



# Fast Network Solutions using Precise Point Positioning with Ambiguity Resolution for all Geodetic GPS Stations in the World

Geoffrey Blewitt, and Corné Kreemer

Nevada Geodetic Laboratory  
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
University of Nevada, Reno



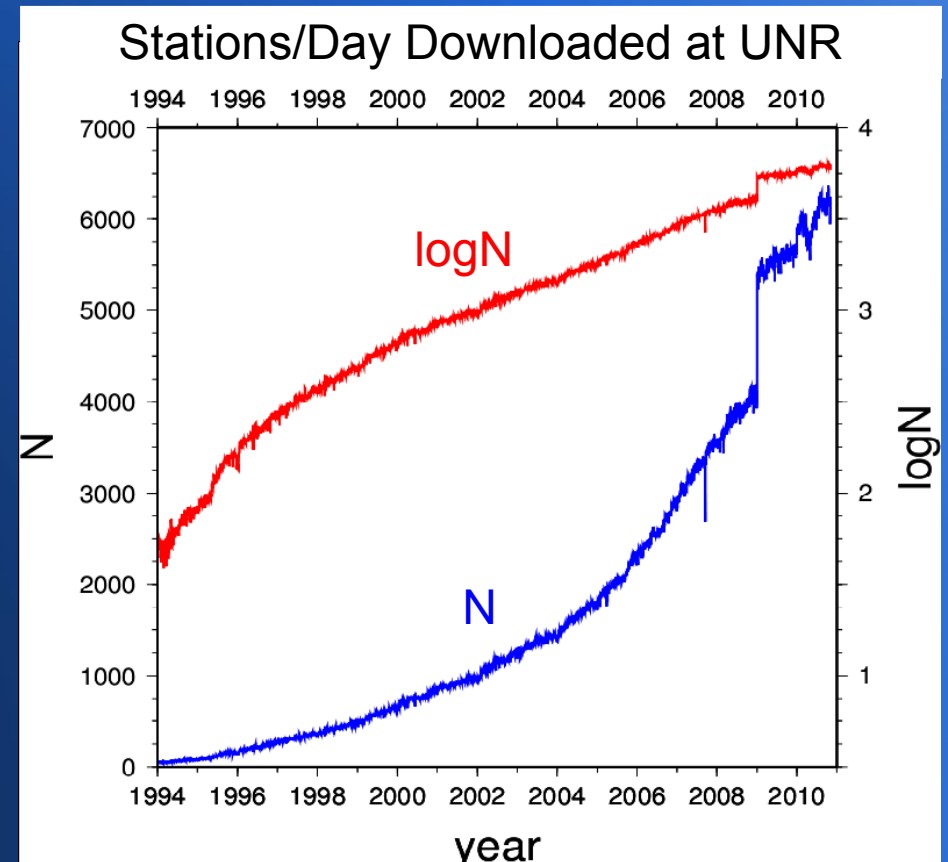
# Overview

- **The GPS Data Explosion**
  - Opportunities and Challenges
  - Meeting the Challenge: A Geodetic “Moore’s Law”
- **Methodology**
  - General System Design
  - Analysis Engine
  - Design Details
- **Current Developments**
- **Examples of Results**
- **Summary of Performance**
  - 8,000 Stations/Day (operational)



# The GPS Data Explosion: Opportunities and Challenges

- **Rinex Downloads @ UNR**
  - From ~100 archives!
    - UNAVCO, CDDIS, SIO...
  - Now at  $N \sim 8000$  per day
- **Exponential Growth**
  - x 2 every 3 years
  - x10 every 10 years
- **Problem Statement**
  - Data processing systems must be **exponentially scalable**
  - The solution must be a kind of “Geodetic Moore’s Law”

