (L1/E1) frequency. The E1 frequency of Galileo has the best CC value with 0.29 m, followed by B1C of BDS-3, which is significantly better than the L1 frequency of GPS and QZSS. The CC values of B2a, L5 and E5a frequency points are very close within 0.05 m.

GNSS	Туре	Sat	Elevation (Average)	B1C(L1/E1)	B2a(L5/E5a)
BDS-3	MEO	C24	39.30	0.21	0.14
GPS	MEO	G04	33.86	0.26	0.15
Galileo	MEO	E13	37.78	0.17	0.14
QZSS	QZS	J01	47.53	0.29	0.10

Table 11. CC statistics of different GNSS satellites.

The code observation accuracy of B1C/B2a is about 0.05 m better than traditional B1/B2/B3 signals, especially the code observation accuracy of B2a is better than 0.15 m. In comparison with other GNSS, B2a (L5/E5a) is better than B1C (L1/E1) by more than 0.5 meters, except for Galileo. Galileo's E1 and E5 range code accuracy is very close. Therefore, in low-cost navigation applications, if a single-frequency ranging code is used for positioning, the B2a (L5/E5a) frequency is the best choice.

5.2. MP

CC used in Section 5.1 is usually used for the evaluation of single-frequency receivers, which are susceptible to the ionosphere and multipath noise. The MP can deal with these problems, which are geometry-free and ionosphere-free. The interference delay effect caused by the satellite signal entering the receiver through multiple reflection paths is called the multipath. The expression of dual-frequency MP observation is shown in Equation (2) [22,23]. MP was determined by the pseudo-range multipath and noise, which is defined as Equation (3). *P* and φ the code and phase observation, respectively. *f* and λ represent the frequency and wavelength of the GNSS signal, respectively.

$$MP_{i} = P_{i} - \frac{f_{i}^{2} + f_{j}^{2}}{f_{i}^{2} - f_{j}^{2}} \cdot \lambda_{i}\phi_{i} + (\frac{f_{i}^{2} + f_{j}^{2}}{f_{i}^{2} - f_{j}^{2}} - 1) \cdot \lambda_{j}\phi_{j} - B_{ij}$$
(3)

where the subscripts *i* and *j* (i = j) indicate the difficult frequencies, MP_i is the multipath combination in meters. In the absence of cycle slips, bij is considered constant because it is composed of ambiguous terms and hardware delay deviation.

In order to make the MP values statistically significant, the authors analyzed all GEO/IGSO satellites, with the results are shown in Tables 12 and 13. For the MP13 combination, the average value of BDS-3 GEO satellites is 0.03 m lower than BDS-2, while for the MP31 combination, the average value of BDS-3 is also 0.02 m lower than that of BDS-2. In contrast, for the MP13 combination, the average value of BDS-3 IGSO satellites is 0.07 m lower than of BDS-2, while for the MP31 combination, the average value of BDS-3 is also 0.02 m lower than of BDS-3 is also 0.07 m lower than of BDS-2, while for the MP31 combination, the average value of BDS-3 IGSO satellites is 0.07 m lower than that of BDS-2. Regardless of the BDS-2 or BDS-3 GEO/IGSO satellites, MP31 is lower than MP13 by more than 0.3 m.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	MP13	MP31
	average	35.04	0.28	0.11
	C01	35.31	0.29	0.14
	C02	42.15	0.36	0.08
BDS-2	C03	50.27	0.18	0.09
	C04	23.40	0.26	0.12
	C05	24.06	0.30	0.10
	average	35.31	0.25	0.09
BDS-3	C59	35.42	0.30	0.10
	C60	35.20	0.20	0.09

Table 12. Statistical results of MP values of all GEO satellites.

