

**A Case Study In Public Data  
Release:  
Flight Path of Malaysia Airlines  
MH370**





## On Public Data Release



**May 27, 2014, Malaysia DCA and Inmarsat released satellite communication logs for flight MH370.**

**“The goal of publication is transparency, not verification”**

**Mark Dickinson, Inmarsat**

**“The data itself is barely understandable, very opaque and you cannot draw too much from it.”**

**“It is definitely not something someone can pick up and run with it and generate the same numbers.”**

**The purpose of this talk is to demonstrate otherwise.**



**I. Timeline**

**II. Satellite Communication System**

**III. Public data products and analysis**

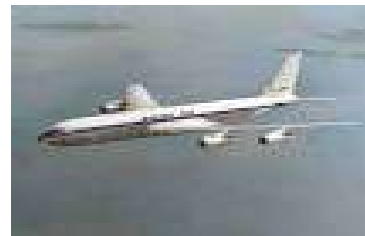
**IV. Breaking News**

**V. Lessons learned**

# A seemingly ordinary air disaster –

**March 8, 2014 (MT) Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 jet on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, has lost contact. All indications are that it has crashed in the South China Sea between Malaysia and Vietnam.**

**[BOAC 781 (1954); Flying Tiger 739 (1961);  
Varig PP-VLU (1979); Air France 447 (2009)]**





## 07:24 (MT) – MAS issues media statement

MEDIA STATEMENT released at 7.24am/8 Mar 2014 MH370 Incident

Sepang, 8 March 2014: Malaysia Airlines **confirms that flight MH370 has lost contact with Subang Air Traffic Control at 2.40am, today (8 March 2014).**

Flight MH370, operated on the B777-200 aircraft, departed Kuala Lumpur at 12.41am on 8 March 2014. MH370 **was** expected to land in Beijing at 6.30am the same day. The flight **was** carrying a total number of 227 passengers (including 2 infants), 12 crew members.

Malaysia Airlines is currently working with the authorities who have **activated their Search and Rescue team to locate the aircraft.**



***However, there is one small  
detail ...***

***Unbeknownst to anyone,  
the plane is  
STILL IN THE AIR!***

# I. Timeline of MH370

## Planned Flight

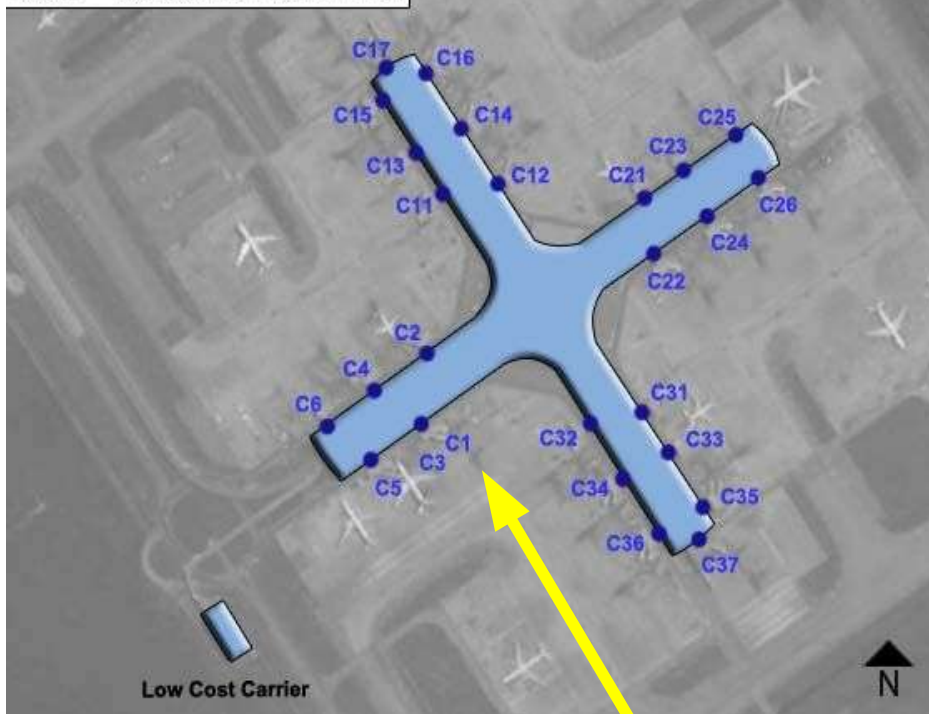
- 16:00 to 24:19 UT, March 7, 2014
- Note: Malaysia and China timezones are 8 hours ahead of UT – hence March 8 MST.





# 16:00 UT – Passengers boarding MH370 at Kuala Lumpur airport satellite terminal, gate C1. SATCOM activated. ACARS message.

KUL - Satellite Terminal



***What are ACARS messages?***

# 16:29 UT - Plane pushes back from gate. ACARS message.



# 16:42 UT - Takeoff for Beijing, runway 32R 6 hour flight. ACARS messages.



25 minutes later

**17:07 UT - MH370 cruising at 35,000 feet  
469 knots GS, heading for waypoint IGARI.  
Last ACARS message.**



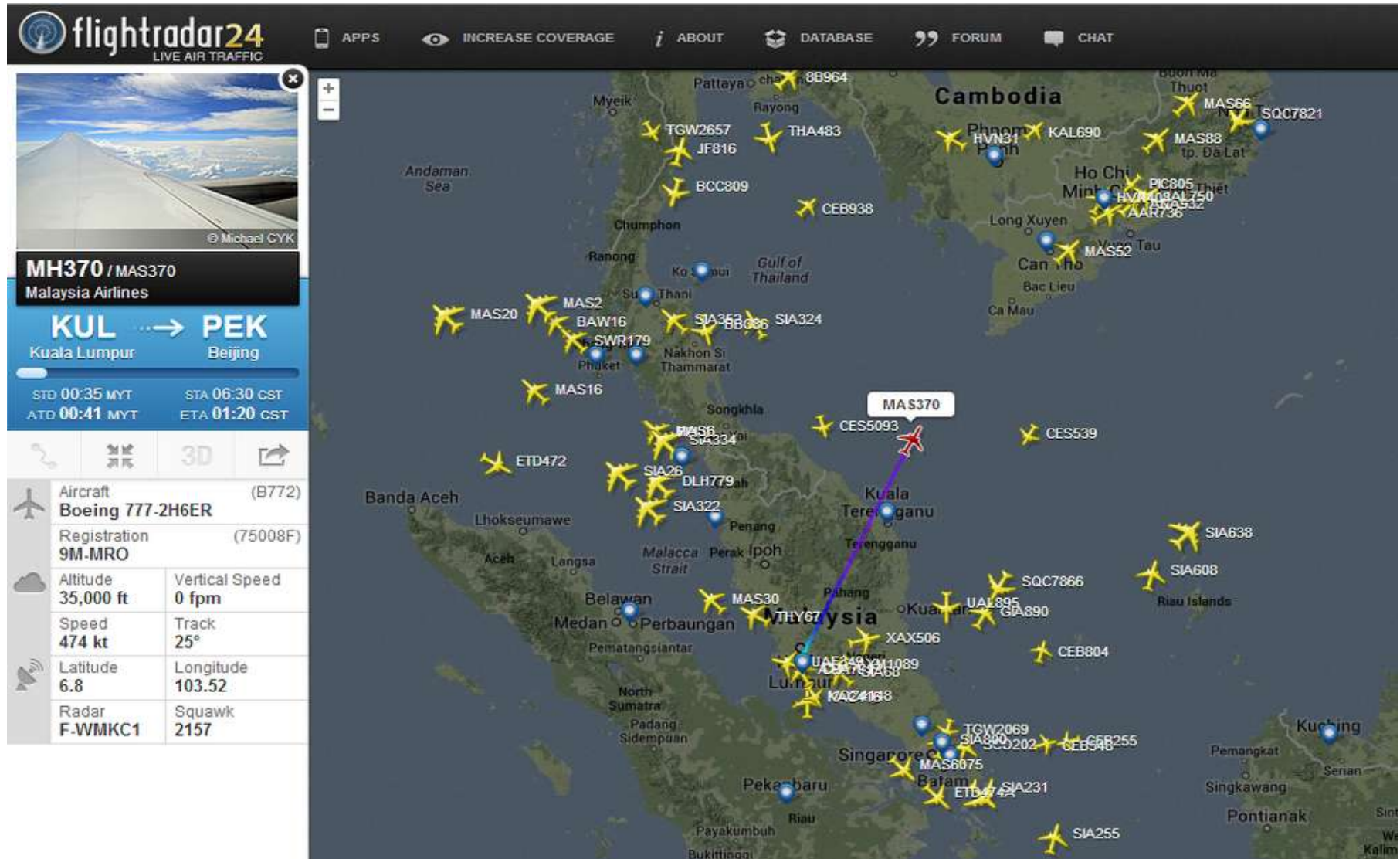
# 17:19:29 UT – KL Radar signs off; transfer to HCM FIR. Last voice communication.



17:19:24 (ATC) “Malaysian three seven zero contact Ho Chi Minh 120 decimal nine. Good night.”

17:19:29 (MAS 370) “Good night, Malaysian three seven zero.”

# 17:20:31 UT – Arrival at waypoint IGARI (“Transfer of Control Point” - TCP)



**17:20:33 UT – Aircraft symbols start dropping off Secondary Radar at HCM, KL, and Bangkok ATCC. Plane becomes invisible to ATC.**