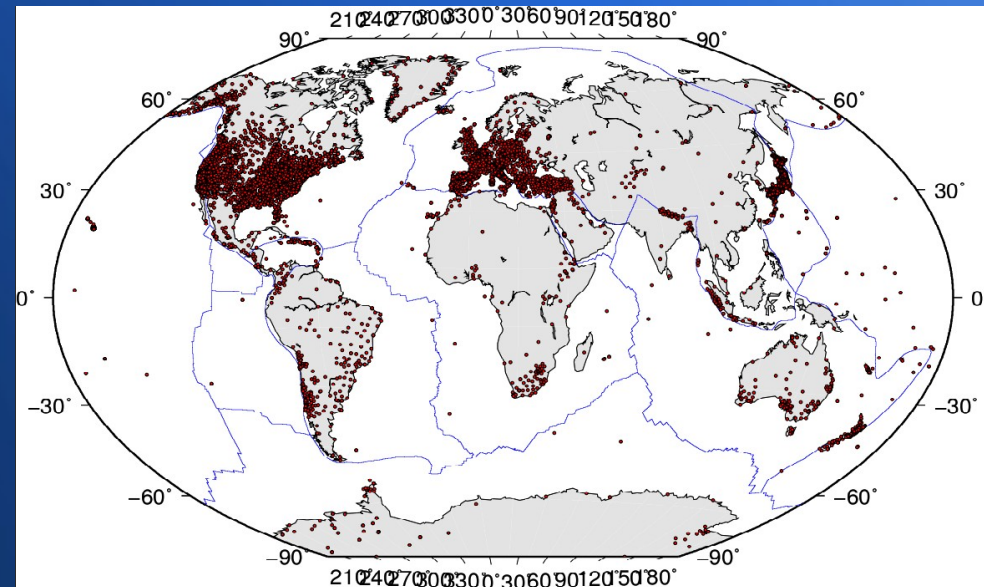




# The GPS Data Explosion: Meeting the Challenge

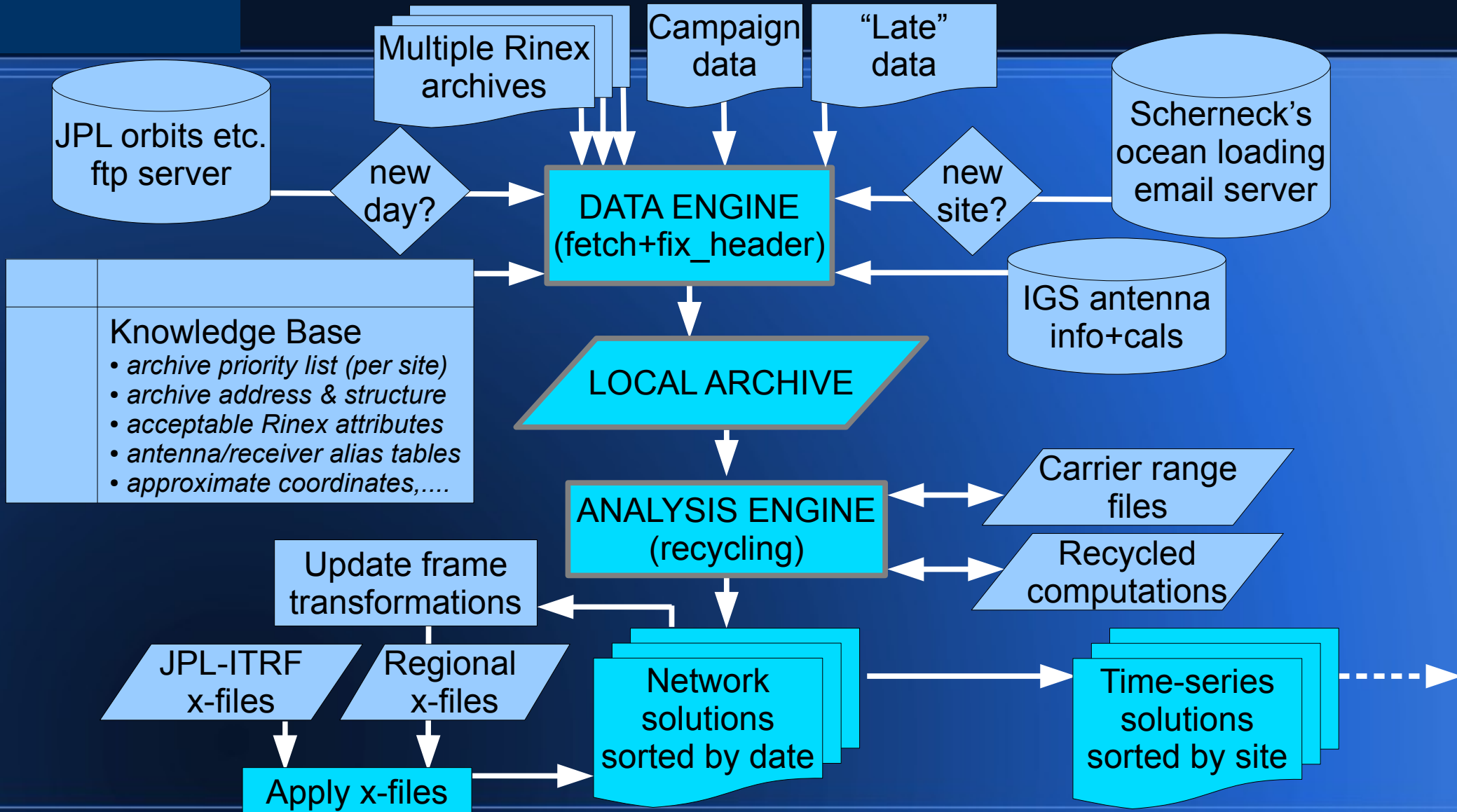
- Manage exponential growth in required computing time
  - The *real* Moore's law
  - But requires  $O(N)$  algorithms!
- Manage exponential growth in datasets
  - No human decisions
  - No arbitrary sub-networks
  - Process all data seamlessly
  - Ability to add "late" data
- Maximize potential accuracy
  - Use algorithms that closely approximate full-network  $O(N^3)$  algorithms
  - Ability to quickly reprocess all data with new models / quality control