Table 13. Statistics of MP values of all IGSO satellites.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	MP13	MP31
	average	54.67	0.30	0.18
	C06	55.09	0.32	0.21
	C07	55.41	0.33	0.20
BDS-2	C08	54.51	0.34	0.17
	C09	54.37	0.26	0.18
	C10	54.54	0.27	0.18
	C13	53.50	0.30	0.16
	C16	55.24	0.28	0.18
BDS-3	average	54.88	0.23	0.11
	C38	55.07	0.27	0.13
	C39	55.17	0.21	0.11
	C40	54.40	0.20	0.10

Figure 12 shows the comparison of the MP values of the C14 satellite of BDS-2 and the C24 satellite of BDS-3. When the elevation of the C14 satellite increases, the MP value decreases, but after the elevation exceeds 50°, the MP values also show an extremely abnormal increase. In contrast, the MP value of C24 of BDS-3 decreases with the increase in elevation, and there is no abnormal phenomenon in C24. It can be seen that BDS-3 improves the systematic deviation of BDS-2 MEO satellites in MP.



Figure 12. Comparison of MP values of MEO satellites (C14 vs. C24).

Table 14 shows the MP13 and MP31 values of all BDS-2 and BDS-3satellites. By analyzing the average value, it can be found that the value of MP31 is nearly 0.07 m lower than that of MP13, while the MP noise of the MEO satellite of BDS-3 is better than that of BDS-2 exceed 0.05 m. At the same time, the research results of the MP noise of the new BDS-3 signals B1C and B2a show that it is nearly 0.03 m lower than the traditional frequency combination of B1I and B3I, while MP21 is also nearly 0.03 m lower than MP12.

System	Satellite	Elevation (Average)	MP13	MP31	MP12	MP21
	average	32.41	0.36	0.22		
	C11	24.82	0.31	0.23		
BD3-2	C12	25.36	0.33	0.23		
	C14	47.05	0.45	0.20		
	average	39.33	0.24	0.17	0.17	0.14
	C19	46.03	0.29	0.20	0.18	0.13
	C20	35.78	0.29	0.23	0.20	0.18
	C21	44.54	0.19	0.16	0.15	0.12
	C22	43.58	0.20	0.15	0.18	0.15
	C23	48.82	0.18	0.12	0.15	0.13
	C24	40.28	0.21	0.13	0.17	0.14
	C25	35.58	0.25	0.16	0.18	0.16
	C26	54.39	0.19	0.14	0.14	0.10
	C27	45.17	0.20	0.13	0.15	0.16
	C28	44.87	0.19	0.12	0.15	0.11
	C29	45.47	0.19	0.13	0.16	0.12
BDS-3	C30	43.35	0.23	0.16	0.17	0.16
	C32	30.87	0.26	0.16	0.18	0.15
	C33	32.20	0.26	0.17	0.17	0.13
	C34	22.87	0.28	0.20	0.21	0.17
	C35	43.24	0.21	0.15	0.15	0.13
	C36	29.44	0.28	0.19	0.19	0.17
	C37	46.37	0.26	0.19	0.17	0.15
	C41	25.93	0.32	0.22	0.21	0.17
	C42	51.39	0.20	0.14	0.15	0.12
	C43	35.44	0.22	0.15	0.16	0.13
	C44	31.37	0.26	0.17	0.17	0.16
	C45	32.36	0.34	0.19	0.19	0.15
	C46	34.68	0.34	0.22	0.21	0.16

Table 14. Statistical results of MP values of all MEO satellites.

In Figure 13, at the first frequency point B1C (L1/E1) and the second frequency point, B2a (L5/E5a) for multiple GNSS interoperability, two MP observations are formed, namely MP12 and MP21. The values of the MP12 combination are relatively close, and MP21 has the same conclusion. No matter which GNSS system, the MP21 value is significantly lower than MP12.

In order to quantitatively analyze the MP value of the GNSS satellites, the MP statistics of different GNSS satellites are shown in Table 15. It can be found that the MP12 and MP21 values of different GNSS are lower than 0.3 m, while MP21 is significantly lower than MP12 (except for E13 satellites). In short, the MP values of different GNSS satellites at the same frequency are very closely.

MP reflects the multipath noise characteristics of the GNSS signal. The multipath noise of MP12 and MP21 on BDS-3 B1C/B2a signals is about 0.5 m lower than traditional MP12 and MP21. In high-precision dual-frequency positioning, the combination of B1C and B2a is a better choice. In multi-system applications, the noise level of the combination of B1C and B2a and the combination of L1/E1 and L5/E5 is very close, and the multi-GNSS combination can be used in interoperability applications.