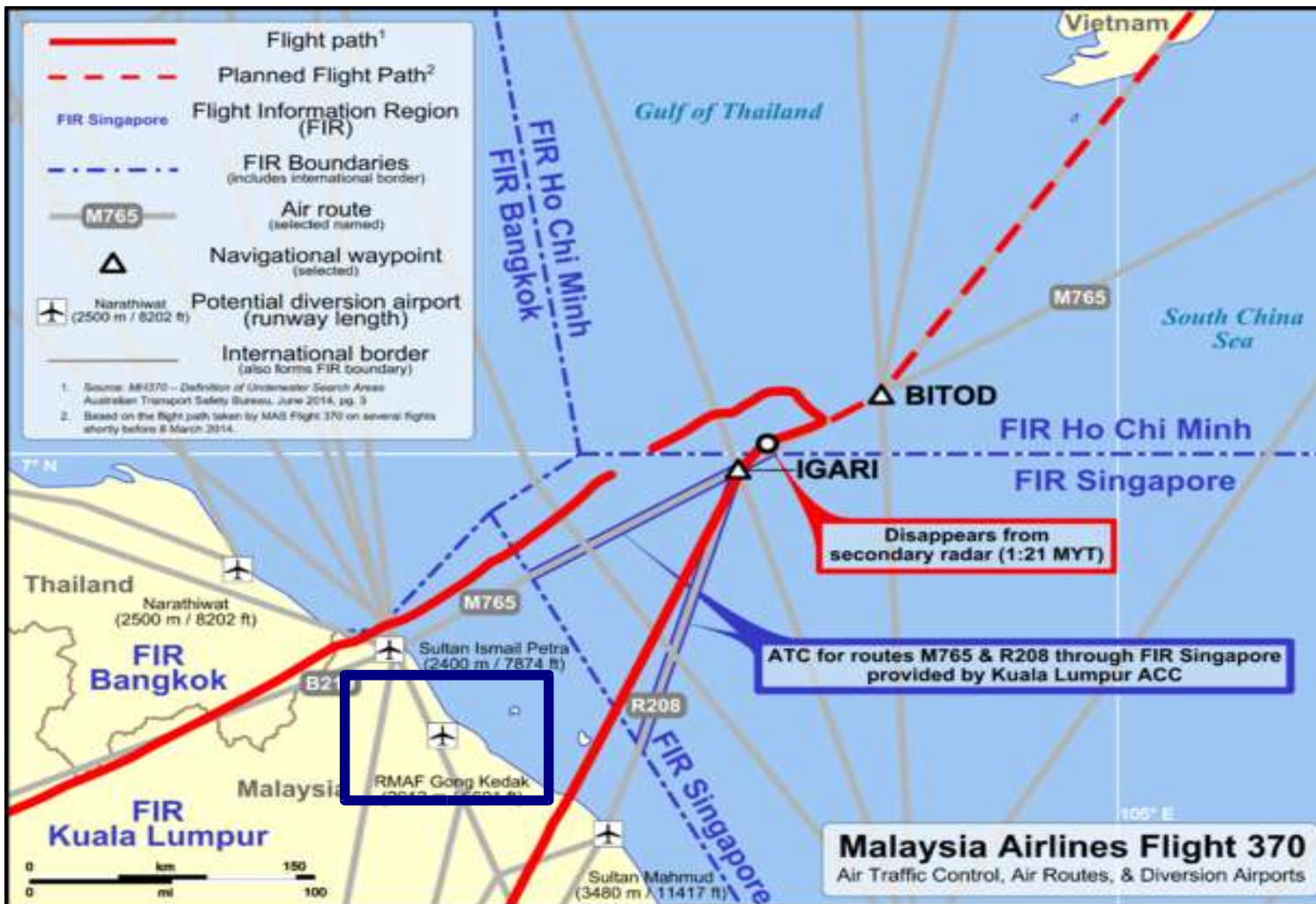


**Primary Radar**



**Secondary Radar**

**17:23 UT – Plane is still tracked by military primary radar. Plane banks left; heads along Malaysia-Thailand border.**





# 17:37 UT – Next ACARS message due from aircraft - never sent



1 minute later

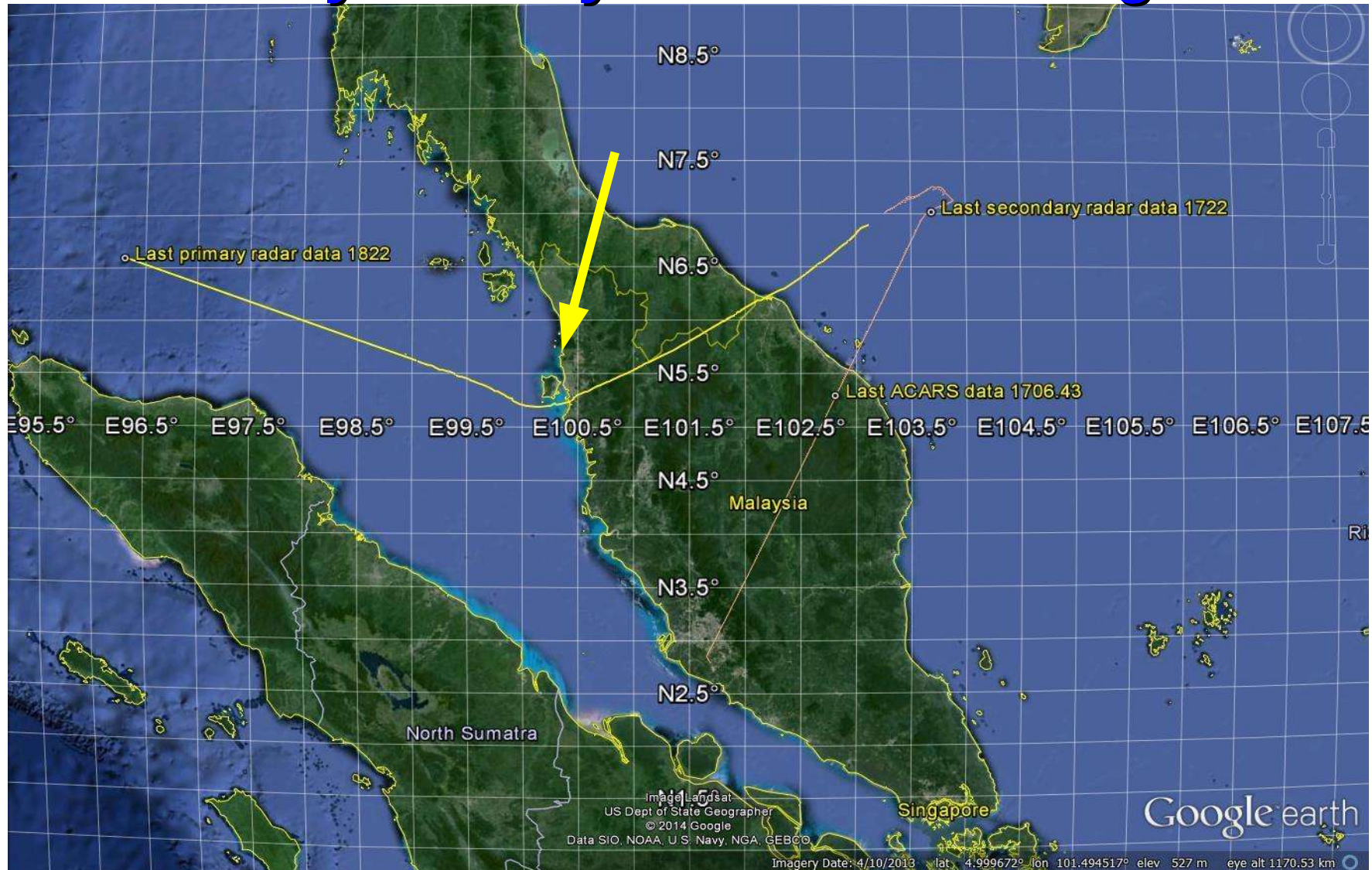
**17:38 UT – HCM and KL ATC begin communicating r.e. location of MH370. Four hours pass before it is fully established that the plane is missing.**



#### Event

**17:38:19 Ho Chi Minh first enquired about MH370, informed KL-ATCC that verbal contact was not established with MH370 and radar target was last seen at BITOD.**

# 17:51 UT – Plane passes S of Penang Island and turns WNW along Strait of Malacca. Now being tracked by military radar on Penang Island



# 18:04 UT – ACARS message sent from ground to aircraft via satellite; no response. SATCOM inoperative.

18:03 - No Response to Ground to Air DATA-2 ACARS Data. Link lost at sometime between 17:07:48 and here.

7/03/2014 18:03:41.405	IOR-P10500-0-3859	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x71 - User Data (ISU) - RLS
7/03/2014 18:03:41.405	IOR-P10500-0-3859	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	Subsequent Signalling Unit

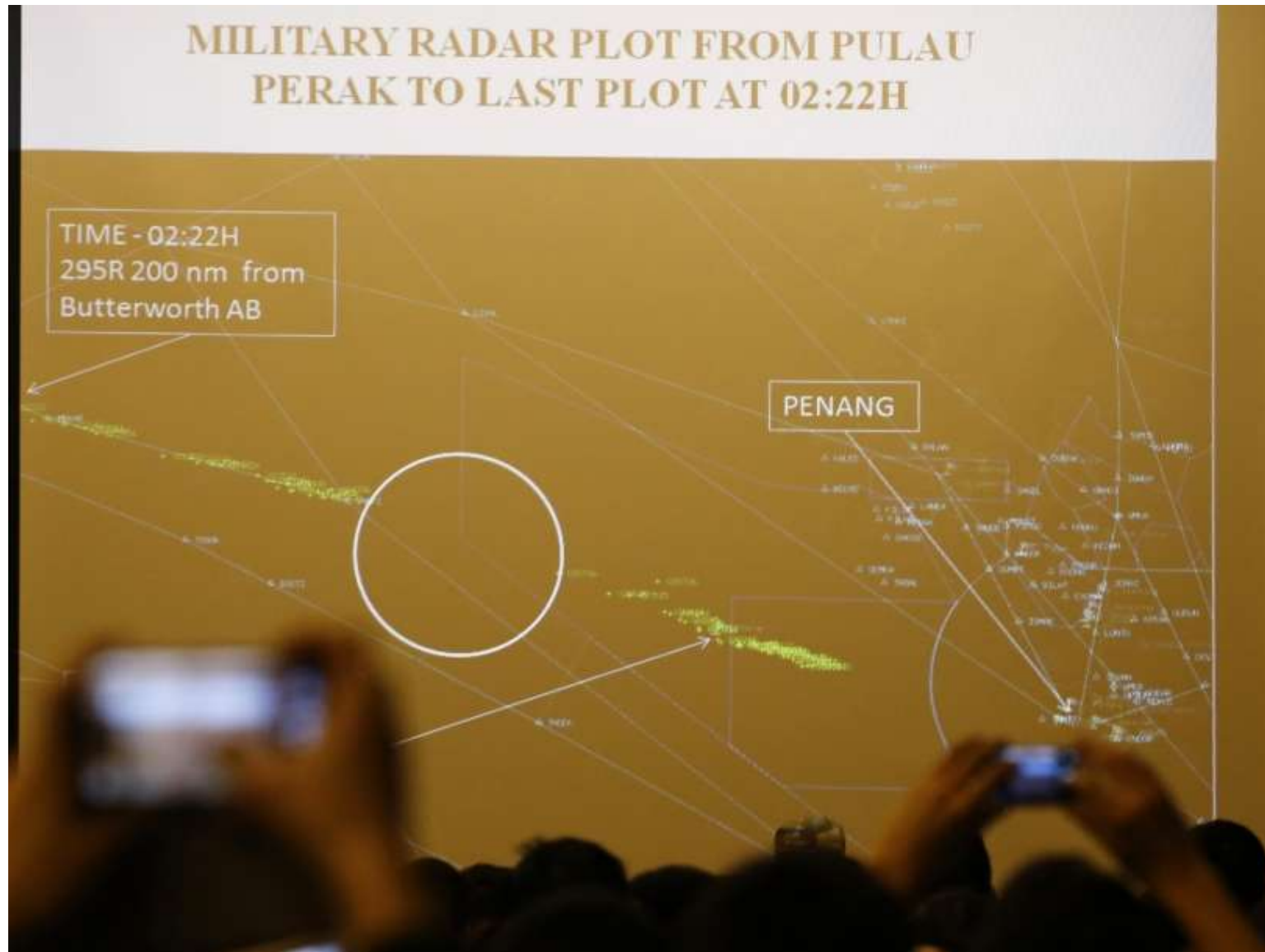
***“PLS CONTACT HO CHI MING ATC ASAP  
THEY COMPLAIN CANNOT TRACK YOU  
ON THEIR RADAR”***



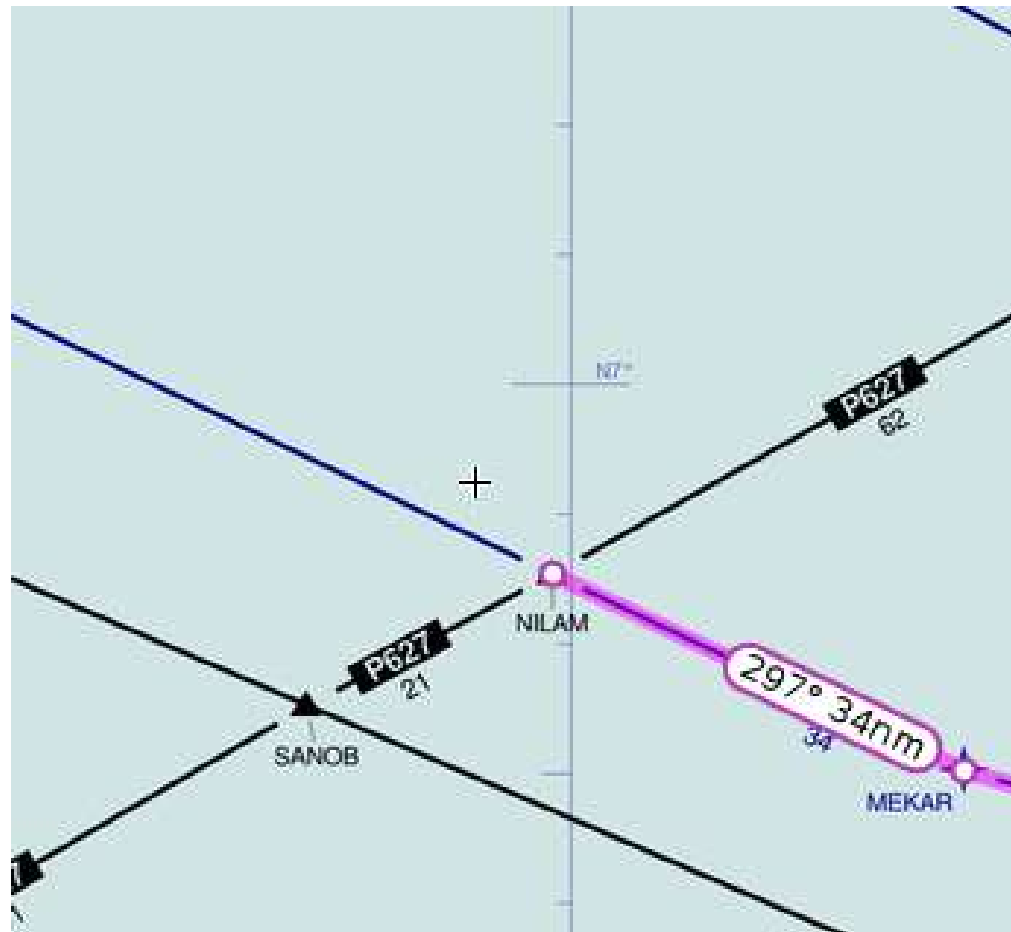
**18:12 UT – Plane reaches waypoint VAMPI;  
begins following airway N571**