>8,000 Stations Processed at UNR





# General System Design

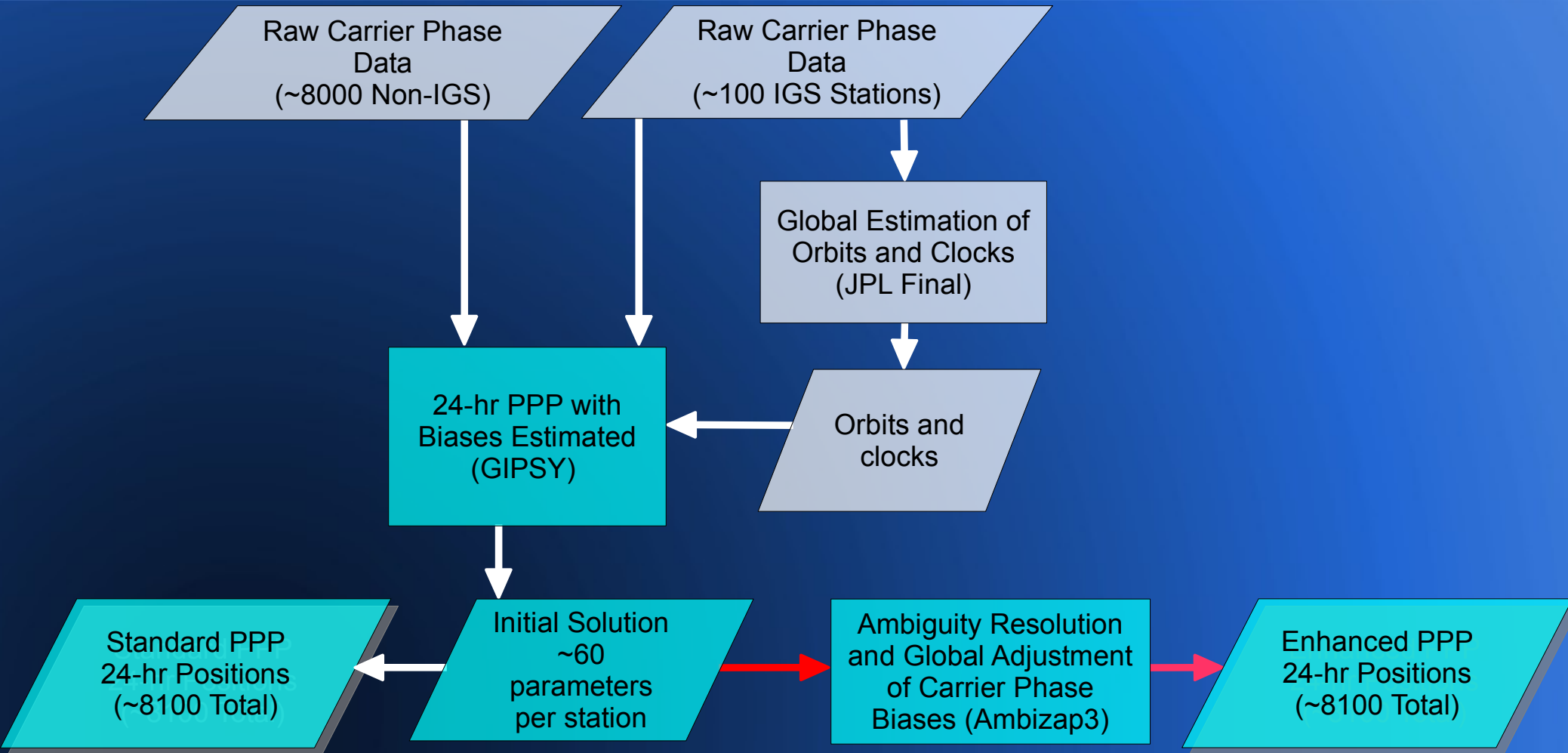






# Methodology: Analysis Engine

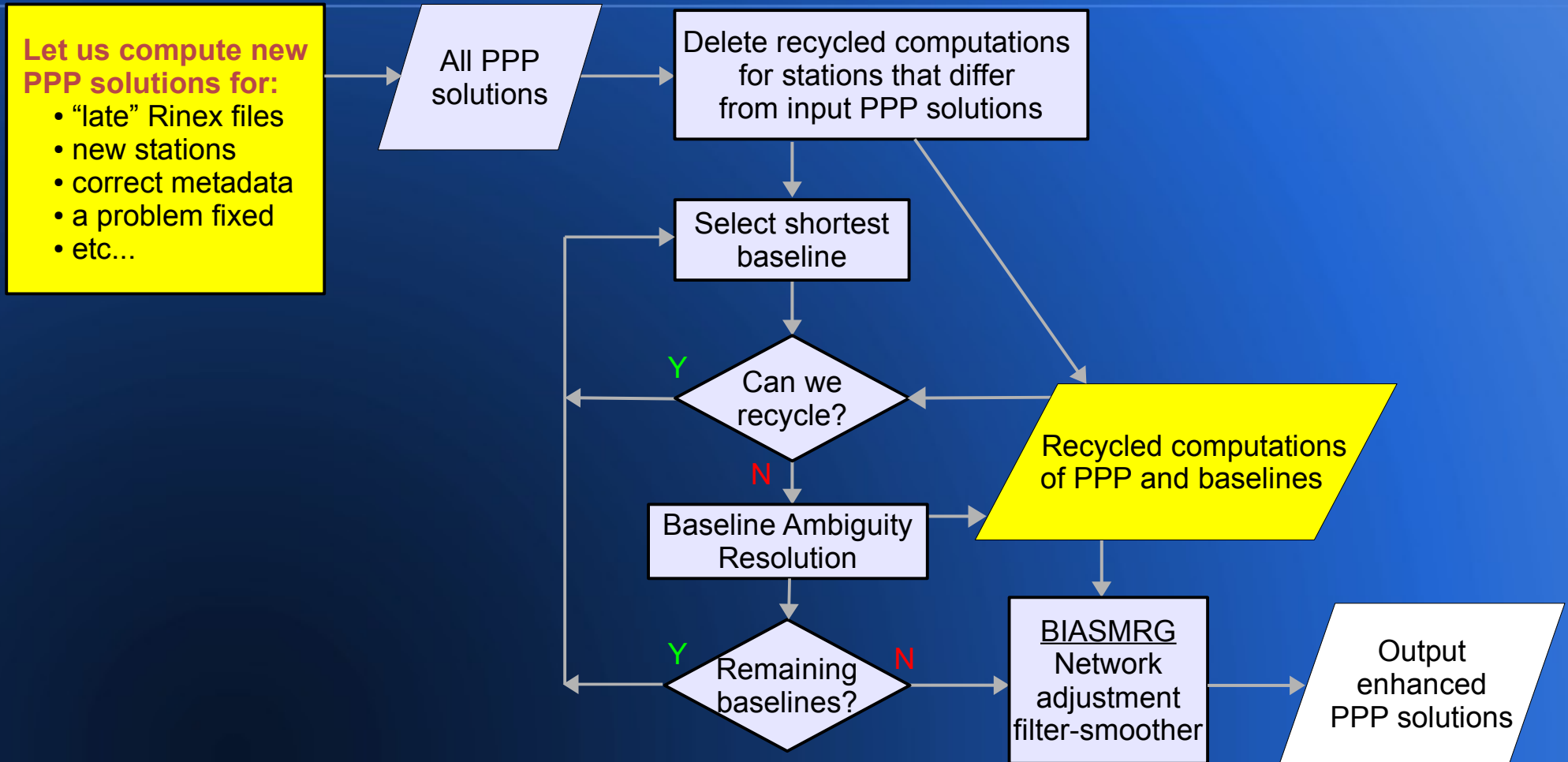
## $O(N)$ Enhanced Precise Point Positioning





