

# Data Content & Format

Distributed data processing levels are the daily trajectory summary (l2p) and weekly/monthly gridded data (l3c). The content of products based on the near-real time and reprocessed input version are identical and marked by the timeliness tag in the filename and global attributes of the netCDF files.

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## NetCDF File Format

Data in netCDF format is self describing and bundles geophysical variables as well as metadata in a file format that can be easily read by different programming languages and tools. We use v4 of the netCDF format that supports compression of its content to minimize file sizes.

### Global Attributes

The global attributes of the netCDF file provide metadata such as citation, reference, time coverage and more. Use `ncinfo filename.nc` or tools like panoply to list the global attributes.

## L2P Trajectory

The Level-2 pre-processed (l2p) product contains daily information from CryoSat-2 at full resolution ([see documentation](#)).

### File naming

The filename of l2p data indicated the timelines (nrt or ntc) and the date (e.g. 20181001) of the data file:

```
awi-siral-l2p-sithick-cryosat2-{timeliness}-nh-{year}{month}
{day}-f{version}.nc
```

## L3C Grid

The Level-3 collated (l3c) product contains information from CryoSat-2 at a space-time grid ([see documentation](#)).

### File naming

The filename of l3c data follows the pattern:

```
awi-siral-l3c-sithick-cryosat2-{timeliness}-{grid_id}-{period}
-f{version}.nc
```

with:

tag	meaning	examples
time line ss	The timeliness of the CryoSat-2 input data	nrt, ntc
grid _id	An identifier string that describes the characteristics of the grid. Usually indicates the hemisphere, spatial resolution and projection of the grid.	nh_25km_e ase2
peri od	A string that either indicates the period or the range of time coverage. E.g. yyyy for monthly, or start to end separated by "-" with start and end in format of yyyymmdd.	201804, 20180101_ 20180107

version	Algorithm version str	v2p6
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