**18:22 UT – Plane passes out of range of military primary radar. Plane invisible to all.**



**18:25 UT – SATCOM reactivated; logs on to satellite network. Plane appears to be continuing WNW track**



# 18:28 – 18:39 UT – Sometime in here plane makes sharp turn South



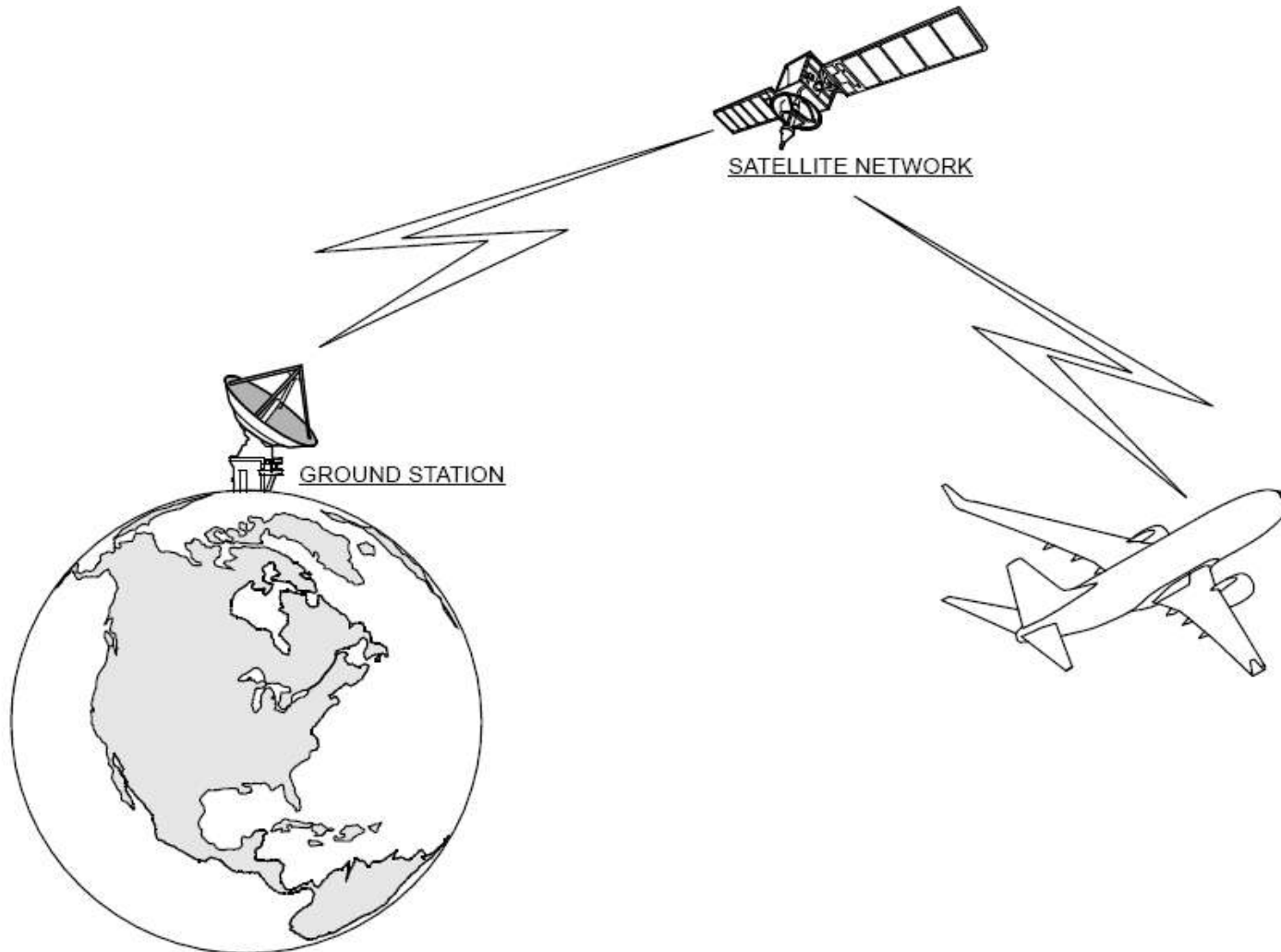


1 minute later

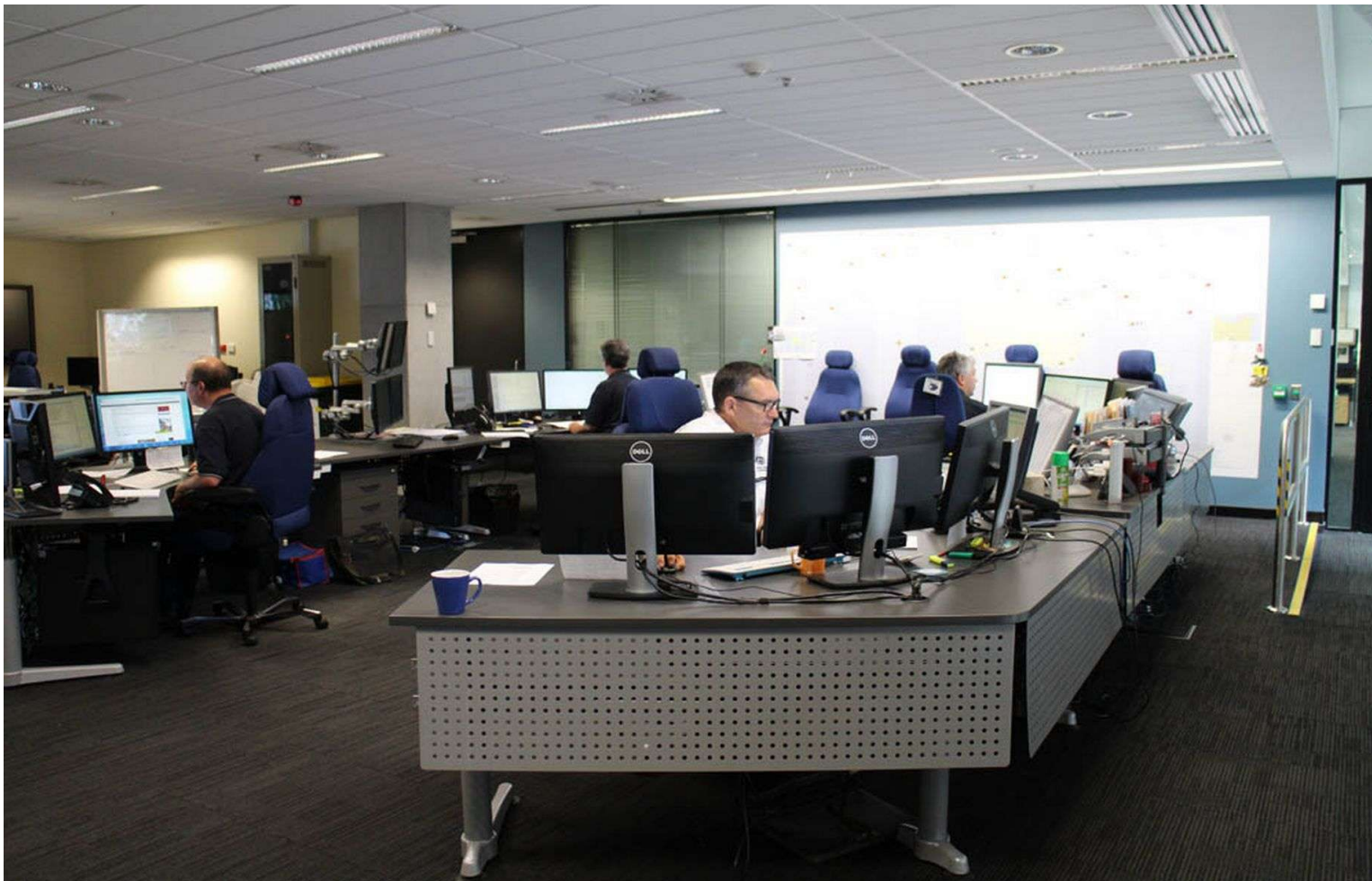
**18:40 UT – Satellite call from Malaysian Airlines to MH370 attempted. SATCOM acknowledges, but call not answered.**



**19:41 UT and hourly thereafter – ground station send “keep-alive pings” to aircraft SATCOM; acknowledgement returned.**



## 21:30 UT – KL Rescue Coordination Center activated



## 22:30 UT – Plane is overdue in Beijing

航班号 Flight	始发站 From	计划到港 STA	预计到港 ETA	备注 Remarks
MH370 CZ	吉隆坡 Kuala Lumpur	06:30		Delayed
CA822	普吉 Phuket	07:50	08:25	Arrived
11	阿布扎比 Abu Dhabi	08:50	10:10	
1720 CA6220	法兰克福 Frankfurt	09:30	08:50	到达 Arri
1912 SK9512	斯德哥尔摩 St	09:40	09:28	d
123315 CA50	首尔金浦 Seoul Gimpo	09:45	09:32	到达
7002	维也纳 Vienna	10:20	10:10	

## 23:10 UT – Malaysia Airlines makes second attempted phone call; same result





## 23:24 UT – MAS issues media statement

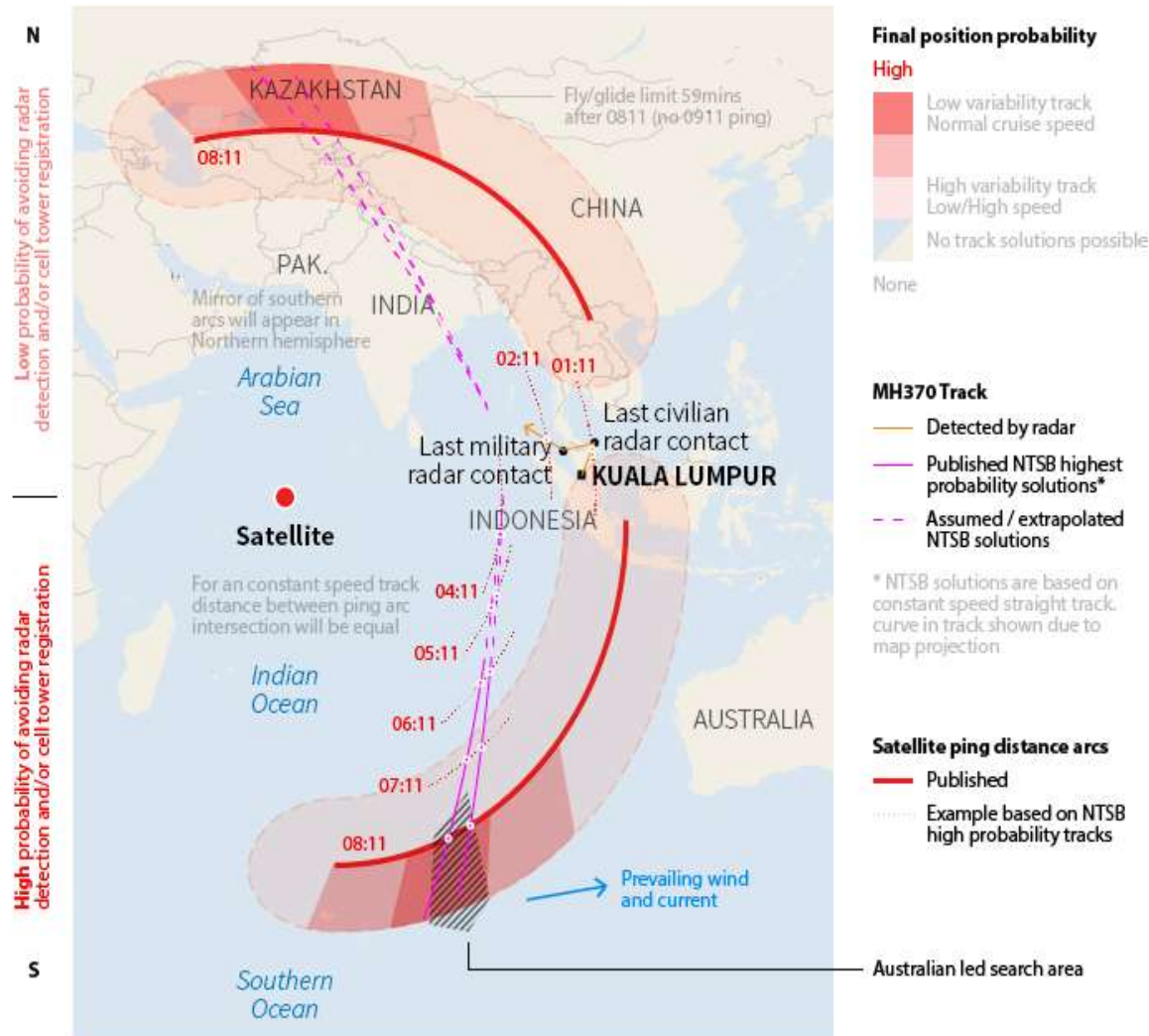
MEDIA STATEMENT released at 7.24am/8 Mar 2014 MH370 Incident

Sepang, 8 March 2014: Malaysia Airlines **confirms that flight MH370 has lost contact with Subang Air Traffic Control at 2.40am, today (8 March 2014).**

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Malaysia Airlines is currently working with the authorities who have **activated their Search and Rescue team to locate the aircraft.**

# 24:11 UT – Last ground-initiated “ping” exchange with aircraft (6<sup>th</sup> handshake)



Graphics based on BBC source with AMSA supplied data overlaid  
All tracks, arcs and probability zones are symbolic only / not accurate

@\_antialias\_

**24:19 UT – SATCOM sends another “Logon Request” message, but fails to complete the sequence. Possible engine flameout from fuel exhaustion; power loss; APU powerup.**

**00:19:29 - Log-On Request (reported as a Partial Handshake), initiated from the aircraft terminal**

8/03/2014 00:19:29.416	IOR-R600-0-36F8	IOR	305	10	R-Channel RX	0x10 - Log-on Request (ISU)/Log-on Flight Information (SSU)	182
8/03/2014 00:19:31.572	IOR-P600-0-36FC	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x11 - Log-on Confirm	
8/03/2014 00:19:32.212	IOR-P600-0-36FC	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x40 - P-/R-Channel Control (ISU)	
8/03/2014 00:19:32.212	IOR-P600-0-36FC	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	Subsequent Signalling Unit	
8/03/2014 00:19:32.852	IOR-P600-0-36FC	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x41 - T-Channel Control (ISU)	
8/03/2014 00:19:32.852	IOR-P600-0-36FC	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	Subsequent Signalling Unit	

**00:19:37 - Note that the following R-Channel burst at 00:19:37.443 is the last transmission received from the aircraft terminal**

8/03/2014 00:19:37.443	IOR-R1200-0-36F6	IOR	305	10	R-Channel RX	0x15 - Log-on/Log-off Acknowledge	
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**Signal suggests plane is in a steep descent. Aircraft is presumed to have crashed near the location of the final transmission.**



## CNN Developing Story ...



# **II. Aircraft Communications Systems**



- Primary systems:

- HF Radio
- VHF radio
- Mode S / ADS-B (“extended squitter”) transponder
- **Satellite Communications System (SATCOM)**

- Inmarsat
- Iridium





## Inmarsat

- “International Marine Satellite” company
- Started 1979 to provide communications to ships out of reach of land stations
- Extended to cover land and air operations
- Operates fleet of geostationary satellites. Covers world up to 81 degrees latitude.
  - **3 generations (I3 to I5) in operation**



# Inmarsat Services

- Low bandwidth data

- **acars**
- **SMS**

- Voice (phone) / Fax

- ISDN

- Swift Broadband (internet; mobile circuit switched)

- **Service Providers**

- **SITA (no VHF in China)**
- **ARINC**



**Classic Aero-H  
(Used by MH370)**



# Service Allocation

satcom  
direct



1525 - 1660.5 MHz **L-Band**



**Bandwidth about the same as a  
dual frequency home wireless router**



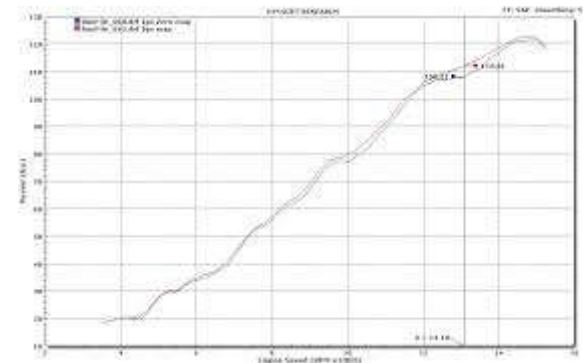
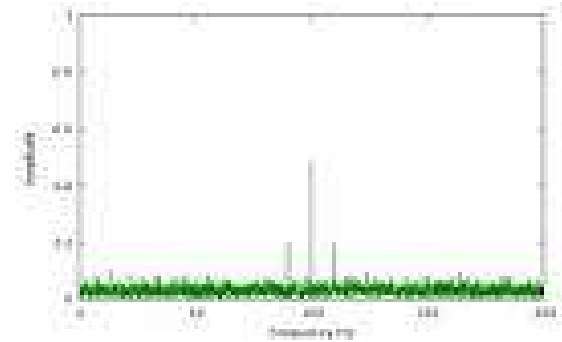
## System is constrained

- Bandwidth is limited
  - Channel width 2.5 khz
  - Requires tight frequency control. For aircraft, Doppler effect is important. AES are required to adjust transmit frequency to compensate.
- Timing is important
  - AES to GES R-channels are shared
  - “Slotted Aloha” - requires synchronization with GES to AES signal
- Pilot signals used extensively to monitor system



# System Monitoring

- “Burst Frequency Offset” (BFO) – measures error in frequency from AES to GES
  - **1 hz resolution**
- “Burst Timing Offset” (BTO) – measures error in signal timing from AES to GES.
  - **20 microsecond resolution**
- Both recorded along with data packets at ground station in Perth, Australia