# Design Feature: Ambizap3

## Recycled Computations



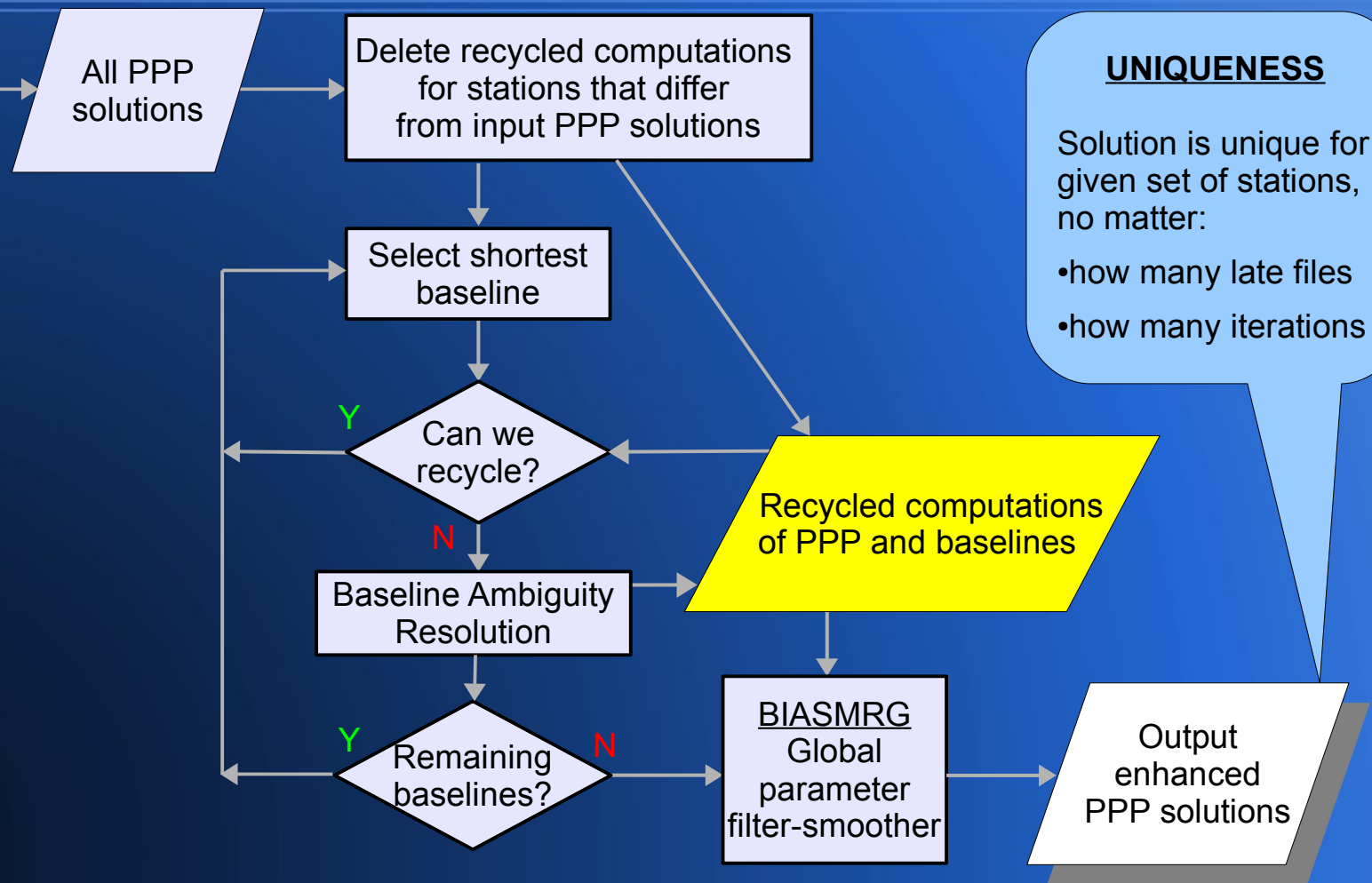


# Design Feature: Ambizap3

## Recycled Computations

Let us compute new PPP solutions for:

- “late” Rinex files
- new stations
- correct metadata
- a problem fixed
- etc...



### UNIQUENESS

Solution is unique for given set of stations, no matter:

- how many late files
- how many iterations





# Design Feature: Ambizap3

## Recycled Computations

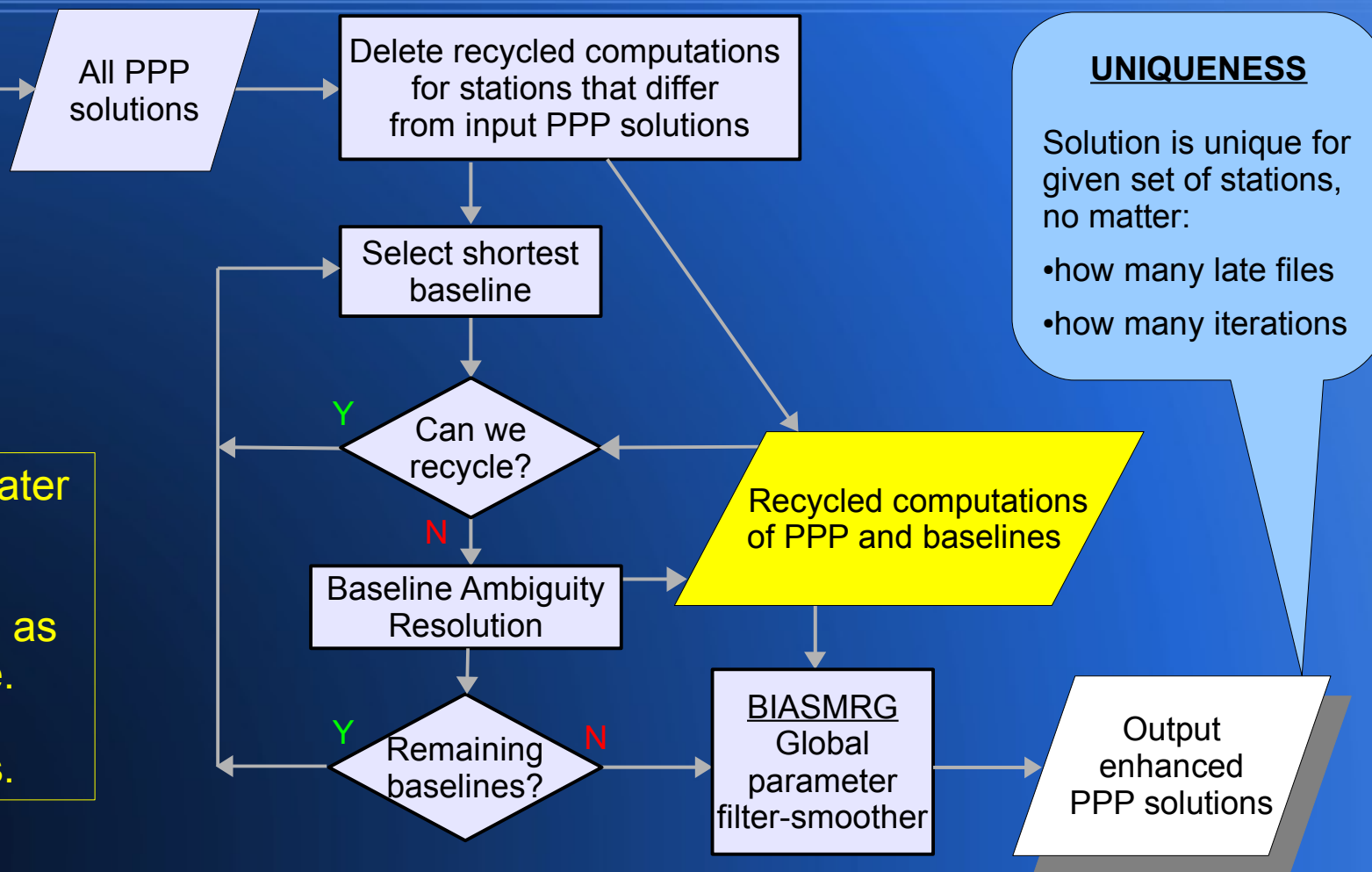
Let us compute new PPP solutions for:

- “late” Rinex files
- new stations
- correct metadata
- a problem fixed
- etc...

No need to wait for later data.

Simply process data as it becomes available.

No human decisions.



### UNIQUENESS

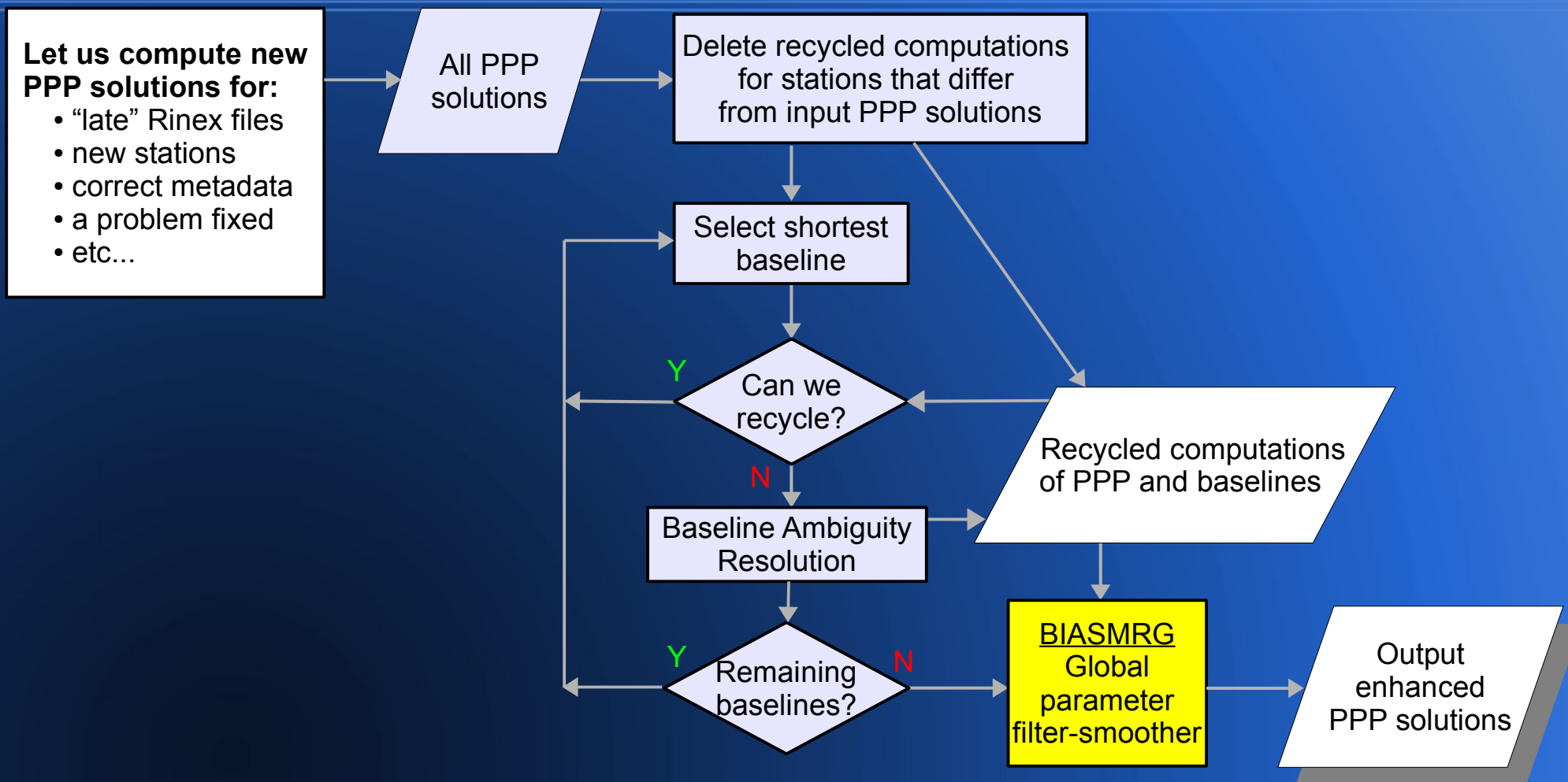
Solution is unique for given set of stations, no matter:

- how many late files
- how many iterations



# Design Feature: Biasmrg

## Solving 500,000 Parameters by $O(N)$





# Design Feature: Biasmrg

## Solving 500,000 Parameters by $O(N)$

- **Biasmrg (new in Ambizap3)**
  - Merges ~60 parameters for  $(N-1)$  baselines
    - $60 = (x + y + z) + \text{clock} + (\text{ztrop} + \text{etrop}' + \text{ntrop}') + 53 \text{ biases}$
  - For  $N \sim 8000$ , consistent global solution for ~500K parameters
- **Extreme Form of Helmert Blocking**
  - Filter-smoother, steps through “network space”
  - Recursive Fortran 90
  - **Linear processing time,  $O(N)$**
  - Takes only a few minutes for  $N \sim 8000$
- **Information Content**
  - No “double counting” of stations in multiple baselines