Figure 13. Comparison of MP value between BDS-3 and other GNSS signals at the same frequency.

GNSS	Туре	Sat	Elevation (Average)	MP12	MP21
BDS-3	MEO	C24	39.30	0.18	0.16
GPS	MEO	G04	33.86	0.27	0.12
Galileo	MEO	E13	37.78	0.16	0.22
QZSS	QZS	J01	47.53	0.23	0.11

Table 15. CC statistics of different GNSS satellites.

6. Quality of Carrier Phase Observations Based on Zero Baseline

Carrier phase observations are currently the most accurate observations for GNSS measurement, the measurement accuracy of which is on the order of millimeters. In this section, the authors analyze the accuracy of carrier phase observations. The zero-baseline [18] observation method was used to evaluate the accuracy of carrier phase observation. In Section 6.1, double-difference observations are used to evaluate the accuracy of the carrier, while in Section 6.2, the zero-baseline solution of different navigation systems is used.

6.1. DD Phase Measurements

In order to evaluate the carrier accuracy of BDS-2 and BDS-3 on different frequency points, seven sets of double difference combinations were selected for evaluation. From Figure 14 and Table 16. It can be found that for BDS-2 satellites, the carrier accuracy of the B1I, B1I and B3I is about 2–2.5 mm, while MEO satellites have the highest accuracy among different types of satellites, followed by IGSO, GEO has the worst accuracy. For BDS-3 satellites, the carrier accuracy of the two frequency points of B1I and B2I was close, and the accuracy of MEO satellites was also the highest, followed by IGSO and GEO had the worst accuracy. As for the carrier accuracy of the same type of satellites at the same frequency, BDS-3 satellites are 0.3 m higher than BDS-2 satellites.

17 of 23



Figure 14. Comparison of DD values between BDS-2 and BDS-3 at different frequency points.

GNSS	Sat	Туре	B1I	B2I	B3I	B1C	B2a
BDS-2	C02	GEO	2.33	2.52	2.52		
	C08	IGSO	2.22	2.41	2.38		
	C14	MEO	2.07	2.27	2.22		
BDS-3	C24	MEO	1.97		2.20	1.12	1.31
	C25	MEO	1.84		2.03	1.14	1.47
	C38	IGSO	2.13		2.29		
	C59	GEO	2.08		2.25		
GPS	G04	MEO				1.26	1.41
Galileo	E13	MEO				1.34	1.54
QZSS	J01	MEO				1.20	1.35

Table 16. DD observation statistics of different GNSS satellites.

In this contribution, the double-difference values of C24-32 (BDS-3), C25-32 (BDS-3), G04-G16 (GPS), E13-E08 (Galileo) and J01-J03 (QZSS) on the same frequency (B1C/L1/E1/L1 (QZSS) and B2a/L5/E5a/L5) were compared. Figure 15 shows the double-difference comparison of B1C/L1/E1/L1 (QZSS) and B2a/L5/E5a/L5, from which we can see that the accuracy of the dual-frequency zero-baseline observation value of the navigation system at the same frequency point was very close to each other. In Table 16, the observation accuracy of B1C/L1/E1/L1 (QZSS) was in the range of 1.2–1.4 mm, while the accuracy of B2a/L5/E5a/L5 was slightly worse, which was in the range of 1.3–1.6 mm. The statistical characteristics of the accuracy of the single-frequency DD are very prominently shown in Table 16. The carrier phase accuracy of the B1/B2/B3 frequency was higher than 2 mm, while the accuracy of the new signals B1C and B2a was better than 1.5 mm, which was very close to the L1/E1 and L5/E5 signals of GPS, Galileo and QZSS. Therefore, when using the carrier phase for high-precision positioning, B1C and B2a are both better choices.



Figure 15. Comparison of DD value of BDS-3 and other GNSS signals.