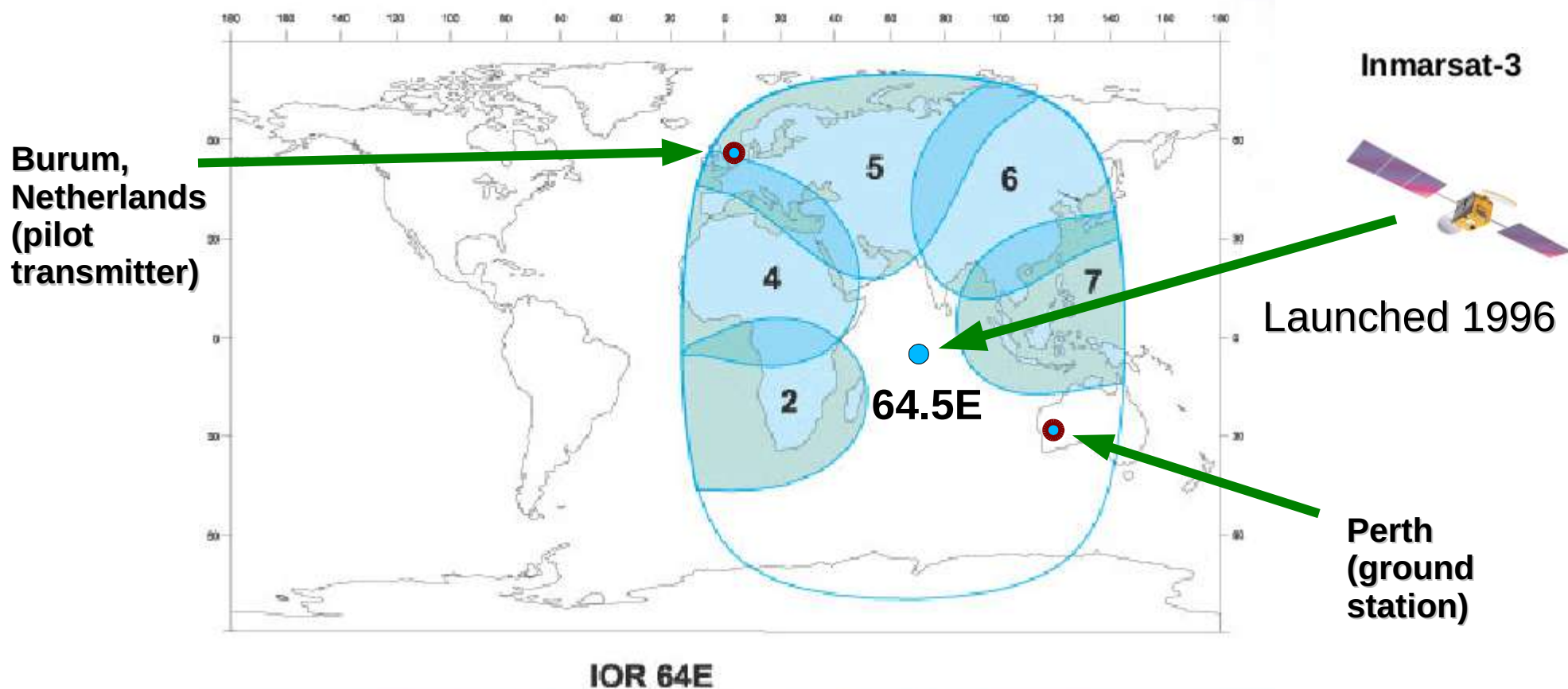




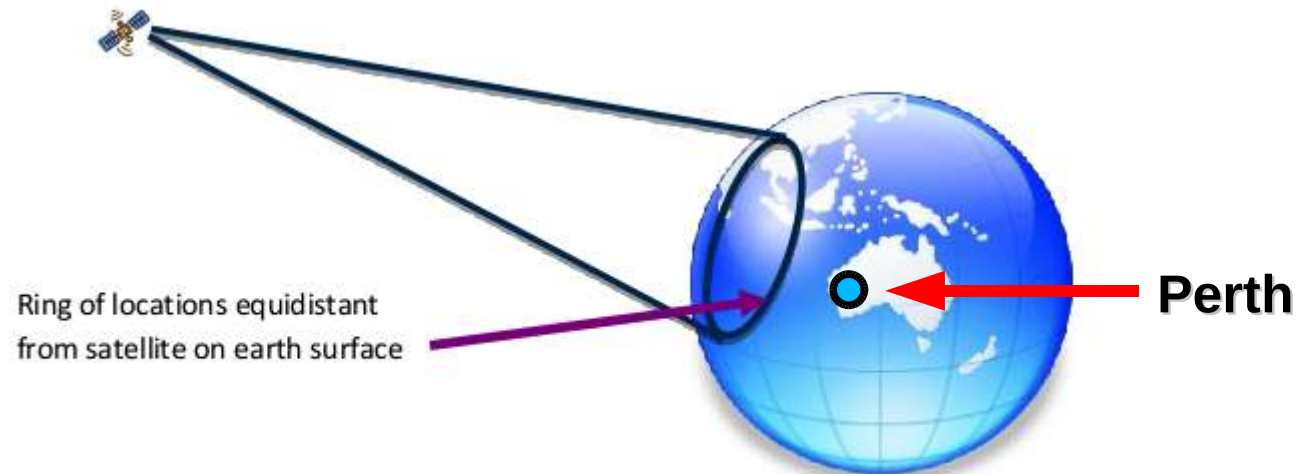
# Inmarsat 3-F1

## Indian Ocean Region

Inmarsat Generation 3

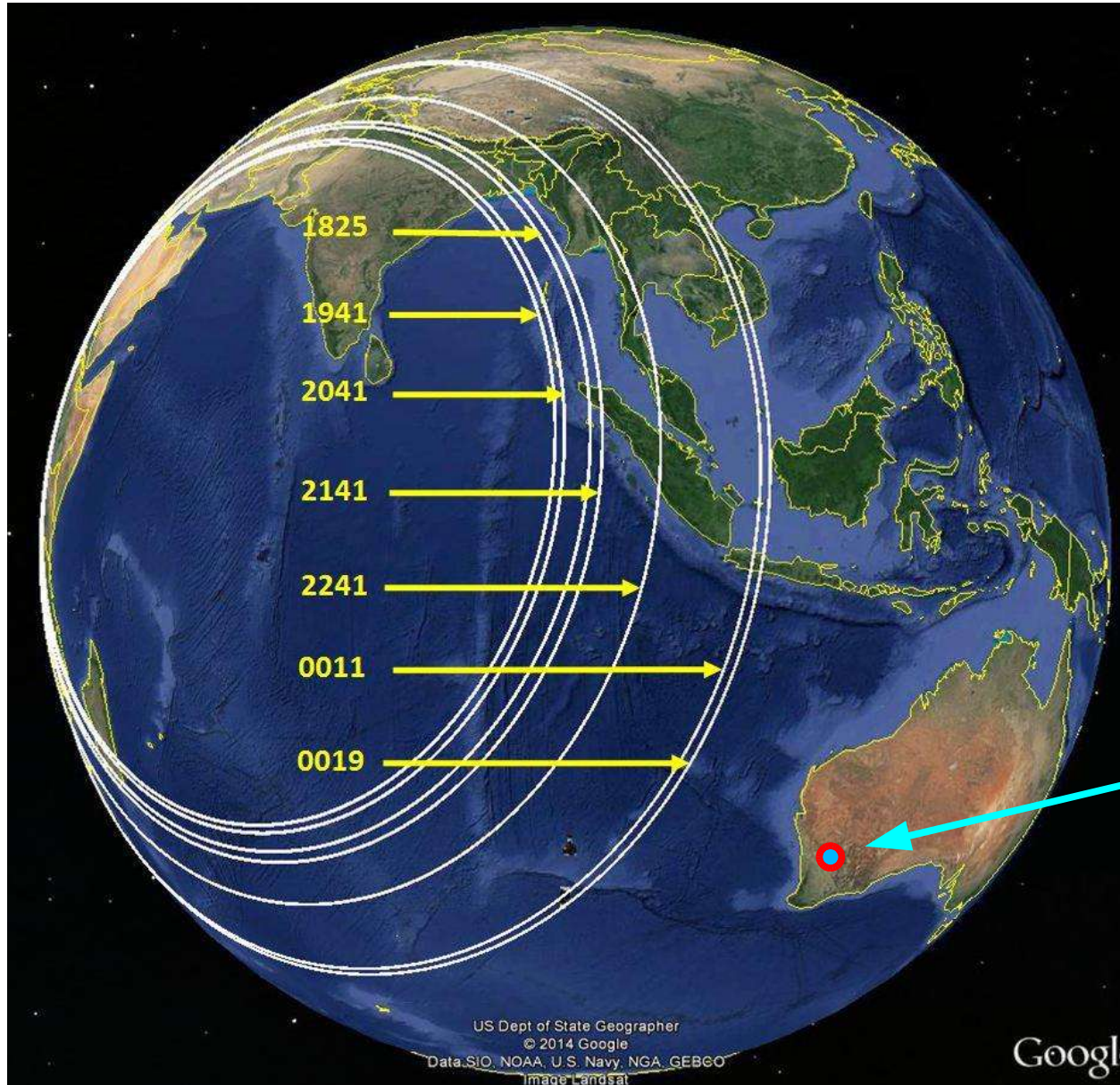


# What we learn from BTOs



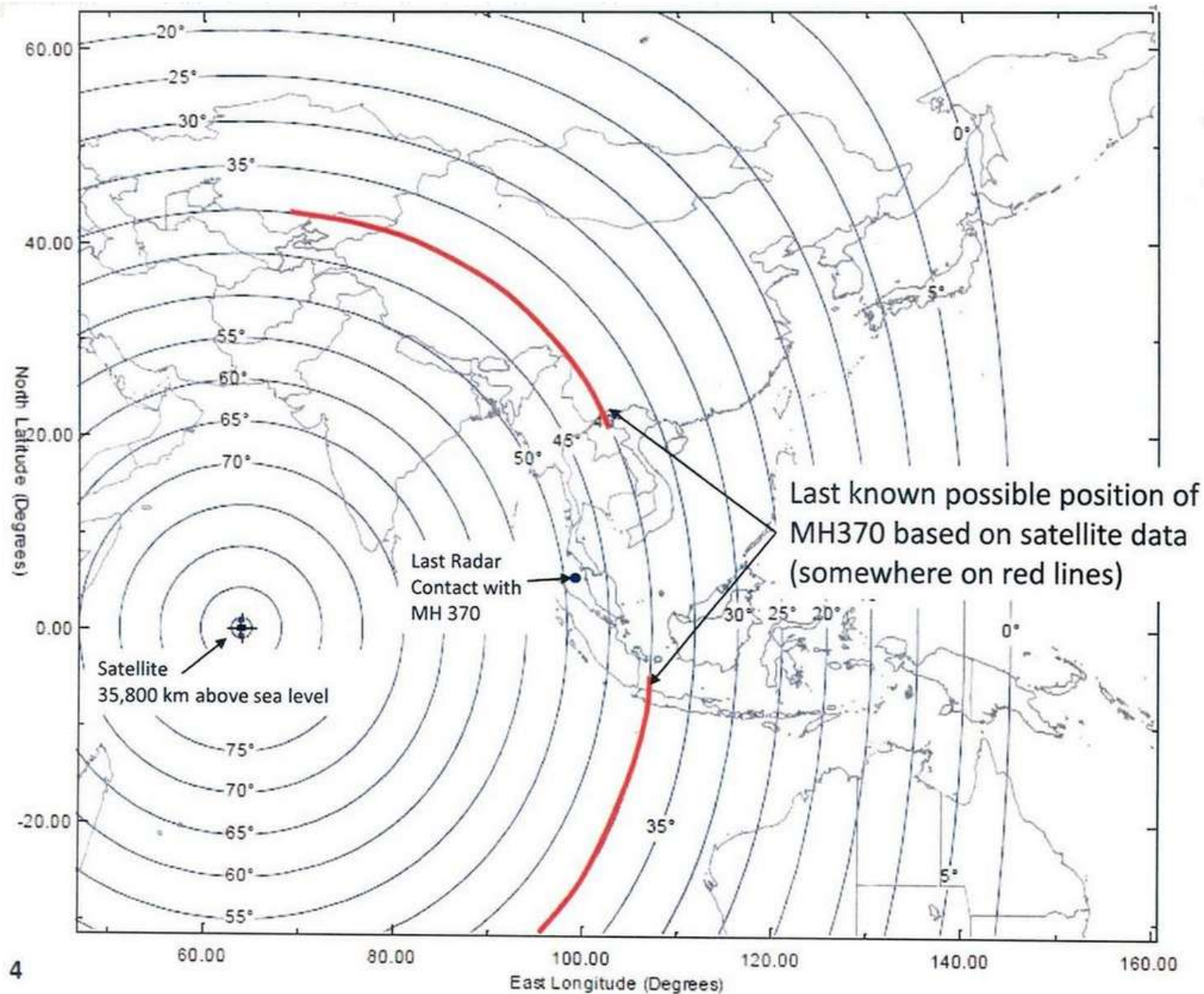
**Light travel time (round trip) is ~ 0.5 seconds.  
BTO depends on aircraft location on Earth.  
Even sensitive to altitude.**

# Initial Analysis



Seven sets of  
BTOs define  
7 “ping rings”  
from 18:25 to  
00:19 (24:19)

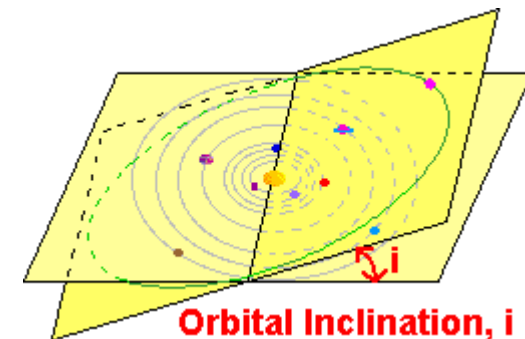
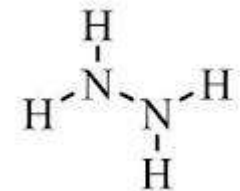
# However, both North and South Corridors are possible





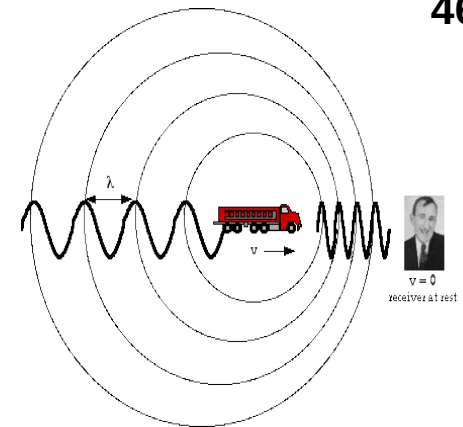
## A Note on Geostationary Satellites

- Main perturbation on geostationary satellite orbit due to Moon - causes inclination to increase.
- Satellites carry hydrazine for station-keeping; ~equal in mass to satellite at launch to control orbit.
- 3-F1 is an old satellite – inclination no longer controlled.
  - **Inclination of 1.6 degrees on Mar 7, 2014 => Satellite oscillates above, below equator**

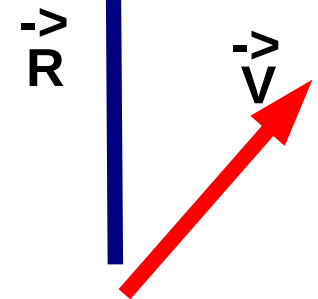


# AES Doppler compensation mechanisms for aircraft

- Doppler can be greater than 1 khz – exceeds tolerance of system.
- Compensation mechanism in MH370 SATCOM [Honeywell MCS-6000]
  - Use knowledge of plane's position, heading, and speed *along with knowledge of satellite position;* compute Doppler correction:  $V \cdot R$
  - **Assumes satellite is exactly over equator**