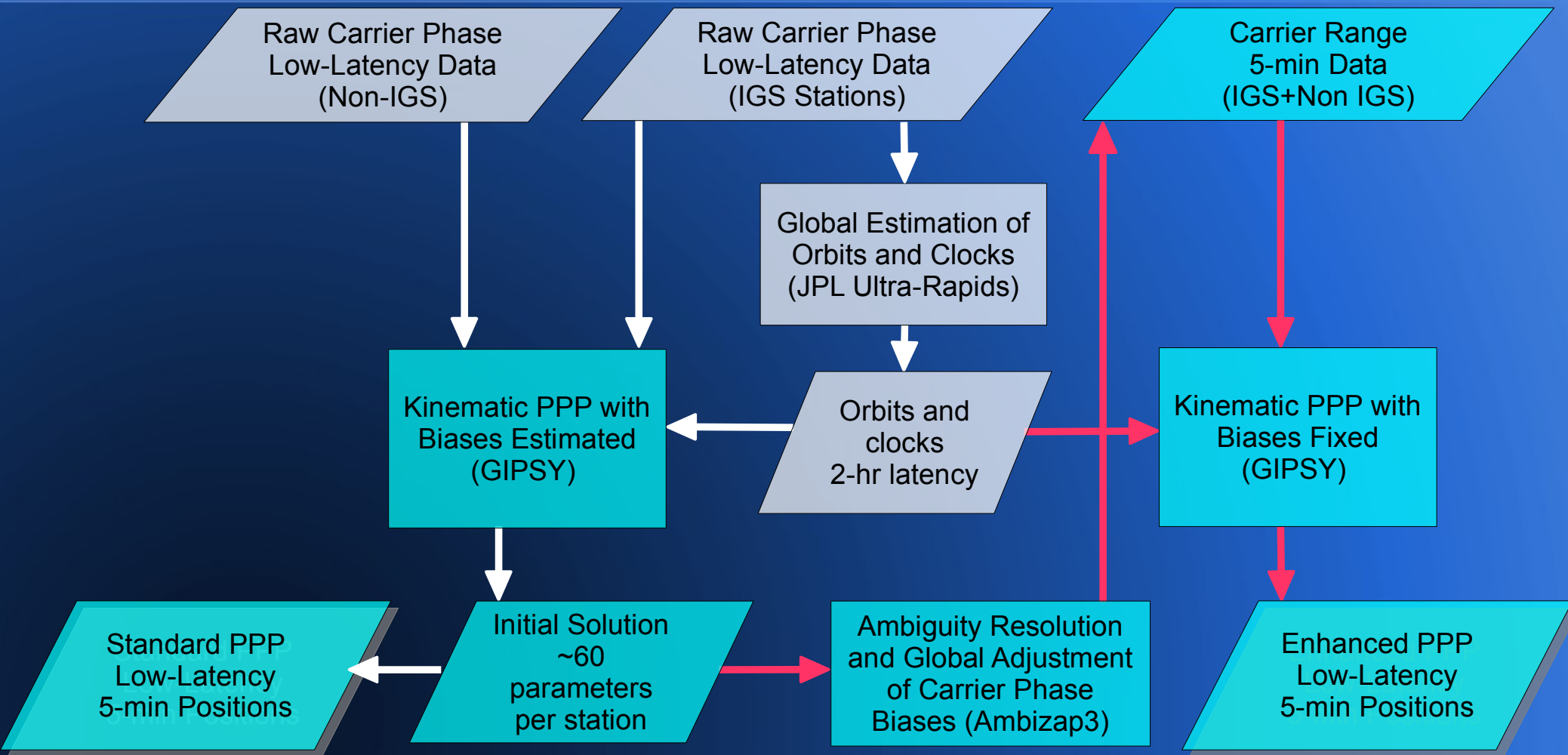


# Current Developments: Carrier Range Data

- “Carrier Range” = “Bias-Fixed Carrier Phase”
  - Calibrate Rinex carrier phase data for the carrier phase biases
  - Now we can apply PPP but without bias estimation
- Result
  - Faster processing with ambiguity-resolved precision
  - Can use carrier range for kinematic PPP (ambiguity-fixed)



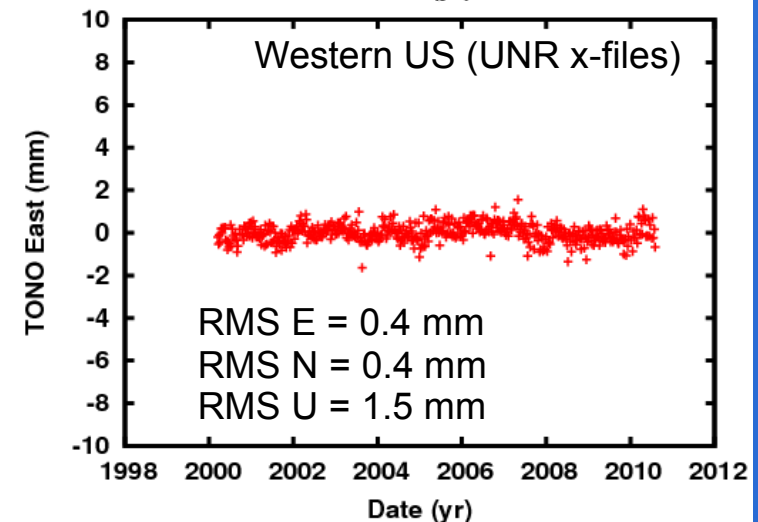
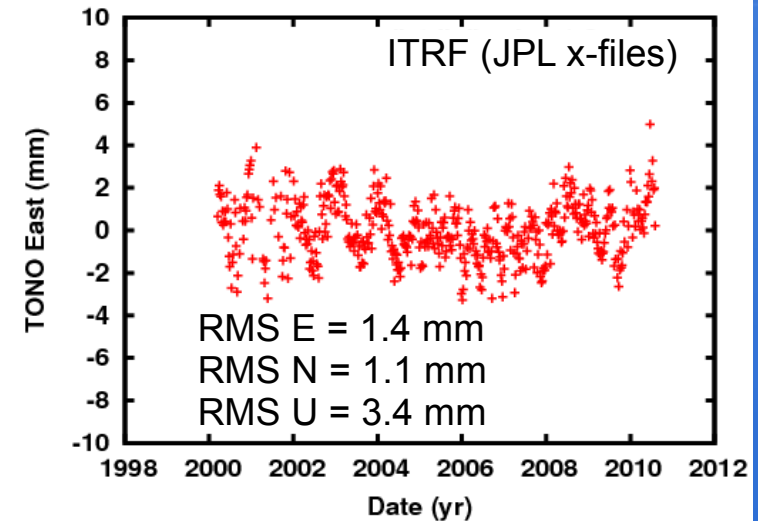
# Current Developments: 5-min positions, low latency, all the world