6.2. Zero Baseline Solutions

The zero-baseline model was used to evaluate the accuracy of the carrier observations, including three coordinate components as E (east), N (north) and U (up), which were calculated and compared with the known baseline (theoretical value was zero). The carrier phase observation noise was calculated according to the error propagation law. The following was an analysis of the zero-baseline positioning of the BDS B1I and B3I signals, and the zero-baseline resulted of the new BDS B1C, and B2a signals were compared. By analyzing Figure 16 and Table 17, we can see that the zero baseline positioning results of the B1C and B2a signals were over 2 mm higher than the B1I and B3I signals, and the zero-baseline resulted of the B1C frequency point had the highest accuracy less than 2 mm in three dimensions.

Frequency	Ε	Ν	U
BDS-B1I	2.8	3.4	4.2
BDS-B3I	4.7	6.8	7.1
BDS-B1C	0.7	0.6	1.9
BDS-B2a	1.5	2.8	3.9
GPS-L1	0.4	0.6	1.2
GPS-L5	1.7	2.7	3.5
Galileo-E1	0.5	0.3	1.3
Galileo-E5a	1.5	2.4	5.4

Table 17. Statistical results of zero-baseline solutions of different GNSS satellites (STD, mm).

L1/E1 and L5/E5 signals of GPS and Galileo were used to compare the BDS-3 new B1C and B2a signals. Figures 17 and 18 show the zero-baseline results of GPS and Galileo, respectively. The statistical values are shown in Table 17, in which we can see that the accuracy of zero-baseline resolution on B1C, L1 and E1 of Galileo was significantly higher than B2a of BDS, L5 of GPS and E5a of Galileo. This difference was at least 1 mm in three dimensions. Therefore, in the differential positioning mode, carrier phase observations of B1C, L1 and E1 frequencies are a better choice.



B1C B2a.

Figure 16. BDS-3 zero-baseline calculation results at different frequency points.



L1 L5.

Figure 17. GPS zero-baseline calculation results at different frequency points.



E1 E5a.

Figure 18. Galileo GPS calculation results of zero-baseline.

7. Discussion

BDS-3 was put into operation at the end of July 2020; the new signals B1C and B2a broadcast by BDS-3 satellites are not available in BDS-2. In the past year, a large number of positioning performance evaluations of SPP [24], PPP [25] and RTK [26] of BDS-3 have been published. However, there are few studies evaluating the B1C and B2A signal performance of BDS-3 in-depth. Therefore, a comprehensive and in-depth performance evaluation of the new signals is very helpful for high-precision positioning applications and interoperability with other GNSS.

The carrier-to-noise ratio is an important parameter that characterizes the strength of the GNSS signals. After a large amount of data analysis, we found that BDS-3 has a significant improvement over BDS-2 at the traditional B1I and B3I frequency points, especially the improvement of B1I, which has reached 4–5 dB/Hz. It can be concluded that the signal strength of BDS-3 B1C and B2a is significantly better than B1I, B2I and B3I. Correspondingly, the signal strength of other GNSS co-frequency points is very close to the B1C and B2a signals of BDS-3. The evaluation results in this contribution reflect that the new signal of BDS-3 has good signal strength. Especially, the abnormal carrier-to-noise ratio of BDS-2 disappeared on the BDS-3 satellite.

CC and MP are used to evaluate the accuracy of the code observation. In fact, the accuracy of the code observation of the BDS-3 satellites was minorly improved than BDS-2, while the accuracy of the code observations on B1C and B2a is better than that of B1I, B2I and B3I. However, the code observation accuracy of B3I is better than that of B1C, which can be comparable to B2a. If only the single-frequency BDS code observation is used for positioning, B3I and B2a are preferred. The accuracy of the ranging code of other GNSS at the same frequency is equivalent to that of the B1C and B2a of the BDS-3 satellites. The evaluation result of the code observation can provide a basis for the selection of different frequencies.

DD and zero-baseline were used for an accurate evaluation of the carrier phase. Even so, the hardware thermal noise of the two Trimble receivers used in zero-baseline is still different, so DD observations may absorb unmodeled errors. The results of all carrier evaluations can reflect the relative accuracy of carriers at different frequencies. The DD accuracy of B1I, B2I and B3I frequency points are in the order of 2–2.5 mm, while the DD accuracy of B1C and B2a is in the range of 1–1.5 mm, which is significantly higher than the previous BDS signal. The DD accuracy of other GNSS at the same frequency is also in the range of 1–1.5 mm. As can be seen, the DD accuracy of B1C/L1/E1 is significantly higher than that of B2a/L5/E5a. The calculation result of the zero-baseline also confirms

21 of 23

the above conclusion. The zero-baseline accuracy of B1C/L1/E1 is significantly higher than that of B2a/L5/E5a. Therefore, through the data analysis in this contribution, it can be inferred that the carrier on B1C/L1/E1 has the best accuracy and stability and is more suitable for high-precision positioning.