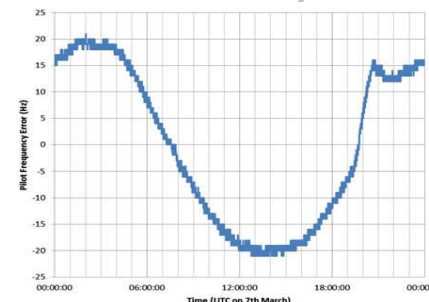
Inmarsat-3



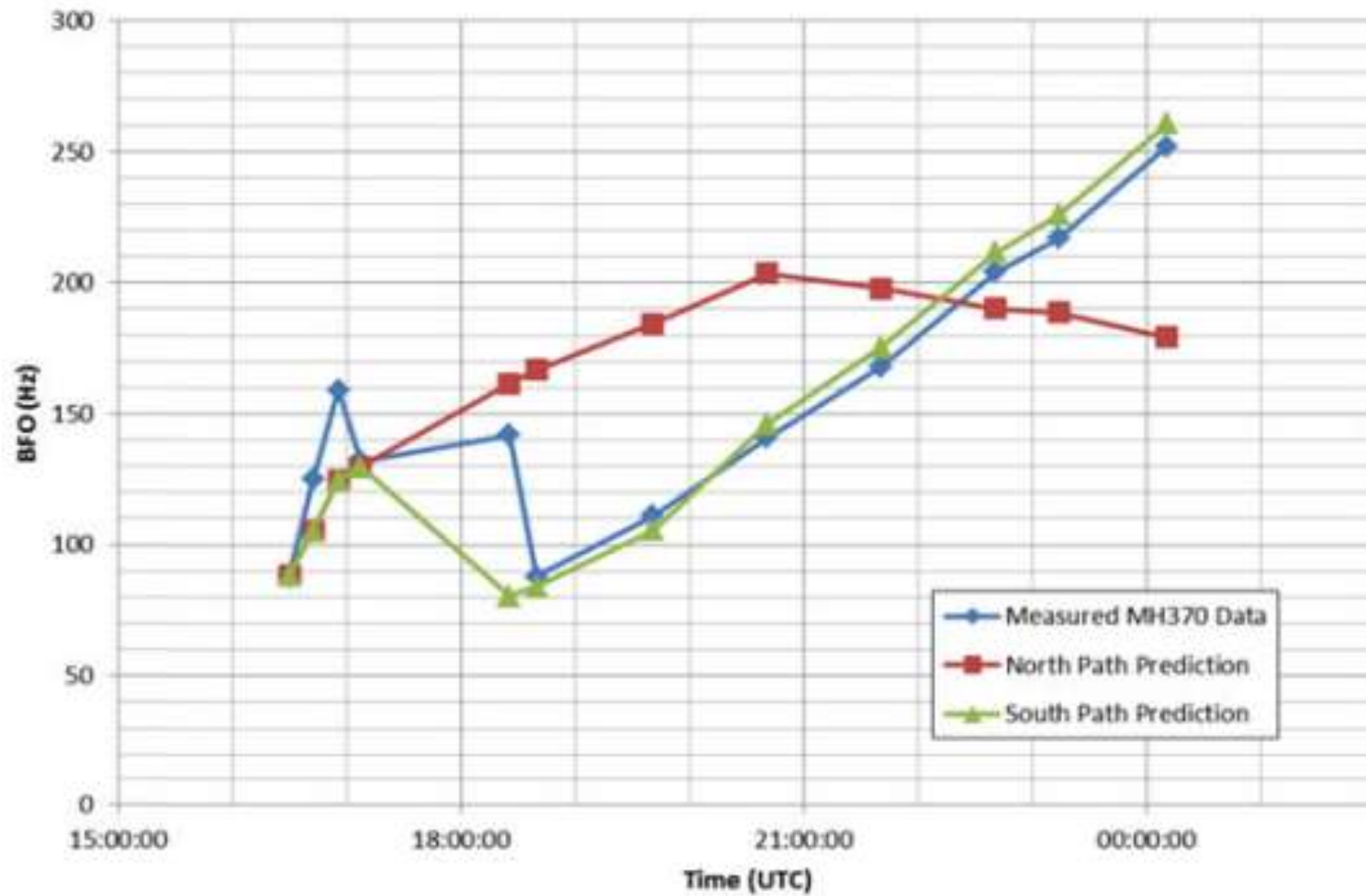
# A fortuitous combination of circumstances



- Because satellite orbit is inclined and AES assumes it is on the equator, the Doppler compensation is not perfect. ***Error includes contributions from satellite motion and from aircraft motion – sensitive to location and to speed & direction of travel of aircraft!***
- Full BFO analysis is complex (contributions from GES AFC; satellite oscillator drift; satellite-GES Doppler)



# Original BFO Analysis (cleaned up a bit)





# **III. Investigation By the Public**

# Can We Reproduce Inmarsat's Result?

- Initially only figures available
- Many forums for discussion
  - [tmfassociates.com](http://tmfassociates.com)
  - [pprune.org](http://pprune.org)
  - [duncansteel.com](http://duncansteel.com)
  - [jeffwise.net](http://jeffwise.net)
  - [reddit.com](http://reddit.com)
  - [twitter.com](http://twitter.com)
  - [airliners.net](http://airliners.net)
- Many people attempted to understand the ping ring; BFO plots poorly explained
  - Some features (e.g., AES Doppler) were decoded
  - Inaccuracies in published figures were detected



# Public Data Release

- Authorities (Malaysian MOT and Australian ATSB) have been exceedingly reticent in sharing information. However, we now have
  - **Inmarsat signal communication logs from 15:59 to end of flight**
  - **Documentation and calibration tables for BTO, BFO sufficient to understand and compute flight paths.**
- **Missing**
  - **Complete military radar data**
  - **Calibration data from similar and historical flights**



**Selex  
ES RAT-31DL  
3-D Phased array  
Western Hill,  
Penang Island**

# Example page - communications log

Time	Channel Name	Ocean Region	GES ID (octal)	Channel Unit ID	Channel Type	SU Type	Burst Frequency Offset (Hz) BFO	Burst Timing Offset (microseconds) BTO
7/03/2014 18:28:14.904	IOR-R1200-0-36ED	IOR	305	4	R-Channel RX	0x62 - Acknowledge User Data (R-channel)	143	12480
<b>18:39 - Ground Initiated to Air Telephony Call - Zero Duration (Not Answered)</b>								
7/03/2014 18:39:52.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	301	10	P-Channel TX	0x20 - Access Request/Call Announcement Telephone/Circuit-Mode Data		
7/03/2014 18:39:52.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	301	10	P-Channel TX	0x33 - C-Channel Assignment (Regularity)		
7/03/2014 18:39:52.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	301	10	P-Channel TX	0x20 - Access Request/Call Announcement Telephone/Circuit-Mode Data		
7/03/2014 18:39:52.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	301	10	P-Channel TX	0x33 - C-Channel Assignment (Regularity)		
7/03/2014 18:39:55.354	IOR-3730-21000	IOR	305	6	C-Channel RX	0x30 - Call Progress - Test	88	
.....								
<b>84 C-Channel and 2 P-Channel messages moved into separate below table (see appendix 1) to ease the reading of key events. C-Channel messages have no BTO values</b>								
.....								
7/03/2014 18:40:56.354	IOR-3730-21000	IOR	305	6	C-Channel RX	0x30 - Call Progress - Channel Release	90	
<b>19:41 - Handshake Request, with response</b>								
7/03/2014 19:41:00.910	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x14 - Log Control - Log-on Interrogation		
7/03/2014 19:41:02.906	IOR-R1200-0-36ED	IOR	305	4	R-Channel RX	0x15 - Log-on/Log-off Acknowledge	111	11500
<b>20:41 - Handshake Request, with response</b>								
7/03/2014 20:41:02.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x14 - Log Control - Log-on Interrogation		
7/03/2014 20:41:04.904	IOR-R1200-0-36ED	IOR	305	4	R-Channel RX	0x15 - Log-on/Log-off Acknowledge	141	11740
<b>21:41 - Handshake Request, with response</b>								
7/03/2014 21:41:24.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x14 - Log Control - Log-on Interrogation		
7/03/2014 21:41:26.905	IOR-R1200-0-36ED	IOR	305	4	R-Channel RX	0x15 - Log-on/Log-off Acknowledge	168	12780
<b>22:41 - Handshake Request, with response</b>								
7/03/2014 22:41:19.907	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x14 - Log Control - Log-on Interrogation		
7/03/2014 22:41:21.906	IOR-R1200-0-36ED	IOR	305	4	R-Channel RX	0x15 - Log-on/Log-off Acknowledge	204	14540
<b>23:13 - Ground Initiated to Air Telephony Call - Zero Duration (Not Answered)</b>								
7/03/2014 23:13:58.407	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x20 - Access Request/Call Announcement Telephone/Circuit-Mode Data		
7/03/2014 23:13:58.407	IOR-P10500-0-386B	IOR	305	10	P-Channel TX	0x33 - C-Channel Assignment (Regularity)		
7/03/2014 23:14:00.904	IOR-3737-21000	IOR	305	6	C-Channel RX	0x30 - Call Progress - Test	216	



## Publications



- [www.malaysiaairlines.com/mh370](http://www.malaysiaairlines.com/mh370) - Media releases
- Malaysia Ministry of Transport on Facebook
- Mar 22, 2014 - Cargo Manifest
  - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/1151153/mh370-cargo-manifest-and-airway-bill.pdf>
- Mar 25, 2014 - Original BFO figures and explanation
  - [http://www.mot.gov.my/en/Newsroom/Press Release/Year 2014/Information Provided To MH370 Investigation by UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch \(AAIB\).pdf](http://www.mot.gov.my/en/Newsroom/Press%20Release/Year%202014/Information%20Provided%20To%20MH370%20Investigation%20by%20UK%20Air%20Accidents%20Investigation%20Branch%20(AAIB).pdf)
  - <http://www.inmarsat.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Inmarsat-Differential-Doppler-Study.pdf>



## Publications (cont.)



- Apr 1, 2014 - Transcript of cockpit / ATC communications
  - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/2014/newsspec\\_7440/transcript.pdf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/2014/newsspec_7440/transcript.pdf)
- Apr 27, 2014 - MH 370 Preliminary Report to ICAO
  - <http://www.dca.gov.my/MH370/Preliminary%20Report.pdf>
- May 1. 2014 - HISHAMMUDDIN HUSSEIN - Actions taken on March 8.
  - [http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/documents/2014/MH370/MH370Report\\_Actions\\_Taken.pdf](http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/documents/2014/MH370/MH370Report_Actions_Taken.pdf)
- Maps
  - <https://www.facebook.com/HishammuddinH2O/>

## Publications (cont.)



- May 20, 2014 - Data Communication logs
  - <http://www.dca.gov.au/mainpage/MH370%20Data%20Communication%20Logs.pdf>
- ATSB (Australia)
  - <http://www.atsb.gov.au/mh370.aspx>
  - Includes links to June 26, 2014 report “MH370 Definition of Underwater Search Areas” (with updates Aug 18, 2014, Oct 8, 2014, and Dec 3, 2015)
- Oct 23, 2014 - "The Search for MH370" (Ashton et al.)
  - *Journal of Navigation* (2015), 68, 1



# Publications (cont.)



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**  
A United Nations Specialized Agency

- Jan 29, 2015 - “SAR Response to MH370”
  - [http://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/2015/APSARTF3/WP05 ICAO Brief on the SAR Response to MH370.pdf](http://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/2015/APSARTF3/WP05_ICAO_Brief_on_the_SAR_Response_to_MH370.pdf)
- Mar 8, 2015 - “Factual Information”
  - <http://mh370.mot.gov.my/>
- Nov 30, 2015 - “Bayesian Methods in the Search for MH370”
  - [http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5733804/Bayesian\\_Methods\\_MH370\\_Search\\_3Dec2015.pdf](http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5733804/Bayesian_Methods_MH370_Search_3Dec2015.pdf)



The Malaysian ICAO Annex 13  
Safety Investigation Team for MH370

**FACTUAL INFORMATION**

**SAFETY INVESTIGATION FOR MH370**

Malaysia Airlines MH370 Boeing B777-200ER (9M-MRO)  
08 March 2014



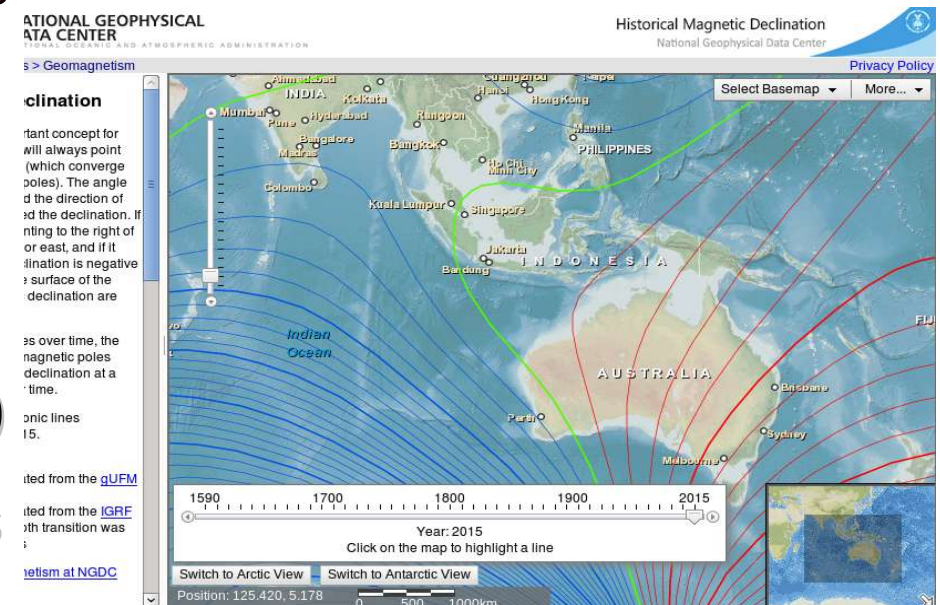
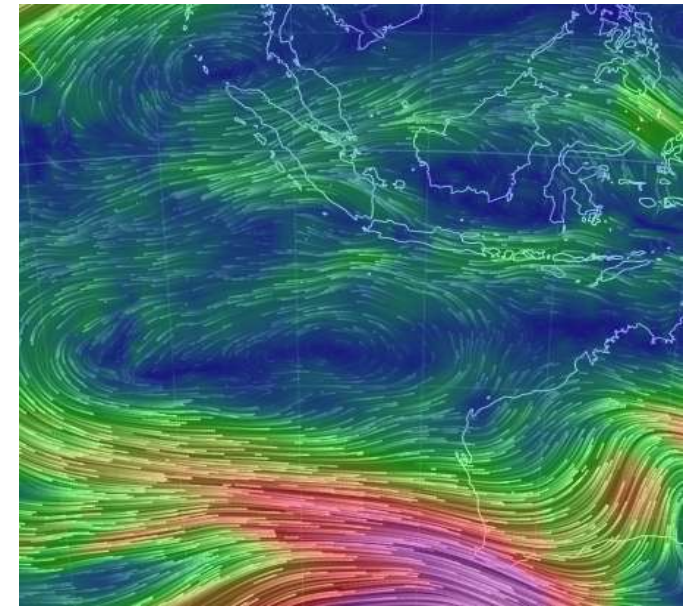
By