# Examples of Results: “Best GPS Site in the World”

- **TONO (Tonopah, Nevada)**
  - Extremely dry, “no hydrology”
  - Bedrock, on top of hill
    - Deep-braced monument
    - Optimal horizon visibility
  - Instrumentally stable (>2000)
- **Time series**
  - (1) In ITRF (IGS05 from JPL)
  - (2) In western U.S. (UNR)
  - Weekly average position
  - Remove trend
  - Compute RMS



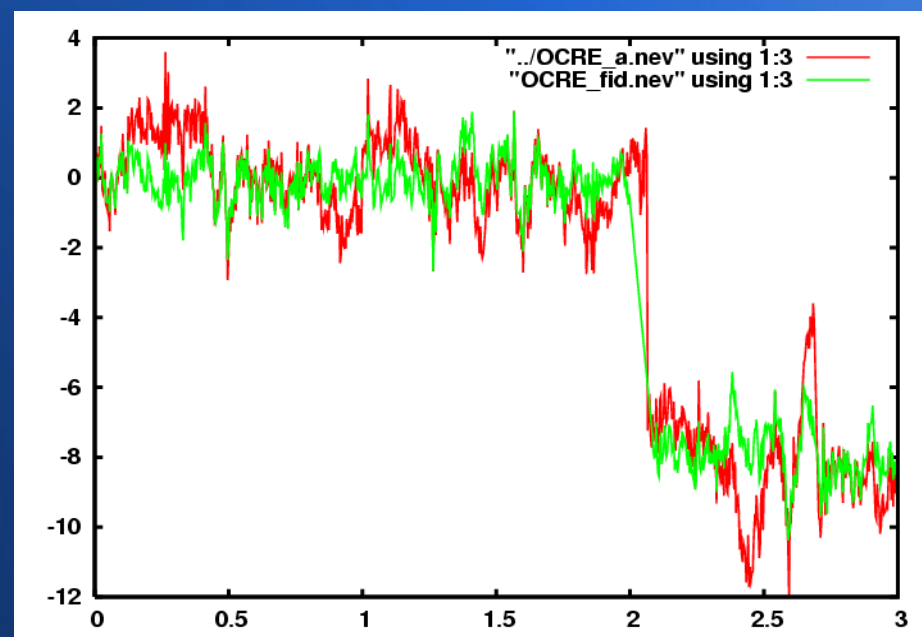




# Examples of Results: 5-min Time Series

- L'Aquila Earthquake (INGV)
  - 6 April 2009,  $M_w$  6.3
  - Example: station OCRE
  - Red = carrier phase **PPP**
  - Green = carrier range **EPPP**
  - **EPPP** = **PPP** + Ambizap3
  - Carrier range more accurately represents station motion