This contribution makes a detailed study of the characteristics of the new B1C/B2a signal and the old B1I/B2I/B3I signal of BDS-3 and separately discusses the GEP/MEO/IGSO satellites. Furthermore, the B1C/B2a signal was compared and analyzed with other GNSS signals at the same frequency. The research results of The contribution can provide an important reference for frequency selection in scenarios such as single-frequency pseudo-range positioning, single-frequency carrier phase differential positioning, and dualfrequency positioning. In addition, the signal accuracy evaluation results can provide prior information for algorithm design and model establishment in high-precision positioning. These analysis results can lay a solid foundation and provide an important reference for the use of BDS-3 new signals.

8. Conclusions

The analysis result of this contribution is the panorama of the new BDS-3 signal, including B1C and B2a. Compared with BDS-2 satellites signal, B1C/B2a has better signal strength, and the C/N₀ of B2a signal is about 3 dB higher than other signals. The code observation accuracy of B1C/B2a is about 0.05 m higher than that of traditional B1/B2/B3 signal, especially that of B2a is better than 0.15 m. The double difference results of the zero-baseline show that the observation accuracy of B1C/L1/E1/L1 (QZSS) is between 1.2 and 1.4 mm and that of B2a/L5/E5A/L5 is slightly worse, between 1.3 and 1.6 mm, which is consistent with the results of the zero-baseline solution. It should be noted that the performance of the J01 satellite has declined due to its launch for more than ten years.

In the future, the authors plan to evaluate and study the accuracy of B2B PPP and Bs signal of BDS-3 in the next step. In addition, the same frequency signals of NAVIC are evaluated and compared.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, Q.Z.; data curation, Y.Z. and Q.Z.; formal analysis, Q.Z.and Z.C.; writing—original draft, Q.Z. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This work was carried out with the support of the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant 41604024 and Open Fund of State Key Laboratory of Geographic Information Engineering under Grant SKLGIE2013-M-2-1.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Upon a reasonable request, the observation data are available from the corresponding author (Yongxing Zhu).

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to thank the IGS for making available the GNSS mixed navigation messages, and the GNSS data processing software named GNSSer (GNSS Parallelable Data Processer) for their permission to use the GNSS data parallel processing tool (http://www.gnsser.com). We thank JiPing Liu of Shihezi University for her linguistic assistance during the revision of this manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendix A

Satellite NAME	Types	SVN	PRN	Onboard Clock	Launched	Status	
IGSO-1S	BDS-S	C101	C31	RB	2015/3/30	Test	
MEO-1S	BDS-S	C102	C18	RB	2015/7/25	Test	
MEO-2S	BDS-S	C103	C57	RB	2015/7/25	Test	
IGSO-2S	BDS-S	C104	C58	PH	2015/9/29	Test	
MEO-3S	BDS-S	C105	C35	RB	2016/2/1	Test	
MEO-1	BDS-3	C201	C19	RB	2017/11/5	Operational	
MEO-2	BDS-3	C202	C20	RB	2017/11/5	Operational	
MEO-7	BDS-3	C203	C27	RB	2018/1/11	Operational	
MEO-8	BDS-3	C204	C28	RB	2018/1/11	Operational	
MEO-3	BDS-3	C206	C21	RB	2018/2/12	Operational	
MEO-4	BDS-3	C205	C22	RB	2018/2/12	Operational	
MEO-9	BDS-3	C207	C29	RB	2018/3/29	Operational	
MEO-10	BDS-3	C208	C30	RB	2018/3/29	Operational	
MEO-5	BDS-3	C209	C23	RB	2018/7/29	Operational	
MEO-6	BDS-3	C210	C24	RB	2018/7/29	Operational	
MEO-11	BDS-3	C212	C25	RB	2018/8/25	Operational	
MEO-12	BDS-3	C211	C26	RB	2018/8/25	Operational	
MEO-13	BDS-3	C213	C32	RB	2018/9/19	Operational	
MEO-14	BDS-3	C214	C33	RB	2018/9/19	Operational	
MEO-15	BDS-3	C216	C34	RB	2018/10/15	Operational	
MEO-16	BDS-3	C215	C35	RB	2018/10/15	Operational	
GEO-1	BDS-3	C217	C59	RB	2018/11/1	Test	
MEO-17	BDS-3	C218	C36	RB	2018/11/19	Operational	
MEO-18	BDS-3	C219	C37	RB	2018/11/19	Operational	
IGSO-1	BDS-3	C220	C38	RB	2019/04/20	Test	
IGSO-2	BDS-3	C221	C60	RB	2019/06/25	Test	