The Malaysian ICAO Annex 13 Safety Investigation Team for MH370



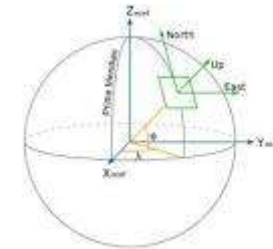
## Additional Documentation (partial)

- Wind, temp models (Air Resources Laboratory):
  - <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/gdas1.php>
  - <http://www.ecmwf.int/>
- Magnetic declination maps (National Geophysical Data Center):
  - <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/models.shtml>
- Satellite orbital parameters
  - <http://www.celestrak.com/>
- Manual for Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (Route) Service (Inmarsat)
- Boeing 777 Flight Crew Operations Manual



# Additional details and information needed for models

- Spheroidal Earth
- Geodetic v. Geocentric latitude
- B-777 autopilot modes
- B-777 ranges v. fuel load
  - **Amazing how much information is available on internet!**



## Public Data Analyses

- Once full logs and documentation were released, many people began computing potential flight paths (in parallel to official investigation)
- Key information not reverse-engineerable -
  - **Perth GES AFC does not support negative latitudes!**
  - **Satellite frequency unstable – monitor by Burum pilot signal. Tables were released.**
  - **Some BTO and BFO values invalid**



Table 4: Satellite and AFC values

Time UTC	( $\delta f$ sat + $\delta f$ AFC) Hz
16:30:00	29.1
16:42:00	27.6
16:55:00	25.8
17:07:00	24.1
18:25:00	10.7
19:41:00	-0.5
20:41:00	-1.5
21:41:00	-18.0
22:41:00	-28.5
00:11:00	-37.7
00:19:00	-37.8

# Analysis Software

- Excel
- STK (free, commercial satellite tracking program)
- python
- octave

Constant Speed Great Circle Solution ( Initial Bearing = )			
Time Stamp	Notes	Aircraft Position	
		Course over Earth (deg)	Altitude (ft)
2014/4/7 20:01:00	Takeoff from the runway (10 ft)	217.00	101,700
2014/4/7 20:04:00	Turn to 020 deg	230.01	101,600
2014/4/7 21:00:00	Level 40000 feet	5.235	102,000
2014/4/7 21:00:00	Altitude 40000	6.834	102,000
2014/4/7 21:01:00	Level 40000 feet	6.978	102,000
2014/4/7 21:02:00	Begin Descent from 40000 ft	7.023	102,000
2014/4/7 21:04:00	End Descent from 40000 ft	7.212	102,000
2014/4/7 21:06:00	Altitude 50000 feet (10000 ft)	6.781	102,200
2014/4/7 21:07:00	Altitude 50000 feet (10000 ft)	5.186	102,200
2014/4/7 21:08:00	Altitude 50000 feet (10000 ft)	5.022	102,000
2014/4/7 21:09:00	Altitude 50000 feet (10000 ft)	5.027	102,000
2014/4/7 21:10:00	End Descent from 50000 ft	6.610	101,800
2014/4/7 21:11:00	End of Final Turn	6.723	101,600
2014/4/7 21:12:00	End of Final Turn	6.626	101,500
2014/4/7 21:14:00	Altitude 50000 feet (10000 ft)	5.835	101,800
2014/4/7 21:15:00	End of Final Turn	-5.875	101,800
2014/4/7 21:16:00	End of Final Turn	-11.642	101,800
2014/4/7 21:17:00	End of Final Turn	-10.842	101,800
2014/4/7 21:18:00	End of Final Turn	-21.810	87,476
2014/4/7 21:19:00	End of Final Turn	-10.808	88,300
2014/4/7 21:20:00	End of Final Turn	-10.246	88,430



## Where do people “publish”?

- dropbox
- google docs
- imgur
- twitter
- photobucket
- bitmath.org
- github
- Personal websites



**aqqa.org**

AQQA REPORTS

GODFREY MODEL

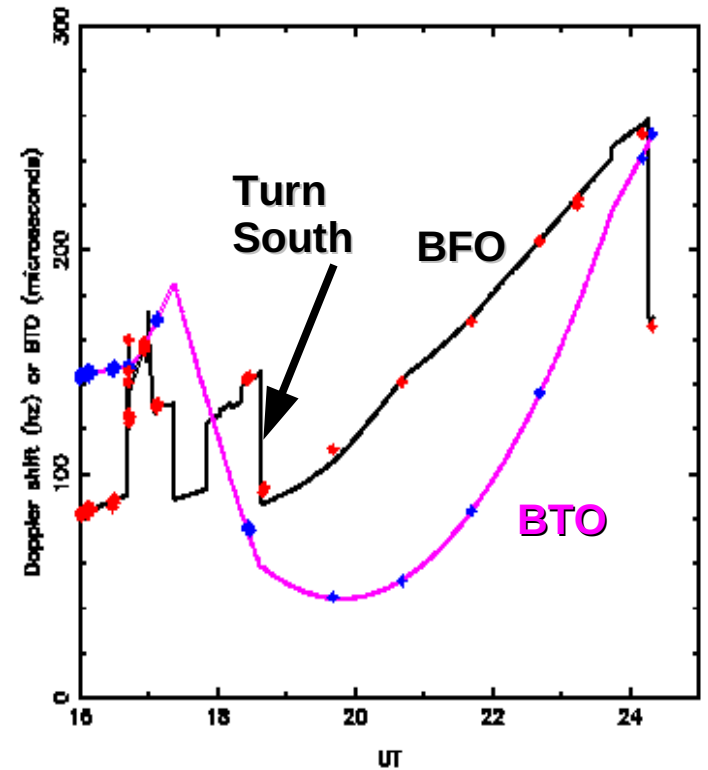


# Example: Magnetic track mode

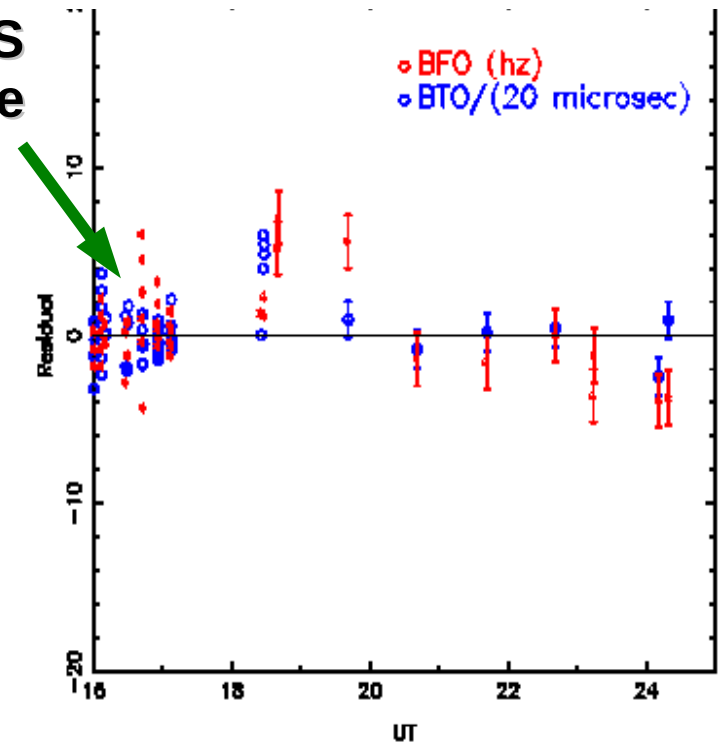


Final latitude -34 deg.

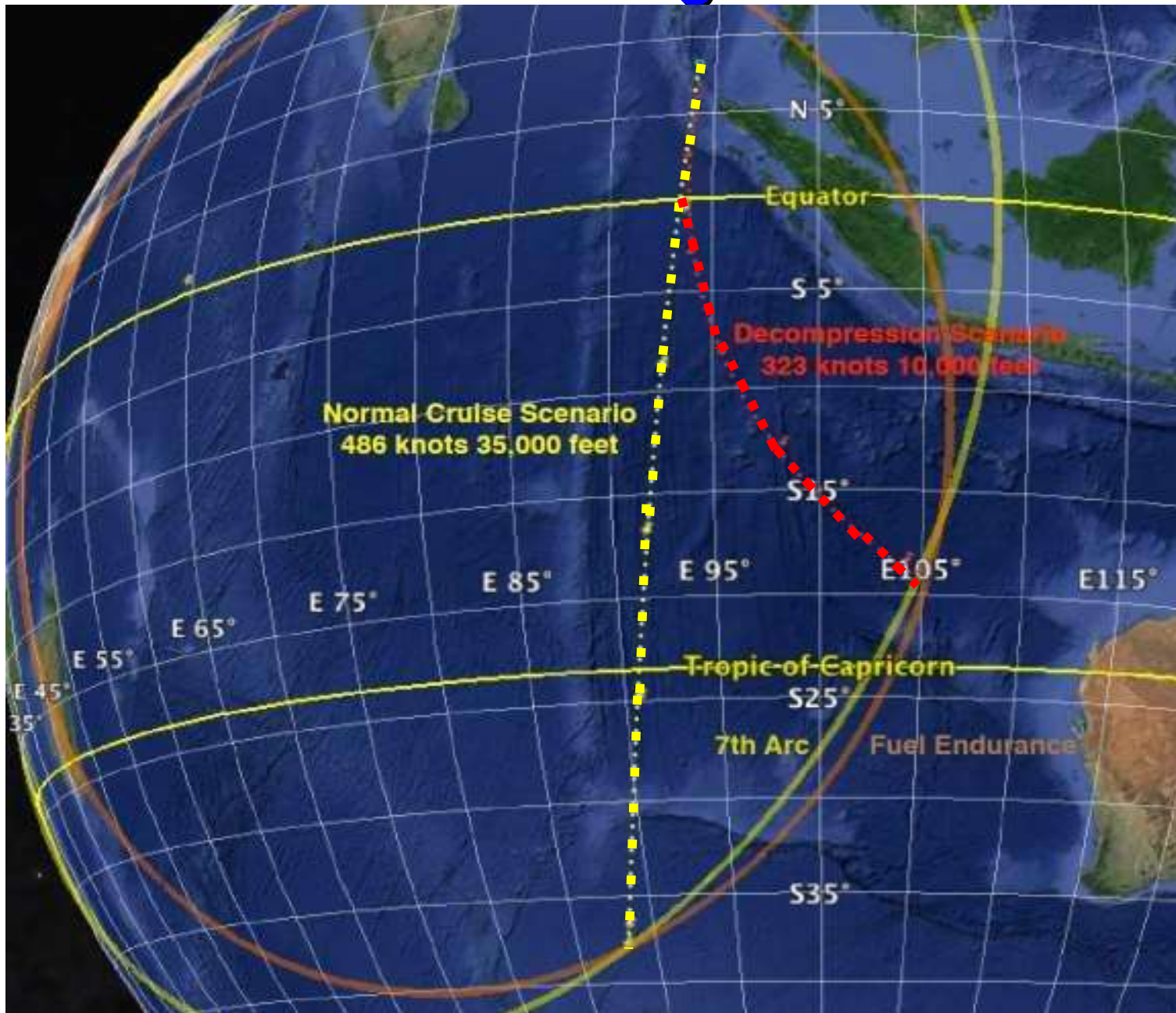
MH370 reconstruction



Initial ACARS data calibrate BTO, BFO and validate modeling



# Example: Uncommanded Autopilot v. Active Pilot Flight Paths



## A Sample of Reports

**"An Analysis of the Inmarsat Data from MH370"** - R. Cole,  
June 20, 2014.

**"MH370 Search Area Recommendation"** - The Independent Group,  
Sept 9, 2014. (**"We suggest you look *here*."**)

**"The Location of MH370"** - Bobby Ulich, Sept 25, 2014. (**"I suggest  
you look *there*."**)

**"Analytic Fuel Flow Model"** - B. Martin, Mar 3, 2015.

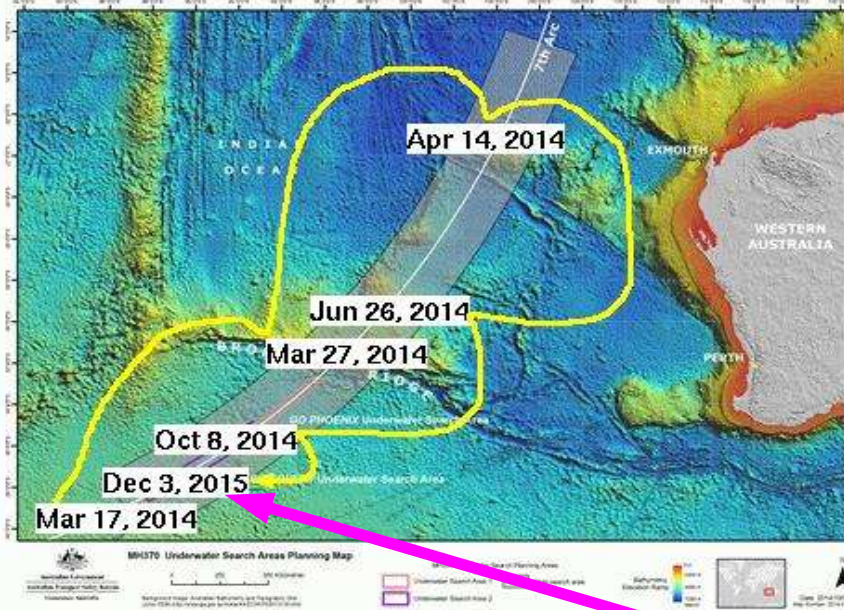
**"Some Observations on the Radar Data for MH370"** - V. Iannello,  
Aug 18, 2015.