## 5-min time series over a 3 day period

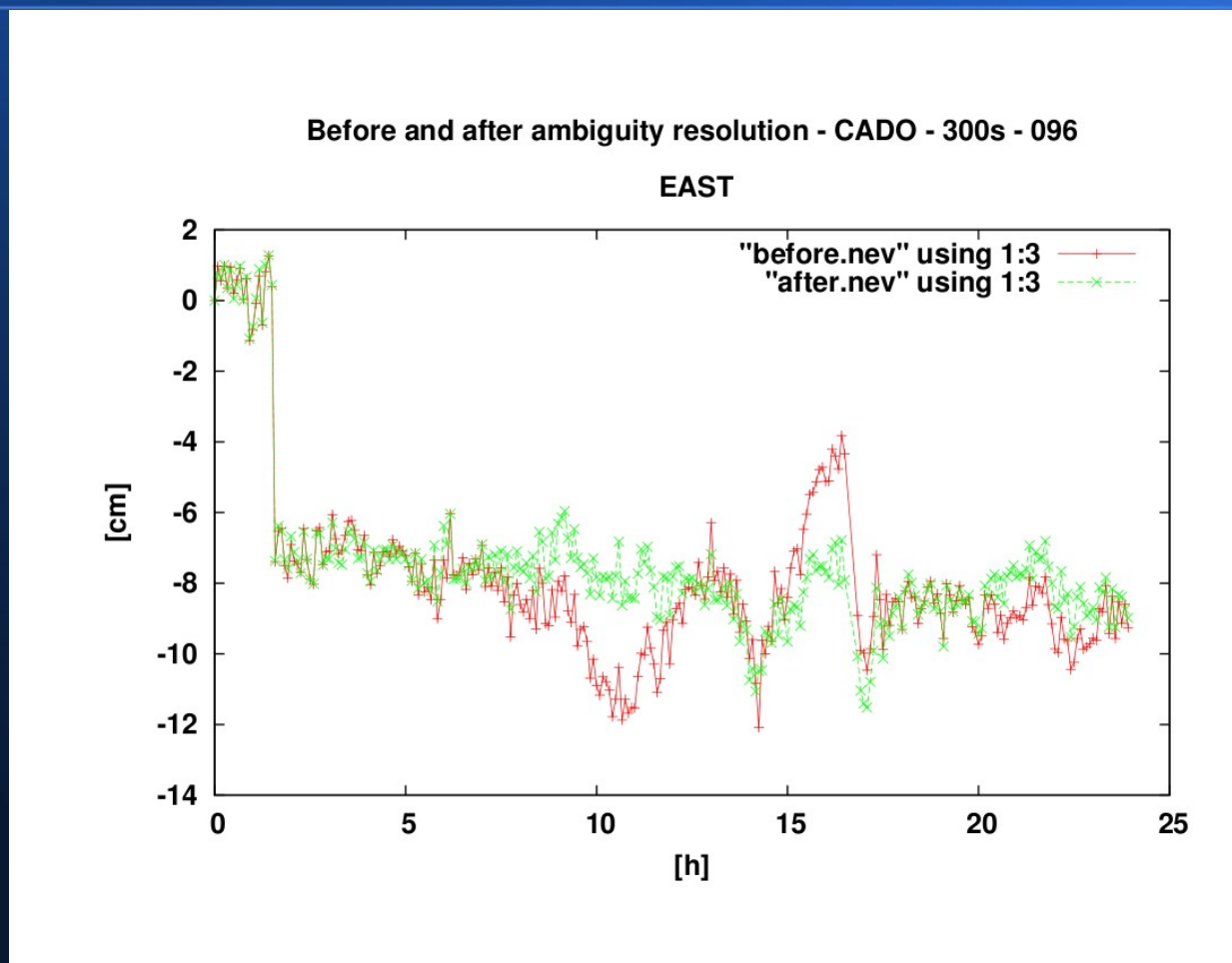


**RMS: PPP = 13 mm EPPP = 7 mm**



# Carrier Range vs. Carrier Phase

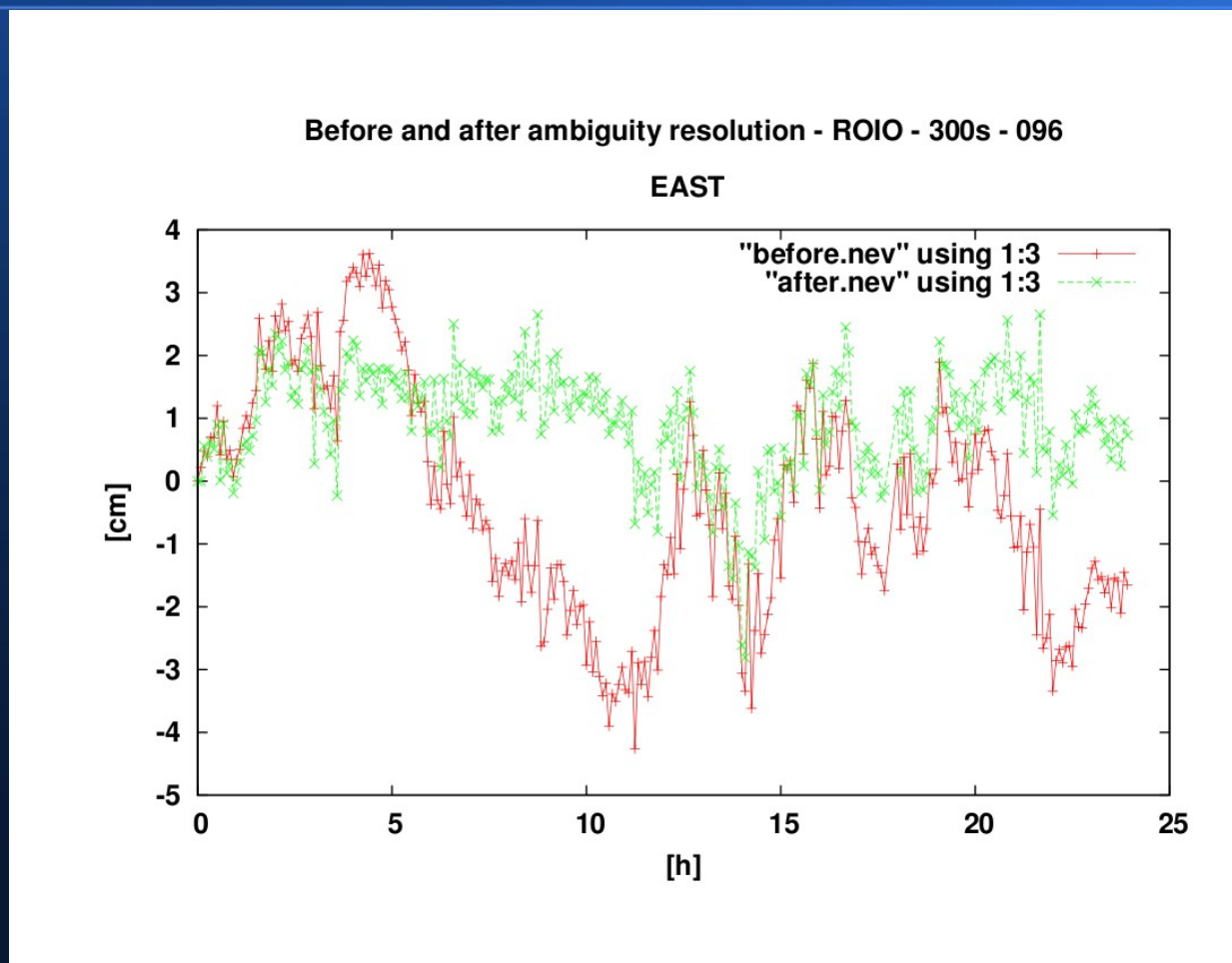
L'Aquila 2009-04-06  $M_w$  6.3, CADO  
JPL Ultra-Rapid Orbits (2 hr latency)





# Carrier Range vs. Carrier Phase

L'Aquila 2009-04-06  $M_w$  6.3, ROIO  
JPL Ultra-Rapid Orbits (2 hr latency)





# Conclusions

- **Extreme Solutions for Extreme Problems...**
  - “Geodetic Moore’s Law” =  $O(N)$  PPP + “Real Moore’s Law”
  - PPP with Ambiguity Resolution in  $O(N)$  using Ambizap
  - Kinematic PPP using Carrier Range in  $O(N)$  from Ambizap3
  - 5-min solutions with low latency for all the world in  $O(N)$ !
- **Precision of Enhanced PPP (in ITRF)**
  - RMS precision, 7 day:      ~1 mm E,N    3 mm U
  - RMS precision, 24 hr:      ~2 mm E,N    7 mm U
  - RMS precision, 5 min:      ~7 mm E,N 20 mm U
- **Processing time of Enhanced PPP**
  - $O(N)$
  - 2 min / day / 100-cores / 1000-stations