Table A1. The list of BDS-3 satellites on 20 April 2020.

References

- 1. Teunissen, P.J.G.; Montenbruck, O. Springer Handbook of Global Navigation Satellite Systems; Springer: Berlin/Heidelberg, Germany, 2017.
- Yang, Y.; Gao, W.; Guo, S.; Mao, Y.; Yang, Y. Introduction to BeiDou-3 navigation satellite system. Navigation 2019, 66, 7–18. [CrossRef]
- 3. Hauschild, A.; Montenbruck, O.; Sleewaegen, J.M.; Huisman, L.; Teunissen, P.J. Characterization of compass M-1 signals. *GPS Solut.* 2012, *16*, 117–126. [CrossRef]
- 4. Yang, Y.; Li, J.; Wang, A.; Xu, J.; He, H.; Guo, H.; Shen, J.; Dai, X. Preliminary assessment of the navigation and positioning performance of BeiDou regional navigation satellite system. *Sci. China-Earth Sci.* **2014**, *57*, 144–152. [CrossRef]
- 5. Wu, Z.; Zhou, S.; Hu, X.; Liu, L.; Shuai, T.; Xie, Y.; Tang, C.; Pan, J.; Zhu, L.; Chang, Z. Performance of the bds3 experimental satellite passive hydrogen maser. *GPS Solut.* **2018**, *22*, 43. [CrossRef]
- 6. Lu, M.; Li, W.; Yao, Z.; Cui, X. Overview of BDS III new signals. Annu. Navig. 2019, 66, 19–35. [CrossRef]
- 7. Zhang, X.; Wu, M.; Liu, W.; Li, X.; Yu, S.; Lu, C.; Wickert, J. Initial assessment of the COMPASS/BeiDou-3: New-generation navigation signals. *J. Geod.* 2017, *91*, 1225–1240. [CrossRef]
- Li, X.; Yuan, Y.; Zhu, Y.; Huang, J.; Wu, J.; Xiong, Y.; Zhang, X.; Li, X. Precise orbit determination for bds3 experimental satellites using igmas and mgex tracking networks. *J. Geod.* 2019, 93, 103–117. [CrossRef]
- 9. Yang, Y.; Xu, Y.; Li, J.; Yang, C. Progress and performance evaluation of BeiDou global navigation satellite system: Data analysis based on BDS-3 demonstration system. *Sci. China Earth Sci.* **2018**, *61*, 614–624. [CrossRef]
- 10. Hu, C.; Wang, Q.; Wang, Z.; Hernandez Moraleda, A. New-Generation BeiDou (BDS-3) Experimental Satellite Precise Orbit Determination with an Improved Cycle-Slip Detection and Repair Algorithm. *Sensors* **2018**, *18*, 1402. [CrossRef]
- 11. Jia-Yu, H.U.; Han, X.W.; Zhang, Z.A. Calculation of COMPASS satellite clock bias using SLR and L-band simultaneous observation data. *Laser Infrared* 2015, 45, 1314–1318. [CrossRef]
- 12. Ouyang, C.; Shi, J.; Shen, Y.; Li, L. Six-Year BDS-2 Broadcast Navigation Message Analysis from 2013 to 2018: Availability, Anomaly, and SIS UREs Assessment. *Sensors* **2019**, *19*, 2767. [CrossRef]
- 13. Qu, L.; Du, M.; Wang, J.; Gao, Y.; Zhao, Q.; Zhang, Q.; Guo, X. Precise point positioning ambiguity resolution by integrating BDS-3e into BDS-2 and GPS. *GPS Solut.* **2019**, *23*, 1–11. [CrossRef]