**"MH370: On the possible interpretation of the abnormal BFO values"** -  
Oleksandr N, Oct 1, 2015.

**"The Routes Taken by Floating Debris from MH370"** - R. Godfrey,  
Apr 2, 2016.

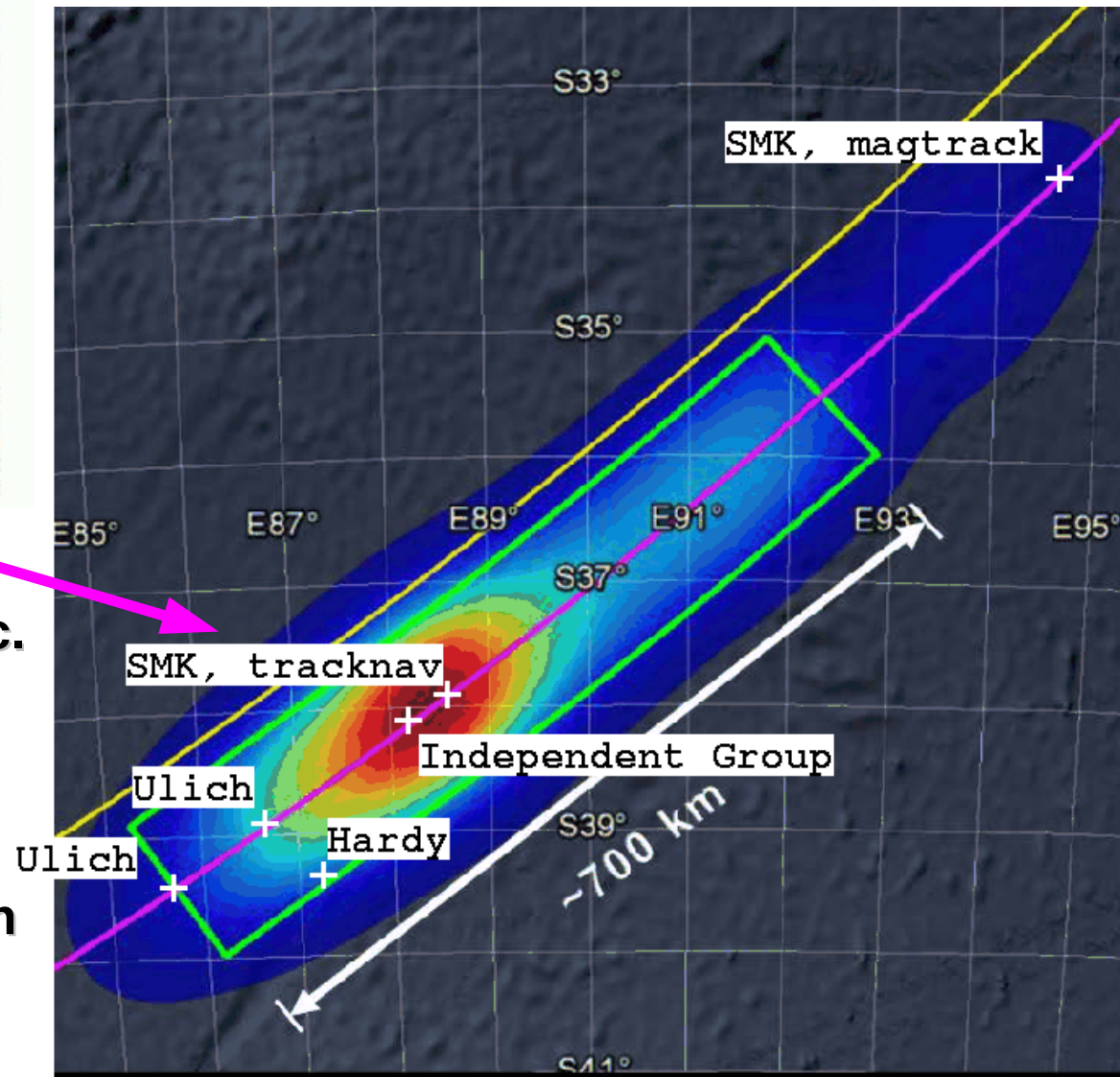


# Predictions - JIT/JACCI/ATSB v. Public



Early “official” search zones bounced up and down the 7th arc. Eventually settled on -35 to -39.

Nov 30, 2015: “Bayesian Methods in the Search for MH370” by DSTG. Highest probability region at -38° latitude.



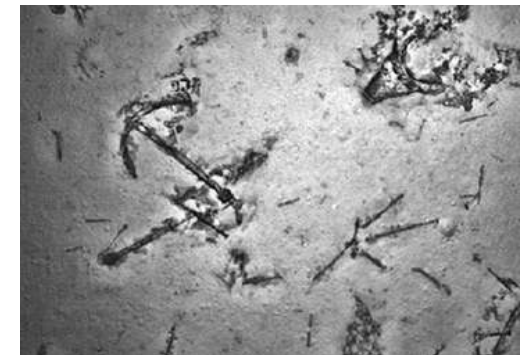
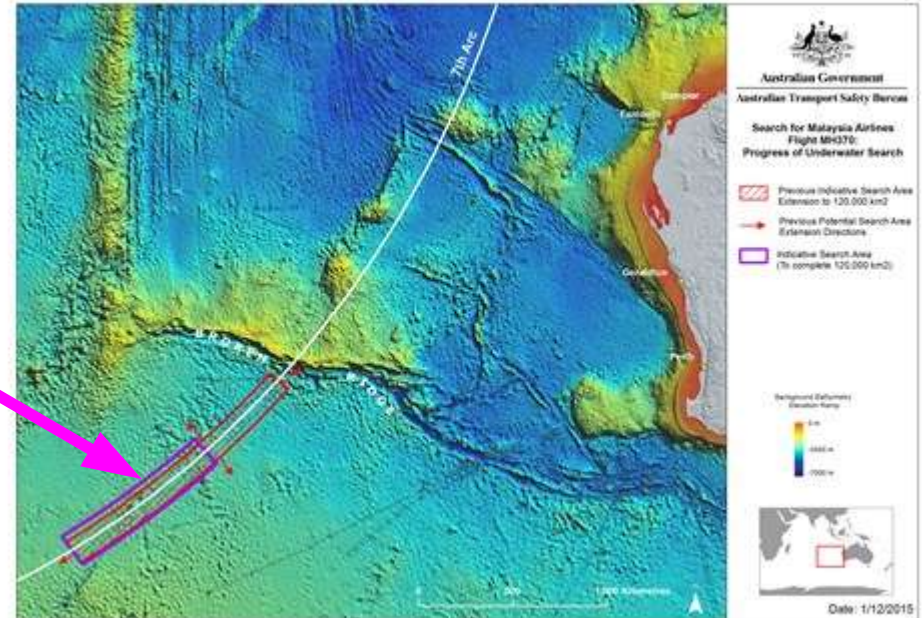
# Underwater Search (Australian ATSB lead) Currently 3 ships

Underwater search with towed side-scan sonar underway since Oct 2014.

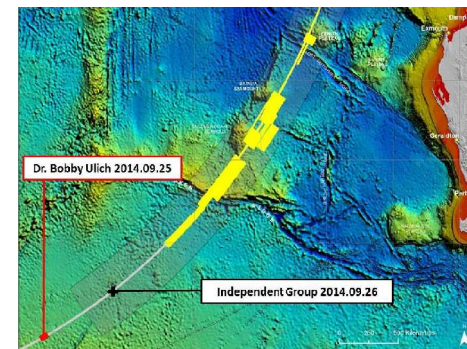
High priority search area 120,000 sq. km. Cost US \$100 million

Nothing found other than two unidentified shipwrecks.

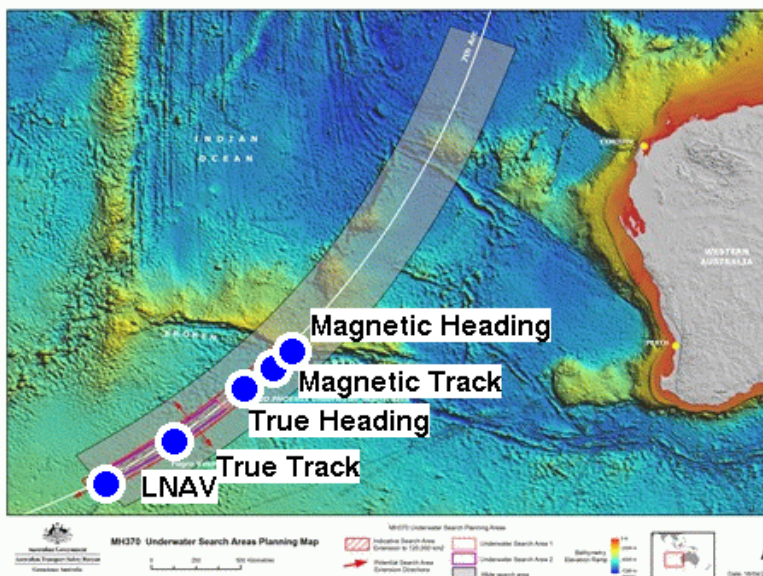
Search will end ~July unless new evidence comes to light



# Where are we now? Where do we go next?



- Over a dozen people have modeled data.
- Large parameter space (speed, heading, timing, altitude, fuel model, etc.)
- Data-driven v. uncommanded autopilot-driven models
- End-of-flight scenarios studied - one person used a genuine B-777 simulator.



## What if plane is not found?

- **Just missed in terrain?**
- **Revisit assumptions?**
- **Actively piloted?**
- **Conspiracy theory time!**

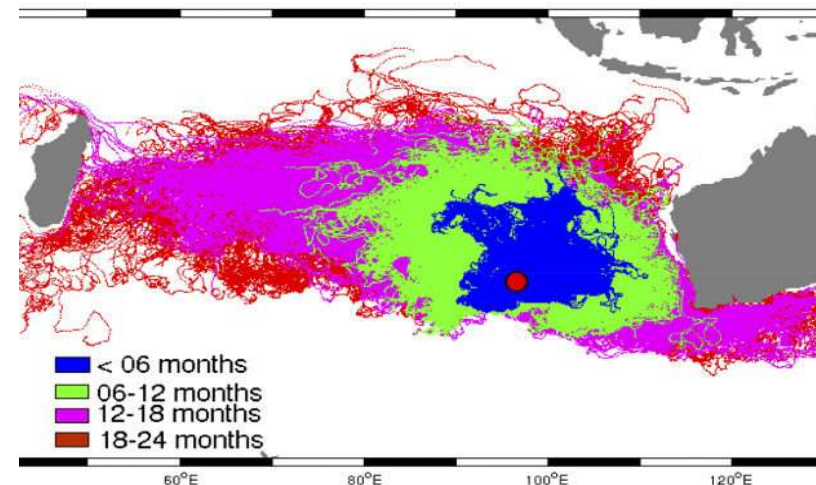
## IV. Breaking News ...



July 29, 2015 Piece of right wing (“flaperon”) discovered on Reunion Island, East of Madagascar.

(flaperon = flap + aileron)

Confirming evidence that MH370 went down in South Indian Ocean

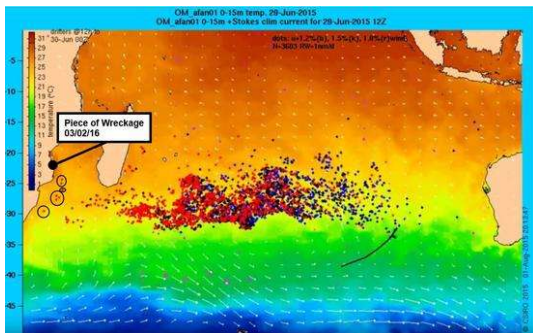


Drift modeling not accurate but favors more Northerly impact point

Goose barnacles - which species?

# More Breaking News ...

**Feb 27, 2016 Piece of right horizontal stabilizer discovered on sand bank off coast of Mozambique**



**Glaser stencil font**

**No Goose barnacles - why?**

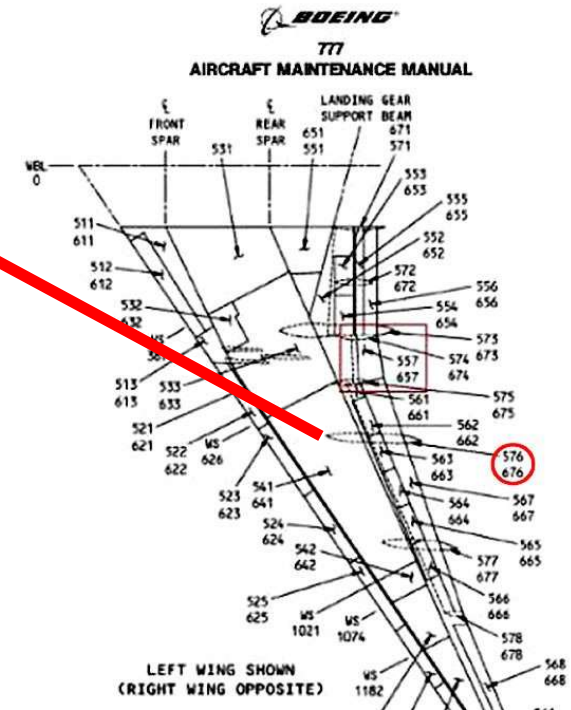


## Even More Breaking News ...



	Panel
676CR	Flap Support Fairing No. 7 Panel
676DB	Flap Support Fairing No. 7 Panel
676EB	Flap Support Fairing No. 7 - Aft
676FR	Flap Support Fairing No. 7 Panel
676GR	Flap Support Fairing No. 7 Panel
677AB	Flap Support Fairing No. 8 - Fwd

weibo.com/606787403



Mozambique, Dec 27, 2015.  
676EB (Glaser Stencil Font) is B-777 outboard right wing flap track fairing.

# Yet More Breaking News ...

Brenna Flaucher snapshot from plane window.



South Africa, Mossel Bay  
Mar 22, 2016: Rolls Royce Engine logo  
from engine cowling. Same size and  
color scheme (grey letters on black  
background) as 9M-MRO (MH370).



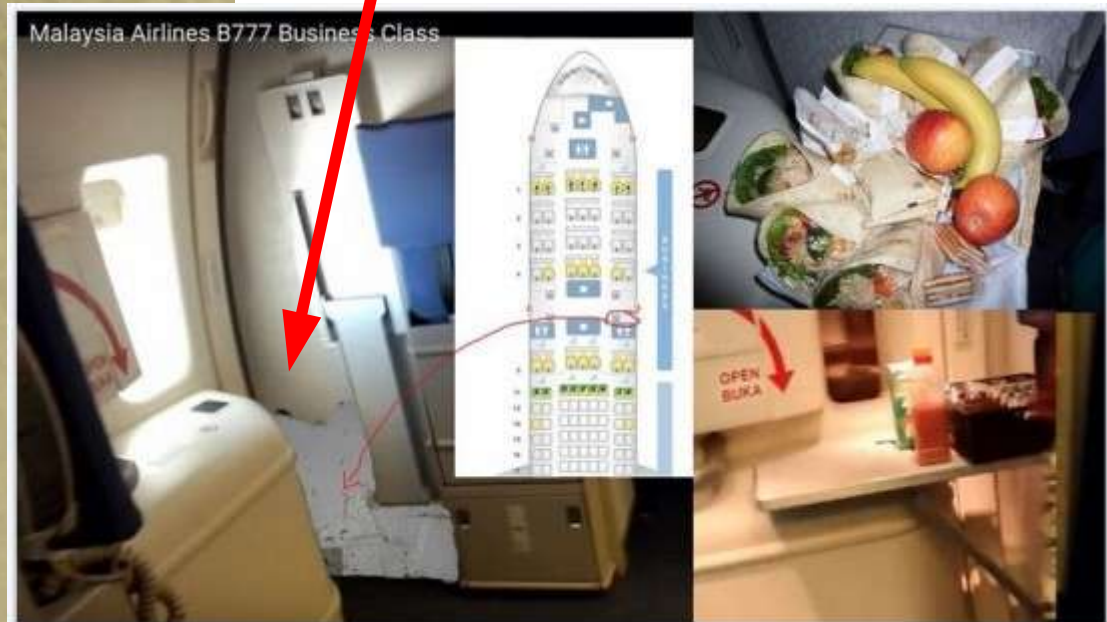
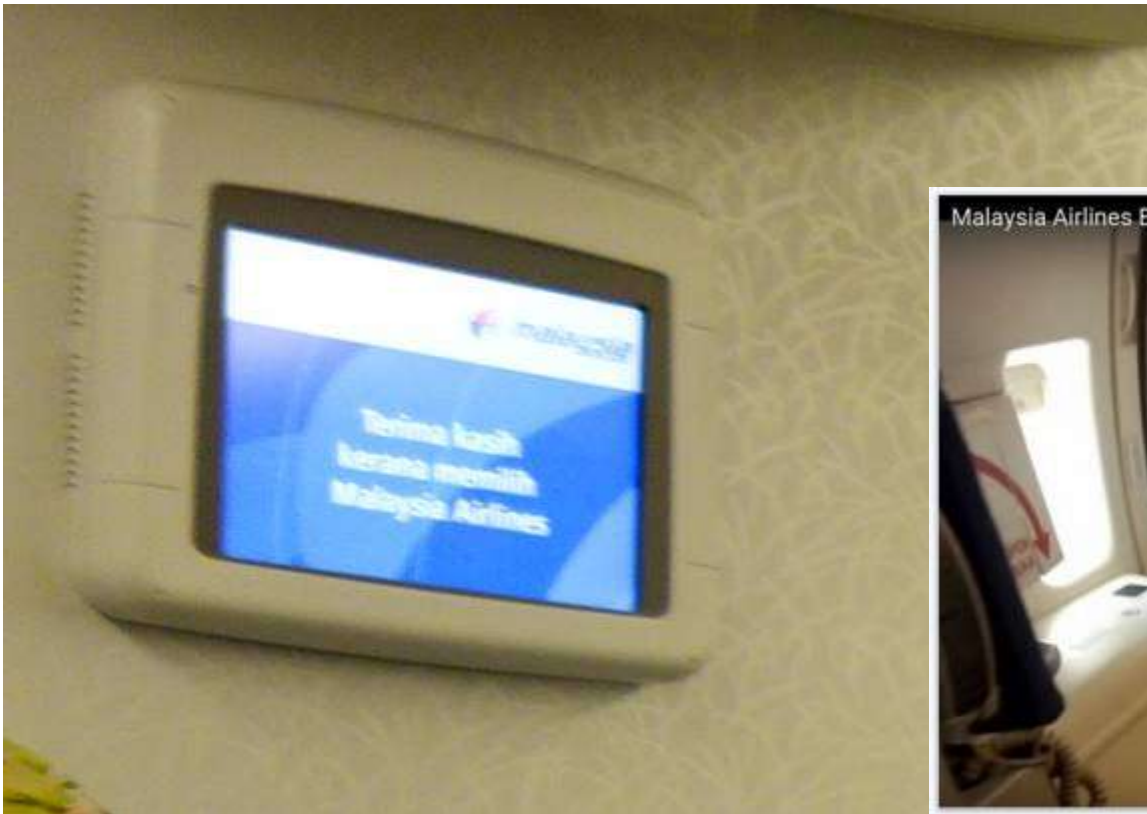
# And Yet Still More Breaking News ...



**Piece of debris from Rodrigues Island, Mauritius, March 30, 2016.**

**Intricate metallic design matches interior bulkhead of Malaysia Airlines fleet.**

**Proposed location: Door 2R in business class.**





## What Happened on Board?

- We know more about Amelia Earhart than MH370
- Much speculation about accident (fire) v. deliberate hijacking. Beyond scope of this talk.
  - **Disabling Transponder**
  - **Disabling ACARS**
  - **Disabling SATCOM**
    - **Instrument bay**
    - **Power buses**

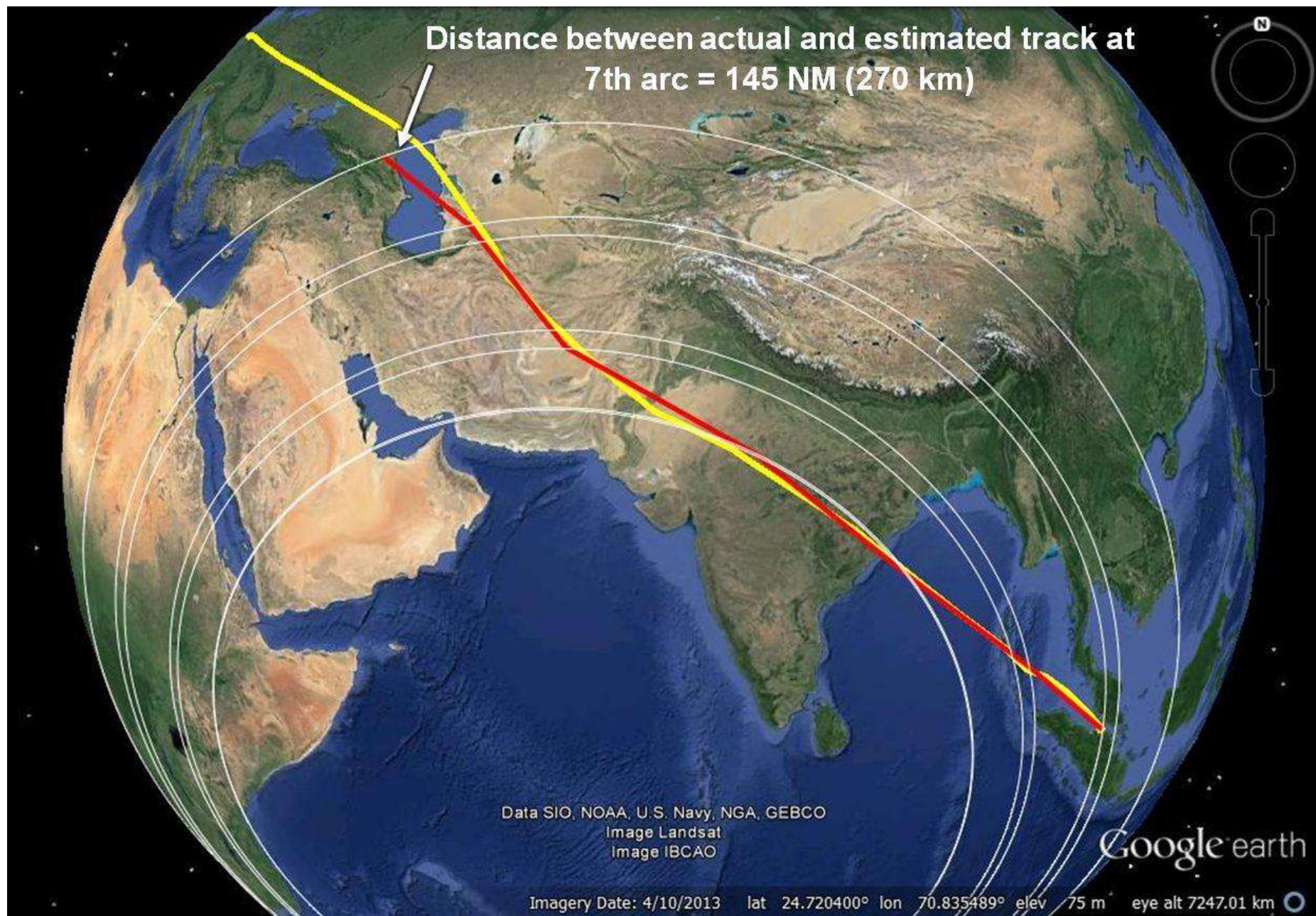


## V. Summary – Lessons Learned

- Public can make serious use of data from complex systems. Do not underestimate!
- In many ways, analysis of MH370 is similar to analyzing data from any experimental system:
  - **Must understand how each part of system works (requires documentation)**
  - **Calibration data are crucial**
- Do not hold back data that people might need - they will complain!

# **Backup Slides**

# MH21 - Kuala Lumpur to Amsterdam



# MH21 - BFO

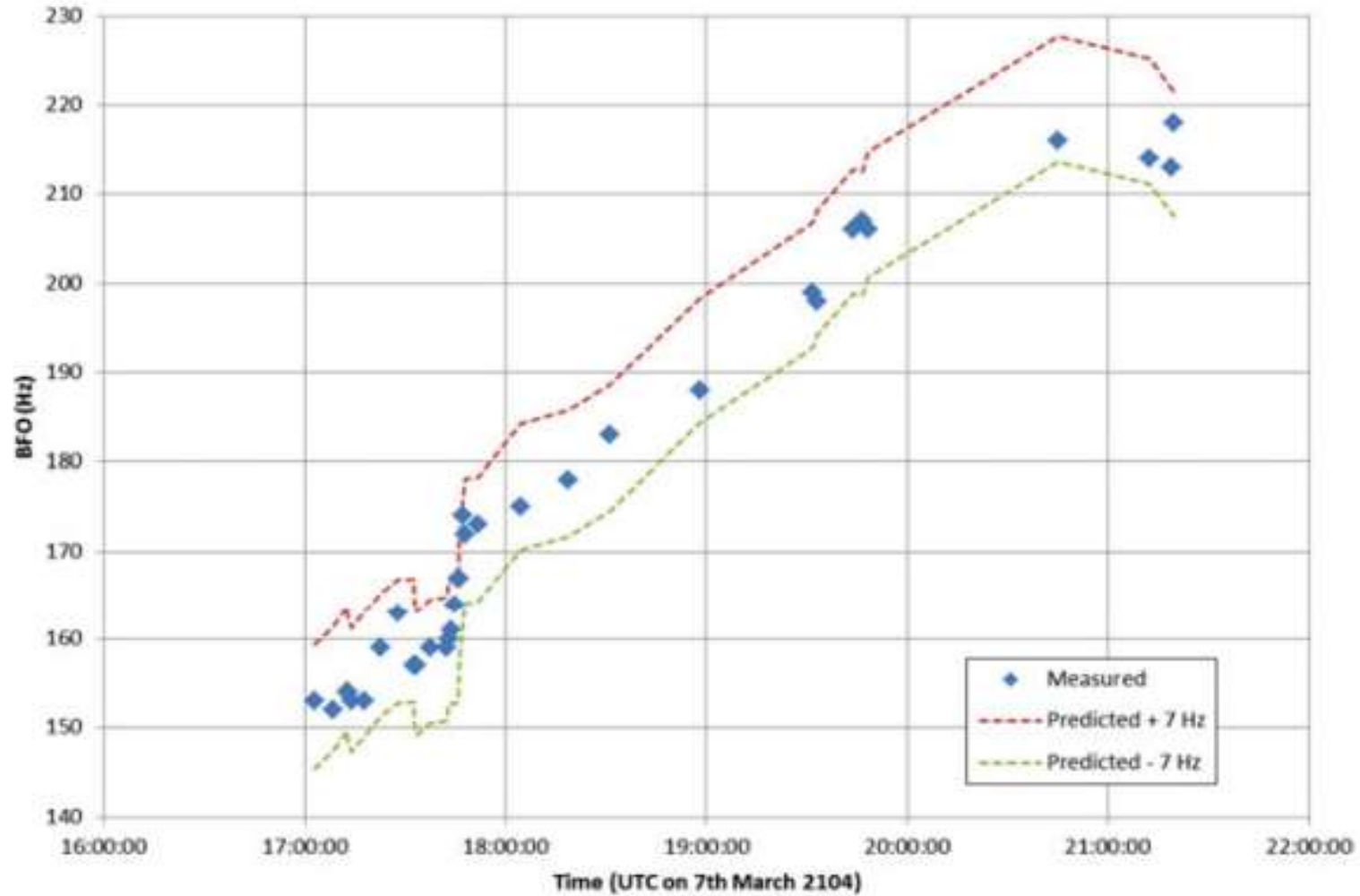
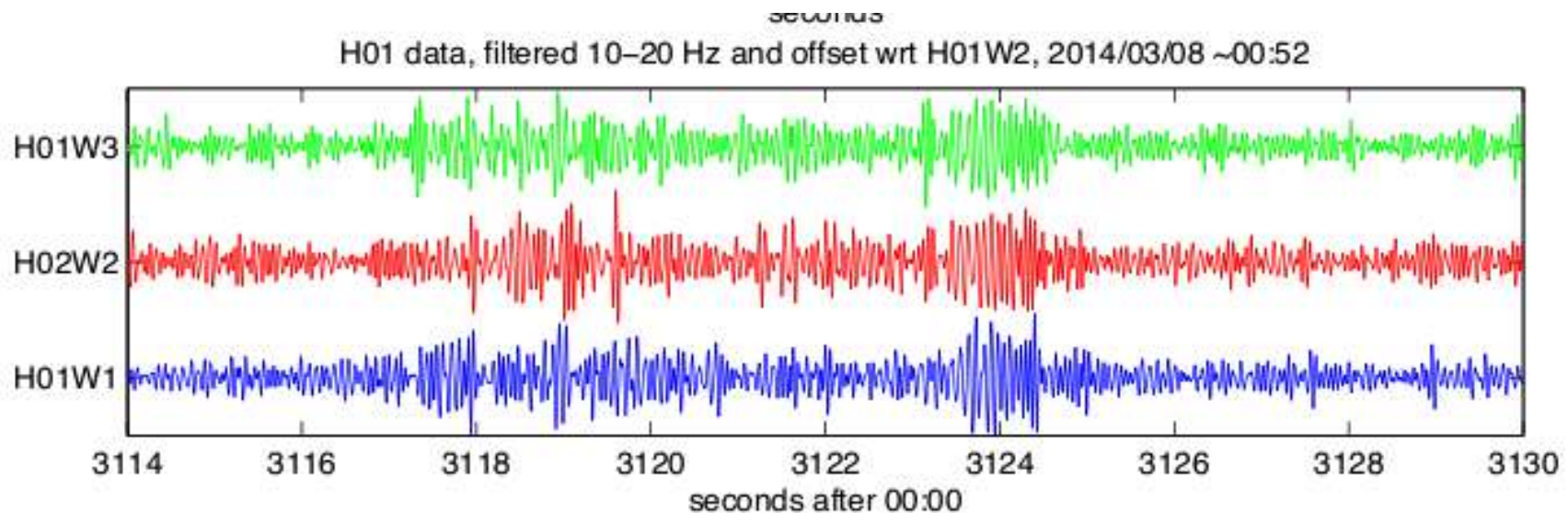


Figure 15. Burst Frequency Offset Validation (Amsterdam Flight).

## Recent Analysis - Did Anyone Hear It Crash?

- Hydrophones
  - IMOS station Rottnest Island (W of Perth)
  - CTBTO station HA01 (Cape Leeuwin, Australia)
    - LANL claims detection at 00:52, bearing 246.9 deg



# Recent Analysis - Did Anyone Feel It Crash?

- Seismic stations
  - Geoscope (French) and others - 11 stations around Indian Ocean
  - Data from IRIS-DMC