- Hein, G.W.; Avila-Rodriguez, J.-A.; Wallner, S.; Pratt, A.R.; Owen, J.; Issler, J.; Betz, J.W.; Hegarty, C.J.; Lenahan, S.; Rushanan, J.J.; et al. MBOC: The new optimized spreading modulation recommended for Galileo L1 OS and GPS L1C. In Proceedings of the IEEE/ION PLANS, Coronado, CA, USA, 25–27 April 2006; Volume 2006, pp. 884–892.
- 15. Lohan, E.S.; Hurskainen, H.; Nurmi, J. Galileo Signals. In *GALILEO Positioning Technology*; Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2015.
- 16. Li, X.; Liu, G.; Yuan, Y.; Freeshah, M.; Zhang, K.; Zhou, F. BDS multi-frequency PPP ambiguity resolution with new B2a/B2b/B2a + b signals and legacy B1I/B3I signals. *J. Geod.* **2020**, *94*, 107. [CrossRef]
- 17. Jiao, G.; Song, S.; Liu, Y.; Su, K.; Cheng, N.; Wang, S. Analysis and Assessment of BDS-2 and BDS-3 Broadcast Ephemeris: Accuracy, the Datum of Broadcast Clocks and Its Impact on Single Point Positioning. *Remote Sens.* **2020**, *12*, 2081. [CrossRef]
- 18. de Bakker, P.F.; Tiberius, C.C.; Van Der Marel, H.; van Bree, R.J. Short and zero baseline analysis of GPS L1 C/A, L5Q, GIOVE E1B, and E5aQ signals. *GPS Solut.* **2012**, *16*, 53–64. [CrossRef]
- 19. Bhuiyan, M.Z.H.; Söderholm, S.; Thombre, S.; Ruotsalainen, L.; Kirkko-Jaakkola, M.; Kuusniemi, H. Performance evaluation of carrier-to-noise density ratio estimation techniques for BeiDou Bl signal. In *Ubiquitous Positioning, Indoor Navigation & Location-Based Services*; IEEE: Corpus Christi, TX, USA, 2015.
- 20. Zhang, Z.; Li, B.; Gao, Y.; Shen, Y. Real-time carrier phase multipath detection based on dual-frequency C/N0 data. *GPS Solut*. **2019**, 23, 1–13. [CrossRef]
- 21. Pugliano, G.; Robustelli, U.; Rossi, F.; Santamaria, R. A new method for specular and diffuse pseudorange multipath error extraction using wavelet analysis. *GPS Solut.* **2016**, *20*, 499–508. [CrossRef]
- 22. Yi, Q.; Lin, G.; Liu, W.; Pan, J. Multipath Mitigation Method in GPS/BDS Deformation Monitoring Based on Observation Domain. In *China Satellite Navigation Conference*; Springer: Singapore, 2018.
- 23. Awange, J.L. Diagnosis of outlier of type multipath in GPS pseudo-range observations. *Emp. Surv. Rev.* 2005, 38, 177–189. [CrossRef]
- 24. Shi, J.; Ouyang, C.; Huang, Y.; Peng, W. Assessment of BDS-3 global positioning service: Ephemeris, SPP, PPP, RTK, and new signal. *GPS Solut.* **2020**, *24*, 1–14. [CrossRef]
- 25. Zhang, X.; Hu, J.; Ren, X. New progress of PPP/PPP-RTK and positioning performance comparison of BDS/GNSS PPP. *Acta Geodaetica et Cartographica Sinica* 2020, *49*, 1084–1100.
- Yuan, Y.; Xiaolong, M.; Zhang, B. Initial assessment of single- and dual-frequency BDS-3 RTK positioning. Satell. Navig. 2020, 1, 1–7. [CrossRef]